

3-15-2010

Columbia Chronicle (03/15/2010)

Columbia College Chicago

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THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

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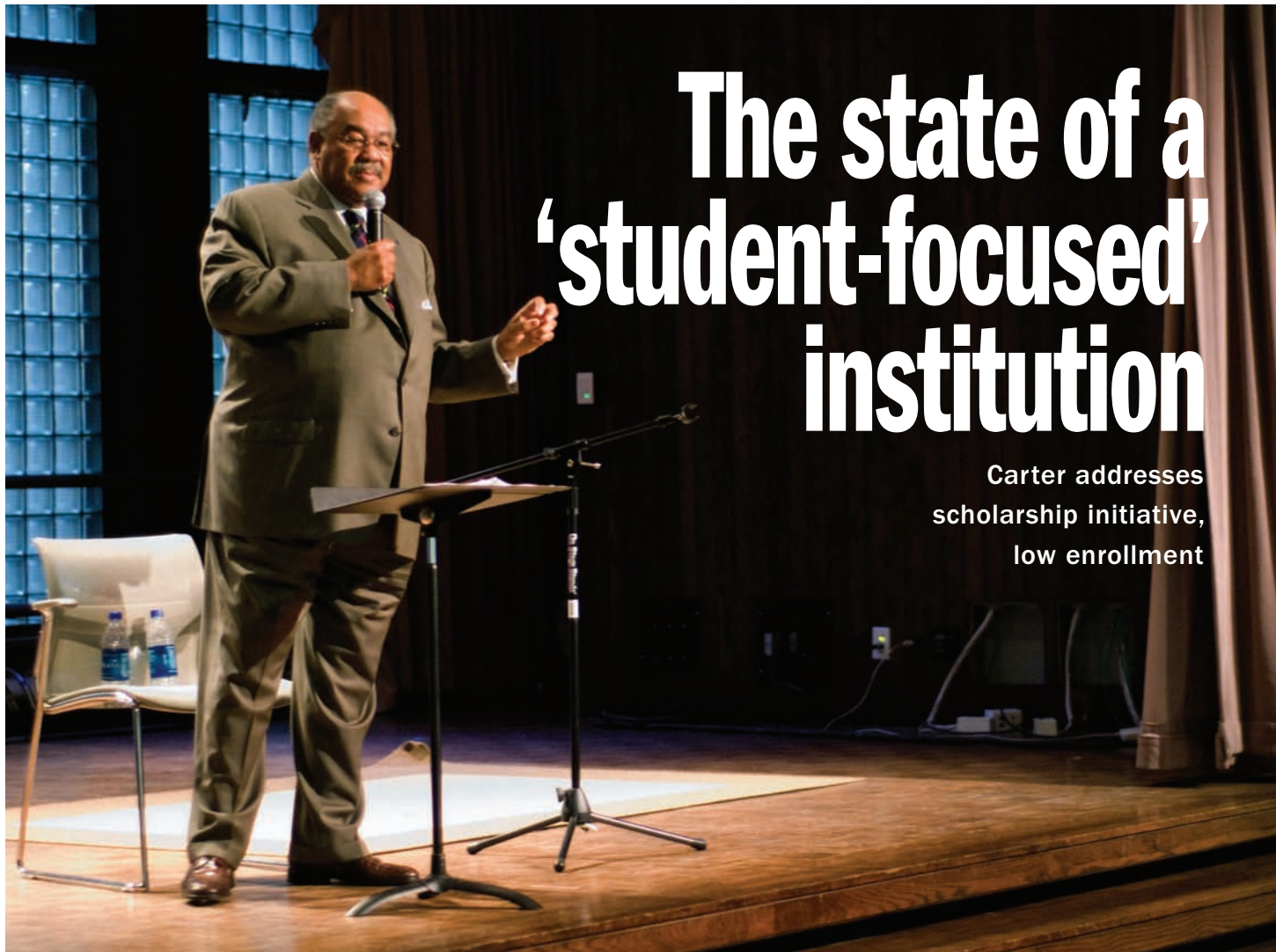
ON THE WEB

ColumbiaChronicle.com

The Official News Source of Columbia College Chicago

March 15, 2010

Volume 45 Number 23



The state of a 'student-focused' institution

Carter addresses
scholarship initiative,
low enrollment

John Harrington COURTESY

Columbia President Warrick L. Carter speaks to students, faculty and staff in his State of the College Address on March 10 on Stage Two of the 918 S. Michigan Building.

by Ciara Shook
Assistant Campus Editor

WARRICK L. Carter, president of Columbia, said although enrollment was down for the 2009-10 academic year, prospective students still display great interest in attending.

