

2-1-2010

Columbia Chronicle (02/01/2010)

Columbia College Chicago

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Recommended Citation

Columbia College Chicago, "Columbia Chronicle (2/1/2010)" (February 1, 2010). *Columbia Chronicle*, College Publications, College Archives & Special Collections, Columbia College Chicago. http://digitalcommons.colum.edu/cadc_chronicle/777

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THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

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The Official News Source of Columbia College Chicago

February 1, 2010

Volume 45 Number 17

ON THE **WEB**

ColumbiaChronicle.com

Huffington visits Columbia

Arianna Huffington
comments on new media
vs. traditional media

by Jazzy Davenport
Managing Editor

“YOU CANNOT enter into the same river twice,” said Arianna Huffington as she addressed Columbia’s students in Film Row Cinema at the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave. “I think many of the old media are trying to enter into that same river that is gone. You cannot recreate that reality.”

Huffington, born in Athens, Greece and co-founder of The Huffington Post blog, visited Columbia on Jan. 27 as the featured speaker of the Conversations in the Arts program, a lecture series that offers an in-depth dialogue with some of the world’s most notable cultural figures in a select and intimate setting, according to Columbia’s Web site.

The nearly 5-year-old Post, which was recently called the most-linked blog on the Web, is what Huffington admits is “a product of the 2004 election.” It is one of the few publications in the country that continues to grow amidst the recession and has featured blog posts from both Secretary of the State Hillary Clinton and President Barack Obama.

“We saw the role media played and the way the news was covered and not covered,” Huffington said. “I saw how often



Lenny Gilmore THE CHRONICLE

» SEE HUFFINGTON, PG. 8

Arianna Huffington, co-founder of The Huffington Post, speaks to Columbia students as part of the Conversations in the Arts program on Jan. 27.

Youth employment hits a new low

Teens and young
adults struggle to
find jobs

by Spencer Roush
Assistant Metro Editor

MANY HIGH school and college students seek part-time work to help support their families and pay rent. Others search for minimum-wage employment just to have some spending money for their weekend escapades. However, finding a 20-hour-per-week job has become increasingly difficult and has led to a record low of youth employment.

According to a report commissioned by the

Alternative Schools Network, the national teen employment rate fell to 26.2 percent in fall 2009. The Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University in Boston, who prepared the report, also concluded that Illinois’ teen employment rate decreased 20 percentage points below its 2000 value, also a record low.

Jack Wuest, executive director of the Alternative Schools Network, said youth employment has been decreasing, while the adult employment rates are improving. He added that he doesn’t see the job situation getting any better for young adults under the age of 24, as well as teens.

The report stated that the employment rate for young adults between the ages of 20 and

24, dropped 12 percentage points from 2000. This is the lowest rate recorded since the data collection began in 1974.

“I’ve been trying to get a job since last summer,” said Kolleen McNalis, a 19-year-old film major.

McNalis couldn’t recall how many jobs she has applied for because she has simply lost track. She mainly uses the Internet to search for and apply to jobs.

“I just applied to Whole Foods and I’ll try to respond to some things on Craigslist.com or just walk into [businesses],” McNalis said. “But a lot of times when you walk into places, they’ll tell you they aren’t hiring or that they’re taking applications, which I hate because then even if you fill one out, you never

hear anything back.”

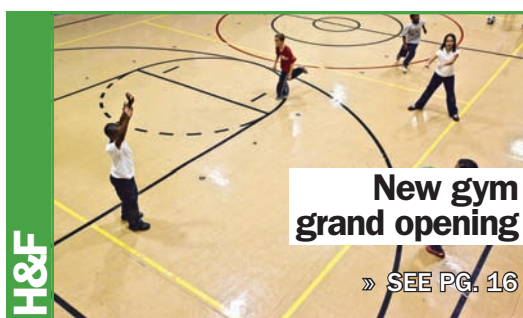
According to McNalis, she has only received one interview from the countless applications she has submitted. She said financially, she can last until May without a job.

“I’m pretty much living off of loans and every once in a while my parents will help me out,” she said.

McNalis said she probably wasn’t being considered for the jobs last semester because of her limited availability with classes and also because her last working experience was when she was 16 years old.

Wuest said teens and young adults

» SEE EMPLOYMENT, PG. 40



New gym
grand opening

» SEE PG. 16



Single
Mingle

» SEE PG. 20



Students
respond to
Obama plan

» SEE PG. 38

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EDITOR’S NOTE

Courtesy gives way to technology



by Bethany Reinhart
Editor-in-Chief

I DON'T know about the rest of you, but I am tired of living in a society that seems to be over-run with rude individuals who lack manners, kindness and respect. From gum-smacking pre-pubescent kids who don't know how to say "please" and "thank you," to religious leaders who preach tolerance from the pulpit but think only in dollars and cents when mass is over. People who lack manners, kindness and civility are overtaking our world.

In a society where we are consumed by technology, addicted to our smartphones and walk around in an oblivious trance created by blasting iPods, something fundamental has disappeared—respect for our fellow man.

In recent years, I have noticed a growing lack of respect and caring for those who surround us. People have become so consumed with themselves, their lives, convenience and comfort that many have forgotten, or simply don't care about putting the needs of others in front of their own.

One overwhelming example of this is the lack of chivalry that seems to have increased in past years. These days I find myself shocked when a gentleman actually holds a door or sacrifices his seat on a crowded train. Although I am a strong, independent woman who is capable of opening my own door or standing in four-inch stilettos for an hour on the bus, I am

not offended—but rather, I am grateful—when a healthy, vital young man offers me a seat. What I find truly sad is when polished young men in business suits barely acknowledge elderly passengers or pregnant women. The Chronicle's own Spencer Roush pointed out that she often finds herself giving up her seat "before any businessmen in their crisp suits even look up from their BlackBerrys."

In addition to the death of chivalry, it seems that general kindness and respect are also suffering. As we become more of an everything-goes society, our manners have also gone out the window, and it is well past time for us to regain them. It is time for parents to stop tiptoeing around their angry teenagers and to start teaching them the meaning of manners. Kids should be taught the importance of saying "please" and "thank you" and using the words ma'am and sir. But young adults aren't the only ones with lessons to learn. It's time for everyone to help in the effort to restore courtesy to our society. When you're walking to the train in the morning, nod or say hello as someone passes you on the sidewalk. If you see someone elderly waiting for the bus, step aside and let them board first. They have earned that right.

Rudeness has become an alarming fact of life in this country. In fact, it has become an epidemic. But instead of ignoring the problem, we need to address it. It is time that we stop "letting it go" and start speaking up. If we don't, we risk growing immune to the problem and heaven help us if we grow immune.

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NEWS FLASH

2/2/10

African Heritage Month: Debbie Allen Lecture

Lecture by the talented and successful actress, director, producer, choreographer, singer, dancer and author. Allen will be talking about life as a woman in the arts and media. The lecture will be held from 7p.m. - 9 p.m.

1104 Center
1104 S. Wabash Ave.

2/4/10

Rae Armantrout Poetry Reading

The professor of writing in the literature department at the University of California at San Diego will come to share her award-winning poetry. The event will be held at 6 p.m.

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

2/4/10

Koosil-ja danceKUMIKO

Guggenheim Fellowship-winning choreographer-dancer and performance-technology artist Koosil-ja Hwang will present a thrilling multimedia performance piece that digs into the evolution of the body in the digital era and its realm of domain and identity. The performance will be held from 8 p.m. - 10 p.m.

The Dance Center
1306 S. Michigan Ave.

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 through Fridays and Saturdays by appointment.

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, open Monday - Thursday from 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. and Friday 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 designed and constructed stage sets. The exhibition is 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?
Contact The Chronicle at (312) 369-8999.

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C

campus

Columbia finds ties to Haiti

College puts forth effort for relief with help from students, faculty and local Haitians

by Benita Zepeda
Campus Editor

ON JAN. 12, Haiti encountered an unexpected tragedy. On that same day, junior music business major Qi'Ante Alexander received an upsetting phone call from her mother.

"The day of the earthquake, I was on the bus on my way to work when my mother told me that my great-grandmother was found under a collapsed building and that she didn't make it," Alexander said.

Her great-grandmother was living in a town 120 miles outside of Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Alexander said that she never made it to Haiti to visit, but has memories from when her great-grandmother would come to Chicago during holidays.

Despite the fact that the 7.0 earthquake struck more than 1,800 miles from Chicago, many people in the Windy City, like Alexander, felt the emotional aftershock of the tragedy and have encouraged people to do their part to contribute to relief efforts.

She said that the biggest problem is getting the resources into Haiti to help people.

"They weren't arriving at first," Alexander said. "Then they started arriving so fast and they didn't have anywhere to put the supplies."

Providing resources is one way that Chicagoans and the Columbia community continue to make efforts to help Haiti.

Mark Kelly, vice president of Student Affairs, said Columbia President Warrick L. Carter issued an e-mail to the Columbia community asking them to help Haiti.



Associated Press

Haitians sit in a shelter for earthquake victims in Jacmel, Haiti, on Jan. 28. Many are homeless and need food following the devastating Jan. 12 earthquake.

"I suggested to the president and encouraged that we focus our efforts with a member of the community that is Haitian," Kelly said.

And that is exactly what Columbia has been accomplishing.

Carroll Voltaire, Columbia staff member and counselor in the Upward Bound Program, has been heading Columbia's relief funds for Haiti. She is from Petit-Goâve, a town 42 miles south of Port-au-Prince.

"There is an appeal from the president going out to faculty and staff and it's going to [reach] students in the loop encouraging donations that will be earmarked for this town," Kelly said.

He said that the e-mail explains how people can make their donations. "It also encourages any additional activities on the college's behalf," Kelly said. "Anyone

can do what they want, but we want to focus our activities to support this specific community that was devastated."

Voltaire has been in contact with her mother, who lives in Haiti and provides an outlet for people to see how the relief efforts have been noticed within Petit-Goâve.

In the announcement sent by Carter on Jan. 21, Voltaire's update stated that "people are roaming the streets day and night; there are dead bodies scattered throughout, people are still trapped under collapsed structures, rescue missions have not yet reached my hometown and other affected cities south of Port-au-Prince."

According to Gigi Posejpal, director of International Student Affairs, there will be a fundraising bake sale on Feb. 17, 18 and 19 in the lobby of the Wabash

Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., tentatively from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The bake sale, run by the International Student Organization, is just another effort by the Columbia community to help send resources to Haiti.

In addition to the efforts put forth by Columbia, Alexander said that any way people can contribute to the relief fund for Haiti is key.

"Just donate what you can and nothing beyond your means," Alexander said in response to Columbia's efforts. "It's not about doing something for your conscience, it's doing it because it's right. A dollar can do a lot of things. You add them all up and it can do wonders, and I think that is definitely how Chicago is trying to help."

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CAMPUS POLL

What did you think of President Obama's recent State of the Union address?



Brittany Moeser
Freshman, fiction writing major

"I'm trying to figure out if there's an agenda and if his sending 30,000 additional troops is a good idea."



Malik Brewley
Sophomore, television major

"I missed it [President Barack Obama's State of the Union address]."



Kai Roewade
Senior, ASL major

"It was more bipartisan than ones in the past, but it sounded more of the same to me."

Fuller pleads not guilty

Science professor denies charges of child pornography distribution, faces trial

by Laura Nalin
Assistant Campus Editor

A COLUMBIA faculty member of the Science and Math Department pleaded not guilty to federal charges of transporting child pornography.

Kevin Fuller, 41, was indicted by a grand jury on Jan. 12 and charged with two counts of distribution of child pornography and one count of possession of child pornography. Fuller was arraigned on Jan. 22, when he pleaded not guilty in front of U.S. District Judge Ruben Castillo. Castillo set a date for future court proceedings, scheduled for March 24.

As reported by The Chronicle on Nov. 20, Fuller was arrested on Nov. 19 after federal agents obtained a warrant to search his Oak Park residence. The preliminary review of Fuller's personal computer allegedly displayed images of

prepubescent children and infants being sexually exploited. Fuller's charges state that between June 29 and July 27, he accessed a Google e-mail account registered to his name 144 times, as well as 65 times from an IP address connected to Columbia.

Fuller exchanged 40 e-mails with another individual within a three-day span from Sept. 26 through Sept. 29, in which they discussed sexually molesting an infant. Two additional instances reportedly took place involving discussions of child molestation in October, according to the court complaint.

On Oct. 17, Fuller and an individual allegedly discussed sexually molesting a young boy, and on Oct. 25 alone, Fuller exchanged more than 25 e-mails with the individual, talking about engaging in sexual activities with a mother and her child. According to the complaint, Fuller had been involved in similar e-mails dating back to February 2008.

Fuller reportedly cooperated with law enforcement officials immediately fol-

lowing the search and allegedly stated that he used the e-mail address for the past two years, "including receiving and distributing images of children engaged in sexually explicit activity."

Fuller was released on a \$100,000 signature bond on Nov. 23 by U.S. Magistrate Susan Cox in which he was ordered to live with his father Kenneth on home detention, where he was arranged to be electronically monitored and prohibited from having contact with children. He was also ordered to refrain from the use of computers and the Internet.

Fuller has been an employee of Columbia since 2003. He is a graduate of Duke University, where he received his bachelor's degree in biology. He received a Ph.D. in molecular genetics and cell biology from University of Chicago. Fuller also held a post-doctoral fellowship at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago, where he researched multiple sclerosis.

Fuller's lawyer, Keith Scherer, could not be reached for comment. The college administration refused to comment on the situation.

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Pfleger emphasizes media’s role in cultural awareness

Priest visits campus for viewing of documentary ‘Radical Disciple,’ discusses media’s impact on society

by Ciara Shook
Assistant Campus Editor

BELIEVING THE media to be the most powerful tool shaping society, Rev. Michael Pfleger of St. Sabina Church has attracted writers and cameramen over the past three decades with his passion for the church and thirst for racial equality in Chicago, if not the world.

As a Fact and Faith installment in Columbia’s Critical Encounters series, “Radical Disciple” is a documentary that focuses on Pfleger’s impact on culture and clashes with the archdiocese of Chicago. It was screened to exemplify the media’s importance in cultural awareness in today’s society.

Students, faculty and the public of all ages filled Film Row Cinema on Jan. 28 for the screening and a subsequent forum.

Pfleger was joined by Thom Clarke, president of Columbia’s community media workshop, and Bob Hercules, who directed “Radical Disciple.” The discussion was moderated by associate film and video professor Jeff Spitz.

The film followed Pfleger around Chicago and in his sanctuary and archival footage as far back as the early ’50s.

Pfleger burst into the spotlight during the 2008 presidential campaign when he accused Hillary Clinton of believing

she was entitled to the presidential spot because she is white and had been in the White House before.

Pfleger has been tackling the issue of racism since an early age when he witnessed firsthand Native Americans being denied access to a drugstore in Oklahoma.

As the priest of a predominantly black church in Auburn Gresham, a mostly black community on the South Side, Pfleger came to St. Sabina Church in the mid-’80s when the church was sparsely attended and the neighborhood was a place of low income housing, drug trafficking and prostitution.

Pfleger would visit local convenience stores, threatening to close them for selling alcohol and tobacco to minors.

He said he first realized the power of the media when he discovered how it could spread his messages.

“[Civil rights activist] Dick Gregory said, ‘Mike, if you’re going to 10 stores a week, you’ll be going to stores until you’re 90, trying to get this issue out there.’” Pfleger said. “‘Call the media when you go to that store. Let them cover it, and then you’ll hit a thousand stores while you’re hitting one,’” Pfleger said.

Pfleger emphasized the power of the media to shape the world through their lack of coverage of Haiti prior to the earthquake that occurred Jan. 12 near Port-au-Prince.

“Why do we allow [media makers] to interpret Haiti or Haitians?” Pfleger asked. “Why did they not go to Haiti looking for stories before the earthquake? [The media] has got to see the eyes through the people



Brock Brake THE CHRONICLE

“Radical Disciple,” directed by Bob Hercules (left), chronicles Rev. Michael Pfleger’s (right) journey for racial equality and media awareness through his priesthood at St. Sabina Church on Chicago’s South Side.

and they’ve got to stop telling people what to see.”

Spitz said Pfleger is always the one to shine a light on civil disobedience and racial awareness.

“In all of these years, there’s been one consistent white figure playing a role in trying to raise awareness for everyone about this inequality and about all of the ills that come from this initial racism Chicago is so beleaguered by,” Spitz said. “It’s always Father Mike [Pfleger].”

Spitz said he wanted students to see how Chicago’s racial housing and educational systems and economy have led to one man’s transformation and what he’s been able to accomplish by organizing within one parish with like-minded people.

Clark said “Radical Disciple” is an important film because of the intersection of the creative arts documentary and journalism, as well as the ongoing reality of race and politics in a city like Chicago.

“Whether they are a journalist—print or broadcast—filmmakers or quite frankly, artists,” Clark said. “There’s a lot of natural human drama played out in a very real stage of Chicago neighborhood politics.”

cshook@chroniclemail.com

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1014 S. Michigan at 11th St.

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William Wood Senior Recital

7:00 PM

Wednesday February 3

Student Piano Recital
at the Sherwood Conservatory

7:00 PM

Thursday February 4

Chris Ditton Senior Recital

7:00 PM

Friday February 5

Jazz Gallery in the Lobby

12:00 PM

Jazz Forum

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From the film Structurally Sound. Photo by Amanda Biese.



Photo by Tom Nowak

ANNOUNCING COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO'S NEW MEDIA PRODUCTION CENTER

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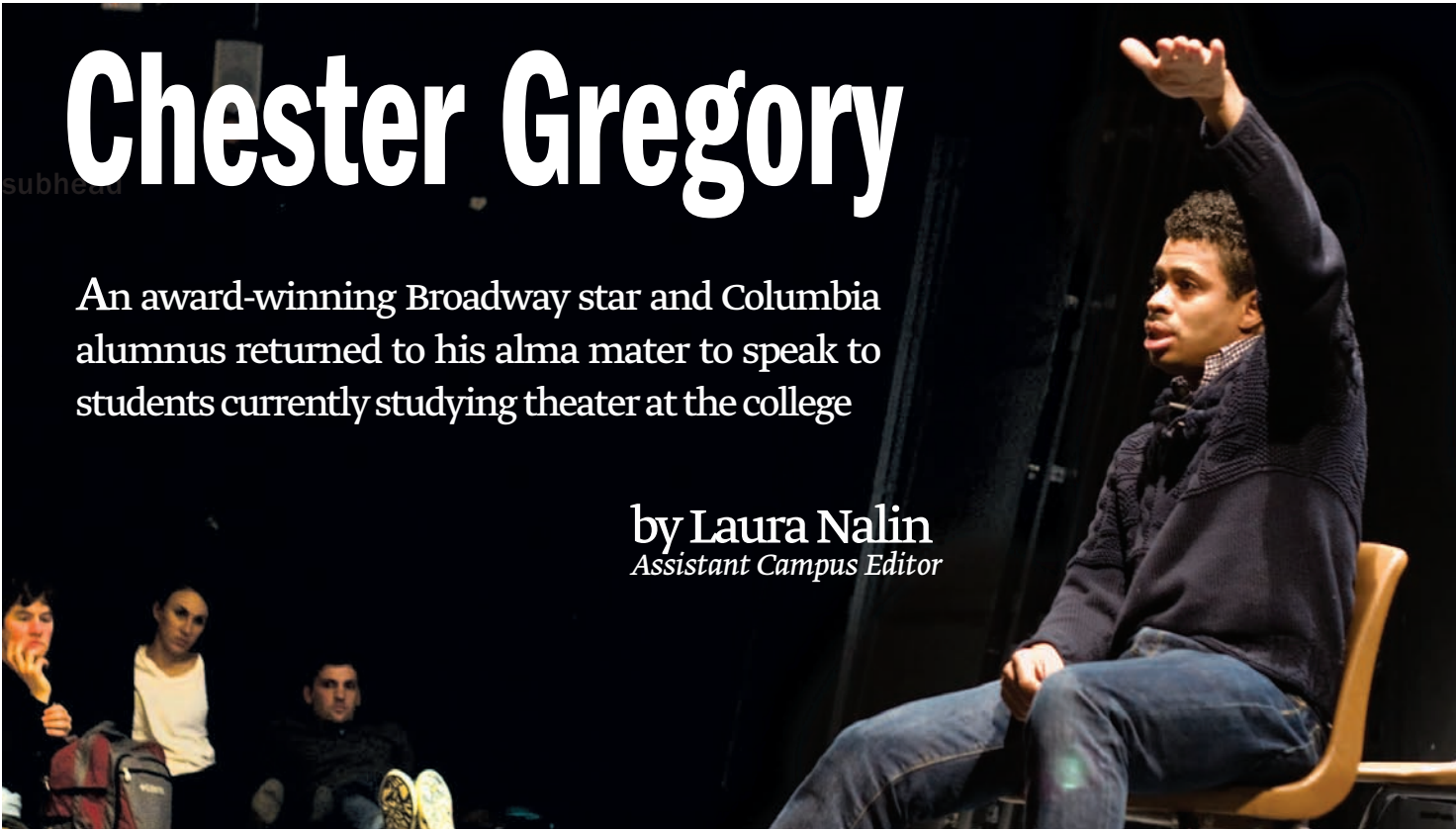
Time slots are 30 minutes each, from 2:00pm - 5:30pm, to accommodate safe building capacity limits. Two trolleys will run continually from 1:45pm to 6pm, making stops at the southeast corner of Harrison and Wabash, the southwest corner of 11th and Wabash, and the Media Production Center at 16th and State.

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Chester Gregory

An award-winning Broadway star and Columbia alumnus returned to his alma mater to speak to students currently studying theater at the college

by **Laura Nalin**
Assistant Campus Editor

Brent Lewis THE CHRONICLE

Gregory speaks during a Q-and-A session in Columbia’s Getz Theater as he gives advice to theater students about reaching their dreams in the theater business.

CHESTER GREGORY, who has been in a number of Broadway shows including “Tarzan,” “Hair-spray,” “Cry Baby,” “The Jackie Wilson Story” and his most current, “Dreamgirls,” said that he has known he had wanted to do theater since the fifth grade.

“In the fifth grade I started to admire performers like Michael Jackson, Gregory Hines and Sammy Davis, Jr., and I got such joy out of performing I knew that was something I wanted to do for the rest of my life,” Gregory said. “Singing, dancing and acting all fell under the performance wing for me, and I started doing city talent shows and

children’s theater.”

Originally from Gary, Ind., Gregory was enrolled by his mother in many children’s theater programs and in sixth grade, she urged him to audition for Emerson School for Visual and Performing Arts in Gary, where he studied through high school.

Students sat in Columbia’s dimly lit Getz Theater as Gregory told the story of his life in show business. A 1995 graduate of the college, Gregory taught theater classes for six years until he landed his first musical role as Seaweed in the production of Hairspray.

“I auditioned literally the day after they

got all the Tonys,” Gregory joked. After two and a half years of touring with “Hairspray,” Gregory recalled his audition for Broadway’s Disney production of “Tarzan.”

“I get really nervous when I audition,” Gregory said. “So I got up on stage and I was forgetting my lines and all of a sudden I look up and I see Phil Collins. He just got up and we started singing lines back and forth to each other.”

After a year in “Tarzan,” he auditioned for a role as Donkey in “Shrek the Musical,” which he recalled as the first show that he got hired for on the spot. Gregory got replaced by

Daniel Breaker, and a month later auditioned for “Dreamgirls.”

“There’s something special that each one of you have that only you can do,” Gregory told the students. Gregory came to speak to the college as part of a series directed by Michelle Pasquarelli, Columbia’s assistant director of alumni relations. The series’ goal is to reconnect alumni with their department.

“It’s great to look at the alumni, where they are today and how they got there,” Pasquarelli said. “It doesn’t matter what department they are from, what they do for a living, it’s all about paying your dues and feeding yourself while you’re doing your art, and Chester is a perfect example of this.”

While studying at the college, Gregory was recognized by his teachers as a student that stood out. Albert Williams, one of the coordinators for the musical theater major, said that Gregory was a unique student.

“One thing I remember the most is that he was very talented, very focused, very quiet and he’s one of the students that I have noticed who had his eyes on the prize,” Williams said. “But the prize was his personal triumph—it wasn’t about making money or becoming a star, it was about doing the work and he was one of the epitomes of that.”

Williams also added that he was “never quite sure” what would happen with Gregory, but he wasn’t surprised when he started embarking on a Broadway career.

“I would not be here if it weren’t for the wonderful experiences and teachers who worked very hard, encouraging me,” Gregory said.