Carter gave his annual State of the College address before faculty, staff and a handful of students on March 10. The State of the College Address was hosted by Columbia's Student Government Association. Carter spoke of Columbia's achievements, challenges and plans for the future.

Prior to Carter's speech, Jessica Valerio, president of SGA, spoke to the audience about SGA accomplishments the past year and what's in store for the months ahead.

Valerio recounted the SGA's new constitution, which was passed at the beginning of the academic year, and Columbia's student representation on Lobby Day, Oct. 15, 2009, in Springfield, Ill.

"Though the fight for aid is not over and will, for some time, be a long-term issue the efforts of the Student Government Association, with exceptional support from Columbia administration and student organizations, we're making higher education attainable for at least one more year," Valerio said.

She also announced SGA's launch of a campaign, in partnership with Campus Environment, to end student vandalism and ensure tuition dollars are put toward programs benefitting students while ensuring the treatment of Columbia's urban campus.



There is still great interest in the place, and the interest continues to be high because of what everyone in this room does."

—Warrick L. Carter

"While Columbia is a community of creative individuals and supports the notion of allowing students to express themselves freely, having to spend that amount of money [\$645,000] on graffiti used as vandalism is unacceptable," Valerio said.

Carter took the stage and welcomed his audience by saying he enjoys the annual State of the College address because it gives him an opportunity to see students, staff

and fellow faculty and to share with them accolades about Columbia.

"It also gives me a chance to get suggestions in terms of what's going on and to hear what's on your mind as we move forward as a college," he said.

Carter cited two challenges Columbia faced in the past year: the state of the economy and the evolving world of technology. He said current students' financial challenges are different from the challenges college students faced three or four years ago, due to the state of the economy.

Carter said innovations in technology affect how a unique institution such as Columbia can function. He also stated that when money is spent on new technology, less is available to other areas throughout the college.

"Technology is demanding," he said. "We spend money on new things to stay abreast and move forward. But in every challenge, there's an opportunity."

Carter said Columbia takes advantage of said challenges by keeping the college affordable to students. This includes salary freezes, an increase in scholarships, a smaller tuition increase for the 2010-2011 academic year, which he reported was 3.5 percent for undergraduates.

» SEE COLLEGE, PG. 7

Daley speaks to journalism students

In impromptu press conference mayor touches on war, public education, privatization

by Patrick Smith
Assistant Metro Editor

MAYOR RICHARD M. Daley said he believes all sports, music and arts programs should be taken out of the school system and converted to separate nonprofit after-school programs. Daley spoke in an impromptu press conference with Columbia journalism students from Marla Donato's Reporting and Writing II class. Topics ranged from Fenger High School and health care reform, to the wars in the Middle East and privatization of city services.

"Music programs should be after school, all of that should be after school," Daley said in a small room adjacent to the City Council chambers. "We should take all of that out of the school system. It should all



Brent Lewis THE CHRONICLE

Mayor Richard M. Daley takes questions from Columbia journalism students outside the March 10 City Council meeting.

be after school or on Saturdays."

He stressed these "are not good days" for public schools, and in times of financial crisis, a greater emphasis needs to be placed on the core curriculum.

"If [students] can't read or write, they're not going to do too well," Daley said.

Daley also said the current financial

» SEE DALEY, PG. 35

CAMPUS

The price of knowledge

» SEE PG. 3

A&C

» SEE PG. 19

Organization works toward literacy

METRO

» SEE PG. 32

Gov. Quinn responds to budget crisis

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EDITOR’S NOTE

Mental health service info M.I.A.



by Bethany Reinhart
Editor-in-Chief

THE PRESSURE of college and the responsibilities that accompany it can be agonizing for many students. For some, college years can be the best of their lives, but for others, they can be most miserable.

During my time at Columbia, and more specifically my three years working at The Chronicle, I have spoken with numerous students who’ve expressed just how difficult life as a college student can be. Sadly, I have also spoken with a handful of students who have either seriously expressed suicidal thoughts or have actually attempted to harm themselves. This problem is not specific to Columbia, but rather a concern on college campuses nationwide. However, Columbia students, staff and faculty must consider the adequacy level of our college’s mental health care programs.

During an Investigative Reporters and Editors conference I attended in January, I spoke with reporters from colleges and universities across the nation to get an idea of what the protocol is on their campuses. Though there were mixed results, many student reporters in attendance were familiar with their institution’s services and emergency protocol. Having worked for The Chronicle for several years, and having covered issues regarding the student health center, I too am somewhat familiar with the services Columbia offers. But when it comes to the proper protocol for dealing with a suicidal student—be it a friend, classmate, roommate, casual acquaintance

or complete stranger—I had no idea or the proper response or if Columbia has an outlined protocol.

Even more disconcerting was what I found when I asked other students, staff, faculty and even administrators about Columbia’s protocol—many of them had no idea what the formal procedure is. Some said they were unsure who to call if they are concerned about a student’s mental well-being or what to do in the event of an imminent crisis besides calling 911. I found this even more bothersome because all faculty members were supposedly required to attend a training session pertaining to these very issues.

All of this came on the heels of yet another friend and Columbia student who mentioned suicide to me and several other Columbia students. Because I was unsure of Columbia’s policies, I decided to do a little investigating. On our Web site, I found a link titled “Suicide and Prevention Response Protocol.” But when I clicked on the link, no information was available.

Although the Web site did have some helpful information about whom to contact if you would like to seek help for yourself, what is severely lacking on the Web site and at Columbia as a whole, is detailed information about what to do if someone has threatened suicide or confided an attempt.

The health and wellness team has done an excellent job increasing awareness about HIV and STD testing, but it is time for the center to launch a similar campaign directed toward student mental health services.

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NEWS FLASH

3/15/10

Good 50x70 Poster Show

Columbia’s ALGA chapter, Students In Design, hosts the international poster exhibition touring America. The exhibition will feature 212 posters, which cover seven different social issues from 36 different countries. The exhibition will be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

101 Gallery
33 E. Congress Parkway Building

3/17/10

Among Tender Roots

Artist Laura Anderson Barbata visits campus for a lecture at the Center for Book & Paper Arts to discuss the origin and development of her work, which is designed to be culturally enriching and economically sustainable. Barbata’s lecture will begin at 7 p.m.

916 S. Wabash Ave. Building
Room 150

3/18/10

Literary Rock ’n’ Roll: Rock the Genre

Hosted by the Fiction Writing Department, Literary Rock ’n’ Roll is part of Story Week. The evening will welcome writers Aleksandar Hemon, Bonnie Jo Campbell and Marcus Sakey, with a special performance from Bread & Puppet Theater. The event is free and open to the public and will begin at 6 p.m. at the Metro.

Metro
3730 N. Clark St.

3/18-20/10

Wayne MacGregor, Random Dance

Choreographer Wayne MacGregor brings his contemporary dance to campus. MacGregor is known for his high-energy choreography with controlled chaos. The performance begins at 8 p.m. There will be a pre-performance talk with MacGregor at 7 p.m. on March 19.

The Dance Center
1306 S. Michigan Ave.

3/19/10

Bob Mintzer Residency Concert

The jazz composer and saxophonist of the Yellowjackets concludes his week-long residency at The Music Center with the Columbia Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Pop Fusion. The concert will begin at 7 p.m.

Concert Hall, The Music Center
1014 S. Michigan Ave.

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

FOR THE RECORD 3/8/10

“Sparse turnout at College Council”: In its March 8 edition, The Chronicle published an article about the College Council meeting on March 5. The article reported that Mark Kelly announced a tuition increase of 0.3 percent for undergraduates and a 0.5 increase for graduate students. Kelly actually announced a tuition increase of 3.3 percent for undergraduates and a 5 percent increase for graduate students. The Chronicle regrets the error.

“Dog gone ridiculous”: In its March 8 addition, The Chronicle published an article using photos taken at Dog Gone Fun! Groomers Dan Vaughn and Natalie Chenoweth were not properly identified. They are both Dog Gone Fun! employees.