Among Gregory’s current projects, a portion of the sales of his newest CD, “In Search of High Love,” will go to support musician Wyclef Jean’s project, Yele Haiti.

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seeing things differently



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Two Columbia publications, students receive accolades

Fictionary and Hair Trigger to enter finals in CSPA competition in March

by Ciara Shook
Assistant Campus Editor

THE FICTION Writing Department has once again brought home the gold from the Columbia Scholastic Press Associate competition, with publications Fictionary and Hair Trigger each receiving certificates of achievement.

Both publications have received awards in the past, with Fictionary winning a silver medal in 2008 and Hair Trigger winning the gold crown several times. Students' literary work and artwork will advance to the final competition in March. Though the awards never go underappreciated by the department, the faculty is more proud of the students' work.

Fictionary, having entered the CSPA competition once before, received the gold medal certificate for overall design for the fall 2009 issue.

"The shame of it was we passed the deadline to enter individual feature stories," said Sam Weller, assistant professor of Fiction Writing and faculty adviser for Fictionary. "The only thing we could enter is overall design, and we won the gold, so we're happy about it."

Weller said he gives credit to the students because the grassroots operation was conducted by a small group of no more than 12 editors.

"It's not an army by any means,"

Weller said. "They're doing it out of the love of putting this thing together and celebrating the accomplishments in this department."

Randy Albers, chair of the Fiction Writing Department, said it is a great testament to the power of Columbia's mission to have people from different backgrounds write stories.

"Hair Trigger has never failed to win an award in any year it was eligible," Albers said.

Christine Maul-Rice, fiction writing instructor for the production course for Hair Trigger, College Literary Magazine Publishing, said the group reads about 1,000 manuscripts submitted to Hair Trigger, but only four or five percent make the cut.

Regardless of the publication's track record, Maul-Rice said she and the editors don't choose stories to publish with awards in mind.

"We read to stay true to what is strong, voice-filled, movement-oriented fiction," Maul-Rice said. "We won't change anything if we don't win. We'll keep working for what we've always worked for."

Ten students won individual awards for their work in Hair Trigger.

Fiction writing alumna and senior theater lecturer Stephanie Shaw placed first in experimental fiction for "The New Family." Sophomore fiction writing student Terry McGarr placed first in magazine essay for "Black Migration, White Flight" and art and design instructor Sarah Faust Waddell and Maul-Rice received a first-place certificate



Konrad Biegaj THE CHRONICLE

for cover design.

Fiction writing alumnus Ryan Sinon received first, second and third place certificates and two certificates of merit in single illustration: black and white for magazines. He won the awards for his folktale drawings that illustrated his story, "The Carpenter and the Very Generous Tree."

A second-place certificate in experimental fiction went to fiction writing alumna Theresa Holden for "The Letters of M. Homais;" a third-place certificate in experimental fiction went to fiction writing alumna Melanie Datz for "The Hand;" and a third-place certificate in magazine essay fiction writing went to MFA candidate Marianne Murciano for "One Night in Havana."

Assistant Vice President for Creative Print Services Mary Forde, Waddell and

Maul-Rice received a certificate of merit for overall design for literary magazine; fiction writing alumnus Teddie Goldenberg received a certificate of merit in experimental fiction for "My Pet Fairy;" senior theater lecturer and fiction writing MFA candidate Tom Mula received a certificate of merit in traditional fiction for "Graven Images."

Albers said students have done very well for many years and is pleased that students won various categories.

"[Winning in various categories] shows the range of writing that comes out," Albers said. "Whether it's fiction, journalism or creative nonfiction it shows that Columbia is committed to open access and excellence. We're all about celebrating the high quality work we've done."

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SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNI:

Marlon West

(B.A. '85 - Film & Video)

Marlon West is an animator for Disney, and is the visual effects supervisor for *The Princess and the Frog*, which was just released on December 11th. He has also worked on *The Lion King*, *Pocahontas*, *Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Hercules*, *Mulan*, *Tarzan*, *Fantasia/2000*, *The Emperor's New Groove*, and *Atlantis: The Lost Empire*.

How did your education at Columbia help prepare you for your future?
I like the fact that my instructors were working in Chicago's film industry. I enjoyed the hands-on aspect of the class as well. I feel I got real-world feedback and real experience during my time at Columbia.

How did your arts education help you in your technology related career?
I took studio art, film, and creative writing classes while I attended the college. I left there feeling like a filmmaker because I made films from script to editing.

What was your first job after graduating from Columbia?
I worked for The Encyclopedia Britannica making, and sometimes re-making, educational films.

What is your best memory from Columbia?
I watched a lot of great movies, while I worked in what used to be the "The Cage" on the 600 building's 8th floor. I saw some classic films with some folks who are my best friends to this day.

Do you have any advice for students heading out into the job market today?
I say, put in as much good work as you can, so you can have as strong of a reel as possible when you are ready to leave. I keep it brief kids. 2 minutes!

» **HUFFINGTON**

Continued from Front Page

mainstream media suffers from ADD. They break the stories, and sometimes they break them and they abandon them and so nothing really changes. We in new media suffer from OCD. We stay with the story, and stay with the story, and drive it into the ground. And very often for real change to happen, we need to persevere with the story until we can break things down. We need to be storytellers.”

With her straight, golden hair flowing past her shoulders, the successful columnist and noted author urged students to think deeper. She challenged them to consider the media attention given to the “balloon boy,” who she joked was actually “attic boy.” She said if people in need were given just 10 percent of the media attention he had been given, think of what we could do.

“There are many crises and many stories of human suffering within walking distance from here, walking distance from wherever we are,” she said. “We need to put the spotlight on them.”

The Huffington Post is a blog that features thousands of voices every day. What started as one section has now expanded into 19, including a Chicago section run by Columbia alumna and former Chronicle Managing Editor Jennifer Sabella. According to Huffington, the blog had received more than two million comments in the past month alone. People don’t want to just consume news, they want to share and envelop news, she said. That makes such a difference than the old fashioned way of consuming news sitting on the couch, she continued. However, Huffington does not believe that blogs like hers are to blame for the crumbling of traditional

print media. “I don’t think print media is going to die,” she told The Chronicle during an interview. “I don’t believe that it’s going to be either/or. I see it as a hybrid future. Those in the old media adopt more of the ways of new media: you know, interactivity, transparency, immediacy. And those in new media are adopting the first traditions of old media: accuracy, fairness, fact checking ...all those things.”

In what seemed like a split second, Huffington went from being the woman who made Forbes’ list of Most Influential Women in Media in 2009, to someone who understood what it was like to be a college student. She invited all of the students to submit stories to The Huffington Post, shared her e-mail address and encouraged the more than 50 students attending the program to e-mail their articles to her directly.

“All of you here can find stories,” she said. “You may know people you want to profile, to tell their stories and to take their pictures and that’s the way to become one country again, where we care for each other.”

Huffington’s obvious intention of being accessible did not stop there. She then informed the students that the site would be launching a college section this month. The new section would provide a platform for whatever students write. She encouraged professors and students to write for the section, which will spread across 100 colleges.

“In fact, I’ve promised a team that has already partnered with 50 colleges that I’m not leaving Chicago until you partner with us,” she said.

Without hesitation she added, “Anybody who wants to be involved with the college project, raise your hands.”

She then passed around a sheet of paper for interested students to sign up.

Surprised by the opportunity Huffington had just provided, the Washington, D.C., bureau

chief for the Chicago Sun-Times and moderator, Lynn Sweet, who had skipped out on covering the State of the Union address that night, gave a word of advice to the students.

“Never in your careers discount showing up,” Sweet said.

Huffington took a moment to offer her thoughts on politics and even gave a word of advice to the president, who wrote a blog posted on the site titled “On My Faith and My Church” immediately following the controversy with his former pastor, Rev. Jeremiah Wright, now famous for his inflammatory remarks during the 2008 presidential campaign.



There are many crises and many stories of human suffering within walking distance from here, walking distance from wherever we are. We need to put the spotlight on them.”

-Arianna Huffington

“I feel that he needs to remember the audacity of running,” Huffington said. “Remember it was a very audacious thing for him to do and in many ways the audacity of running and the audacity of winning has been replaced by the timidity of governing. Especially young people who are so energized really believed again and need to be a reminder for him that he went to Washington to change Washington, not to tell us all the ways that it is difficult to change Washington because everybody knows that. My greatest concern is that these young people are disappointed. They may drop out of politics again and that’s going to be so detrimental to our democracy.”

Huffington had some criticism for the other

side of the aisle as well.

“There’s something about Glenn Beck that is utterly disconnected from reality and yet he appeals to people and that, to me, is one of the most dangerous things happening that we need to address, we cannot just ignore it,” she said. “What’s happening on the right is an enormous amount of demagoguery.”

Though a noted author of eight books and advocate for fearless women, Huffington expressed her concern about the GOP’s newest star.

“My concern with Sarah Palin is that she often feels that she doesn’t have to get her facts right, and I think that’s detrimental to our whole democratic process because she has a lot of followers and no matter what you believe, I think we all have a responsibility to be accurate,” Huffington said.

As the program came to a close, Huffington shared how excited she was about something Columbia students had been discussing all day—the Apple iPad. Calling Steve Jobs a “genius” and a person who is “adding value,” Huffington claimed that innovation is what capitalism is all about.

In a subsequent interview with The Chronicle, Huffington took a minute to offer some more advice to students.

“[The] most important thing for me is to find your passion,” she said. “What is it that you most want to write about and report on? Pursue that everywhere and [don’t] be discouraged. And the greatest lesson for me is the greatest difference between people who succeed and those who don’t is ultimately every time they fail, they get up and start again. Life is not a straight line. There are a lot of ups and downs. The most important thing is perseverance and finding the joy in Auburn Gresham what you are doing, not just where we want to get.”

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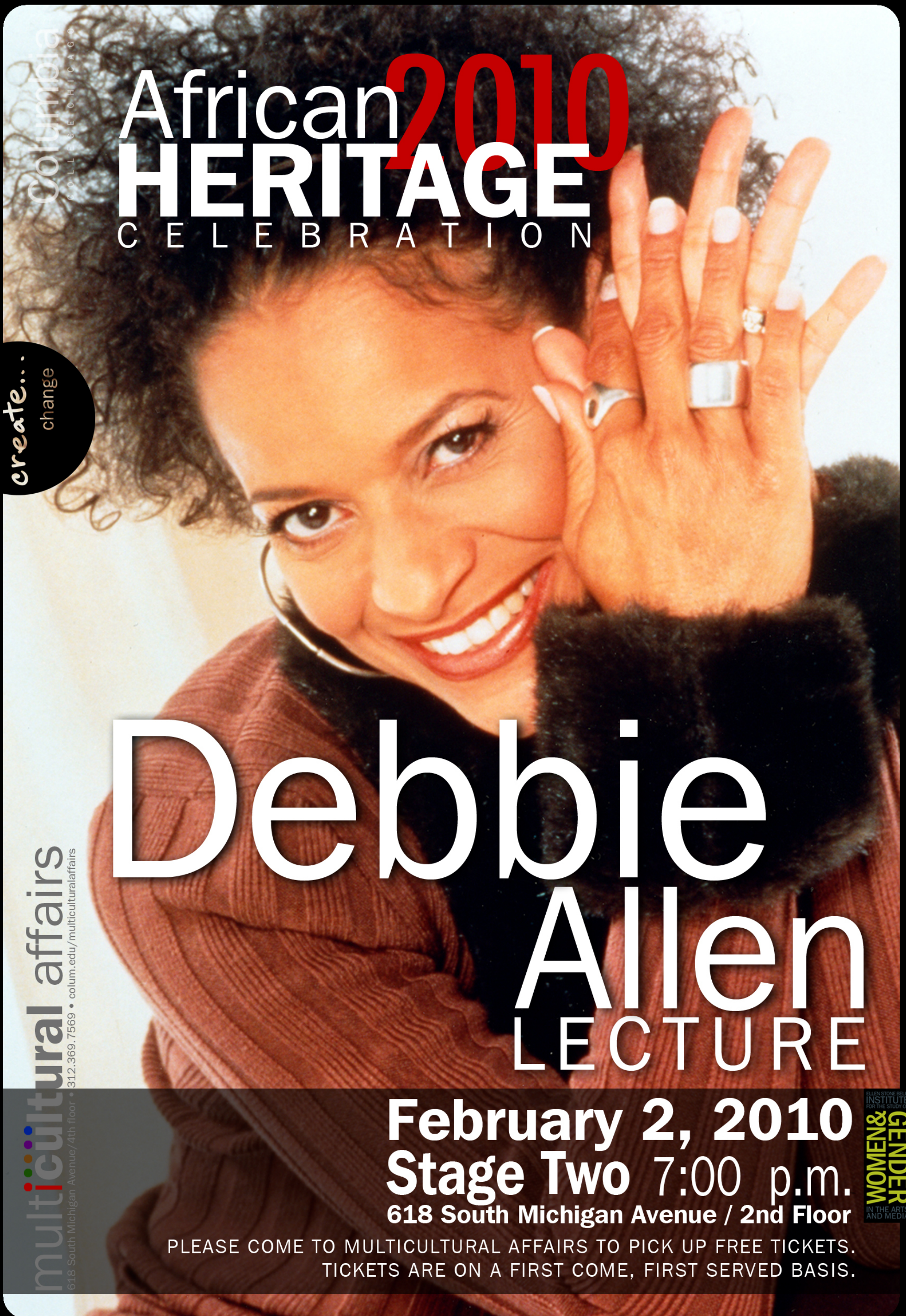
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FACT & FAITH

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Spirituality (and
foosball)

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

by Dani Prelip
Senior, Cultural Studies

WE WOULD usually arrive at church about an hour early so we could get in a few games of foosball—my mom and me vs. my brother and sister. Everyone else would mingle upstairs, but the real challenge for us was to see whose week it was to dominate the table.

I suppose this could have something to do with why I saw church as a sort of game or show, but for the most part I just never really had a good feeling about being there.

Most of the people were nice enough, but they were definitely careful about how they approached one another and extremely cautious of the newcomers. That was the thing, we were always newcomers. My mom apparently wanted to throw us in the mix and see what we would latch onto, so we were constantly changing our Sunday experience.

I don’t recall every church we attended, but I do know that hearing people speak in tongues at 7 a.m. was frightening, being Catholic took way more time than being Methodist, and being Methodist meant we were able to listen to a live band and sing along and not in a monotone, creepy kind of way.

My mom is fairly religious, but for the

most part, she keeps to herself about it. I’ve used her ideas to take up routine praying in the past, but without the arrival of my various “wishes,” I concluded it was crazy to continue talking to myself just before bed. I don’t know if I necessarily believe in coincidence or fate (or some type of a mixture of the two), but I have always thought there to be at least a reason for things that happen—which maybe rules out the coincidence aspect, but I don’t necessarily outline my life according to this idea. It’s more of a way for me to justify when horrible things happen so I don’t give up all hope that things can get better, and so I can try to find the lesson in whatever the situation brings.

It’s a very personal approach for me, and I don’t find myself feeling the need to attend a church service in order to learn life’s lessons (whatever they may be). I do appreciate external viewpoints and contrasting opinions, but I don’t think those can only exist in a particular place (i.e. church). I don’t like the idea of what organized religion can do to people, and therefore have an extremely cautious approach to following the leader.

The idea of attending church became more and more of this type of showy, look-at-me kind of act that seemed to completely contradict why I thought we were there: to be better people, to do what was right, to follow the word of the Lord, etc. It was seeing these people act one way at church and another way outside in everyday life that brought about this conflicting viewpoint, leading me further and further away from the idea of attending church (or using church services) to define my spirituality.

For me, spirituality calls upon a variety of different experiences that I use to try and approach life in the most positive way I can. Using ideas of “good” or “moral” to outline a path as I go along gives me room to breathe instead of constantly feeling like I’m sinning or less than perfect, or in a continual state of repair. It allows for me to have a goal to be better, but doesn’t make the goal seem unattainable.

Perhaps those foosball games in the basement of the church on Sunday mornings were just what I needed to remind myself that you can’t always have what you want and things don’t always go how you want them to, but there is still a way you can get through every day and persevere.

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LEFT Karen Mendiguetti Gamarra has been surfing for 10 years and represents Peru in competitions around the world. BELOW Ricardo García Hozboa, aka Doc, is a third generation surfer in his family.



Photos by Sara Rosenblum

Surf's up

By Sara Rosenblum

As I gaze out over the Pacific Ocean from the shoreline of Lima, Peru, the sun casting its shadow over the curling seas, I find myself an observer in the temple of wave riders who glide on water, piercing the air with their tanned torsos and sleek boards.

To many, surfing is considered more of a religion than casual sport where understanding and respect for your surroundings leads to the redemption of riding the “perfect wave.”

These are the stories of three such individuals whose devotion and dedication have become the very center of their lives.

As I entered the beach I was immediately excited to see the numerous surfboards lined up along the beach and the countless bodies sitting upright in the ocean on short and long surfboards. I saw people giving each other the “hang ten” hand signal and hugs all around, and I instantly knew the surfers in Peru were just as laid back as they are in the United States.

The first surfer I spoke to was Karen Mendiguetti Gamarra, currently ranked the No. 2 female surfer in all of Peru. As I walked over to speak with her, I became very nervous and intimidated by her skill. I sat down in front of her with my translator, and in my best Spanish possible, said, “Thank you so much for helping me with my interviews.” I must have said something incorrectly because she laughed a little, which broke the tension.

Mendiguetti is a 25-year-old surfer and has been riding waves for 10 years. “I didn’t know anything at first, but now I can read the ocean and the waves and it is easy to surf anywhere,” she said.

Karen also informed me that she competes and has traveled many places to represent Peru in competitions. She has surfed in such places as Chile, Portugal and the Margarita Islands.

“I continue to surf because it is my life,” she said with a huge grin on her face.

I asked her what her favorite surfing memory was and was happily surprised with her answer. Only a few miles away from where we were sitting, she surfed while completely surrounded my dolphins.

“I feel peacefulness, freedom and a connection with nature when I am in the ocean,” she said as she gazed far off the coast.

I could see the immense passion in her eyes and knew she was truly one with the surf.

I sat for a while facing the crashing waves, listening to the rocks get pushed and pulled by the rough water. I then met Ricardo García Hozboa, more commonly known as Doc.

Doc is a 57-year-old man who is a third generation surfer in his family. His son is a fourth generation surfer. He has been surfing for 50 years and I could tell by his dark tan he knew more about the waves than anyone else at the beach. “Surfing is always the same, the most important part is the feeling, the feeling is always the same,” he said. “I dance with the waves and walk on water”

Also, Doc has traveled all over the globe to surf. He has been to Mexico, Hawaii, Ecuador, Chile and the Galápagos Islands, just to name a few. Even though Doc has traveled to all these places, he made it a point to make sure I knew his favorite waves were in Peru.

“My favorite memory surfing was the first day and the last day. Every day,” Doc sighed with wide eyes.

I could tell he longed to be where he felt most at home—with the waves. As I snapped a few photographs of Doc, I saw the water captivate him as if it was calling his name. I walked down the sandless beach balancing on the millions of small rocks that make up the coast. I then talked to David Vara Ames, a 35-year-old who has surfed for only four years.

“I am still improving, every time I get into the water I get a little better and more confident,” he laughed.

He said when surfing first came to Peru, it was something mainly done by the wealthy. Surfboards weren’t made in Peru so it was expensive to buy them.

“Surfing helps me get rid of my stress all

the time. It is just me and the ocean, you know. There are many places here but the ocean in consistent,” he said.

From the tone is his voice it was clear that David truly loves the ocean and to surf. “I feel really connected to nature. I feel I am a part of nature when I

am out there,” he explained as he pointed toward the water with his head.

David’s connection to the waves was apparent and strong and clearly reciprocated by the ocean for him.

I myself feel like an outsider after hearing these stories and have begun to look at the Peruvian shoreline differently. As I watch the waves roll in, I hear its call and wonder what it is trying to tell me.



Photo by Sara Rosenblum

35-year-old David Vara Ames has been riding the Peruvian waves for four years.

On the seventh wonder

By Lauren Brostowitz

As I sat on the train, my ears filled with Peruvian flute music, I bit my fingers down to the bone in anticipation. I couldn’t believe I was on a train to one of the seven wonders of the modern world. Honestly, something magical happens to the human body when the eyes are forced to stare at beautiful mountainous landscapes for three and a half hours. Through the window of the wobbly train I watched Quechua indigenous men and women carrying large rainbow-colored bags up and down paths. Some had hoes and were cultivating the land. Baby pigs played in the mud and cows and llamas grazed in the foreground of what looked like a postcard. It was amazing. In those moments I felt guilty for never even having my own garden.

Once at Machu Picchu, I zigzagged through the corridors where our tour guide showed us the temple of the sun and other landmarks. I kept gazing at the very top. Out of breath, the class and I stared from tourist face to giant rock and back again in awe as we climbed jagged stairs. When I finally reached the top of the ancient ruins, I took as many photos as possible. After the photo-ops and the giggles, the rest of the group went down to eat lunch. The six of my friends, most of whom I met on the trip, trickled behind to indulge in the once in a lifetime opportunity. Needless to say, we packed a picnic.

Something more breathtaking than I could ever imagine occurs when one sits atop a moist plot of grass at the very top of the ruins. I stared down at the center of Machu Picchu for 20 minutes in silence. You watch your life flash before your eyes if you sit still and quietly enough. You

A PERUVIAN EXPERIENCE

LOCATED ON THE COAST of South America sits a country complete with lush green mountains, valleys and rocky beaches that hug the Pacific Ocean.

Beginning Jan. 3, 13 students spent two weeks more than 3,500 miles away from Chicago for a Travel Writing course headed by professors Elio Leturia and Teresa Puente.

While there, the students embarked on a journey exploring a culture different than their own while expanding their journalistic, photographic and graphic design skills at the Instituto Peruano de Arte y Diseño.

Visiting places such as the capital city of Lima, Machu Picchu and Cusco, and searching for their next exciting story, students had the opportunity to explore Peru in every way imaginable.

These are just a few stories and blog posts from the class that describe aspects of Peru through American eyes.

Poor kids on the block

By Sarah Ostman

LIMA — It’s a warm summer night and Haydeé has her strategy down pat. A sturdy, outgoing girl of 11, she fearlessly works the rounds in the *Parque Central* in Lima’s Miraflores district, clutching a red fast food cup that has gone soft around the edges. It’s far from home, but tourists are abundant in this neighborhood, many of whom sit coupled on benches, necking or eating ice cream.

Haydeé tucks her cup under her arm, parks herself in front of a couple of *gringos*, pouts her lips and waits.

Sometimes it works. At the end of the night, she goes home to San Juan de Lurigancho, known as one of the poorest neighborhoods in Lima, where her mother runs a *bodega* out of their home. She has 20 *soles*—a little less than \$7—in her pocket.

Thousands of children like Haydeé eke out a dangerous living on the streets of Lima every day, begging, stealing or selling trinkets to anyone with a *sol* to spare.

Many have run away from home because of abuse, neglect or drug addiction, setting up camp near garbage dumps or under bridges outside of town. Others say they live with their families, but are sent out alone by their cash-strapped parents to work the streets of more affluent neighborhoods.

For many *turistas*, these “street kids” are simply a nuisance, yet another reason to keep a firm grip on their purses in this land of haves and have-nots. But for some, the kids are emblematic of something deeper—a gaping rift between rich and poor, city and shantytown, those with beds and those with cold, hard floors.

Street kids are plentiful in *Centro de Lima*, where narrow streets choked with exhaust give way to vibrant, wide-open plazas of yellow



Photo by Devin Katayama

Héctor Juárez is 12 years old and comes from the modest San Juan de Lurigancho neighborhood. He sells “until the gum is gone.”

and red. Between the tour buses that hum outside the *Catedral de Lima* and the crowd that gathers at the president’s palace for the daily changing of the guards, the historic *Plaza de Armas* makes for a smart market for street kids.

The square is quiet at first on this Saturday morning; on the church steps sit only a silent Andean family dressed in layers that seem too heavy for the heat and a solitary Peruvian strumming a guitar.

Then a boy climbs the church steps and hesitantly starts approaching strangers as they exit the church. He wears dirty jean shorts emblazoned with Daffy Duck and has with him a plastic bag, which he swings awkwardly around his skinny wrist. He is gripping packets of chewing gum in his fist, as if he is trying to hide them there.