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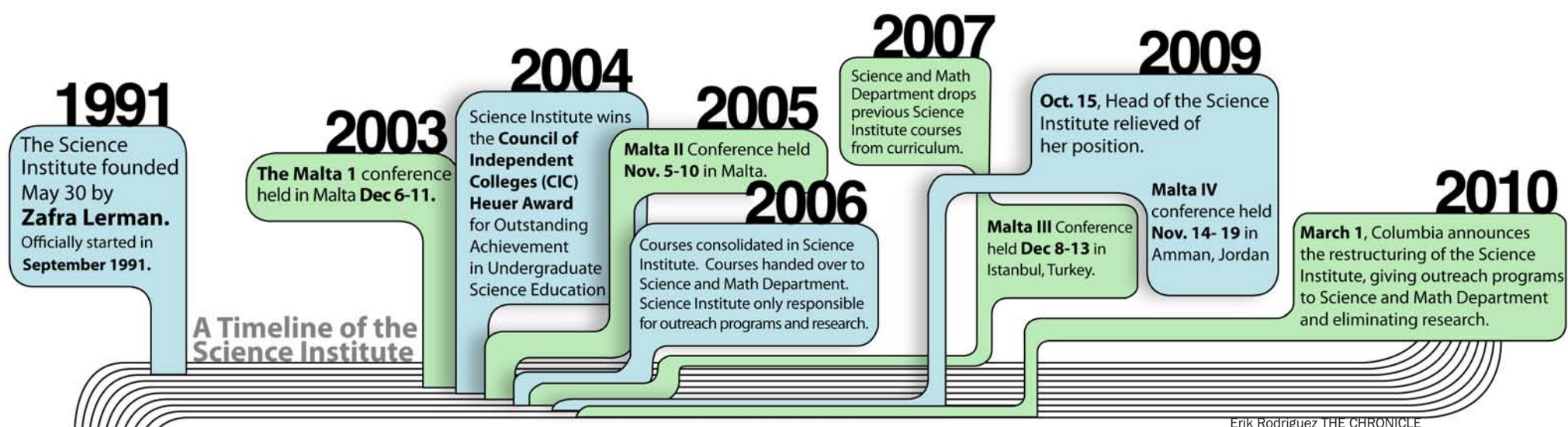
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C

campus



Restructuring the Science Institute

Jobs are cut as initiative is moved under control of Science and Math Department

by **Benita Zepeda**
Campus Editor

COLUMBIA'S PROVOST and Senior Vice President Steve Kapelke announced on March 1 that the Science Institute will be restructured and become part of the Science and Math Department after operating independently for about 19 years.

The Science Institute, an initiative founded by Zafra Lerman, former head of the Science Institute, was launched on Sept. 1, 1991. The restructuring comes shortly after the removal of Lerman from the college in October 2009.

The e-mail announcement sent by Kapelke stated all outreach programs were to continue as normal under the direction of the Science and Math Department.

"The major changes at the Science Institute is instead of being a freestanding outreach and research institute, it will be situated under the Science and Math Department," Kapelke said. "The administrative structure will just be different."

However, the restructuring has forced the college to cut four of the eight original positions from the Science Institute.

"We have unfortunately had to phase out four positions, but the other positions remain intact," Kapelke said. "They will go to work under the Science and Mathematics Department."

Kapelke said the cuts will be "phased out" over time and are determined by what the positions are. He also said the remaining staff and faculty members will continue to work with outreach programs and Chicago Public Schools.

"We're primarily concerned with keeping a very established and wonderful record of outreach activity, and we want to make sure that outreach activity continues in the strongest way that we can," Kapelke said.

In an announcement sent to the Columbia Community on May 30, 1991, former Columbia President Mike Alexandroff stated the Science Institute would design new initiatives in science and public policy, science communication and science education, and would develop associations with the national and world scientific communities.

The Science Institute was to welcome Lerman's "innovative and highly successful methods of teaching science at the undergraduate level." It was originally intended to house the Masters of Arts in Teaching Science graduate program, which never launched.

Without housing a graduate program, the Science Institute served as a platform for scientific research headed by Lerman, and the outreach programs in conjunction with Chicago Public Schools.

In 2004, the curriculum housed under the Science Institute received the Council of Independent Colleges' Heuer Award for Outstanding Achievement in Undergraduate Science Education.

The Science Institute also holds the Malta conferences, which are peace conferences to which top scientists from Middle Eastern nations are invited. Founded by Lerman, the first conference was held in Malta from Dec. 6-11, 2003. There have since been three additional Malta Conferences, which were held in 2005 in Malta, 2007 in Istanbul, Turkey, and in November 2009 in Amman, Jordan.

The Science Institute is no stranger to controversy. In 2005, Columbia conducted a raid of the lab to locate the source of the

infamous "Wacky Warrick" Web site created by a former faculty member.

The Science Institute's curriculum was removed and the courses were given to the Science and Math Department in 2006. The institute has since been used for only the outreach programs and for scientific research.