He is hesitant to talk at first, but eventually says his name, Héctor Juárez, and his age, 12. In a quiet voice, he says he too is from San Juan de Lurigancho, where he lives with his parents and five siblings; he boards a bus in the morning for the half-hour ride downtown. He says



Photo by Krista Hines

Machu Picchu, also known as “The Lost City of the Incas,” is visited by 400,000 tourists every year.

he works “until the gum is gone.”

Héctor seems relieved to escape anymore questions. Not a minute after he does, a tiny girl appears, holding in her little hands a crucifix on a nylon cord and a photocopied prayer card. She is clean-faced and fawnlike—all legs and light on her feet, as if she could blow over or take off running at any moment.

This girl, Jacqui Bazán Carrera, is 7 years old, but could pass for 5. She is happy to have a seat on the top step of the church and leans in, wide-eyed, eager to hear every question.

She says on this Saturday that she works “only from Monday to Friday,” adding unprompted that she does it “for milk for my little brother.”

She said she came to the plaza this morning alone on public transportation and that she will give the money she collects to her father, who works in a print shop, and her mother, who cleans houses.

Jacqui flits away and soon appears Delia Escobar Antizana, a mischievous, toothy 11-year-old who is selling a selection of tiny Peruvian dolls pinned to a sheet of cardboard. She holds the sheet delicately, as if it were a tray full of China.

Delia says she has been selling dolls since she was “very little,” and that she buys the *cholitas* down the street and sells them here. Like Jacqui, she says she traveled here alone on public transportation.

“Yes, it’s very easy!” Delia declares.

Is she ever afraid of *personas malas*?

She insists she is not; in fact, she says, she enjoys riling up the occasional grump.

More questions: What has her day been like so far? Where are her 10 brothers and sisters?

“My mom is doing badly,” is her response. “She has fallen. She has fallen down the stairs.”

Delia could be lying to garner sympathy—her mother might be in perfect health. Likewise, Jacqui may be feeding a line about buying milk for her baby brother.

And while all three children claim to attend school, that too may be untrue; it is estimated that more than a quarter of Peruvian kids drop out to go to work.

Bruce Thornton, a Trujillo resident who has worked with street kids in Latin America for 50 years, says that street kids’ chaotic home lives often set them further off track.

Most live with their mothers, Thornton said, who are responsible for teaching them the tricks of their trades. Their fathers tend to be absent or they’re only part-time, as they often have multiple families to support.

The kids often suffer from malnutrition, lack emotional support and go to sleep at night on sheets of plastic in their homes.

Some situations are more dire. Thornton recalls one child who started eating at one of his organization’s soup kitchens at the age of 8. Workers were impressed that the boy stayed late to clean up, but soon noticed that he was sneaking garbage from the trash cans and bagging it to take home.

The boy, they learned, was the sole breadwinner for his mother, who had tuberculosis, and his five younger siblings.

“He would get up early and go to work in a woodcutter’s shed,” Thornton said. “Then he would look for garbage on the way home and his mother would cook garbage soup on the wood cuttings he brought home.”

Street kids’ lives are harsh, but there are



Erik Rodríguez

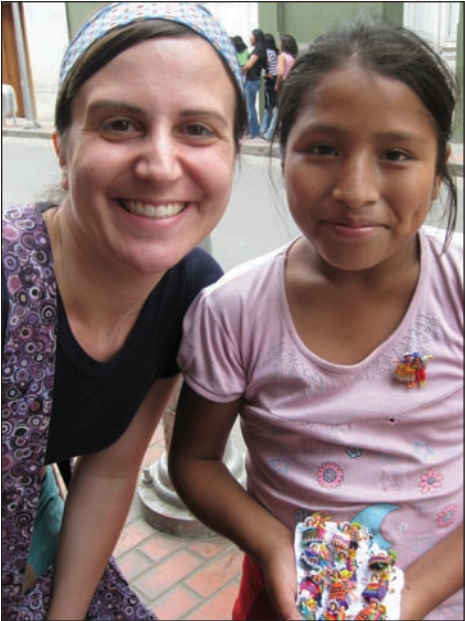


Photo by Cristina Aguirre

Eleven-year-old Delia Escobar Antizana sells Peruvian couple dolls pins for one dollar. She has been selling dolls since an early age.

some alternatives available. Organizations like Thornton’s Agenda SOS International as well as *Aldeas Infantiles SOS* offer programs to get kids off the streets and back into school.

Thornton began opening schools for street kids in 2002, and today his organizations operate 27 schools throughout Latin America, including six in Peru.

More than 5,000 children have gone through Agenda SOS International schools, including 900 in Lima alone, Thornton said.

Aldeas Infantiles SOS, also known as SOS Children’s Villages, takes a different approach, providing new home environments for kids in high-risk situations. The organization currently runs eight group homes in Peru and provides parenting classes for parents.

Still, the problem sometimes seems overwhelming.

“It’s nothing. We help 8,000 children, but there are so many more,” said SOS Children’s Villages Sponsorship Director Laura Aguirre. “We hope someday to see that our work is really making a difference.”

think about birth and wonder about death. You become the air and the mountains. Complete tranquility. You definitely cry. That is for sure.

Silently, sandwiched in between Krista and Sara (two other wanderers that took this course like myself) I tried to imagine Incans living and breathing below me, but sadly couldn’t do it. I inhaled slowly as I tried to free my mind of all distractions that I have collected throughout my life in the United States. I exhaled fear and regret. Those moments and those thoughts will stay with me forever.

I’ve always wanted to travel to Peru, specifically to hike around the 2,000 year old ruins. Now, I can look at images of Machu Picchu and remember the smell of it, which is a scent I’ve always wanted to collect. Sara told me I should have brought a jar, but I like the idea of never smelling it again. They say smell is the strongest sense capable of triggering memory. Maybe when I’m back in Chicago I’ll catch a little bit of Machu Picchu in the breeze. Only, hopefully, I won’t cry again.

Elba Wheeler, left, a Peruvian married to a Chicagoan, invited the whole Travel Writing class to her apartment overlooking the ocean. Amber Porter, right, felt she got the star treatment while in Peru.

Photo by Cristina Aguirre



A Chicago connection

By Cristina Aguirre

Our destination was to reach “Parque del Amor” (Park of Love) in Miraflores. But along our way there a short blond-haired, blue-eyed woman with a thick accent who enthusiastically asked my classmate, “Where are you from?”

Amber said, “Estados Unidos.”

The woman replied back, “No, what part are you from?”

Amber, who appeared to be a little confused replied back this time in English, “The United States.”

The woman didn’t give up and this time rearranged her question to “What part of the United States are you from?”

I just looked at her and we both replied, “Chicago.”

Her husband was born in Chicago and they now live in Lima, Peru.

She kept walking with us to learn more about our journey.

She told me, “I live here, right by the ocean with my husband!”

I replied back, “Really, right here? That must be a nice view.”

She kept repeating this to us along the way until our professor Teresa Puente slowly sneaked into our redundant conversation about how she lived on the beach with her husband, who I later learned was native of the South Side of Chicago and was an engineer.

Soon, the rest of the group surrounded her to catch the conversation. As she approached her building, she begged for us to come up to visit. We went up the elevator that went directly to her apartment.

Elba and Frank Wheeler were some of the sweetest people I’ve ever met. We got a chance to go on their balcony and see the magnificent view of the Pacific Ocean. We could see the hang gliders in the air and hundreds of people enjoying the beach. It was breathtaking and surreal to be in someone’s home on our first day in Lima.

It’s amazing to see the things we could encounter just by walking down the street and talking to a complete stranger. I knew back home, these kinds of things don’t happen often. Elba wanted us to stay, but we had to run off to get ready for our reception at IPAD, the institute where our class was held. She hugged and kissed all 15 of us goodbye on the cheek.

She wanted us to come back soon. And as we left, I felt like we broke her heart. She was so happy and enthusiastic to have met us. Now I wonder if I’ll ever see her again, or if I’ll encounter another perfect stranger who would invite us into their home.

Privileged in Peru

By Amber Porter

As my trip is over. I’ve learned more than I expected. I’m really excited to go back to the United States, but one thing will be different. Here, I am a “rich American.” Our dollar is 2.85 times more than theirs. So to people from the United States, things are very cheap. Plus it’s in our U.S. culture to tip, which is uncommon to Peruvians.

When I walk down the street in a group or by myself, people from stores, walking down the street or otherwise occupied, stop what they are doing to look. Many of them come running from miles away to ask me to come to their store, or to buy some candy or hand-knitted gloves. I feel like I am a movie star here. I walk past a restaurant and literally a waiter

will come running out to hand me a menu and start trying to speak English. Little kids come up to me begging that I buy their hand puppets; sometimes they get angry or sad when I say no. When I was in Lima, taxis would stop and ask me if I needed a ride, if I knew where I was going.

If I walk through the Indian Market, kids, older women and men try to grab my attention. They yell to me, “*Señorita, pase por favor*,” meaning “Miss come in please.” I feel bad, so I go into their little cubicle just because they beg me. They take items out of the wrapping, they ask me to try it on. If I hesitate even for a second, they lower the price. They try to bribe me adding in extras like earrings, or they tell me it’s a really good product. I don’t know how to say no politely, without hurting their feelings, so I don’t say anything. Silence. The store owner starts biting her nails. I can feel her nervousness, her anxiety; she wants me to buy something.

I feel like I have so much power over these poor shop owners who have been hand-knitting these alpaca scarves for years. Who am I to decide their livelihood? I’m not used to having this type of power. I’m usually on the other side of the fence: begging for scholarships or money to go to school, having two to three jobs to pay for school, going to the back of the store to find make-up in my color, trying to prove all the stereotypes wrong, climbing the staircase of the class system, trying to make a better world for my future children. Basically, trying to undo what history has put in place.

My brother once asked me, “Black people went from being slaves to not having food in the house. What’s the difference?”

I don’t have an answer for him; all I can say is, “go to college.”

Here in Peru, none of those American class system/discrimination things matter. They ask me where I am from, I say the United States and they get on bended knee.

Whenever I go to markets, I buy things sometimes even if I don’t want them just because I feel bad. They ask me to buy things sometimes that are only two or three soles. That’s a dollar. That’s nothing to me. I wonder if rich people in the United States feel that way when it comes to giving to charities or scholarship funds.

When I was at Machu Picchu, an older man of Andean descent randomly came up to me and asked where I was from. (This is not uncommon here. People do it all the time.) I told him I was from the United States. He smiled and reached his hand out to help me down the stairs. He told me, “We are both Americans. I’m from South America and you are from North America. Thank you for coming to see my country.”

I was speechless. Some people in the United States would consider me worthless, not even a full American; I’m African-American. And here was this older man, telling me that we were somehow connected.

Even though I have to leave my star status, I’m not upset. I was born in the United States for a reason. I still have some unfinished business here. I have to make a life for myself, my family, and my future offspring. We deserve to be more than second-class citizens, and that legacy starts with me.

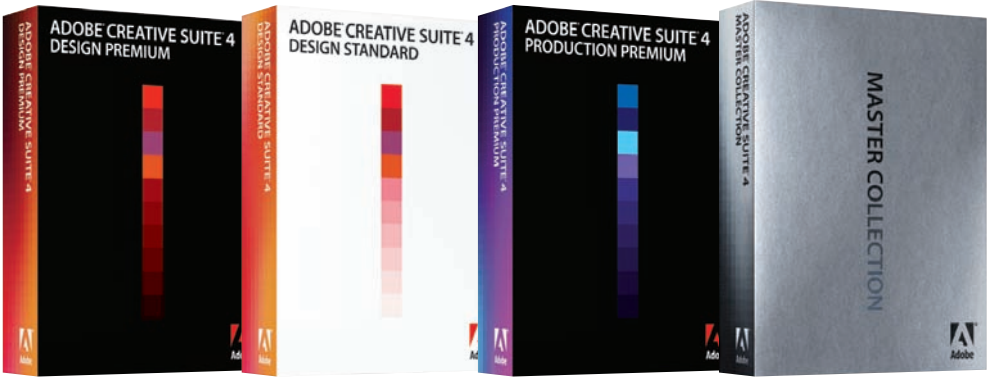


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Jazz'd Up

Tebow's convictions causing outcry



by Jazzy Davenport
Managing Editor

SUPER BOWL XLIV will be one of many firsts. It will mark the first time the New Orleans Saints reach the big game in the history of their organization. Indianapolis Colts' Coach Jim Caldwell will also cap off his first season by leading the team to the grand stage. But the firsts of the Super Bowl will not just happen on the field.

Former Florida Gator and Heisman trophy-winning quarterback, Tim Tebow, will appear in a pro-life commercial for the Christian group Focus on the Family. Both Tebow and his mom, Pam Tebow, star in a commercial that will air during the big game on Feb. 7. Tebow's mother said she was advised to abort her child during pregnancy because of health concerns, but obviously opted not to.

Ironically, that is indeed the beauty of choice.

Until now, CBS has opted not to air controversial advocacy ads.

Tebow has sparked much controversy for appearing in the ad, and some have said that it may even cost him an NFL contract. Many women—who make up 40 percent of Super Bowl viewers—and pro-choice groups have begun protesting the ad.

Should Tebow be crucified or punished for simply making a statement, advertising his beliefs and speaking out about something that he is passionate about? Pro-life is apparently a social issue that is very dear to him and his family. For if his mother had taken the advice of health professionals, he would not be here today.

However, women aren't the only ones who have spoken out against the ad. Many men don't necessarily take issue with the ad itself—they are more concerned that the ad should not have a place on "Super Sunday."

Athletes promote organizations and encourage people to participate in what they believe to be "right" all of the time. How many times have we seen commercials encouraging people to donate to an organization for Haiti relief in the past few weeks? There have been athletes, musicians and even the first lady appearing in ads of this kind. How is that any different from what Tebow is doing?

The CBS Network has insisted that the ad is not inflammatory and is well-produced.

Tebow is simply standing up for what he believes in. If the conservative organization is willing to pay CBS the \$2.8 million price tag to advertise during the most-watched sporting event of the year, then so be it.

If Tebow's beliefs contradict yours, simply ignore the ad—it's only 30 seconds.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

2/3/10

Chicago Blackhawks vs. St. Louis Blues

The Chicago Blackhawks welcome the St. Louis Blues to the United Center in action-packed, NHL fashion. The Hawks are currently ranked second in the Western Conference, while St. Louis sits at 13th out of 15 teams. The puck drops at 7:30 p.m. at the United Center. The game can be seen on Comcast SportsNet.

United Center
1901 W. Madison St.

2/6/10

Open Skating

Columbia's Fitness, Athletics and Recreation office has organized a skate night at Millennium Park. Students who wish to attend should meet outside the fitness center at 731 S. Plymouth Court at 5 p.m. The cost is \$10 for skate rental at the ice rink, or students can bring their own skates.

Millennium Park
201 E. Randolph St.

2/7/10

Super Bowl: Indianapolis Colts vs. New Orleans Saints

The NFL Super Bowl takes over South Florida as AFC Champions the Indianapolis Colts take on NFC Champions, the New Orleans Saints. This will be the fourth Super Bowl appearance in franchise history for the Colts, who most recently defeated the Chicago Bears, 29 - 17, in 2007 at Super Bowl 41. This will be the first Super Bowl appearance for the Saints since joining the NFL in 1967. The game kicks off at 5:30 p.m. on CBS and can be heard on WBBM-AM 780.

Landshark Stadium
Miami, FL.

Dry skin, from nightmare to manageable

This winter, learn to avoid common mistakes, leave dry skin for the reptiles

by Ivana Susic

Assistant Health & Fitness Editor

WITH WINTER come hats, scarves and snow boots. Students trudge through the hallways, barely able to pass one another because of all the thick clothing. But underneath all those layers are more than skinny jeans and a T-shirt; there is also dry skin.

Dry skin is synonymous with the winter months. Tight, scaly skin feels paper-dry no matter how much moisture is applied. Most people will scratch at their skin and wonder why the jarfuls of cheap body lotion aren't helping. Healing dry skin involves more than basic moisturizing; taking the right steps can not only cure dry skin, but prevent it as well.

Cathy M. Pool, medical expert for Gran-nyMed.com, said the first step is proper fluid intake. Drinking water nourishes not just your body, but your skin as well, she explained. Once the body is hydrated, repair work on the skin can begin.

One common mistake is to wash the face with hot water, Pool said. It strips moisture away, leaving the skin open to dirt.

"It becomes a breeding ground for bacteria," she said.

Instead, lukewarm water should always be used, according to Pool.

Soap is not good to use on the face

either. The soap will leave a film, not allowing pores to breathe. This does not mean there is a need for costly cleansers, she explained. One of the best products to use is well within a college student's budget.

"You don't need expensive soap. Use glycerin," Pool said. "You can find this at a dollar store."

Glycerin is a natural by-product of the soap-making process. It naturally attracts moisture to the skin while being gentle, making it an ideal product.

"Skin is an organ, a huge organ," Pool said. "It's our No. 1 defense against anything. The last thing you want to do is get a crack or break."

Dr. Rajesh Vyas, a naturopathic doctor in Morgan Hill, Calif., also recommended using Vitamin E oil. One easy method is to buy Vitamin E capsules, squeeze out the oil and apply directly to the skin. Its availability makes a very accessible choice for college students.

"You have to use it more often, but it's healthier than all the chemicals," Vyas said.

With any cream or lotion, he said, you must see how your skin is reacting. If you don't see any improvement in two or three days, you will not see any results.

Judy Valkenburg, a physician's assistant at Southwest Dermatology in Orland Park, Ill., said that the combination of low humidity in the cold winter air and the dry air from heaters pull moisture from the skin, drying it out.

Taking frequent hot showers, as many



Lenny Gilmore THE CHRONICLE

According to Dr. Rajesh Vyas, a naturopathic doctor, Vitamin E capsules can be used to moisturize skin.

students do during winter to stay warm, pulls even more moisture out of the skin. Hot water breaks down the lipid barrier, which protects and replenishes the skin. Another common error, Valkenburg said, is using both exfoliating cloths and harsh soaps. Instead, use an exfoliator once a week.

"Don't scrub; you don't need a washcloth," she said. "You don't need to use soap everyday on your whole body. Just focus on skin folds, like the armpits."

Antibacterial and heavily-fragranced soaps should also be avoided, Valkenburg said, as these will also dry out the skin.

"The key is, your skin should feel soft and smooth, not tight. Tight doesn't mean clean," she said.

When the skin feels tight, this indicates lack of moisture, Valkenburg explained.

However, expensive lotions are unnec-

essary. Many stores sell lotions that smell good and do little else. Check the ingredient list of lotions and look for water and glycerin or ceramide as some of the first few ingredients, as these will provide the moisture skin needs.

"Any of those [lotions] feel good on your skin, but how long will it last? You're just looking at products that will sit on the skin," Valkenburg said. "They'll smell good but they won't replenish."

Dry skin is not just a problem women have. The deodorant soaps many men use dry out the skin. While lotions seem primarily targeted to women, this does not mean men should avoid them.

"Guys, you don't have to use [lotions] with fragrance, so you have no excuse," Valkenburg said.

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Grand beginning at new gym space

Columbia, Roosevelt students, faculty, staff expected for opening party Feb. 9

by Jeff Graveline
Assistant Health & Fitness Editor

FOR COLUMBIA students who have wanted a new space to play basketball, volleyball or any other activity that needs gym space, the wait is finally over.

After losing the Herman Crown Center at Roosevelt University in April 2008, Columbia students had nowhere to shoot hoops or participate in any activity that didn't involve a weight room.

That has now changed, as South Loop Elementary, located at 1212 S. Plymouth Court, has been opened to Columbia and Roosevelt students.

"The gym is going to open four days a week from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. for intramurals and whatever else [the two schools] plan to use it for," said Cathy Smith, a representative for South Loop Elementary. "[School activities] end at 6, that's why [the colleges] have the gym from 6 to 10."

After final negotiations ironed out all the details between Columbia, Roosevelt and South Loop Elementary, gym space officially opened Jan. 25 to students of Colum-

bia and Roosevelt. Opening ceremonies are planned for Feb. 9.

"In the fall semester, we started with the new gym at Plymouth Court," said Mark Brticevich, coordinator of Fitness, Athletics and Recreation at Columbia. "But we really didn't have the real grand, grand opening. We intend on doing that Feb. 9."

Inside the gym is a full-sized basketball court, with a raised stage off to one sideline that can be used for several purposes. The basketball court has planned use by both Columbia and Roosevelt as a space for intramural teams and open gym time for both schools.

"Our kids have the same needs ... they want to have fitness opportunities and I think they can do them in the same spaces together," Michael Cassidy, athletic director at Roosevelt University, told The Chronicle in the Oct. 12, 2009 issue.

While plans are still tentative about specific times that the two schools will be able to use the gym for their intramural clubs, open gym time is taking place every Monday through Thursday.

Although the gym may have only been open for a short time, that hasn't stopped students from making use of the space, according to Brticevich, who said the gym is getting "a fair amount of people"



Lenny Gilmore THE CHRONICLE

Students from South Loop Elementary use the gym located at 1212 S. Plymouth Court. The space can be used by Columbia and Roosevelt students Monday - Thursday from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. There will be a "Grand Opening" event on Feb. 9 to officially open the gym to students.

every night.

"We're just finalizing our schedule for intramurals and things of that nature," Brticevich said. "We are going to be doing intramural volleyball and I think we're going to do intramural dodgeball this semester. Then the days we aren't doing intramurals, we're going to have it open for basketball or volleyball."

As specific plans for how and when to use the gym remain up in the air, there is one definite plan in place: the use of the gym Feb. 9 for its "Grand Opening" to students and faculty.

The facility will be open during its normal hours of operation for college students, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., and will have several events for both faculty and students from both Columbia and Roosevelt to take part in.

"We're going to have food and refreshments there," Brticevich said. "We are going to do the staff/faculty vs. student volleyball game, both for Roosevelt and Columbia and then the winners of that will play each other to see who has bragging rights. Then we're going to do a 3-on-3 basketball tournament. We're going to do dollar raffles and things like that. All the proceeds from the raffles and the entry fee for the basketball tournament will go to Haiti."

For more information about the new gym visit Colum.edu/Students/Health/Fitness_and_Recreation. For information about Fitness, Athletics and Recreation, find the Renegades on Facebook by searching Columbia College Athletics (Renegades).

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Columbia student famous on the ice

Professional figure skater attending college continues to live her dream

by Jeff Graveline

Assistant Health & Fitness Editor

FOR MANY high school and college students, sports are a hobby. Something to occupy their time after school and make life a little more interesting. However, for some, sports become more than a hobby—they become a way of life.

For Ashley Michelle Cebak, a 20-year-old sophomore journalism major at Columbia, figure skating became a driving force. After starting to skate at age 3, Cebak has continued to hone her trade on the ice and became known for her skating skill.

Cebak's parents, former figure skater mother, Kathleen, and former hockey player father, Jurij, started bringing their daughter to the ice when she was just 18 months old.

At age 3 when she was finally old enough to enroll in skating classes, Cebak quickly advanced through the class levels.

"I was 3 years old when I really got into it," Cebak said. "The first class I ever signed up for, it was basically a group class, I ended up moving up two levels the first day because I was so good."

With her talent evident from her first organized class, Cebak continued to work and gain experience on the ice and learn new skills that would help further her skating career.

The ice became Cebak's home away from



COURTESY Ashley Cebak

Never too busy to recognize a fan, Ashley Cebak signs an autograph outside the United Center before attending a sporting event.

home, as she spent her days at indoor facilities learning from coaches and spent her free time skating on the frozen lakes in the Midwest and at Chicago Park District rinks.

"I always kind of loved skating and it was kind of what I wanted to do; I wanted to be a figure skater," Cebak said. "Everybody pretty much doubted it from the beginning, saying, 'It's really hard' and '1 in 10,000 get to be what I wanted to be' and 'You're never going to make it.'"

Cebak continued to work on her skills throughout high school, often waking up at 4 a.m. to train before going to classes. Cebak said she never took a physical education class or had a lunch period during high

school because she was at the rink so much during that time.

"She pretty much worked her ass off at skating, getting up at 4 a.m. every day and doing that for six hours a day," said Tony Polito, a 21-year-old junior film and video major at Columbia, who was Cebak's high school boyfriend and still remains close to her today.

Undeterred by the naysayers who had their doubts about Cebak's ability to make her dream come true, Cebak worked even harder to prove that she could make it and prove the doubters wrong.

Through practice with her coach, a former "Disney on Ice" star, Cebak rose to

national prominence in 2003 with a Bronze Medal win from the United States International Skating Union, which was a junior level competition at the time, according to Cebak's biography by Jason Neals.

“

I was 3 years old when I really got into it. The first class I ever signed up for, it was basically a group class, I ended up moving up two levels the first day because I was so good."

-Ashley Cebak

According to the biography, Cebak continued to succeed in skating at the amateur level after her Bronze Medal.

Cebak earned a second place finish at the U.S. Figure Skating Open in 2004. Cebak then began training at the Lake Placid Olympic training facility for Olympic trials.

At the Olympic Trials, Cebak skated her heart out, but came up just short. Cebak missed the cut to make the Olympic team by just .01 points, ending her dream of taking part in the Olympics as she turned pro after the trials.

Today, Cebak continues to skate recreationally and turned professional in 2007, which allowed her to skate at major events throughout the United States. She uses her fame from figure skating to raise money for many children's charities.

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Jaimee Wriston Colbert

Author of *Shark Girls*

Reading & Interview

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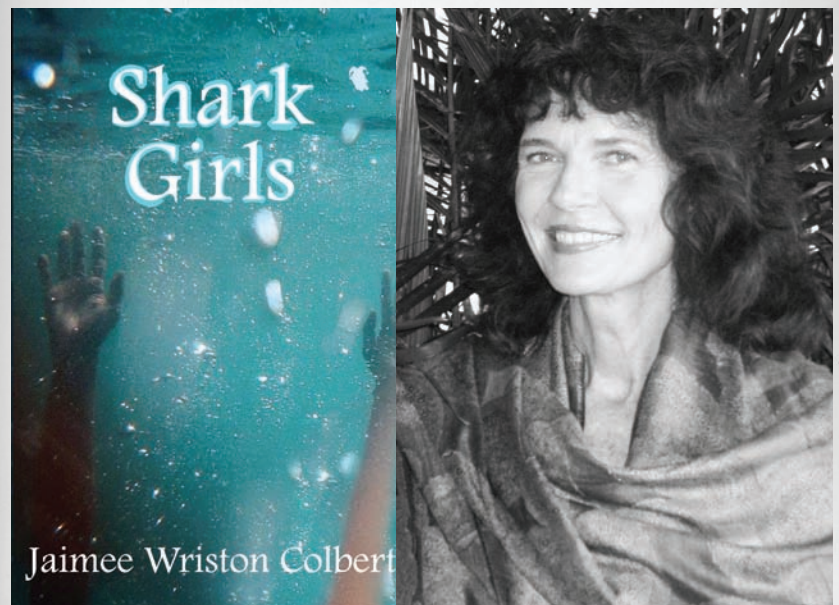
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Booklist, November 1, 2009



"Colbert has created an edgy and lush gothic tale laced with outlaw eroticism and barbed absurdities, and propelled by a powerful undertow racing beneath every alarming scene, bitterly funny moment, and strange twist of fate."

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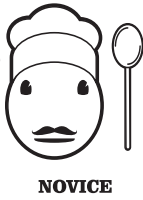
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Columbia
COLLEGE CHICAGO

Squash the calories, not the taste

A healthy spin on a traditional meal leaves hunger satisfied,

by Laura Nalin
Assistant Campus Editor



IF YOU are looking to make a somewhat quick, healthy and low-carb take on a comfort-food dish, this is the perfect recipe. Fresh squash is a creative replacement for pasta. Creamy avocado, tomatoes and walnuts add nutrients and color to the dish that will surely satisfy.

This recipe will serve one to two people, depending on the size of the squash.

First, preheat the oven to 375 degrees. While the oven is preheating, cut the spaghetti squash in half, lengthwise (make sure to use a heavy-duty knife) and scrape out the seeds.

Lay the squash, cut-side-down, in a baking dish and add 1/4 inch of water to the pan.

Place the pan in the preheated oven and bake the squash for 35 - 45 minutes until tender.

For an even quicker meal, you can microwave the squash whole if you pierce the skin a few times with a knife and cook on the high setting for 12 - 15 minutes or until the squash is tender.

When the squash is close to done, put olive oil in a pan over low heat. Smash a clove of garlic and add to the oil.

Cook just until it sizzles to flavor the oil, turn off the heat and remove the clove.



Andy Keil THE CHRONICLE

The finished spaghetti squash dish. This healthy twist on a veggie dish includes tomato, avocado, olive oil and walnuts.

Next, cut the avocado and squeeze the fresh lemon juice on it to keep it from turning brown, and slice up the fresh basil.

Remove the squash from the oven and place it cut-side-up on a cutting board. Use a fork to separate the spaghetti-like strands on the inside and scoop a serving into a bowl.

Drizzle with the garlic-infused oil, top with chunks of avocado and tomato and add the parmesan, basil, walnuts and salt and pepper to taste.

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INGREDIENTS

- 1 spaghetti squash
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 clove of garlic
- 1 avocado
- 1 lemon
- 3 leaves of fresh basil
- 1/2 average-sized tomato
- parmesan to taste
- walnuts to taste

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
2. Cut spaghetti squash in half lengthwise and scrape out seeds.
3. Place squash, cut-side-down, in baking dish and add 1/4 inch of water.
4. Bake squash in oven and cook for 35 to 45 minutes.
5. Put olive oil in pan over low heat.
6. Add smashed garlic clove in olive oil and cook until it sizzles, turn off heat and remove clove.
7. Cut avocado and squeeze lemon onto it to keep from turning brown.
8. Slice up fresh basil.
9. Remove squash from oven, use fork to separate spaghetti-like strands.
10. Drizzle garlic oil over strands, add avocado chunks, sliced tomato, walnuts, basil and parmesan to taste.
11. Serve and enjoy.

to do on sunday

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

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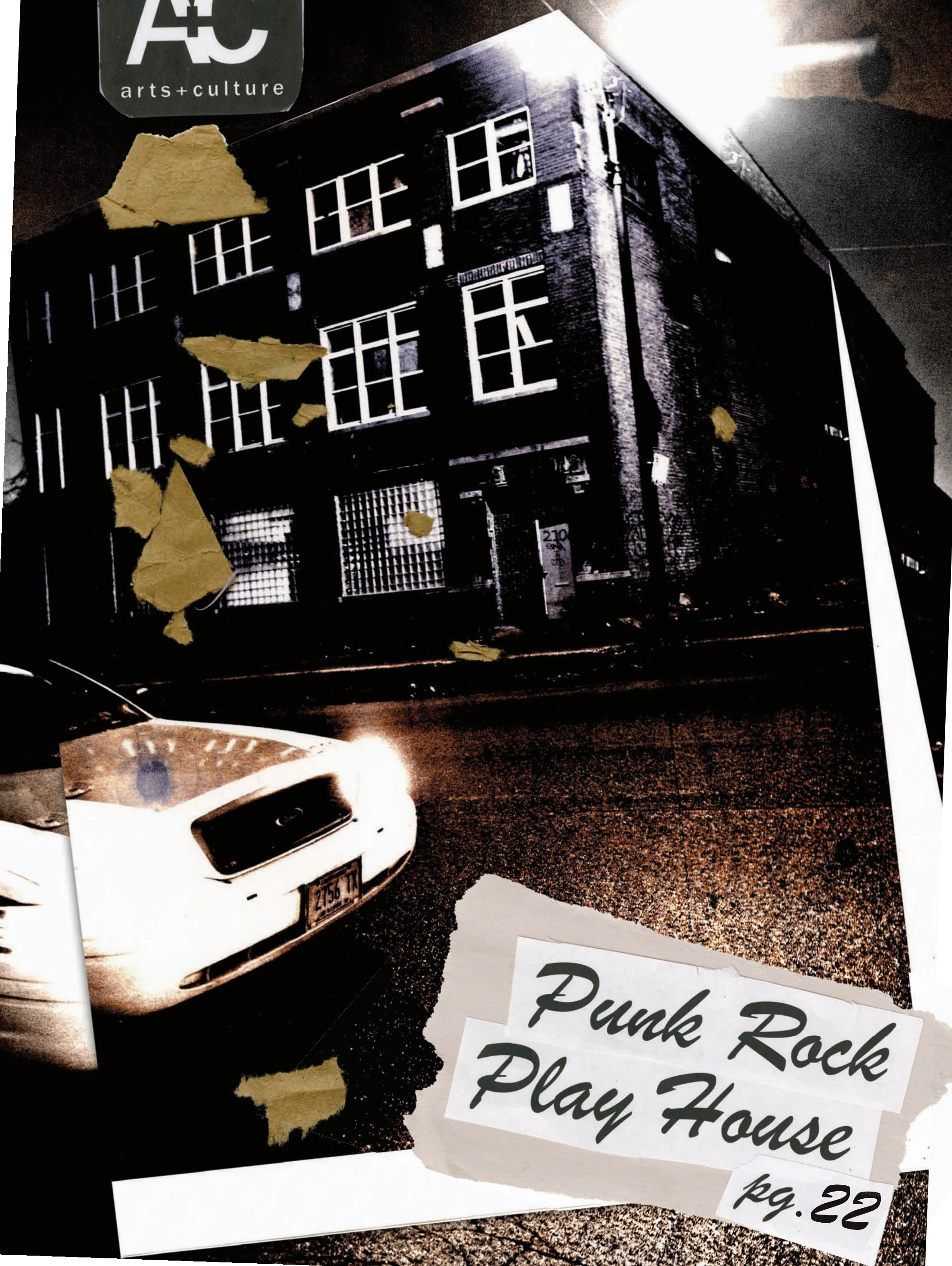
The six winning cartoons will be selected by a jury, which will include faculty from various departments.

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The Department of Humanities, History, and Social Sciences in collaboration with The Columbia Chronicle and the Departments of Journalism, Art & Design and Film/Video.



Punk Rock
Play House

pg. 22

Singles come out to step up their game

Chicago’s only live dating game show caters to all single individuals

by Colin Shively
Arts & Culture Editor

THE DATING world is always a game full of strategies, rules, losses and wins. Yet it is the competition of dating that can create an intense and fun atmosphere that gives single individuals the comfort they need to actually start playing. The name of the game now is Single Mingle.

Single Mingle, a brand new, live game show in Chicago, takes place at Spy Bar, 646 N. Franklin St., where single men and women of any sexual orientation can play to win the heart of another. Set up like the old-fashioned bachelor and bachelorette shows, Single Mingle kicked off on Jan. 21 with its head in the game.

Co-founders Mitchel Migliore and Tana Elise McFarlane came up with the idea of Single Mingle in August 2009 when they were casually talking about how fun it would be to get on a TV game show.

“We then started talking about being single and Tana put a twist on it to put it into a game show,” Migliore said. “These were all different conversations that we all kind of gelled together to form this one.”

Single Mingle is run differently than the traditional dating game show, McFarlane said. There are questions asked from the main contestant to three potentials, but the questions can be created by the bachelor/bachelorette, not just the host, and instead of one round, there are three.

“How, in 12 minutes, when asking questions to people you can’t see, can you get a good gist of who you like?” McFarlane said. “That is why we put in three unique rounds.”

The first round, playfully named “First Base,” is the basic question and answer portion of the game. The second round is the pop quiz, where the bachelor/bachelorette has the opportunity to ask anyone from the crowd who know the prospects



Courtesy JOHNATHAN MATHIAS

The winners of Single Mingle, Asher (left) and Carly (middle) received a \$75 gift card to the sponsoring restaurant, Rosebud Trattoria, and a free bottle of wine.

any questions that come to mind, and anything goes.

“Everyone loves the third round, called ‘Blind Date,’” Migliore said. “We originally called it ‘Let’s Get Physical,’ but it has definitely changed to Blind Date.”

The third round happens when everyone who attends puts on a blinder and spins a wheel that has different lyrics labeled around it, McFarlane said. Once the wheel stops, they have to do the dance with their date. After the end of the routine, the audience decides who the best dancer is.

The bachelor/bachelorette is chosen after they have applied online and have gone through a compatibility test, and two in-depth interviews. After that, the rest of the applications are matched up to figure out who the main contestant will

be and who the prospects are. The participants drink for free, which McFarlane and Migliore said they believe loosens the contestants up.

The great thing about Single Mingle is, even if someone is not chosen by the bachelor or bachelorette, they usually find someone in the audience who has taken interest after the game show, McFarlane said. There is a chance for anyone who comes to the show to either watch or participate, she said.

Single Mingle is advertised solely by social media and passing out fliers at parties, which got the show more than 100 applications for the first night alone, with many more submissions already in for the following show.

Their sponsors is what makes every-

thing possible, MacFarlane said. Their first show was sponsored by Spy Bar, Rosebud Trattoria (who also hosted the after-party) and SEE. Through them, the free drinks and awards are possible.

The biggest show being planned right now is for Valentine’s Day. However, the final segments of the show have not been fully formed quite yet, though they are planning on having speed dating and random contestant picks to mix the game up a bit.

“We are very excited to do the show again after the first time,” Migliore said. “The first time is always a bit stressful, but it turned out to be amazing. We have our footing and are going to go from there.”

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Please don't actually 'give us money'

Improv show pokes fun at telethons, finishes four-week run

by **Luke Wilusz**
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

VOLUNTEERS SIT behind a bank of phones on stage, soliciting donations from callers. Grinning hosts beam at the live audience before switching to their somber faces and urging people to donate. No, this isn't another fundraiser for the earthquake victims in Haiti. The cause: raising money to buy plasma TVs for prison inmates.

"Give Us Money" is an improvised comedy show that takes place during the final hour of a 24-hour charity telethon.

The show—which ran at the Gorilla Tango Theatre, 1919 N. Milwaukee Ave., in Bucktown—finished its four-week run with an 8 p.m. show Jan. 25.

Colin Espinales, 23, co-wrote the show and starred as Chad, the telethon's charismatic and slightly sexist host. He said the cast purposely chose ridiculous causes for each show so nobody would take the telethon at face value.

"We never wanted it to be anything real because we didn't want people to actually donate money to us," Espinales said. "[The causes] would never get the money."

Causes for past shows include preventing the 2012 apocalypse from occurring, putting an end to "Douchebag Syndrome" and keeping the McRib as a permanent McDonald's menu item.

Most of the laughs the show elicited from the audience depended on uncomfortable moments, both between Espinales's character, Chad, and his co-host Chastity, played by the show's co-creator, Jennifer Staben.

“We never wanted it to be anything real because we didn't want people to actually donate money to us. [The causes] would never get the money.”

-Colin Espinales

The two hosts bickered with and insulted one another, all while putting on friendly smiles for the audience, whom they addressed as the live studio audience for the taping of the fictional telethon.

However, Espinales said such audience interaction wasn't always part of the show.

"Our first show had none and it kind of was draining," he said. "That was the beauty of having a show that we could change every week—we figured out what was working and what wasn't working."

Kelly Williams, marketing and public relations coordinator for the Gorilla Tango Theatre, said she thought the show was fairly

successful, despite the fact that it never packed the venue.

"It never really found a huge audience," Williams said. "But it was always very steady. For a Monday night at 8 o'clock, that's pretty good."

According to Espinales, the show was mainly attended by friends and acquaintances of cast members and it picked up steam as news traveled by word of mouth.

"Each week, I think, it's been getting bigger and bigger as

we get friends who can bring friends," he said.

Espinales thought as people began to talk, the improvised and fluctuating nature of the show attracted more viewers.

"You see it once, and then come back next time with some friends, you're going to see a completely different show," he said.

Bart Winters, 27, of Pilsen, saw the show to support some friends of his in the cast.

"My other friends came to the first show and said, 'Go check it out,'" Winters said after the show. He said he was glad he followed their advice.

"You could tell that they're starting off," he said, noting the difference between "Give Us Money" and some longer and more regularly-running improv shows he's seen. "But I think there's some talent there. It comes together at certain points, so I can put up with the

slow points."


While the show's ridiculous characters and situations poked fun at the frivolous and false nature of many groundless charity causes, the show's closing song, performed by the full cast, reminds viewers of one of the most common incentives to donate to a legitimate cause: "Give us your money, and remember: it's tax-deductable."

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welcome to

Mortville

Written by Mina Bloom
Photography by Lenny Gilmore
Design + Layout by Jon Remoquillo

In a shantytown made up of rapists, murderers and forgotten people, heaps of rotten garbage block their doorways yet no one expresses disgust toward the pungent scent. Instead, the wildly eccentric people who live here—like a stripper with just one arm—are deceptively content living in squalor. This is Mortville—a haven for the misunderstood, the homeless and the creative-minded. Those who aren't concerned with social status or competition live in the Mort, which is the alternate world originally conceived by director John Waters for his 1977 film "Desperate Living."

If the outrageous plot of the film is any indication, often times outcasts consciously choose to remain outcasts or, at the very least, they surround themselves with similar types of people.

Today, Mortville exists on the third floor of a warehouse in the Little Village neighborhood of Chicago at 2106 S. Kedzie Ave. Local punk bands perform underneath dangling cryptic dolls and cardboard sets resembling that of an abandoned scene from a deeply romantic play production line the walls. Though the address number is spray painted on the industrial front door, the floorboards scuffed and the walls graffitied, 20-somethings who live at 2106 S. Kedzie Ave. describe living in their version of Mortville as a fantasy come true.

"I live in my dream tree house," said 25-year-

"What I thought the best place to live would be when I was 13 is where I'm living right now"

— Clayton Roache

old resident Clayton Roache.

"What I thought the best place to live would be when I was 13 is where I'm living right now."

However unconventional it seems to wake up in an open, industrial warehouse, the perks of living in Mortville have to do purely with being constantly creative and expressive—committing to a lifestyle fully dedicated to movies, music and visual art.

"Walking through the sets just becomes so normal," said resident Sara Heymann, 25. "We don't even notice it anymore. And there's no reason for us to ever be bored here. We can make as much noise as we want. We have tons of tools and tons of neighbors to just hang out with and do whatever we want to do. Our neighbors are those dream neighbors that you have that you just hang out with, you're always lending each other stuff and helping each other out. You can't get that in regular apartment buildings."

In March of 2008, Pratt University alumna Heymann and her three roommates hosted what they called a \$5 dollar convenience store art sale in Mortville,

(though it had yet to be named then), where they sold affordable, quirky pieces of art, she said.

Since then, residents of the third floor have embraced their unconventional space by building theoretical movie sets using different tools and mediums to create installations.

"We wanted to do something in the space, but we didn't want it to be an art gallery," Heymann said. "We wanted to create a different world."

"The Apocalypse," or a series of cardboard rooms with fake stairs, couches and mundane, everyday objects, is currently showcased at Mortville, which was made possible by The United Container Corporation, who donates corrugated materials to them.

"We kind of made it feel like a honky-tonk art deco lounge," Heymann said. "We love having projects with a goal where we all get to work together with different styles, mediums and materials. We worked on stained glass windows for our project, dummies, stages, rooms, [etc]. [There's] all sorts of stuff all over the place. Everything we've ever learned can come together."

The art, however, only stays up for about two months before Heymann and her roommates tear it apart. She explained that it takes about a month to a month and-a-half to remake giant cardboard installations when they work all day, everyday, which is what they're accustomed to.

The same genuine work ethic not only applies to Heymann's roommates' attitude toward building the art installations, but also mirrors their collective opinion toward what bands they let perform or who they'd like to see attend one of their shows.

"We don't want people who want to be cool," Heymann said. "We want people that are outcasts, that are down to help—who are hardworking, honest people. We're open to every single kind of person and we're open to every kind of music."

Primarily though, Mortville books punk rock bands, but as Heymann explained, "Different scenes branch off into other scenes and then

"We don't want people who want to be cool"

— Sara Heymann





"I'm making this because this is what I love to do and, you know, whatever"

— Sara Heymann



that scene comes."

The majority of the people who attend their shows aren't, in fact, personal friends of Roache, Heymann, Eric Reading, 26, or their fourth roommate, who isn't heavily involved in the production of Mortville.

"Actually, 95 percent of the people who show up aren't close friends of ours," Roache said.

In order to promote their venue, Heymann said they go to plenty of shows similar to the kinds of shows that they throw, which are more underground and showcase really dedicated, talented musicians. They constantly hand out flyers, tape them up in record store windows or even leave them on the tables of their favorite restaurants after a meal, Roache said.

Chicago, unlike, say, Brooklyn or San Francisco, is unique in that these types of basement shows are usually put on uninterrupted. The second floor of 2106 S. Kedzie Ave, known as Treasure Town, houses large skate ramps and a giant movie projector. These aforementioned neighbors help those who live

in Mortville to build their art and book their shows.

Chris Saporito, 22, attends Malcolm X College, 1900 W. Van Buren St; studying EMT Medicine, plays guitar in punk band Moon Rock Whiz Kid and said he and his seven other roommates make their way to Mortville at least once a day to help or simply just hang out. San Francisco native Saporito shares the same attitude as Roache and Heymann when it comes to community and Chicago's underground music scene.

"That's the biggest perk about Chicago is its basement shows," Saporito said. "I mean, in California in the past couple of years they've shut down all of their small venues and they've cracked down on house party shows. There are no basements in California on the northern side. Shows are limited and people usually charge a lot and here you can't charge; it's suggested."

Heymann, who works part-time in a Chicago costume rental shop during the week, has lived in Brooklyn and Berlin, for extended periods of time, although she and her friends went to Stevenson High School and therefore calls Chicago her home in more ways than one.

"Chicago doesn't have the museums or the galleries that New York does, but it has this spirit of

"I'm making this because this is what I love to do and, you know, whatever," Heymann said. "In New York it's like, 'I'm making this so someone can see it and then I'm going to be able to be famous for the rest of my life.' The rent is very expensive; everyone was always working jobs and tired. It's hard to fit in hang out time, painting time and job time."

Between hosting live shows every weekend at Mortville since September 2009 and rebuilding art installations every two months, ideas for new projects are always free-flowing rather than stifled because they're used to being creative every day.

Currently, Heymann and Roache are on the look out for video artists to collaborate with in their space. They also plan to host movie screenings this summer and build their newest installation, which Heymann said should be more "nook-based and sprawling" than "Apocalypse."

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Cube project a success

The Art Institute scatters red cubes around city to promote Modern Wing

by Mina Bloom
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

NOT UNLIKE wrapped presents on Christmas, 500 six-square-inch red cubes are scattered throughout the city in inconspicuous places with a surprise inside waiting for artists and everyday city dwellers alike. In an effort to promote the Modern Wing and their campaign for “500 Ways to Look at Modern,” the Art Institute planned the scavenger hunt to generate more curiosity for the Modern Wing and ultimately host a special exhibit showcasing the cube-inspired projects.

All Chicagoans are encouraged to find a cube and register it online in order to receive a prompt. Traveling with the cube, giving the cube away and creating original art based on a memory you have of spending time at the Art Institute are all examples of project assignments, said Art Institute marketing director Gary Stoppelman.

“We wanted a campaign that would build on the momentum that we started with the Modern Wing,” Stoppelman said. “To continue to deliver the experience of what it’s like to be here at the Art Institute on the street. So we brought that experience to the street and to the Internet.”

As of Jan. 27, 319 out of 500 cubes have been found, according to the 500 red cubes page on the Art Institute’s Web site, which Stoppelman called an “extraordinary response rate.”

The message board on 500-Ways.com gives those who participate a chance to post photos, comments, lost cube notices and much more.

Spectacular, 8-foot cubes are publicly recognizable at Navy Pier, in front of NBC Studios and next to The Wit Hotel. The cube at Ogilvie Transportation Center is a two-dimensional floor decal that appears 3-dimensional when viewed from a particular angle. The rest of the small cubes are peeking out from window displays or sitting atop odd Chicago landmarks, Stoppelman said.

Initially, the Art Institute teamed up with Energy BDDO, an ad agency based in Chicago, to come up with a comprehensive ad campaign for “500 Ways to Look at Modern,” which was successful because of the Art Institute’s pre-existing fanbase.

“When you’re working with a company or a brand like the Art Institute, you’re working with something that people really know well, really love and already have interest in,” said Kevin Lynch, creative lead at Energy BDDO. “So a lot of things that you typically have hurdles for in marketing we didn’t have.”

What the folks at Energy BDDO did have to do, however, was find a way to re-connect the people with the Art Institute if it wasn’t on the top of their minds, Lynch explained.

The interaction has to do with scavenging for a cube, then registering the cube online and finally doing the assignment. The assignments ranged from dealing with social media where the owner of a cube had



Courtesy ELLEN GRADMAN

An example of student work in freelance art instructor Ellen Gradman’s Spark Your Art creativity club.

to change their LinkedIn.com job description to “CubeFinder at The Art Institute,” to asking the participant to take the cube to as many different states as possible.

Cube No. 93, or the WXRT cube, asked its participants to submit a song that reminded them of the Modern Wing, Stoppelman said. So far, 389 songs were submitted.

“It’s taken on a life of its own,” Stoppelman said.