Shortly after the consolidation of the courses, in 2007 the Science and Math Department decided to drop all the integrated courses from the curriculum.

The Science and Math Department Chair Constantin Rasinariu said he is very excited for this transition and is following the decisions of administration.

"I welcome the people who are coming to our department," Rasinariu said.

Kapelke said the restructuring of the Science Institute will benefit its mission.

"We have been very proud of the work they have done in outreach and we want that to continue," Kapelke said. "The restructuring was a way to make that even more effective, if possible, and to provide a level of both administrative and structural support that will, if anything, enhance their ability to do what they have been doing."

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STAFF EDITION—CAMPUS POLL

What do you enjoy most about working at The Chronicle?



Lenny Gilmore
Senior Photo Editor

"Jazzy and her smokin' personality."



Ren Lahvic
Advertising and Business Manager

"It's the best job I have had by far because of the people I work with. Everyone realizes this is a learning experience and helps each other through it."



Jeff Graveline
Assistant Health and Fitness Editor

"The people that work here are wonderful. They are all like my bffs."

Recognition of community media

Reporters receive awards for reporting on underserved communities

by **Kwame Shorter**
Contributing Writer

JOURNALISTS AND editors across the Chicago media landscape gathered for the Studs Terkel Community Media Awards benefit March 10 at the Chicago Cultural Center to praise journalists who have produced work reporting on underserved communities.

The awards also allowed Community Media Workshop, a nonprofit organization partnered closely with Columbia, the opportunity to generate funds from its silent auction, which featured Studs Terkel-autographed titles, Field Museum passes and other media-related gifts.

"Please don't forget our pledge cards on the way out," Steve Kapelke, provost and senior vice president at Columbia, urged the audience.

Kapelke presented the Studs Terkel Scholarship for \$2,000 to Mitchell Wenkus for his work on "Joey and Jamal," a docu-

mentary following the challenges faced by a woman from the South Shore neighborhood with two sons in Chicago's public school system.

The awarded journalists included Kate Grossman, deputy editorial page editor for the Sun-Times, Natalie Moore, public affairs reporter for Chicago Public Radio, and collectively Josh Kalven, Adam Doster and Angela Caputo for their reporting for Illinois Progress.

Grossman's colleague and Sun-Times columnist, Mary Mitchell, presented Grossman the award recalling the initial incredulity that greeted her wish to cover South Side issues like Chicago Housing Authority's Plan For Transformation. The incredulity turned to praises for her dedi-



Courtesy of KWAME SHORTER

Thom Clark, co-founder and president of Community Media Workshop, spoke at the annual Studs Terkel Community Media Awards.

cation covering the Chicago Public Schools while also spending a year teaching at a charter school on the South Side.

"[What] Kate is known for is her fairness

» SEE TERKEL, PG. 7



“It’s been a goal since [the] second I walked on this campus for our administration to keep the tuition increases below 5 percent. I think 3.3 is a huge accomplishment.”

- Jessica Valerio

Lenny Gilmore THE CHRONICLE

Student Government Association President Jessica Valerio joins the College Council meeting March 5 as the administration discussed plans to increase tuition for the upcoming 2010-2011 academic year.

Tuition increase to benefit students

Administration plans to raise cost of college, implements new scholarship initiative

by Laura Nalin
Assistant Campus Editor

FOLLOWING AN annual analysis led by Mike DeSalle, vice president of business affairs and Chief Financial Officer of the college, Columbia’s Board of Trustees approved a 3.3 percent raise in tuition and fees for undergraduates and a 5 percent increase for graduate students for the upcoming 2010-2011 academic year.

Within the past five years, the college has kept its increases to under 5 percent, which

is below the national average, according to Mark Kelly, vice president of Student Affairs. Kelly said the college’s highest value was placed on affordability for students, which is why the college kept the tuition increases modest and dramatically increased scholarship funds.

DeSalle said the decision for the increase was the result of a number of conclusions. “We look at the market completely and at some of things we want to do as an institution for [the] upcoming year,” DeSalle said. “We look at any new kinds of initiatives, such programs [and] capital investment initiatives, and once we weigh that with [the] marketplace we make a decision on what we want to do.”

DeSalle added he feels the increase will be relatively low in comparison to other private higher education institutions, such as DePaul or Loyola universities, when they announce their tuition increases.

The college plans to take 2 percent of the 3.3 percent increase and put it toward a scholarship initiative that was conceptualized a few years ago.