Marketing Coordinator Connie Reyes, 24, struggled to obtain the cube she spotted atop a large window display in Pioneer Court next to the Wrigley Building. When she finally did, however, the cube’s instructions were to give it away.

Reyes said she was heartbroken that she had to pass on the cube after climbing up a window display and getting in trouble with her boss.

Ellen Gradman, on the other hand, was able to use the red cube to foster childrens’ imag-

inations through her freelance art classes called Spark Your Art.

Though she did not find the cube herself, Gradman said she did obtain a cube from reading the message board and finding someone who wanted to give it away.

Gradman’s 13-year-old nephew, who wasn’t able to attend his aunt’s class on the day the cubes were introduced, learned about the project and began writing his own graphic novel revolving around a cube and his adventures, she said.

The art that the students produced will be on display at the Art Institute for the special exhibit designed for the cube art in spring 2010, along with many other pieces from others who have participated in the city-wide exploration of what “modern” means to them.

For more information, visit 500-Ways.com.

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Redmoon celebrates 20 years with puppets, horror

Theater company kicks off new season with old favorite ‘The Cabinet’

by Cody Prentiss
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

A CABINET sits on Redmoon Theater’s main stage, its edges jutting out at odd angles. Its doors are closed, but they will soon open to reveal a sleepwalker’s nightmare to the eager audience.

This odd piece of furniture is the titular object in Redmoon Theater’s upcoming play, “The Cabinet,” which continues Redmoon’s experimental spirit with the use of puppetry and unique set design. The play is inspired by the silent 1920 German expressionist film “The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari” and is told from the perspective of Cesare, a sleepwalker under the control of the murderous Dr. Caligari. The play originally ran in 2005 and routinely sold out. It was conceived by Redmoon Artistic director and Columbia adjunct faculty member Frank Magueri.

“It is an enormous physical cabinet that has a number of different portals, openings and doors that reveal many different scenes, puppets and objects,” Magueri said. “It is all black and white, it is quite scary and it is a great experiment in design and story.”

The play tells the story with puppets, which were made by Lisa Barcy and are manipulated by an ensemble of five puppeteers. Magueri said he used the puppets for the play because the actors can move them in such a way to unsettle the audience. They have a full range of motion, which includes eyes that can cast menacing gazes at the audience and their fellow puppets at the will of the puppeteer. The style of horror



Courtesy SEAN KAPLAN

“The Cabinet” returns to stage an ensemble manipulating puppets inside the titular cabinet.

Magueri said he was aiming for was more Edgar Allan Poe than Wes Craven.

“I’m working on the good old sketch book of Vincent Price here,” Magueri said. “The whole goal is to frighten, to distort and to make [people] uncomfortable, but in the way great horror like Edgar Allan Poe succeeds at ... It continually pokes and prods

at, in Poe’s case, the reader, and in ours, the viewer.”

Magueri said the goal of the production was to make something small in scale but deep in concept. The intimate setting is somewhat unusual for Redmoon, which is known for putting on shows anywhere and everywhere with mechanic props of

their own design. Redmoon’s headquarters is a warehouse that used to be an ink factory, 1463 W. Hubbard St., and houses both a workshop and their performance space.

Redmoon Theater’s Associate Artistic director, Vanessa Stalling, is directing this second run, which was brought back in honor of the theater’s 20th anniversary. The theater was founded in 1990 by Blaire Thomas and Laurie Macklin and its goal is creating art which promotes civic well-being. Stalling served as one of the puppeteers in the play’s first run.

Stalling has directed other Redmoon productions, but “The Cabinet” was her first experience with puppets. She comes from a dance and ballet background, which she said helped inform both in her performance and directing of “The Cabinet.”

“One of the things Frank said to us early on when we were developing the piece was to find the dance so we consider the choreography behind the puppetry a dance,” Stalling said. “Those two art forms do work together in a lot of similar ways.”

Stalling said that both directing and acting in the production has been a challenge because of the detailed nature of the work. Individual puppets are moved by multiple actors who have to pay close attention to one another to make the puppets lifelike. Stalling said while the initial hurdle of mastering movement isn’t easy, the truly difficult part for the performers is the interaction between the different mediums such as video images, music and spoken word the play utilizes.

The first show of “The Cabinet” will be on Feb. 5 at 8 p.m. on the Redmoon Central stage at Redmoon Theater, 1463 W. Hubbard St. Tickets are available at Redmoon.Tx.com.

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Food and community drive entrepreneurs

Hyde Park convenience store prospers despite harsh conditions

by Colin Shively
Arts & Culture Editor

OPENING AND investing all of one's money in a new business is never an easy feat to accomplish and can get extremely damaging if there is a problem. It is even more of a risk when the company is an independent business in proximity to well-established corporations. However, two University of Chicago graduates took the chance and opened up a small grocery store.

The store is Open Produce, a small convenience store in the heart of Hyde Park, 1635 E. 55th St., and is owned by both Andrew Cone and Stephen Lucy. The small store isn't a specialty store of any type, but rather a basic grocery store created to better serve the surrounding community.

Business has been slow since its grand opening a year ago, until recently, when more and more residents of Hyde Park began to acknowledge that Open Produce is the store to shop at.

"Our customer base has grown tremendously since we opened," Cone said. "Our biggest customers are college-age students, but now we are seeing more of a wide range of customers, and I think it is because of how we do business here."

“

I think that our customers love us because we have a really amazing staff that is cross-trained on everything and can help a customer with whatever they need. You can't find that at big, corporate stores."

-Andrew Cone

Before its inception, Lucy went his separate way, even to different states before returning to Chicago, when he met again with Cone and the two decided to start their own business together. To them, a grocery store in their hometown is the best idea.

"We do things differently at Open Produce than they do at bigger grocery stores such as Treasure Island, which is right down the street from us," Cone said. "I think that our customers love us because we have a really amazing staff that is cross-trained on everything and can help a customer with whatever they need. You can't find that at big, corporate stores."

Along with friendly employees, Open Produce lists their prices to the nearest quarter dollar. Nothing ends in 99 or 95

cents and sales tax is already included in the price of the food, Lucy said.

"It is a lie to list the price as \$2.95 when the real price is a dollar more," Lucy said. "Basically, it is like that to deceive the customers into thinking something is cheaper than it really is. We don't want to do that to our customers."

Open Produce also prides itself on being a store that sells ethnic food that can't be found anywhere else in Hyde Park.

"If you want to cook Chinese food and need a special sauce, well, where are you going to get that?" Lucy said. "You would have to go to Chinatown

to get it, so we decided to sell these types of rare food so that our community doesn't have to travel to get what they want."

One of the concerns the two business partners had when first starting is how they would fare against the bigger grocery stores, mainly Treasure Island.

They have, however, found that the community proudly supports their independent business because of the style of store it is and also because Open Produce is open until midnight, whereas Treasure Island closes at 9 p.m.

"Some people don't get out of work until 9 p.m.," Cone said. "They are too tired to cook,

but if there are no stores open where do they get food? So we decided to be their late-night destination and it has proven to be a fantastic idea. The late-night hours are some of our busiest times."

Treasure Island didn't have anything to say about the independent store, yet they are comfortable with their customer service and loyalty.

For the past year, Lucy and Cone have been battling with the money it takes to run a grocery store. Most of their losses are in the produce section that isn't purchased.

However, this year, Lucy said he believes they are in a posi-

tion where the store is going to break even and they can begin to look forward to a few ideas to make Open Produce a better grocery store.

Plans to expand their frozen section to have open-faced refrigerators is an aspiration Lucy has, along with the wish to break down a few walls to expand the business, he said.

Despite the opposition, these two U of C students took a risk by creating a business that they hope will help improve and bring together their community by giving them a local store they can trust.

cshively@chroniclemail.com

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FILM REVIEW

‘Legion’ should get wings clipped at box office

Scott Stewart’s newest movie lacks character, plot, action

by David Orlikoff
Film Critic

IF YOU’VE been on the Red Line within the past few months you’ve almost certainly seen the poster for “Legion.” It’s the one with that naked guy, Paul Bettany, sporting a knife in one hand, a submachine gun in the other and a set of black wings and taut abs for good measure. Unless you are a glutton for punishment, that’s probably as much of this film as you should see. It was co-written and directed by Scott Stewart, and if that name doesn’t mean much to you it’s because he hasn’t done much, thankfully. But according to IMDb.com he is in production for a film called “Priest,” again starring Paul Bettany as a holy warrior. Let’s hope enough negative press from “Legion” can get him fired.

The beginning doesn’t waste time, which is good. But it doesn’t make sense, which is bad. And “The Simpsons” is about the only thing it doesn’t plagiarize. The film is a mix of “Night of the Living Dead,” “Dogma” and “The Terminator,” among others. It is as sexist and racist as “Dead,” as verbose and overlong as “Dogma” and much less believable than “Terminator.” A YouTube mashup of the three would be more palatable. The inexplicable southern dialect with which about half of the characters speak is most

‘Legion’
Starring: Paul Bettany
Director: Scott Stewart
Run Time: 100 minutes
Rating: R
Now playing at local theaters.



confusing given the setting of L.A. and the surrounding desert.

When you get down to it, if you get down to it—and why bother—“Legion” is horribly offensive propaganda for a particular group of conservatives as stupid as they are sure of themselves. Before seeing this film I thought such a group was a mere caricature drawn by liberals like Bill Maher. Now I know there is at least one that fits this cartoonish reality: Scott Stewart.

He must be a true ideologue, obsessed with his personal world view, however ignorant, bigoted and inhumane because in “Legion,” he tells us that even God can be wrong when he questions “traditional conservative values.” And the path to redemption is to not change one thing, for the naked angel informs the country boy that he has inspired him by refusing to listen to reason in the face of impossibility.

The stereotypical immoral urban family then carries the blame for God’s abandonment and calling for humanity’s extermination. But this editorial demonization goes



IMDb

Paul Bettany (left), Lucas Black III (middle) and Dennis Quaid (right) strive to save the human race from the wrath of angels sent by God.

more than a step beyond the wagging finger. Stewart has the yuppies lost far from home and stranded with a broken car in the unforgiving country.

It’s the perfect set up for a snuff film, and what else do you call it when a family is systematically destroyed both physically and mentally? Opposite this we have the conservative nuclear family as the key to mankind’s salvation. Why is this? The naked angel never

thought to mention, and no one else thought to ask.

The film begins with the ingenious musing that no one knows why God turned on his children (so the poster could have an angel with a gun), but maybe he “just got tired of all the bulls**t.” If you see this film, you will be tired too.

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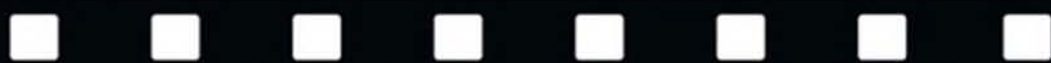
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Retro festival rocks Uncle Fatty’s Resort

Local venue hosts weeklong celebration of cover bands

by Luke Wilusz
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

THE SPIRIT of the '80s was alive last week as Uncle Fatty's Rum Resort hosted the I Love Cover Bands Winter Music Fest. The festival ran from Jan. 25 - 31 and featured 18 cover bands and seven DJs across two stages.

Brian Galati, co-owner of Uncle Fatty's, 2833 N. Sheffield Ave., said the bar's staff got the idea for the festival after booking two well-known cover bands, Mike & Joe and 16 Candles, for the nights of Jan. 29 and 30.

"We thought it was kind of a cool idea to have bands of that caliber next to each other," Galati said. "Then we booked a Thursday, and then we booked a Wednesday, and then we figured, 'Why not just book 20 bands and make it a winter music festival?'"

Other bands booked for the festival included Wedding Banned, Too White Crew and Hairbanger's Ball.

The festival opened Jan. 25 with a performance by the Cover Kings, which Galati described as a jam band session full of members from several of the bands booked for the festival.

"Basically it's an open-mic for professional cover band musicians," Galati said. "They sign up on a list. If they play guitar, they go up there. Another guy from another band's playing drums. Another guy from another band's singing. So basically it's kind of a free forum for all these guys to play together."



Rachel Jones THE CHRONICLE

Too White Crew performs at Uncle Fatty's Rum Resort on Jan. 28 for the bar's first Winter Music Fest.

The festival's turnout pleased Jennifer Remis, who plays keyboard for Hairbanger's Ball and goes by the stage name "Polly Pantz."

"It's exciting to see that the cover music scene here in Chicago is alive," she said. "People are enthusiastic about it. They come out and they want to party, you know, not only with Hairbanger's Ball, but with all the great cover bands here in Chicago."

Remis, a classically trained pianist who grew up in Glen Ellyn, started Hairbanger's Ball nine years ago with a group of friends she'd met playing venues around the city.

"I just adore that music," Remis said, explaining why she decided to focus on '80s hair rock. "It was just a really good excuse to party and celebrate the '80s hair rock music."

The band covers artists like Bon Jovi,

Poison, Kiss and Guns N' Roses, although Remis said she particularly loves Van Halen.

"But really, I like it all," she said. "I mean, some of these songs I've played, gosh, thousands and thousands of times, and I still love them. I still turn up my radio when they come on."

However, Remis doesn't consider Hairbanger's Ball strictly an '80s cover band. Instead, she thinks of it as "a party rock band with a focus on '80s hair rock," noting that they also play music by more contemporary artists like Disturbed and Pink.

Too White Crew, who played Uncle Fatty's Jan. 28, covers artists like Sir Mix-A-Lot, Run-DMC and the Beastie Boys. The lead singer and emcee, C-Note, takes pride in not using any pre-recorded music whatsoever.

Too White Crew meticulously reproduced the original sound of late '80s and early '90s hip-hop hits through the use of an electronic drum kit, guitar, bass, keyboards and a turntable, C-Note said.

In addition to running Uncle Fatty's, Brian Galati founded ILoveCoverBands.com, an upcoming social network which he hopes will benefit the members and fans of Chicago-area cover bands.

"Right now, if you wanted to find the date or where a band is playing, you'd have to go to each one of their individual Web sites," Galati said. "Well, [at I Love Cover Bands], when you log on, you'll see a calendar and it will have every single band that's playing in the city and suburbs, and in what spot."

Galati's goal is to create a community for the bands and their fans to get to know one another, and the festival was just the first step in making that happen.

C-Note noticed that sense of community as he watched the Jan. 25 performance by the Cover Kings.

"There's a real interesting spirit and camaraderie in the cover band world," C-Note said. "Everyone there talked, and it's not like there's this competitive vibe between us. It's real friendly, kind of a big family of people that do this music."

Galati said the I Love Cover Bands network was in the process of being built.

"As soon as it's done, it'll be up," he said. "So we're hoping within a couple of weeks we'll have the preliminary stages out with limited features until the whole site gets built. We're going to release it pretty soon."

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Encounters of the third ‘i’

Apple releases new mobile device, mixed reactions from critics

by Brandon Smith
Contributing Writer

I’M SURE most of you, like me, would get a decent case of goosebumps if you were to hold the iPad in your hands this moment. Only a few select people have done so since the Jan. 27 unveiling in San Francisco.

Imagine it: that slick, solid slate shifts decidedly in your digits, doing all manners of marvelous things on its shiny, salacious screen.

Some of us love Jony Ive’s team of designers at Apple more than we love our own families. As if they were family, we lovingly show our grandparents their work when we visit. They gawk, too. (You know you did it, if only to see Grandpap’s reaction.)

But is this newfangled machine right for you? Probably not. You’re into creating art and media, and no way will Final Cut Pro or Adobe CS4 run well on the iPad, if they ever

It’s these more simple things—the things we often take for granted—that sooner or later we’ll discover we didn’t even know we needed.”

-Brandon Smith

make it there. Maybe on the third-generation model. Employees of the campus store that sell Apple products don’t expect the iPad to dent laptop sales there.

But then again, this machine wasn’t marketed to you. It won’t allow input from professional-level cameras, according to Wired.com. According to Slate.com’s Farhad Manjoo, it’s the “perfect second computer.”

I don’t know about you, but I had trouble affording my first.

Wired said two kinds of people will buy this machine: the type of person who needs a computer to be simple—that is to say shuns complex, customizable applications in favor of intuitiveness—and the geek squad.

Manjoo said he loves the iPad because he’s a geek, and he’s into predicting the future.

He thinks the iPad and its successors will eventually do for everyone what the iPhone

and iPod Touch did for their relatively few users—insert the power of data crunching and connectivity into our everyday lives. That is to say, all the aspects of our lives the sit-down model of computing failed to touch.

In my opinion—aided by thinkers like Manjoo and Columbia’s very own Daniel Sinker, a mobile tech scholar—the personal

computer was only a baby step. It merely digitized the stuff that was obvious, which was nice. But now the mindset is increasingly becoming, “What can’t data-crunching help us with?” And, “What haven’t we even dreamed of?”

Already, Columbia’s iPhone junkies use their trusty smartphone to help them meet, play and laugh with friends, colleagues and professors, at concerts, bars or brunch. All



Courtesy APPLE INC.

The iPad, revealed on Jan. 27, is Apple’s next device aimed at revolutionizing the mobile world.

100,000 plus iPhone apps can run seamlessly on the iPad, albeit at the comparatively small iPhone size or blown up with possible pixilation.

Undoubtedly some of us have shot iPhone pics of barcodes and learned where to buy that tube of paint cheaper across town, or learned that skateboard company buys virgin timber, so maybe we should check out another. With an onboard camera and GPS (neither of which the iPad has, regrettably) the possibilities are nearly endless.

But wait; simple apps can help the creative process, too.

Plenty of Columbia music lovers already make their iPhones “listen” to songs and identify them—even download them, find remixes of them, and maybe do a little remixing themselves on the fly.

It’s these more simple things—the things

we often take for granted—that sooner or later we’ll discover we didn’t even know we needed.

Will the iPad single-handedly save journalism? Some journalists are skeptical. “When the iPad saves journalism, maybe I can afford to buy one,” tweeted one reporter. However, David Pogue of the New York Times said we’re still in limbo. “Anyone who claims to know what will happen will wind up looking like a fool,” he wrote.

One thing’s for certain: as everyone decides computing power on our person is more of a necessity than a luxury, Columbia has the potential to be at the forefront. This should be our next big push.

In the mobile world we—the school and the students—can’t afford to be left behind.

chronicle@colum.edu

Veteran late night host comes forward

Leno joins Chicago’s Oprah to discuss what really happened at NBC

by Maureen Ryan
Chicago Tribune

THE BATTLE of Team Jay versus Team Conan has been raging for weeks, and it’s doubtful that anyone will switch sides after Jay Leno’s Jan. 28 appearance on “The Oprah Winfrey Show.”

As Winfrey pointed out during an hour-long interview on the set of Leno’s prime-time show, Leno is now seen as “the bad guy” in the affair of “The Tonight Show.”

Earlier this month, O’Brien walked away from the late-night institution when NBC executives announced that they wanted Leno to once again follow the local news and that they wanted to move O’Brien’s “Tonight Show” to 12:05 a.m. EST.

None of that came to pass, because Leno, as he said, “got his old job back” (he returns to “The Tonight Show” March 1). But according to Leno, he got his job back only after NBC canceled his prime-time program and after Conan told NBC—and the world—that he wouldn’t agree to “The Tonight Show” being moved.

O’Brien said he thought it would be destructive to the franchise,” Winfrey said. “Well, if you look at where the (O’Brien ‘Tonight Show’) ratings were, it was already destructive to the franchise,” Leno replied.

Despite the flashes of bitterness, it was clear that Leno wanted the world to know that, contrary to popular opinion,



MCT Newswire

Jay Leno was once host to “The Tonight Show” before Conan O’Brien took over last fall. This year, Leno replaces O’Brien as host, once again, starting March 1.

he did have hurt feelings about the whole matter, feelings that stretched back to 2004. That’s when NBC first came up with a succession plan that would have put O’Brien behind the “Tonight Show” desk and Leno into retirement in 2009.

“It broke my heart. It really did. I was devastated,” Leno said. “This was the job that I had always wanted and this was the only job that ever mattered in show business to me. It was just like, why?”

Since that point, NBC had handled the whole situation terribly, especially recently, Leno told Oprah.

“Anything they did would have been

better than this,” Leno said. “If they had come in and shot everybody. It would have been ‘Oh, people were murdered,’ but at least it would have been a two-day story. NBC could not have handled it worse.”

Winfrey repeatedly asked why he didn’t just retire or at least call O’Brien to consult him about the plan NBC had proposed. It never seemed like the right time to call O’Brien, Leno said. And though he was sure throughout that he was “doing the right thing,” he also admitted to some “agonizing” doubts.

Winfrey, a media mogul who has weathered her own share of controversies, said

she was surprised by a joke that Leno made about the infidelities of David Letterman, who has been hammering Leno for weeks.

But she also said she was taken aback at the anti-Leno sentiment.

“I could understand people thinking that you were selfish if you owned the show and controlled the show,” Winfrey said. “It’s a little surprising to me that people think you stole the show when in fact it wasn’t your show to steal. It’s owned by NBC.”

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STAFF PLAYLIST

LAUREN KELLY, COMMENTARY EDITOR



YONDER MOUNTAIN STRING BAND // WHISKEY BEFORE BREAKFAST
BLACKALICOUS // RHYTHM STICKS
GUSTAV HOLST // JUPITER (THE BRINGER OF JOLLITY)
TALKING HEADS // DRUG

JON REMOQUILLO, GRAPHIC DESIGNER



MOS DEF // NEW WORLD WATER
TALIB KWELI + HI TEK FEAT. MOS DEF // RE: DEFINITION
JAY Z // A MILLION AND ONE QUESTIONS
BLUE SCHOLARS // HI-808

STEPHANIE SAVIOLA, ASSISTANT METRO EDITOR



ELVIS COSTELLO // WAITING FOR THE END OF THE WORLD
DIRTY PROJECTORS // STILLNESS IS THE MOVE
THE BEACH BOYS // SLOOP JOHN B
KAKI KING // DOING THE WRONG THING

CIARA SHOOK, ASSISTANT CAMPUS EDITOR



RYAN ADAMS // BLACK CLOUDS
R.E.M. // BE MINE
LONESOME WYATT AND THE HOLY SPOOKS // IF YOU SEE SABELLA
ELSINORE // YES YES YES (ERIC ENGER REMIX)

CHICAGO AUDIOFILE



Courtesy YAWN

Yawn is comprised of Adam Gill (Vocals, Keyboard and guitar), Daniel Parzan (samplers, toms, bass and guitar), Jorge Perez (drums and samplers) and Sam Wolf (vocals, keyboard and bass).

Indie Yawn evolves sound with new CD

by David Orlikoff
Film Critic

LIKE A mix between Animal Collective and Vampire Weekend, Yawn is Chicago's own layered, electronic tribal pop group. Founded in high school under a different name, they started gaining attention while touring as Metrovox. But just when there was developing interest, they decided it was time for a change. They started listening to artists like Aphex Twin, Animal Collective and The Avalanches, experimented with psychedelics and bought new, electronic equipment. Yawn was born.

They released their first EP for free on their Web site, YawntheBand.com, and have been aggressively hitting the concert scene. I rode along with Adam Gil (vocals, keyboard, guitar) and Daniel Perzan (samplers, toms, bass, guitar), while Gil was delivering for Piece Pizzeria and talked about their evolving sound, and their love-hate relationship with Animal Collective.

The Chronicle: The first EP was mostly tight, almost pop songs, but you experiment and sample a lot on the "Bits and Pieces Mixtapes." What will the second EP sound like?

Daniel Perzan: We like the idea of sampling; there're no limitations to the sound we can get. It creates textures that you would usually have to be in a studio or have access to a lot of equipment to get. Have you heard "Acid?" That's pretty much all samples.
Adam Gil: I don't think the songs on this EP will be as short and structured as the last EP. I think it will be a little more of that long, free-flow feel like "Acid" has. Or maybe just one part will drag out a bit longer.

The Chronicle: Will you continue to change your sound with each release? You already had a dramatic shift going from Metrovox to Yawn.

AG: I think we'll definitely keep changing. That's one thing—the only thing we've settled on. We like this method right now with a bunch of sampling, random switching of instruments and computer work. I think maybe that will stay the

same, but inspirations for songs and creativity will change. I think we get sick of our old stuff way too quickly to stay on the same thing. This next EP isn't going to be as happy or as sunny. It will be a little more down tempo, a little dark. There is one kind of dance track, but even that's got this weird feel to it.

The Chronicle: Will the second EP be winter blues-inspired?

AG: A little bit, more like fall. We really wanted it to be fall but somebody already did that ... f***ing Animal Collective.
DP: We had that idea going into it, to do a seasonal thing based on the harsh Chicago seasons. Nobody else has that, really.
AG: Then we read on Pitchfork they were going to do it. Oh my God!
DP: One step ahead, always.
AG: And the weird thing was we were listing to [Animal Collective's] "Fall Be Kind," and the song, "On a Highway," had the same chord progression that Sam had come up with a while ago. And he was like, "You've got to be f***ing kidding me!" And we all just decided, alright, we've got to stop listening to these guys. We'll start living vicariously through them.

The Chronicle: Is it going to be available free online like the first one?

DP: Yeah, most definitely. I don't think people are going to buy our music just yet. Especially because we got a lot of positive feedback, I think primarily because it was free. But if we continue with that, I think eventually people will like us enough to throw down \$8 for an EP or album or whatever, maybe up to \$10.

The Chronicle: Can you request Adam to deliver your pizza?

AG: Definitely. If it's slow enough they will do it, but if it's busy like right now, they can't really guarantee you a driver. But I've had that happen, where the band had requested me or some other people had. They are pretty cool with it.
DP: Then a porno breaks out when you deliver one. [Everyone laughs]

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Top tracks

() Last week's ranking in top five

United States

Today Was a Fairytale • Taylor Swift	1
Hallelujah • Justin Timberlake	2
TiK ToK • Ke\$ha	(1) 3
Imma Be • Black Eyed Peas	4
Hey, Soul Sister • Train	(2) 5

United Kingdom

Fireflies • Owl City	(2) 1
Don't Stop Believin' • Glee Cast	(3) 2
Replay • Iyaz	(1) 3
One Shot • JLS	4
Don't Stop Believin' • Journey	(4) 5

Spain

Meet Me Halfway • Black Eyed Peas	(1) 1
TiK ToK • Ke\$ha	(3) 2
I Gotta Feeling • Black Eyed Peas	(4) 3
Bad Romance • Lady GaGa	(2) 4
Que Nadie • Manuel Carrasco	5

Source: iTunes

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TOP 5



Cody Prentiss, Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

Favorite movie scenes

Final Mech action scene, “District 9”: The last part of “District 9” is one of the most satisfying 20 minutes of destruction put to cel-luloid. Pigs fly, people pop like water balloons and we finally get to see the star of the movie grow a pair. The film achieves the rare feat of making the audience really care about why everything is blowing up without skimping on the action.

The blood test, “The Thing”: This movie has so many scenes to choose from, but my favorite would have to be the blood test. The movie achieves the height of paranoia and fear by making a confrontation with the alien inevitable. You know something is about to happen that will involve lots of screaming and creatures from deep space.

“F*U San Diego,” “Anchorman”: Anchorman isn’t so much a movie as a loose bundle of funny scenes. My favorite would have to be when Ron Burgundy is tricked into saying “F**k you, San Diego” by the teleprompter. The delivery is perfect and everyone’s reaction is priceless.

Final shootout, “Way of the Gun”: This movie seems like a bit of slow burn with its abundance of smart dialogue, but the final shootout alleviates any lack of action. If you’re not satisfied, there is something wrong with you.

The ending, “Audition”: The less you know about the movie before you see it, the better. Just know the ending will stay with you for a while after the credits roll.



Luke Wilusz, Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

Memorable video games

“Super Mario World”: This Super NES classic was the first game I can remember playing, and it’s largely responsible for getting me hooked on gaming at the ripe young age of 5. You just can’t go wrong with Mario.

“Ratchet: Deadlocked”: The last PS2 entry in the “Ratchet & Clank” series brought a lot of new ideas to the table. Its weapon customization and addictive co-operative mode provided countless hours of ridiculous, cartoonish mayhem for my best friend and me.

“Kingdom Hearts”: This PS2 title combined classic Disney characters with an ensemble cast from the “Final Fantasy” series, resulting in a charmingly strange adventure with an intriguing story and more bizarre cameos than an entire season of “The Simpsons.”

“BioShock”: This shooter, set in the deteriorating underwater utopia of Rapture, earned critical acclaim and several Game of the Year awards for its eerie atmosphere, innovative storytelling, and breathtaking art deco setting. Its major plot twist completely blew my mind.

“Assassin’s Creed II”: The freedom to explore Renaissance-era Italy and meet historical figures like Leonardo da Vinci and Lorenzo de Medici made for an exhilarating historical adventure full of conspiracy theories that put Dan Brown to shame.



David Orlikoff, Film Critic

Best films of 2009

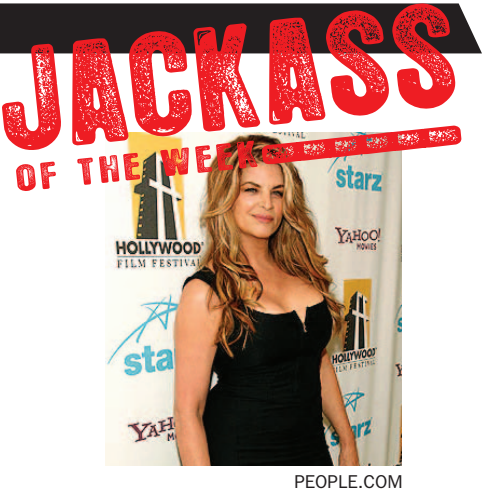
“Fantastic Mr. Fox”: Wes Anderson’s stop-motion animated adaptation of the classic Roald Dahl book was first criticized as too strange, and then later as too similar to his live-action films. But with his all-star cast of favorites, Anderson managed to use the new medium to best himself in this charming, whimsical film.

“Where the Wild Things Are”: Another extremely faithful adaptation of a beloved children’s book, “Wild Things” encapsulates the thoughts and feelings of being 9 years old. Director Spike Jonze got the personal blessing of author Maurice Sendak, which alongside the huge budget and perfect score, made this film great.

“Sin Nombre”: The cinematography and acting shine in this Spanish-language drama about Central American immigrants. The plot is always gripping, but above all else, the film offers a rare sense that you are getting the whole picture.

“Up”: 2009 was a great year for film, and animation especially. But “Up” relies on narrative structure over CGI glamour. The deeply moving opening montage is a testament to what can be accomplished in film. I cried and laughed and cried all over again.

“A Serious Man”: The year’s best film is the Coen Brothers’ semi-autobiographical masterwork. It is intellectually stimulating with incredible depth while the entire film as a whole pulses in rhythm to a beat.



Kirstie Alley on Twitter

CELEBRITIES AND Twitter are a match made in heaven. Any thought a star has can be expressed in an instant to their eager followers. For instance, we now know Kirstie Alley will punch anyone in their naughty bits if he or she makes her angry.

Alley recently Tweeted harsh words at Joy Behar, co-host of “The View,” for “The Joy Behar Show’s” coverage of the Tiger Woods sex scandal. Alley’s main issue was the fact that they were talking about it at all and said it was no one’s but Woods and his wife’s business. The message she Tweeted was less than elegant: “CHEATING is between a husband and a wife. Not TMZ and Joy Bewhore ... God, I want to bash her in the vagina with her microphone.”

Alley would be just another celebrity spouting off if this was an isolated incident, but calling people out via Tweets has become routine for her at this point. Alley said she would knock out Conan O’Brien after he made a fat joke at her expense on “The Tonight Show.” She hit on Kelsie Grammer, asking him to “come over and make out with me” in another Tweet. She even Tweeted about dating and hooking up with Jamie Foxx. Yes, The Jamie Foxx.

Maybe Alley isn’t as crazy as her Twitter account makes her seem and this is all an effort to get people to pay attention to her. Either way, she’s still a 59-year-old woman, acting like a “Jersey Shore” cast member. The sad part about the whole situation is it’s hard to ignore her when she is being a jackass. Her brand of insanity is just so entertaining.

—C. Prentiss



Fiction writing major JJ Accrocco gets inspired by timeless trends and styles from the '60s to '90s.

Lenny Gilmore THE CHRONICLE



by Colin Shively
Arts & Culture Editor

JJ ACCROCCO, a 21-year-old fiction writing major at Columbia, styles himself in a classy blend of vintage clothing that spans the decades, yet doesn’t always match the look of his peers.

“I wear a little bit from the ’60s, ’80s and early ’90s,” Accrocco said. “I look for clothing that definitely stands out and is interesting.”

Shopping at stores like Urban Outfitters, J. Crew, American Apparel and sometimes thrift stores, it is easy to see different time periods come together in his collection.

The Chronicle found Accrocco on

Columbia’s campus the first day of spring semester wearing dark skinny jeans paired with a bigger, button-up shirt.

He said when he wears tighter pants, he always tries to wear a baggy shirt to give his silhouette more shape and style yet draws it in with a nice, vintage-looking cardigan, a common fashion among college students.

Following the trend of pairing dress shoes with skinny jeans, Accrocco wore his black Oxford shoes, which completed the outfit and gave it an almost timeless appearance along with a touch of class.

What would have made his look complete, he said, is his love for the trendy, Wayfarer sunglasses, which he hopes never go out of style.

When Accrocco dresses every morning, he said it isn’t so much for himself, but more for the people outside. He said he wants to have a good outward appearance so people take him seriously.

Accrocco hasn’t always been one for the vintage look. Before moving to Chicago for college, his style was like he was “going on a sail boat” because of his passion for J. Crew-inspired outfits.

Once he moved to the big city, the immediate access to more eclectic fashion brought about Accrocco’s new found sense of style.

cshively@chroniclemail.com

REVIEWS



SIIIIIIIICK



SHOULDER SHRUG



NOT BAD, NOT BAD



WORTH A GIGGLE



HAPPY DANCE!

PRINT



VANITY FAIR, FEBRUARY 2010 ISSUE

Isn't everyone sick and tired about hearing the details of Tiger Woods' strange double-life filled with numerous sexcapades? Apparently Vanity Fair thinks its readers haven't heard enough about it. The magazine tells all about an interview just before the scandalous story broke. Who cares? It's old news to me.—*S. Roush*



“PRIDE AND PREJUDICE AND ZOMBIES” BY JANE AUSTEN AND SETH GRAHAME-SMITH

Austen's characters are fully-realized people with real problems—zombies are among them. Seth Grahame-Smith's addition of the undead and gore sounds like it wouldn't fit at all, but it works. Although I can't help but think an angry Austen might rise from her own grave to exact revenge on him for messing with her book.—*C. Prentiss*



ROLLING STONE, FEB. 4 ISSUE

I don't care about John Mayer, his sexual escapades for the cameras or his superficial taste in women. Glancing through the cover story you can't help noticing Mayer's an egotistical wanker; almost every line has an air of disgustingness. What redeemed this issue was an in-depth feature about Omar bin Laden that delved into his relationship with his father, Osama.—*L. Wardle*



MOVIES / TV / DVD



“LEGION”

I went into “Legion” with pretty low expectations, and even those were let down. The plot revolves around the Archangel Michael fighting to save humanity from an army of angels sent to kill one child, whose significance is never explained. The paper-thin plot and mediocre acting serve no purpose but to string along a series of unimpressive action scenes. I left the theater with the sense that I had wasted my time.—*L. Wilusz*



“SIN NOMBRE”

This Spanish-language film follows Sayra, a teenager living in Honduras, and Casper, a member of the Mara Salvatrucha gang, as they immigrate to America in search of better lives. A series of unfortunate twists allow for their lives to cross in a tale of true-life violence. This movie is not for those with a weak stomach.—*L. Nalin*



Lifetime's “The Pregnancy Pact”

Lifetime wants us all to know that life isn't so easy for pregnant teens! Whoa, no one saw that coming! Other revelations from this two-hour birth control ad: Your teenage boyfriend won't marry you just because you get knocked up and living with your baby in mom's basement is a drag. A typical Lifetime movie, complete with bad acting and has-been celebs.—*D. LaCoco*

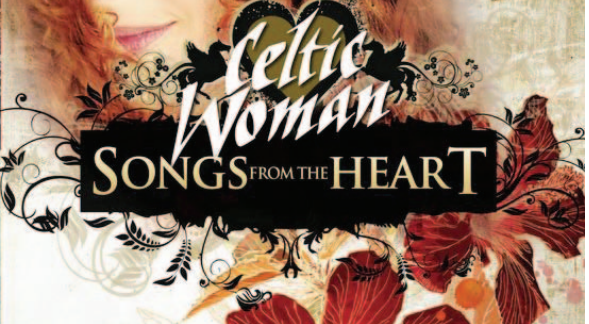


MUSIC



KE\$HA: “ANIMAL”

First, it is pronounced K-EH-SHA not KEY-SHA, get it right. This is the girl I listen to every time I get ready to party. “Take it off” is what I get down to almost every night. Her love for partying and whiskey is what made me love her so much more. I will gladly follow her into a “dirty free for all.”—*C. Shively*



CELTIC WOMAN: “SONGS FROM THE HEART”

In order to diversify my music collection, I decided to feed my iPod with some Irish music. The newest album from Celtic Woman is soothing and purely calming. No wonder they are so popular in the New Age scene. The all-female musical ensemble is there to make you tear up and forget life's worries. It'll also get you in the mood to Riverdance.—*C. Aguirre*



PREFUSE 73: “EVERYTHING SHE TOUCHED TURNED AMPLEXIAN”

This band should be more well-known than it is. Their last CD is a joy to listen to from track one to its melancholy closer. The two singers' voices weave in and out artfully and the musician-ship displayed is some of the best you'll ever hear. The strong lyrics complete the package to make this a fantastic listening experience.—*E. Rodríguez*



RANDOM



NEWSPAPER FINGERS

Unlike most 21-year-olds, I enjoy reading the newspaper. But my enjoyment rapidly diminishes when I realize that I've left ink smudges all over everything in my immediate vicinity. It sucks to clean and it's embarrassing when no one tells you that you've had a dark grey smudge on your forehead for a few hours.—*L. Kelly*



POLIO

If ever there was something in existence to give a negative amount of smiles to, I would argue that polio would be it (but “Jersey Shore” comes close). Most notably, polio tormented one of the most honored presidents of the 20th century, FDR, throughout his presidency. Because of this, polio should not only be categorized as a debilitating, limb-mutating disease, but also a terrorist.—*J. Allen*



THE BRETT FAVRE SAD FACE

Ever considered retirement? Make sure you've perfected the “Brett Favre Sad Face.” During the Vikings vs. Saints game on Jan. 24, Favre was not hiding his frown lines. Even better was the matching expression of Mrs. Favre. Does this face make it into other facets of their life? Perhaps he cries during sex ... or maybe he retires before he can complete the pass.—*B. Ze peda*



Editorials

Students, faculty affected by class cuts

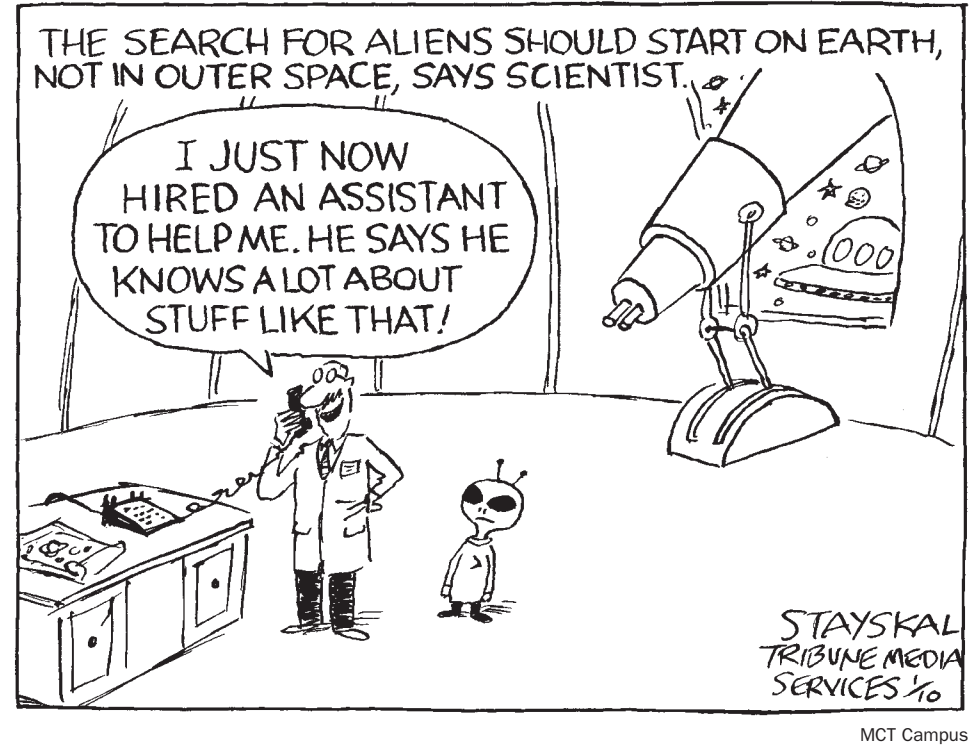
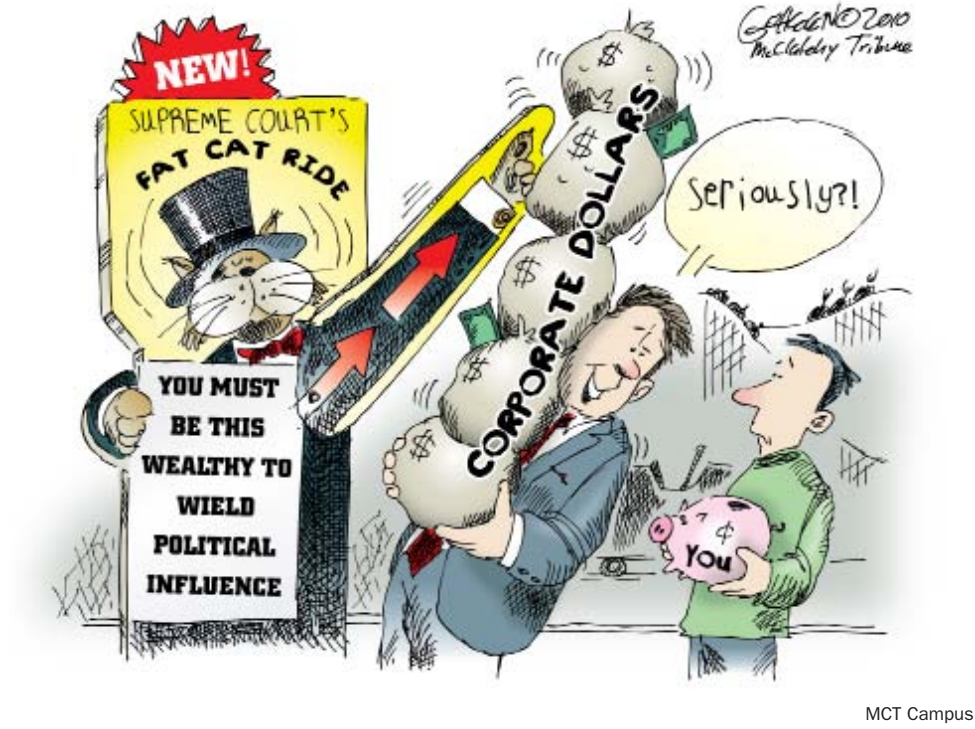
AS REPORTED in last week’s issue of The Chronicle, classes across college departments were cut due to low enrollment. Many students were affected by the cancellations that occurred a few days before the spring semester began. The college has yet to release the total number of classes that were cut and how many students were affected, but it is clear that the situation is more severe than in the past. Although classes are usually cancelled before the beginning of each term, this spring’s cuts could be pointing to more serious issues. The low enrollment may stem from financial troubles given the current state of the economy. Despite the college’s recent discussions and actions centered on increasing retention rates at Columbia, the numbers don’t appear to be improving. Regardless of the reasons why many classes were cancelled, the college should have given more notice to affected students and faculty. Many of them were given only a few days to find a replacement for a dropped course. By that time, many classes were already at full capacity. The college gradually cancelled classes during winter break, and those with two

to three students enrolled were cancelled with adequate time left for students to find a substitute. But the college waited too long to decide on cutting classes with six to seven people registered. However, once the final decisions were made, the college did act swiftly and appropriately. Students affected by the cut were quickly notified of the changes through OASIS, Loop e-mail and telephone calls. Not only do these circumstances affect students, but full-time and adjunct faculty as well. Some full-time faculty members fell below their required number of classes and, as a result, took over classes adjunct members were originally scheduled to teach. These cuts also affect the bookstore, which had ordered texts for the now-cancelled classes. Given the severity of the situation, departments and advisers should be flexible and accommodating to students’ enrollment status, especially for juniors and seniors. One option could be to put one or two more students into existing sections of the same course or a course that satisfies the same requirement. Columbia should continue to put effort and energy into its retention plan to avoid cuts like these in the future.

Compromise needed to avoid CTA meltdown

DUE TO an ongoing budget shortfall, the Chicago Transit Authority plans to decrease service starting Feb. 7 on bus and train routes, in order to avoid raising fares. According to the CTA, nine express bus routes will be eliminated, buses and trains will run less frequently and some bus lines will start later in the morning and end earlier in the evening. Express routes being cut include King Drive, Cottage Grove, Ashland, Washington/Madison, Western, South Pulaski Limited, Cicero, Garfield and Irving Park. Although these cuts affect all Chicagoans who use public transportation, residents of lower-income neighborhoods on the South and West sides will be most affected by the express bus routes being cut. Six of the nine express routes being eliminated serve these areas of the city. In the midst of these service cuts, the \$530 million Brown Line renovation project is nearing completion. Although many of the updates made to the train line were needed, the CTA should have had the foresight to allocate more money for

operating costs. Another main factor in the budget crisis involves a standoff between managers and CTA union members. The union, which recently refused to give back this year’s 3.5 percent pay increase, now faces layoffs. However, according to a Jan. 20 Chicago Tribune article, since 1994, the number of bus garage managers at each facility has increased from five to 20. This “bloated” management structure is unnecessary and should be altered to run more efficiently. Both CTA management and union workers should consider a compromise to benefit the entire city and avoid a serious breakdown in the transit system. As long as the conflict continues, the future of the CTA budget is up in the air. Despite its budget woes, the CTA is doing one thing right. Its efforts to keep customers informed of the changes and provide technology services such as the CTA Bus Tracker are admirable and will make the transition to less frequent service easier to handle.



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Have an opinion about something you read in this newspaper?
Did you catch a mistake, think we could have covered a story better or believe strongly about an issue that faces all of us here at Columbia?
Why not write a letter to the editor? At the bottom of page 2, you'll find a set of guidelines on how to do this. Let us hear from you.
—The Columbia Chronicle Editorial Board

High-tech, creative humanitarian aid benefits Haiti



by Lauren Kelly
Commentary Editor

“Never before has it been possible to offer aid so quickly, effectively and through so many creative venues.”

DURING THE past few weeks there has been a frenzy of media coverage and endless discussion about the earthquake that occurred in Haiti on Jan. 12, and in the aftermath there has been an enormous philanthropic response to help aid the country in its time of dire need.

As expected, dozens of celebrities have given sizeable donations and set up charity funds. Although many of these efforts by the rich and famous have no doubt benefited Haiti, some reactions have a distinct reek of inauthenticity. As with every charitable cause, celebrities sometimes get involved to impress their fans.

However, at this point, questions of intent don’t matter regarding charity for the quake in Haiti. Any and all aid is needed, and having celebrities voice their concerns and take action is a good way to inspire others to do so.

Besides celebrities, many organizations, businesses and everyday citizens have donated money, supplies, service and other forms of aid to the region.

Many have donated money to the American Red Cross and other humanitarian aid agencies, but what’s truly astounding are the new channels available for average citizens to contribute to the relief effort. Never before has it been possible to offer aid so quickly, effectively and through so many creative venues. Modern technology has taken philanthropy to a new level.

The best example of how technology is being used to benefit the victims of the quake is seen in the American Red Cross text message campaign. People with cell phones are able to send text messages containing the word “Haiti” addressed to the number “90999” to donate \$10 to the relief effort, which will be charged to the contributor’s phone bill. The fact that most of

the world knew about the disaster within mere hours of its occurrence is amazing in itself, but being able to send a simple text message to donate money to help aid the region is mind-blowing. According to the American Red Cross, text donations have contributed more than \$25 million to the relief fund as of Jan. 26.

The success of texting small donations to the Red Cross may signal a shift in how people approach giving to humanitarian causes in the future. Digital contributions may become the norm for many movements including political campaigns and medical research, in addition to humanitarian aid.

However, not all of the creative efforts contributing to the relief movement are high-tech. Some local Chicagoans have come up with simple, creative ways to allow the general public to contribute to the effort. As mentioned in last week’s issue of The Chronicle, some Chicago restaurants are getting involved in the effort by donating a percentage of their revenue to an aid agency.