“The president [Warrick L. Carter] felt strongly that the economy’s having an impact on students and some parents are struggling to afford private higher education,” DeSalle said. “He thought that we as a school should begin to do something to help students and parents in need. We put forward a plan a couple years ago to get the

scholarship pool higher, so in effect, we’re raising tuition 3.3 percent and we’re taking 2 percent of it and to put in [the] scholarship pool for students that are at need.”

Kelly said the scholarship initiative will benefit more than twice the amount of students next year than it has within the past few years.

“Two years ago, 300 freshmen received scholarship support from [the] college,” Kelly said. “This year, just under 500 freshmen received scholarship support and next year, 1,000 freshmen will receive scholarship funding from the college.”

Kelly added the scholarships are renewable

» SEE TUITION, PG. 9

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The Music Center of Columbia College Chicago

1014 S. Michigan at 11th St.

Concert Hall Events

Monday March 15
Bob Mintzer in Residence
3/15/2010-3/19/2010

Kat Vallera Senior recital
7:00 PM

Tuesday March 16
Student Concert Series
8:00 PM

Friday March 19
Jazz Gallery in the Lobby
12:00 PM

Bob Mintzer Residency
Concert RESERVATIONS
REQUIRED 312-369-6300
7:00 PM

Andy Costello Senior Piano
Recital at the Sherwood
7:30 PM

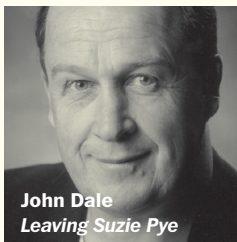
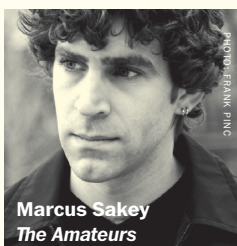
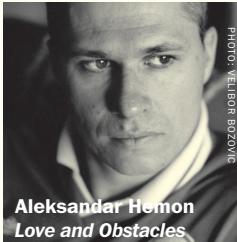
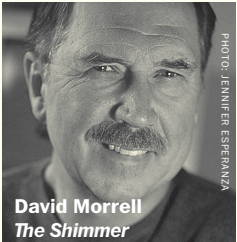


All events are free. For more info: 312-369-6300

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SUN, MARCH 14

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2:00–4:30 PM (1:30 PM doors)
STORY WORKSHOP®
ALUMNI MINI-CLASSES:
GARY JOHNSON, BETTY SHIFLETT,
JOHN SCHULTZ

> Dance Center Chicago

5:00–6:30 PM
ALUMNI RECEPTION*
For Alumni and CCC Fiction Writing students
> Martyrs' (Ages 18+)

*Co-sponsor: Office of Alumni Relations

OPEN TO PUBLIC:

7:00 PM (6:30 PM doors)
2ND STORY, A HIGH-ENERGY
SHOW OF STORIES, SOUND
EFFECTS, AND MUSIC

Storytellers: **Randall Albers,**
Kim Morris, Sam Weller, Jessica Young

Music: **DJ White Russian** and
Seeking Wonderland

Hosts: **Amanda Delheimer**
and **Megan Stielstra**
> Martyrs' (Ages 18+)

MON, MARCH 15

11:00 AM
ADJUNCT FACULTY
GENRE READING/OPEN MIC
Hosts: **Tina Jens, Laurie Lawlor, Patricia Rosemoor**

Host: **Tina Jens**

> Film Row Cinema

2:30 PM
JOYCE CAROL OATES
Q&A/SIGNING*

Host: **Gavin Cologne-Brookes, Dark Eyes on**
America: The Novels of Joyce Carol Oates

> Harold Washington Library

6:00 PM
JOYCE CAROL OATES
READING/CONVERSATION/
SIGNING*

The literary icon reads and discusses
her work with **Donna Seaman, Booklist,**
Chicago Public Radio

> Harold Washington Library

*Co-sponsor: Critical Encounters/Fact & Faith

9:30 PM
DOWN & DIRTY
GRAD READING
with **Jeff Jacobson, Foodchain**
J. Adams Oaks, Why I Fight

Hosts: **Chris DeGuire** and **Alexis Pride**

> Sheffield's Beer Garden

TUE, MARCH 16

11:00 AM
NEW FACES OF FICTION
UNDERGRAD READING/OPEN MIC
Hosts: **Kristen Fiore** and the Student Board