Also, local clothing company Threadless will donate all of the proceeds it makes

from one of its latest T-shirt designs to the American Red Cross Haiti Relief and Development Fund. The shirt reads “Men anpil chay pa lou,” which translates to “Many hands make the load lighter.” According to Threadless, 7,000 shirts have been sold as of Jan. 25, amounting to \$70,000 worth of donations.

Furthermore, Chicago-based rock group Wilco is giving away downloads of two live shows recorded in 2009 in exchange for monetary contributions to Doctors Without Borders.

These creative strategies are funding humanitarian aid projects in revolutionary ways that will no doubt steer the course for how average people can get involved in charitable giving in the future.

But despite the powerful initial responses from many people, there is much more that people can do to help rebuild the nation of Haiti. Even though the global economy is still sluggish and is technically in a recession, Americans should try to contribute to the relief in any way they can.

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ROAMIN’ NUMERALS

8 Billions of dollars President Barack Obama awarded in grants for a high-speed rail program, according to a Jan. 28 Chicago Sun-Times article. Chicago will receive just over \$1 billion of the funds, which will be put toward creating a 110 mph passenger train between Chicago and St. Louis.

Percentage of Americans who said they think a health care legislation bill will pass this year, according to a Jan. 26 Pew Research Center poll. This is a sharp decrease from October, when 45 percent of those polled said they thought a bill would pass in the next year.

0 Dollars it will cost to visit the Art Institute of Chicago throughout the month of February. The museum will still charge fees for tours and special exhibits. The “Becoming Edvard Munch” exhibit will cost \$10, which is half its current price.

Number of CTA rail stations that are now equipped with security cameras after the recent installation of cameras at 24 Green Line stations, according to a Jan. 23 CTA press release. The statement also said at least one high-definition camera will be installed at every rail station by this summer.

73

Obesity still an issue for U.S., despite steady numbers



by Ivana Susic
Assistant Health & Fitness Editor

“We do not need to stabilize, but rather decrease the number of Americans jeopardizing their health.”

EARLIER THIS month, The New York Times reported that obesity rates in the U.S. have stabilized in the past five years. Citing data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the paper stated the rate has evened at nearly 34 percent. If the number of overweight people is added into this figure, that number jumps to almost 57 percent.

While this percentage includes all age groups, college students are by no means underrepresented. According to a study published by the American Diabetes Association, one of the most rapidly increasing

rates of obesity is among 18 to 29-year-olds. An estimated 35 percent of all college students are classified as overweight or obese.

I used to think the use of the word “epidemic” for obesity was unmerited. When I think of epidemics, I think of the swine flu, Ebola or the bubonic plague—diseases that have killed millions of people. Then it hit me: obesity is killing people too. While it may not be a formal disease, it causes plenty of deaths.

Obesity is determined by Body Mass Index. An individual’s BMI is their measured weight in relation to height. Using a specific formula, the BMI is calculated and the number determines whether the person can be considered healthy, overweight or obese. A number of 30 or more is considered obese.

In 1991, no state’s obesity rate was above 20 percent. Now, according to a study done by the CDC, by the end of 2008, Colorado was the only state with a rate under 20 percent, at 18.5 percent. The state has maintained this status since 1990, when obesity rates first began to skyrocket. Mississippi leads the pack at just under 33 percent.

According to NationMaster.com, a Web site that compiles data from outside cred-

ible sources, Mexico has the second highest obesity rate in the world. Even with just above 24 percent, this is still less than 39 of our states.

There is continued legislation to improve the health standards for the U.S. as a whole. Smaller portion sizes in restaurants are encouraged and more fast food restaurants now place their nutrition facts on the wrappers. All school levels, from elementary to college, are slowly switching to healthier meal alternatives. But this isn’t enough. There need to be more accessible, affordable options. We do not need to stabilize, but rather decrease the number of Americans jeopardizing their health.

College students often feel that their age and fast metabolism allow more freedom to eat unhealthy, but this is not the case. Even if at first there is no apparent weight gain, this doesn’t signify bodily health. By early adulthood, bad eating habits have solidified. If healthier life habits aren’t implemented by the time students graduate college, these bad habits will stick. If overall lifestyle habits do not improve, we will be unhealthier than all previous generations.

We can only blame our parents, school

lunches and busy lifestyles so much. A healthy lifestyle is a task that must be undertaken by every individual student. Eat healthier, exercise more. This doesn’t mean switching to a raw food diet and running 10 miles a day. The little things add up; quit drinking soda or limit soda intake to one or two cans a week. Instead of taking the escalator at the Harrison Red Line, take the stairs. Go to a water fountain on the opposite end of the floor. Try to find a healthier comfort food; instead of buying the cheapest milk chocolate bar, look for a dark chocolate alternative.

Choosing the quickest, most inexpensive food options may seem easier now, but long-term consequences must be considered. The health care cost for obesity-related diseases continues to rise. The insulin necessary for diabetes or the prescriptions for high blood pressure and cholesterol can cost hundreds of dollars a month. Seventy percent of deaths in this country are caused by diseases linked to obesity. We need to stop killing ourselves with food and laziness and take responsibility for what we do to our bodies.

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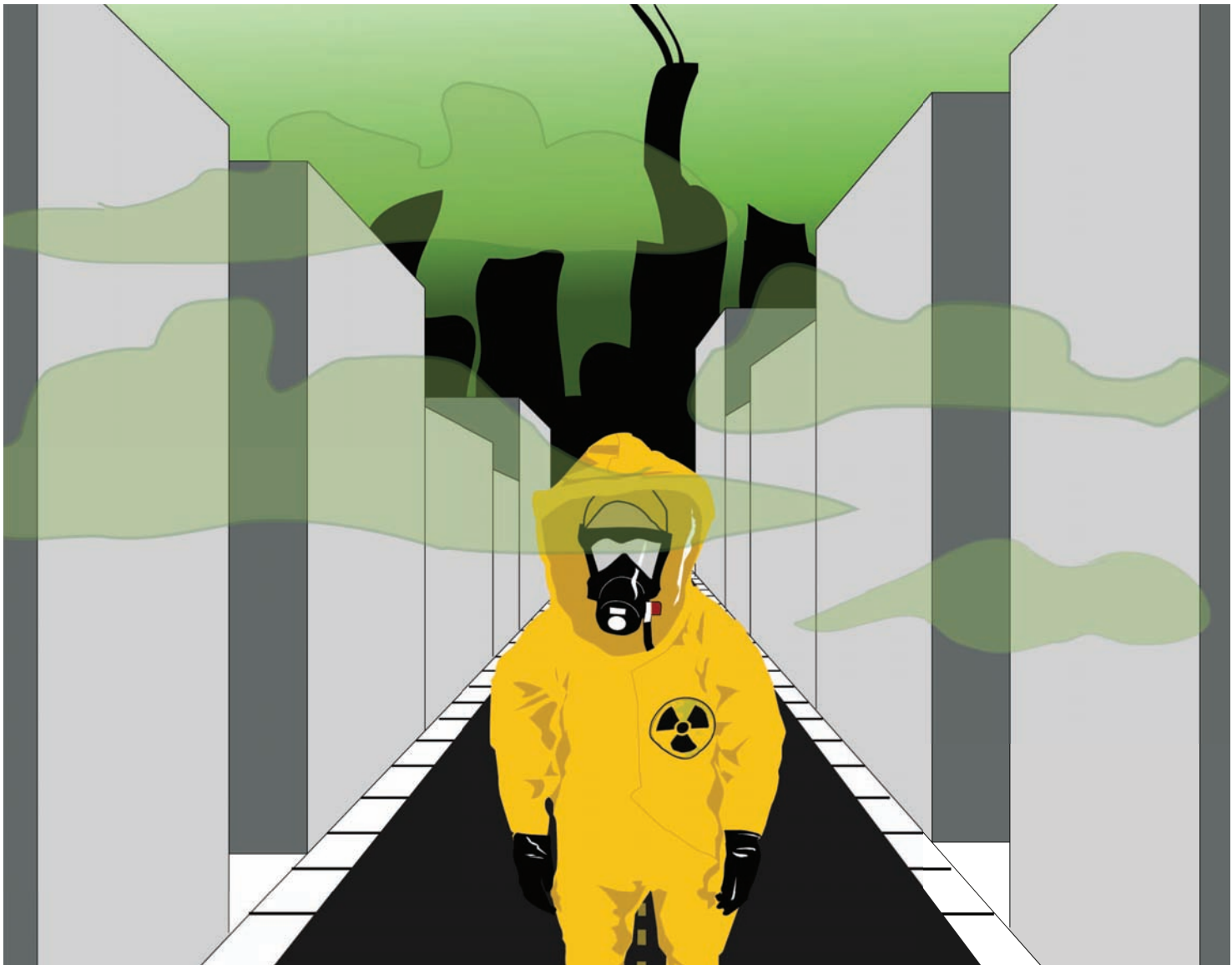
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Erik Rodriguez THE CHRONICLE

Negative ads cause primary controversy

Illinois candidates release mudslinging commercials to close small gap in polls

by Spencer Roush
Assistant Metro Editor

WITH THE Illinois primary a day away, more and more political advertisements are being broadcast on radio air waves and during nearly every TV commercial break. Some candidates use advertisements to try to inspire people to support them so they can change Illinois and renew the economy, while others rely on negative information to smear their opponents.

During this primary election season, many candidates have created negative commercials to make their opponents look incompetent and unworthy of the position.

On Jan. 21, Democrat Dan Hynes, a gubernatorial candidate, released a TV advertisement with the late Mayor Harold Washington speaking poorly of Democratic Gov. Pat Quinn in 1987. This technique is nothing new.

Since the beginning of politics and campaigning in America, mudslinging has been popular among politicians. From the first president, George Washington, to President Barack Obama, negative tactics have been used, but does it always work to persuade voters?

“Certainly negative campaigning works these days,” said William Bike, vice president of ANB Communications, a political consulting and communications firm. “We’re in a period of American history where the campaigns go negative almost immediately.”

Bike added that effectively using negative advertising is all about position and timing. He said candidates who are lesser-known than their opponent and have less money could use negative advertising to their advantage effectively. He added that a candidate may also be in a good position to mudsling if he/she obtained valuable information against their opponent or if there is a large gap in the polls.

“Certainly negative campaigning works these days. We’re in a period of American history where the campaigns go negative almost immediately.”

-William Bike

Bike said Hynes was not in the position to release such a negative ad because before the commercial was released, Hynes was trailing Quinn 41- 40. Bike said Hynes has been gaining votes during the campaign with a small gap in the current polls. He added that this advertisement may backfire and actually hurt him in the election.

“I thought it was very, very strange that [Hynes’s campaign] decided to use such a ballistically negative ad, at a time when

City pollutant levels may exceed limit

Proposed nitrogen dioxide limit could affect Chicago, system for measuring may be flawed

by Stephanie Saviola
Assistant Metro Editor

PRESIDENT BARACK Obama’s administration recently proposed a new guideline that would set a limit on nitrogen dioxide levels in the country. Nitrogen dioxide is a toxic gas that mostly comes from exhaust tailpipes, factory smokestacks and kerosene heaters.

If the proposed limit was currently enforced, Chicago would be the only major city in the country to have levels of nitrogen dioxide that would exceed the limit.

“We are a city that wants athletes to come here and compete for the Olympics, and yet we might be the only city that [exceeds] the limit,” said Joe Locastro, junior Interactive Arts and Media student. “The city needs to have all their eggs in one basket.” LoCastro has asthma, but the city’s pollution has

never been an issue for him.

Within recent years, scientists have conducted studies that show even short-term exposure to nitrogen dioxide can cause health problems. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the pollutant can cause eye, nose and throat irritation and also respiratory infections.

“We had been hoping that the EPA would take action for a long time,” said Max Muller, program director for Environment Illinois. “They prescribed a set of actions a few months ago, but the actions they chose were the weakest ones they could have.”

Currently, there are limits on the amount of carbon dioxide that can be emitted in the air within a one-hour period but no limit that regulates nitrogen dioxide.

“Nitrogen dioxide interferes with the lungs’ ability to breathe and it can trigger things like asthma attacks,” said Brian Urbaszewski, director of Environmental Health Programs for Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago.

The EPA measures levels of air pollutants, including nitrogen dioxide, across the country. But according to Urbaszewski, the system for measuring the air pollutants might have a couple of flaws.

“The EPA hasn’t updated or changed the nitrogen dioxide standards since 1971, so nothing has happened for decades,” Urbaszewski said.

The machines that measure levels of air pollutants can be found on top of schools, fire stations, businesses, parks and mostly in residential areas.

Nitrogen dioxide levels are currently measured and recorded on a daily basis, as opposed to hourly measurements.

“[The machines] are in low-density areas, so they are missing the areas where nitrogen dioxide levels are the highest; they are missing near the highways,” Urbaszewski

said. “More than half of nitrogen dioxide levels come from vehicles, so a highway is a good place to look.”

Stricter enforcement on vehicle idling time could help reduce nitrogen dioxide levels in areas where there is heavy traffic.

“More needs to be done to reduce vehicle emissions,” Urbaszewski said. “It’s hard to enforce idling limits, but if people limited their idling time it would help.”

While a large majority of air pollutants come from vehicles and forms of transportation, coal-fueled power plants are another major contributor.

“There are a lot of global warming issues that people are working on and clean energy and air quality issues are related issues that both contribute to global warming,” Muller said. “We are a fossil fuel-based economy and we need to be moving away from that.”

The EPA will be establishing new monitoring requirements throughout the country. New monitoring requirements will be working by January 2013.

“Once you are labeled as a bad-quality area, then you have to start moving and start figuring out how to cut nitrogen dioxide levels locally,” Urbaszewski said.

As far as the city itself doing its part, in September 2008, Mayor Richard M. Daley proposed the Chicago Climate Action Plan. The plan is set in place to help reduce pollutants that lead to climate change and have a severe global impact. The goal of the plan is to reduce 75 percent of emissions by the year 2020.

“The city of Chicago has a good climate action plan and we are happy to have it,” Muller said. “The truth is that if the standard were as low as some of the scientists say it needs to be, a number of other cities in the United States would also be in violation.”

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Columbia students react to State of Union address

People would like to see the change Obama has been promising

by Patrick Smith
Assistant Metro Editor

THE REACTION to President Barack Obama’s first State of the Union address among Columbia students was consistent: They loved the part about forgiving student loans and thought Obama was eloquent and uplifting. But they would like to hear less and see more.

“It was all great; it sounded good, but we’ve got to get to actually doing that stuff [he was talking about],” said Arneo Durakovic, a broadcast journalism major.

Most of Obama’s address to Congress centered on America’s struggling economy, and the president took the chance to use his highly regarded oratorical skills to rally Washington and the American people around an economic recovery.

“For 220 years our leaders have [informed Congress about the State of the Union]. They’ve done so during periods of prosperity and tranquility. And they’ve done so in the midst of war and depression; at moments of great strife and great struggle,” Obama said in his speech on Jan. 27. “These were the times that tested the courage of our convictions and the strength of our union. And despite all our divisions and disagreements,

our hesitations and our fears, America prevailed because we chose to move forward as one nation, as one people. Again, we are tested. And again, we must answer history’s call.”

Most of the students The Chronicle spoke with said they did not watch the address. First year technical theater student Katie Partus said she stayed away because she has grown disenchanted with Obama.

“He’s gone downhill,” Partus said. “He sounded promising, but he really hasn’t lived up to that.”

But Partus expressed excitement about Obama’s proposals to make college more affordable for students.

“Let’s give families a \$10,000 tax credit for four years of college and increase Pell Grants. And let’s tell another one million students that when they graduate, they will be required to pay only 10 percent of their income on student loans, and all of their debt will be forgiven after 20 years, and forgiven after 10 years if they choose a career in public service,” Obama told Congress and the American people. “Because in the United States of America, no one should go broke because they chose to go to college.”

Ben Smith, a film major at Columbia, said if Obama was able to pass legislation like that, he would actually vote in the next presidential election.

“The best part of the speech was when he said you shouldn’t be broke because you



Associated Press

President Barack Obama delivers his first State of the Union address on Capitol Hill, Jan. 27. Obama told congress and the American people, “no one should go broke because they chose to go to college.”

chose to go to college,” Durakovic said

In his speech, Obama admonished both parties in Congress for behaving as if “every day is Election Day.”

But he saved his strongest words for the Republican side of the aisle.

“Just saying no to everything may be good, short-term politics, but it’s not leadership,” Obama said. “We were sent here to serve our citizens, not our ambitions. So let’s show the American people that we can do it together.”

The reaction from Republican congressmen after the State of the Union made it clear they don’t think the president was being genuine in his calls for cooperation.

“Real bipartisanship requires more than just lip service, it demands both sides coming together in a meaningful way,” said Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), according

to CNN.com, calling Obama’s speech and proposals “just more of the same.”

But some of Hatch’s Republican colleagues expressed more optimism about working with the White House and Congressional Democrats.

“We should not be concentrating on what divides us,” said Sen. George Voinovich (R-Ohio), according to CNN.com. “Rather, we should focus on what we can agree on so we can move America forward.”

Columbia students said they hope, for the sake of the country and their pocketbooks, that Obama and Voinovich are serious about working together.

“We all have to work together,” Durakovic said. “Republicans and Democrats need to get to work.”

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Wills targets 'a mystique of secrecy'

Northwestern professor traces history of presidential power

by Patrick Smith
Assistant Metro Editor

NORTHWESTERN EMERITUS professor and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Garry Wills told a group of about 70 people at the Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton St., that so far, President Barack Obama has failed.

In a 50-minute talk centered around the thesis of his newest book "Bomb Power," Wills explored the history of American politics since the Manhattan Project which developed the atom bomb. According to the thesis, the power of the U.S. president grew to an unconstitutional and dangerous level after the bomb was developed. Wills argues that the Manhattan Project marked the first time the president authorized an extensive secret operation, and the office was repaid with unprecedented power in the form of a finger lingering over the trigger of nuclear holocaust.

In his speech, Wills argued that since the Manhattan Project, the unconstitutional militarized power of the presidency has combined with the secrecy of the national security apparatus to create a rogue, unchecked "commander-in-chief" that was never intended by the founding fathers.

"The bomb, which was supposed to end the war, started another one," Wills said. "We had to keep this secret and we had a very good model of how to do it: the Manhattan Project. [It was decided] the power



Historian and author Garry Wills, a professor at Northwestern University, speaks to a group at the Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton St., about the ways the atomic bomb changed American politics.

to use the bomb should belong to only one man, the president of the United States, and to this day the president is the only person with the power to deploy a nuclear weapon without any checks ... this has led to the increase of the majesty of the president as the commander-in-chief, but the president is not the commander-in-chief of any civilian."

Obama's failure, according to Wills, has been an inability, or unwillingness, to scale back the militarism and secrecy surrounding what the Constitution deemed a civilian office: the presidency.

And Wills said the "immense discipline of secrecy" required by the national security apparatus has led to a troubling mar-

ginalization of the U.S. citizenry.

"We created a mystique of secrecy," Wills said. "Only the people 'in the know' can decide what to do, and that means my opinion is worthless and your opinion is worthless."

While Wills expressed disappointment over Obama's willingness to accept the status quo in his first year as the leader of the free world, he saved his most vitriolic comments for the administration immediately preceding him. Wills traced a direct line from the build-up of the "mystique of secrecy" to the actions of former President George W. Bush, many of which he called illegal and unconstitutional.

In his talk, and in his book, former Vice

President Dick Cheney was painted as a villain, constantly advocating for the extreme power of the executive office that Wills finds so troubling.

"I think, in fact, there has been over time a restoration, if you will, of the power and authority of the president," Cheney said in a December 2004 interview with the History Channel.

And that, according to Wills, is exactly the problem. Wills blamed that "restoration of power" for illegal torture and faulty intelligence leading to war.

"That's what happens," Wills said. "The secrets, they become a way of protecting and hiding blunders and lies by the administration."

Wills took questions from the crowd after he was finished. All of the questioners expressed agreement with Wills' theory, but it was during the question and answer session that the author turned some of the audience members against him.

Wills' response to a question about the difference between the two political parties upset some attendees.

"If you are in favor of big business and racism then you should vote Republican," Wills said to the questioner.

Library member Heidi Massa said that response lowered her opinion of Wills.

"The manner in which he answered the questions turned me off," said Massa. "When someone says if you vote Republican, then you're really in favor of big business and racism, I can't agree with that."

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» **EMPLOYMENT**

Continued from Front Page

aren't being hired for some jobs because adults are applying for part-time help due to the national job crisis. He said many people are competing for the same jobs and this allows employers to choose older and more experienced help.

Leslie Drish, director of Education at the Chicago Urban League, said \$1.5 billion in federal stimulus money should be used for youth employment and high school re-enrollment programs.

Nationally, this stimulus money would help 450,000 youth in these programs. It would assist 25,000 teens and young adults in Illinois, and 9,000 in Chicago.

Last year, \$1.2 billion was given to youth employment programs. Wuest said organizations will continue to advocate for money.

Last summer, 75,000 applications were submitted online, but only 20,000 youth

received jobs.

"We would really like that program to be restored for this upcoming summer," Drish said. "The Chicago Urban League had about 200 students that participated in the Youth Ready Program."

The Youth Ready Program, offered by the city, hires people from age 14 to 24 for jobs in the summer so they can gain experience and skills for future jobs.

"If the kids aren't given any kind of job experience, then it's harder for them to gain entry-level positions," Drish said.

Wuest said it will be a challenge receiving the federal stimulus money. He said they may have students write letters to show that the money is truly needed.

"There are plenty of lobbyists out in Washington ... we're not in Washington," Wuest said. "There's lots of folks just sharpening their knives to get into that package of 80 or 90 billion [dollars]."

srush@chroniclemail.com

» **CAMPAIGN**

Continued from PG. 37

they were closing the gap anyway," Bike said. "I think it's more harmful than good."

LeAlan Jones, a Green Party candidate running for Senate, said Hynes "resurrected Harold [Washington] for his own political gain," which he said probably won't work.

"What this gave Quinn the opportunity to do was to really reinforce his support in the black community because a lot of black political leaders came out for Quinn and said this ad was a horrible thing," Bike said.

According to Bike, there are other problems with the negative advertisement, including the Hynes family's past history with Washington. Hynes's father, Tom Hynes, ran against Washington for mayor.

"What you have here is a member of the same family, who tried to oust Harold Washington back in '87, now using Harold Washington to try to make political points in his own campaign," Bike said. "People have long memories around here and if they don't, there are enough people around to remind them."

Bike said this is an example of a negative advertisement that crosses the line and becomes ineffective.

Adam Andrzejewski, a Republican gubernatorial candidate, said before a November debate that he doesn't think personal attack on candidates is appropriate, but attacks on their policy is fair game.

"Unless Republicans vet their own candidates, we'll leave it to the Democrats to vet our candidates in the general elections, and this has been the problem," Andrzejewski said.

Jones also said he won't use negative advertisements in his campaign.

According to Bike, the most effective commercial he has seen this year is a positive one. Releasing uplifting and reassuring advertisements this year has been a strategy of some candidates.


Jones said positive advertisements will probably resonate more with the voters this year than negative ones because of the state of the economy.

"When there are so many serious issues on the table, [voters] want to hear a serious dialogue, not buffoonery," Jones said.

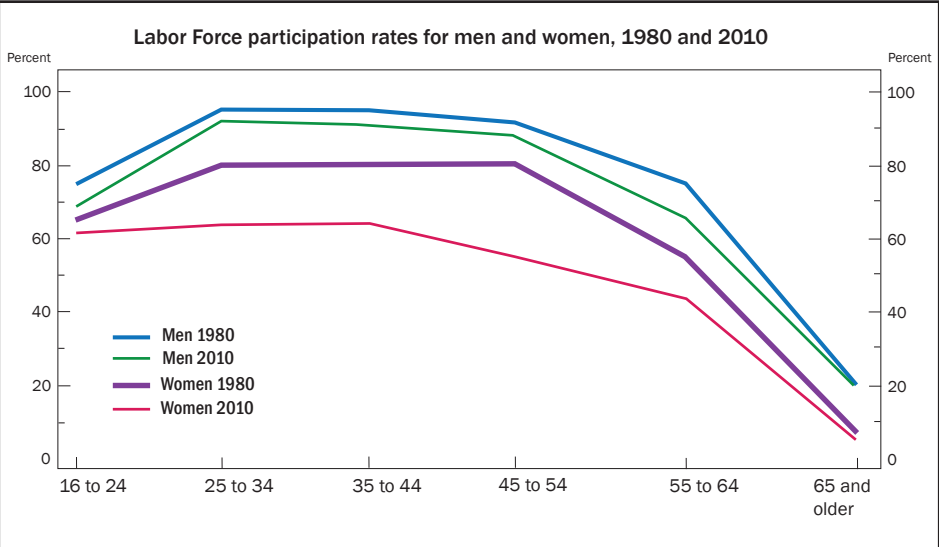
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Domestic violence victims seek help

Culture-specific shelters see change in demography of women seeking assistance

by Stephanie Saviola
Assistant Metro Editor

THE POOR economy has shown its effects in many areas of people’s lives, but women’s shelters throughout the city are starting to see a more dramatic change.

The victims who seek shelters for help, specifically those that are geared toward women of certain ethnic backgrounds, are seeing the biggest changes.

Apna Ghar, which translates to “Our Home,” is a shelter that serves female domestic abuse victims of Southeast Asian, Middle Eastern and North African descent.

“The economy is so bad in the United States, we are now seeing more Americans,” said Anuja Mehta, transitional housing coordinator and case manager for Apna Ghar.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, women of all races are equally vulnerable to violence by an intimate partner. But with the diversity in the country and especially throughout the city, Chicago has a variety of shelters for women of different backgrounds.

“Normally, Apna Ghar is not the logical choice for American women because there are several other domestic violence shelters that feel more comfortable for them,” Mehta said. “It is a pretty logical connection that when the economy is bad, the stress level in families goes up and the breaking point for abusers is much sooner.”

According to Sabrina Hampton, a training consultant who works with court-man-



STOCK PHOTO

Women of all races are equally vulnerable to violence by an intimate partner, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics. A woman is abused in every nine seconds in the United States.

dated domestic violence abusers, there are only a total of 112 beds in shelters throughout the city.

“We have seen a significant increase of calls coming in since the economic crisis began,” said Debbie Korman, community educator for Shalva, an agency that deals with women who identify themselves or were involved with a partner who is Jewish. Shalva is the oldest agency for Jewish abuse victims.

The average stay at a shelter has climbed from 90 to 120 days to almost six months.

“We all kind of network together because it is important for counseling victims,” Korman said. “As a victim, you need an agency that understands culturally who you are. We always refer to an agency we feel best meets their cultural background.”

In the Chicago area, there are shelters that help women of Jewish, Korean, Latin,

Middle Eastern and African backgrounds.

“Now all the [standard] domestic violence shelters are full, so more American women are turning to us,” Mehta said. “It is interesting to see how the population in our emergency shelter has changed from just one year ago.”

Mujeres Latinas en Accion, or “Latina Women in Action,” is a bilingual and bicultural free organization for domestic violence victims, although the majority of their clients are primarily Spanish-speaking victims. The agency mostly serves victims of Latin descent, but in the past year, the agency has been seeing changes as well.

“More clients from different communities have been coming to us,” said Claudia Segura, volunteer supervisor for Mujeres Latinas en Accion. “We will probably have more clients coming to us [from the after-

math of] in-state budget cuts.

The largest domestic violence shelter for women in the Chicago area is Family Rescue. The shelter has a screening process to determine how long a victim needs to stay at a shelter and the kind of help they will need for rehabilitation. Family Rescue is one shelter that is not specific to a cultural background.

Besides variations in ethnic backgrounds, there have been reports of an increase in female abusers as well.

“Reality is domestic violence happens to everyone,” said Lolita Sanders, assistant development director for Family Rescue. “Women can be abusers too, it is just very undetectable.”

The City of Chicago Domestic Violence 24-hour Help Line: 877-863-6338

ssaviola@chroniclemail.com

IN OTHER NEWS

Black Eyed Thieves

A singer/songwriter duo from the Chicago area is accusing the Black Eyed Peas of plagiarism, according to ChicagoBreakingNews.com. The duo known as Phoenix Phenom, which consists of Manny Mohr and Ebony Latrice Batts, said that they sent a copy of their single “Boom Dynamite” to the Peas’ record label Interscope, and that the group subsequently ripped the song off for their hit single “Boom Boom Pow.” Phoenix Phenom is seeking damages and a share of both past and future profits.

Police shoot another person

Chicago police gang enforcement officers shot and seriously wounded a man on the 4500 block of South Michigan Avenue late on Jan. 28. According to ChicagoBreakingNews.com, the police claim the man pointed a gun at them, forcing them to shoot. The officers said they recovered a gun and drugs from the wounded man. The man who was shot was in serious condition and in police custody at Stroger Hospital on Jan. 29. The Independent Police Review Authority said it is investigating the shooting.

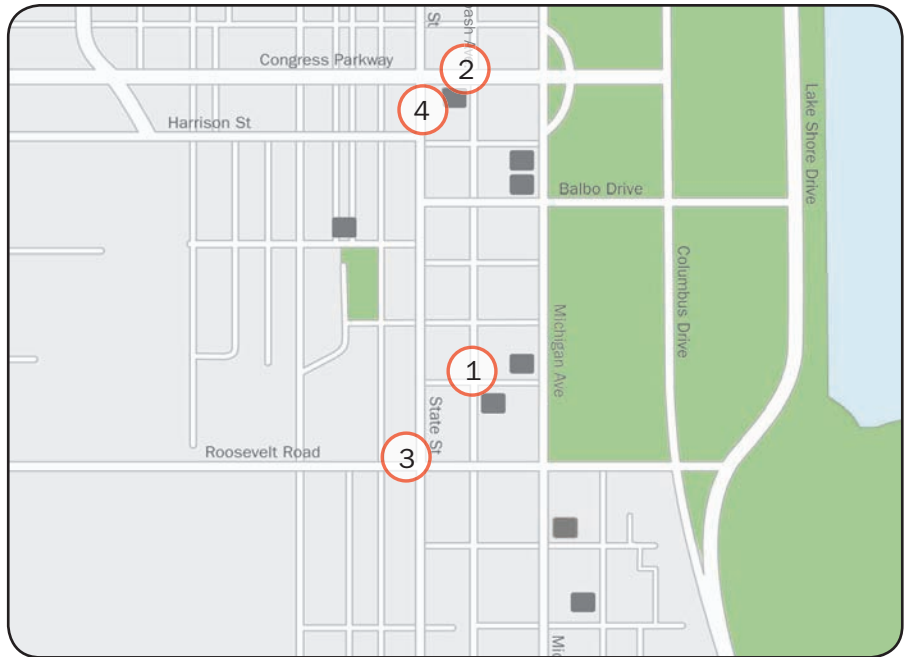
‘Sexting’ is a felony

According to the Chicago Tribune, “sex-ting,” the practice of sending nude photos of oneself via cell phone, has led to felony charges against two children. A 12-year-old boy in Valparaiso, Ind., sent a 13-year-old girl a picture of his naked genitals and requested that she do the same. The girl reciprocated, but her cell phone was confiscated by a teacher when it rang in class. The students have been charged with child exploitation and possession of child pornography, both felonies.

Drew Peterson’s pre-trial

A man who worked with Drew Peterson in 2003 told the judge in Peterson’s pre-trial hearing on whether to allow hearsay evidence that Peterson wanted Kathleen Savio “taken care of” because she knew a secret about him that would get him kicked off the police force. According to the Chicago Tribune, the co-worker, Jeff Pachter, said Peterson offered him \$25,000 to find a hit man to kill Peterson’s then-wife Savio. Pachter said he thought the offer was a joke, so he did not tell police until 2007.

OFF THE BLOTTER



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

1 Tools stolen

A woman parked her car, a 2006 Ford, at 1100 S. Wabash Ave. overnight on Jan. 27. The next morning at 9 a.m. she noticed the trunk lock had been punched in and a variety of her tools had been stolen, according to police reports. She called the police at 10:39 a.m. when they arrived the officers noted that the tools stolen had been worth \$2,850. The police were not able to locate the thief.

3 Pepper sprayed

According to police reports, a 16-year-old girl was standing on the CTA Red Line Roosevelt platform on Jan. 24 at 1 p.m., at 1167 S. State St., when an unidentified female assailant sprayed her in the face with pepper spray. There were two witnesses to the assault, one age 16 the other 17, but the police were unable to locate a suspect.

2 Columbia student robbed

A female Columbia College student was exiting the 33 E. Congress Building on Jan. 26 at 10:25 a.m. when she was attacked, according to police reports. As she was leaving the school a man came up from behind her and hit her in the head with his forearm. The blow knocked her off balance and the suspect snatched her purse off of her arm and fled eastbound toward Michigan Avenue.

4 Cell phone stolen

According to police reports an 18-year-old girl was studying in the University Center, 525 S. State St., on Jan 26 at 8 p.m., when she was robbed. She told police that while she studied an unknown person stole her cell phone from the table next to her. The phone was a T-Mobile worth about \$200, according to the police. The officers could not locate the thief.

games

G

SUDOKU

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HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21 - April 20) Family discussions will this week reveal the underlying motives of loved ones. Private social fears, a compelling need for group approval or lagging confidence may be a key concern. Observe and remain silent. Over the next two days your respect for the emotional boundaries of others will be acknowledged and appreciated. After Wednesday, business communications may be delayed or strained. Key officials will avoid new, paperwork and added instructions: stay balanced.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 20) Early this week, a friend or close work companion may issue an unexpected group proposal or family invitation. Although energy may be low, accept all social attention as a compliment and watch for others to be highly sensitive to feelings of isolation or loneliness. Stay optimistic: attitudes will improve by late Thursday. Friday through Sunday, financial discussions with family members will work to your advantage. Express yourself with confidence: your needs are valid.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21) For many Geminis, love affairs and minor social attractions will now intensify. Over the next four days, watch for sudden proposals, increased intimacy or serious discussions. Trust your instincts: at present others may be highly expressive but privately withdrawn. Stay calm. After Thursday, a close relative may attempt to monopolize your time and attention. Remain balanced and plan new family events in the coming weeks. Social timing is important this week: find reliable solutions.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22) Business methods, team goals and revised work requirements will this week demand careful planning. New employees may complicate progress or stall key negotiations. Refuse to be derailed by minor mistakes. Suggested solutions and expect an active approach to miscommunications to soon clarify complex relationships. After mid-week, romantic promises will either be realized or quickly abandoned: closely study the actions, hints and comments of others.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22) Home renovations and last minute invitations are accented over the next few days. Loved ones may now wish to expand their daily activities or adopt a more outgoing social attitude. Expect meaningful change to take longer than anticipated: at present friends and lovers may require extra time for private reflection. Later this week, study financial documents and governmental paperwork for valuable opportunities. Property improvements, leases or delayed payments may be accented.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) Close relatives, friends and lovers will this week provide subtle indications of their long-term expectations. Areas affected are family participation, group acceptance and active home expansion. Underlying concerns may involve feelings of isolation or past disappointments. Provide encouragement: your words will bring comfort. Thursday through Sunday highlights business negotiations and financial discussions. Friends and relatives will ask bold questions: stay alert.

CROSSWORD

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2/7/10

ACROSS

1 "___": NY"
4 Actor Jonathan
8 Role on "Cheers"
12 Yoko ___
13 Role on "Grey's Anatomy"
14 Woodwind instrument
15 Neat as a ___
16 "Gary ___"
18 Hard to climb
20 "Ripley's Believe It or ___"
21 Orange rind
24 Tear to bits
28 "___ Housewives"
32 ___ Lanika
33 Wallach and Marienthal
34 African antelope
35 "___ Wonderful Life"
36 "___ In the Family"
37 Adam of "CSI: Miami"
39 Actress Tea
41 "___ and Again"; Sela Ward series
42 Autumn month: abbr.
44 "___ party, and I'll cry if I ___"
48 Goran Visnjic's role on "ER"
53 "___ Haw"

DOWN

1 "Bad Boys" theme song series
2 In a ___; miffed
3 Actress Skye
4 Hairpiece
5 "On Our ___"
6 Diamond or ruby
7 ___ even keel
8 "___ by Northwest"
9 Gelsha's sash
10 Cavalier source
11 "Presidio ___"
17 Gypsy ___ Lee
19 Actor Omar
22 Therefore
23 Joe ___ of "Dr. Quinn"
25 VW forerunners
26 Gaelic language
27 Actress Cameron
28 "Let's Make a ___"
29 Women's magazine
30 Cylindrical storage tower
31 Rotate
35 "By the Time ___ to Phoenix"
37 ___ Schroder
38 Frozen eave hanger
40 Beery and Wyle
43 Carry
45 Former leaders' title in Iran
46 Distribute
47 Calendar period
48 "___ Abner"
49 Family card game
50 Catholic men's group, for short
51 Actor Kilmer
52 Martino and Pacino

Solution to Last Week's Puzzle

B	A	N	G		B	O	B	S		A	R	T		
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D	E	M	O		N	A	N	A		A	S	A		
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R	A	T	T	A	N		Y	E	S					
O	B	I		I	Z	E			I	A	N	S		
B	U	R	T	L	A	N	C	A	S	T	E	R		
S	T	E	R		D	O	C		E	V	A			
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2/7/10

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23) Job stability will soon increase. Over the next few days expect minor discussions to quickly evolve into revised workplace procedures or new, policies. Creative solutions and team involvement will be easily accepted. Advocate joint projects and watch for previously silent colleagues to voice strong opinions. After Wednesday, someone close may press for bold emotional promises or new public commitments. Romantic and social ideals now need to expand: follow your first instincts.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Several months of low financial confidence or lagging resources will soon fade. Business permissions and negotiations with large agencies will this week work to your advantage. Present clear, concise ideas and respond promptly to all questions. Attention to detail is now vital to the advancement and success of key projects: stay focused. After Friday, many Scorpios will experience a sudden wave of passionate invitations and rare social comments: wait for clarity.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21) Minor social jealousies will now require sensitivity and dedication. New friends may this week demand reliable promises and solid commitments. Offer neither: over the next few days both friends and relatives will compete for your loyalty. This is not the right time, however, to encourage exclusion. Opt for quiet or private activities, if possible. After Thursday, pay special attention to workplace requests. Official paperwork will soon trigger, complex group debate: remain diplomatic.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20) New friends may this week challenge trusted ideals or long-term commitments. If so, remain quietly detached, but take extra time to fully explain your goals: before next week, established relationships will require diplomacy, insight and patience. Loved ones will eventually accept changing schedules and loyalties: stay open to delicate discussions. Thursday through Saturday, business relationships may be briefly strained: pace yourself and watch for subtle breakthroughs.

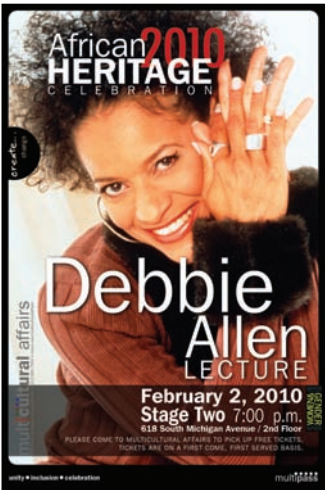
AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19) Gossip, social speculation and giddy excitement may this week be a compelling influence in key relationships. Close friends and co-workers will opt for animated discussion over serious work. Enjoy minor moments of humor, but avoid neglecting written assignments or legal requirements. Accuracy in the workplace is now important. Later this week, someone close may reveal an unexpected business plan, invention or career change. Ask questions: there's much to learn.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - March 20) Serious romantic discussions are best avoided over the next few days. For many Pisceans, private emotions and deeply felt social doubts will soon be revealed. Remain attentive but allow loved ones to proceed at a slow pace. Trust, a healthy respect for family traditions and empathy are now vital to the success of long-term relationships. After Thursday, workplace documents and legal paperwork will be easily misplaced. If so, expect key officials to openly avoid public responsibility.

monday, 2//1

- C** **“Framed: The World of Comics”**
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Hokin Gallery // Wabash Campus Building
623 S. Wabash Ave.
(312) 369-8177
FREE
- C** **“PRSSA Chapter Meeting”**
3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
The Loft
916 S. Wabash Ave. Building, 4th floor
Daniel.Filar@comcast.net
FREE
- C** **“At Close Distance: Labyrinth of Self”**
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
C33 Gallery
33 E. Congress Parkway Building
(312) 369-6856
FREE
- M** **“Give ‘Em Soul, Richard!”**
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
618 S. Michigan Ave. Building, 2nd floor
(312) 369-8300
FREE

tuesday, 2//2



- M** **Dancemasters class with Koosil-ja/danceKUMIKO Class**
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Museum of Contemporary Art
220 E. Chicago Ave.
(312) 280-2660
FREE
- C** **African Heritage Month: Debbie Allen Lecture**
7 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Stage Two
618 S. Michigan Ave. Building, 2nd floor

Celebrate African Heritage Month with a lecture by the talented and successful actress, director, producer, choreographer, singer and dancer, who recently added the credit of author to her impressive array of merits.

(312) 369-7994
FREE
- M** **Sebastian Huydts in Concert**
7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Sherwood Conservatory of Music
1312 S. Michigan Ave. Building
(312) 369-6109
FREE

wednesday, 2//3



- M** **African Heritage Month: “Has Tyler Perry Killed the Black Romance?” Film Festival**
7 p.m.
Film Row Cinema // 1104 Center
1104 S. Wabash Ave., 8th floor

Please join us as we look at a series of films that portray relationships between Black men and women to discuss the nature of the portrayals, the scarcity of the films and what we can do to insure that accurate and complex films about Black life continue to be made.

(312) 369-7994
- C** **African Heritage Month: National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day**
10 p.m. - 2 p.m.
1104 Center
1104 S. Wabash Ave., 8th floor

The Office of African-American Cultural Affairs, in conjunction with Student Health and Support, will recognize National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day by offering free testing. Blacks are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS. While making up only 13 percent of the U.S. population, they account for more than 49 percent of AIDS cases.
(312) 369-7994
- M** **Student Piano Recital**
7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Sherwood Conservatory of Music
1312 S. Michigan Ave.
(312) 369-3100
FREE

thursday, 2//4

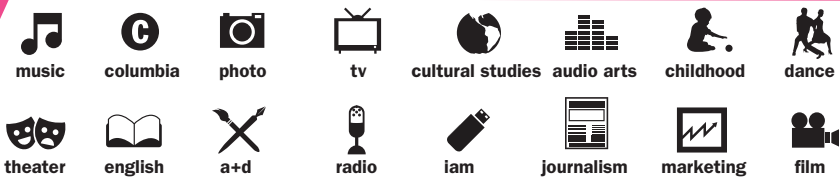
- B** **Rae Armantrout Poetry Reading**
6 p.m.
Film Row Cinema, 1104 Center
1104 S. Wabash Ave., 8th floor
(312) 369-8819
FREE
- M** **Koosil-ja/danceKUMIKO**
8 p.m. - 10 p.m.
The Dance Center
1306 S. Michigan Ave.
(312) 369-8330
\$24-\$28; Passport Columbia members receive 20 percent off ticket prices
- C** **Columbia College Marketing Association Meeting**
Noon - 1 p.m.
Alexandrov Campus Center
600 S. Michigan Ave., room 401
ccmarketingassociation@Loop.
Colum.edu
FREE
- C** **Student Organization Expo**
1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
The Loft
916 S. Wabash Ave. Building, 4th floor
FREE

friday, 2//5

- C** **Media Production Center Open House**
2 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Media Production Center
1600 S. State St.
(312) 369-7494
FREE
- C** **Collegiate Empowerment Seminar “Connecting the Dots”**
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
618 S. Michigan Ave. Building, 2nd floor
CareerHelp@Colum.edu
\$5
- M** **Jazz Gallery in the Lobby**
Noon - 1 p.m.
Music Center
1014 S. Michigan Ave. Building
(312) 369-6300
FREE
- M** **Jazz Forum**
2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Music Center
1014 S. Michigan Ave. Building
(312) 369-6300
FREE

saturday, 2//6

- X** **ECE Art Workshop “City Prints: Printmaking with Collage”**
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
33 E. Congress Parkway Building, Rm. 523
(312)369-8712
\$50
- M** **movementPROCESS Workshop with Koosil-ja/danceKUMIKO**
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
The Dance Center
1306 S. Michigan Ave.
(312) 369-8330
\$24-\$28; Passport Columbia members receive 20% off ticket prices.



monday, 2//1

**“Sidewalks: Photographs by Charles Osgood and Stories by Rick Kogan”**
8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Chicago Tourism Center
72 E. Randolph St.
(312) 744-6630
FREE

Winter Sale
Noon - 8 p.m.
Kokorokoko
1112 N. Ashland Ave.
(773) 252-6996
FREE

tuesday, 2//2

**“August: Osage County”**
7:30 p.m.
Cadillac Palace Theatre
151 W. Randolph St.
(312) 977-1700
\$27.50 - \$77.50


Tracy Letts’ Pulitzer and Tony Award-winning drama stars Academy Award-winner Estelle Parsons as Violet. The story portrays family members returning to their rural Oklahoma homestead when their patriarch goes missing.

**Chicago Underground Comedy**
9:30 p.m.
Beat Kitchen
2100 W. Belmont Ave.
(773) 281-4444
\$5

Stitch ‘n’ Bitch
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Kopi - A Traveler’s Cafe
5317 N. Clark St.
(773) 989-5674
FREE


**First Tuesdays with the Midwest Independent Film Festival**
6 p.m.
Landmark’s Century Centre Cinema
2828 N. Clark St.
(312) 642-4222
\$10 - \$15


wednesday, 2//3

**Soup and Bread**
5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.
The Hideout
1354 W. Wabansia Ave.
(773) 227-4433
FREE

Dirty Bingo
8 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Cans Bar and Canteen
1640 N. Damen Ave.
(773) 227-2277
\$10


thursday, 2//4

**“Glitter in the Gutter”**
8 p.m.
The Annoyance Theatre
4830 N. Broadway St.
(773) 561-4665
\$10


**“Wait Wait...don’t Tell Me!”**
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Toasted Ox
2470 N. Lincoln Ave.
(773) 750-0491
\$40; RSVP required


Girl’s Night Out: Wine, Sex and Denim
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
The Denim Lounge
2004 W. Roscoe St.
(773) 935-2820
FREE; 21+

Taste wines from Lush Wine & Spirits, listen in on mini-seminars on sex hosted by G Boutique and shop women’s denim at 25 percent off. Try out the store’s new Virtual Fitting Room, a set-up that uses mirrors, cameras and a TV to give a 360-degree view of any pair of jeans tried on.
\$8; \$6 for MCA members

**Bottles and Brushes**
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Toasted Ox
2470 N. Lincoln Ave.
(773) 750-0491
\$40; RSVP required


friday, 2//5

**First Fridays**
6 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Museum of Contemporary Art
220 E. Chicago Ave.
(312) 397-4010
\$8 - \$16


**Sheila Kelley S Factor Lap Dance Class**
6 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Flat Iron Arts Building
1579 N. Milwaukee Ave.
(312) 335-3000
\$5 suggested donation

The Interview Show
6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
The Hideout
1354 W. Wabansia Ave.
(773) 227-4433
\$5


RedEye columnist Mark Bazer hosts a humorous talk show. February is the show’s second anniversary, featuring chef Paul Kahan, Bloodshot Records owners Rob Miller and Nan Warshaw, sketch comedy from Dominizuelan and live music from The Blacks.


**Now You See it, Now You Don’t**
6 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Flat Iron Arts Building
1579 N. Milwaukee Ave.
(312) 335-3000
\$5 suggested donation


saturday, 2//6 sunday, 2//7

**The Red Bar Comedy Club**
Saturday, 8:30 p.m.
157 W. Ontario St.
(773) 598-8361
\$10

Local comedian Kyle Lane and Red Bar Radio creator and host Mike David present a Las Vegas-style stand-up revue with a rotating roster of comics.

**El Circo Cheapo Cabaret**
Saturday, 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.
The Aloft Loft
2041 W. Carroll Ave.
(773) 782-6662
\$10

**Mavis Staples**
Saturday, 8 p.m.
Old Town School of Folk Music
4544 N. Lincoln Ave.
(773) 728-6000
\$34 - \$38

**“The Best Church of God”**
Sunday, 1 p.m.
Lakeshore Theater
3175 N. Broadway
(773) 472-3492
\$10 suggested donation

MetroMix/RedEye Superbowl Showdown
Sunday, 10 a.m.
Duffy’s Tavern and Grill
4520 W. Diversey Parkway
(773) 549-9090
FREE

Superbowl Sunday
Sunday, 11 a.m. - 2 a.m.
Old Town Social
455 W. North Ave.
(312) 266-2277
\$50; reservations required