> Film Row Cinema

2:30 PM
FULL-TIME FICTION WRITING
FACULTY READING

Host: **Betty Shiflett**

> Film Row Cinema

6:00 PM
GENRES FROM AFAR
READING/CONVERSATION/
SIGNING

Achy Obejas, Ruins
Aleksandar Hemon, Love and Obstacles
John Dale, Leaving Suzie Pye

Host: **Patricia Ann McNair**

> Harold Washington Library

WED, MARCH 17

11:00 AM
FROM PAGE TO STAGE
SCENES FROM STUDENT
PLAYWRIGHTS

Hosts: **Lisa Schlesinger** and **Tom Mula**

> Film Row Cinema

1:00 PM
CONVERSATION: BONNIE JO
CAMPBELL, AMERICAN SALVAGE

Host: **Ann Hemenway**

> Film Row Cinema

2:30 PM
PANEL: GENRE BENDING–
THE FACES OF FICTION

Mort Castle, On Writing Horror
Maggie Estep, Ruby Murphy mystery series
David Morrell, First Blood
Kevin Nance, Poets & Writers

Host: **Joe Meno, The Great Perhaps**

> Harold Washington Library

6:00 PM
READING: GENRE BENDING–
THE FACES OF FICTION

Mort Castle, The Strangers
Maggie Estep, Alice Fantastic
David Morrell, The Shimmer

CANTASTORIA PERFORMANCE:
Peter Schumann, founder,
Bread & Puppet Theater

Host: **Sam Weller, The Bradbury Chronicles**

> Harold Washington Library

THU, MARCH 18

11:00 AM
PUBLISHING PANEL:
BOOKS UNDER PRESSURE
WITH DONNA SEAMAN

Booklist associate editor and Chicago
Public Radio book critic **Donna Seaman**
conducts the panel.

Michelle Brower, agent, Folio Literary
Management; Linda Bubon, bookstore
co-owner, Women & Children First; **John Dale,**
author, *Leaving Suzie Pye*; **Johnny Temple,**
publisher, Akashic Books

> Harold Washington Library

2:30 PM
CONVERSATION: THE
SUCCESSFUL NOVELIST,
LESSONS FROM A LIFETIME
OF WRITING

Writer **Marcus Sakey, The Amateurs,**
interviews his mentor, **David Morrell,**
The Successful Novelist.

> Film Row Cinema

6:00 PM
LITERARY ROCK & ROLL:
ROCK THE GENRE

READING/SIGNING:
Aleksandar Hemon, Love and Obstacles
Bonnie Jo Campbell, American Salvage
Marcus Sakey, The Amateurs

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE:
Bread & Puppet Theater

Music: **DJs Joe Shanahan** and
Don De Grazia, American Skin

> Metro (All Ages)

FRI, MARCH 19

7:00 PM
STORY SHOWCASE
WITH RICK KOGAN
Chicago Tribune journalist and WGN radio
host Rick Kogan introduces Columbia
College Fiction Writing Department authors
reading from recent books.

Honored Guest Phyllis Eisenstein,
Sorcerer's Son

Mike Black, Hostile Takeovers
Sean Chercover, Trigger City
Stephanie Kuehnert, Ballads of Suburbia
Marc Paoletti, Scorch
Earl Sewell, Have Mercy

> Smart Bar (Ages 21+)

STORY WEEK LOCATIONS

Dance Center Chicago
3868 N. Lincoln Ave. 2nd Floor

Film Row Cinema
Columbia College Chicago
1104 S. Wabash Ave. 8th Floor

Harold Washington Library
Cindy Pritzker Auditorium, 400 S. State St.

Martyrs', 3855 N. Lincoln Ave.

Metro, 3730 N. Clark St.

Sheffield's Beer Garden
3258 N. Sheffield Ave.

Smart Bar, 3730 N. Clark St.

COLUM.EDU/STORYWEEK 312.369.7611

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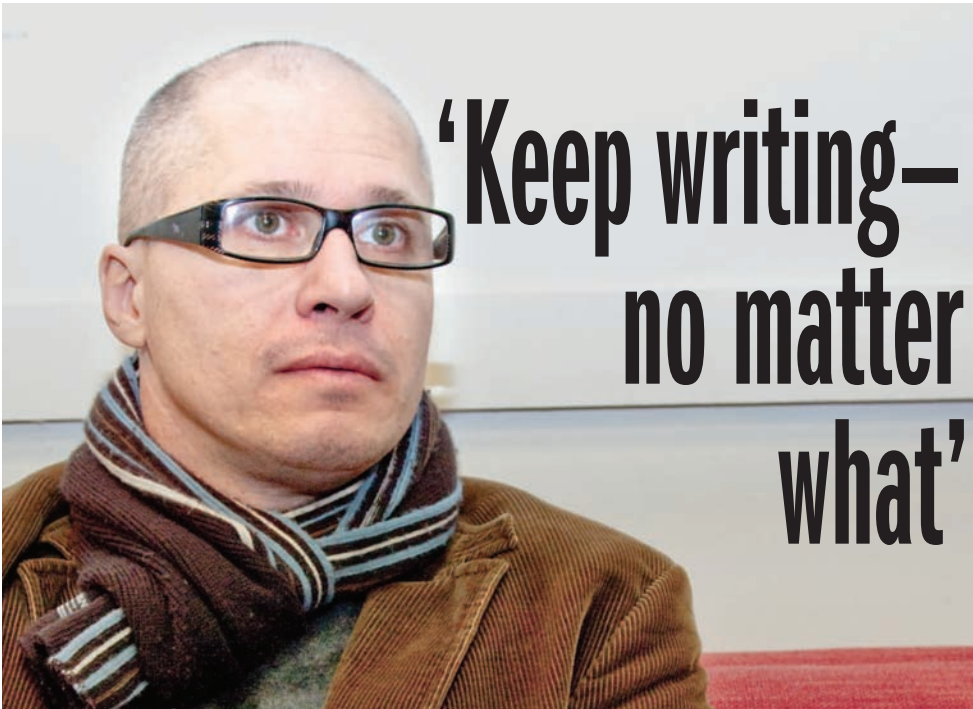


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This program is made possible in part by a grant from the ILLINOIS ARTS COUNCIL, a state agency. Story Week is sponsored in part by the Chicago Public Library and Metro.

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Lenny Gilmore THE CHRONICLE

Aleksandar “Sasha” Hemon, author of “The Question of Bruno” and “The Lazarus Project,” is teaching two Fiction Seminar classes for the spring 2010 semester.

Fiction writing artist-in-residence brings different perspective to table

by **Ciara Shook**
Assistant Campus Editor

AS A writer, Aleksandar “Sasha” Hemon said he believes it is hard to create something within the privacy of one’s mind and to expose the creation to strangers. “This transference from a very personal space to a very public space is hard and you offer something you spend six, nine or 10 years thinking about,” Hemon said. In just one decade, Hemon has published four books and countless articles, op-eds and columns in English and Bosnian. As

an artist-in-residence for the Fiction Writing Department for the spring 2010 term, Hemon has brought a pair of fresh eyes to the classroom in the two Fiction Seminar courses he leads. He will be one of more than a dozen on the roster of authors for Story Week, Columbia’s annual literature festival, which started March 14 and runs through March 19. Randy Albers, chair of the Fiction Writing Department, said that as an excellent award-winning writer, Hemon has a comprehensive understanding of techniques and fictional material. “He brings not only a great deal of expertise and quality, but also a different approach to teaching,” Albers said. “We are pleased and honored to have him as

part of the faculty for the spring semester, and of course we’re glad to claim him as a Chicago writer.” Hemon said he considers his residency not just a job, but an honor. “People who go [to Columbia] are involved with the life of the city,” he said. “Story Week is an example.” Laura Fisher, a senior fiction writing major currently enrolled in one of Hemon’s Fiction Seminar sections, said his method differs from those used by other Columbia professors. “We do a lot more of analyzing text, but that’s just helping my writing grow,” Fisher said. Hemon said writing requires a great deal of patience. He urged aspiring writers to keep their confidence. “What you’re working on is bad, and is bad for a long time,” Hemon said. “If you’re writing a book for six years, it’s bad for five years and 11 months. The hard thing is to keep going through it. Keep writing—no matter what.” Hemon grew up in Sarajevo, in former Yugoslavia and what is now Bosnia-Herzegovina. He said he has had a passion for writing since an early age. “I thought I could extend the pleasure of reading by writing,” he said. “I remember trying to start a novel at the age of 12 or 13 about problems an adolescent has with his [or her] parents.” Hemon attended the University of Sarajevo in the late ’80s where he majored in general literature and wrote his bachelor’s thesis on James Joyce’s “Ulysses.” “What I like about [‘Ulysses’] is the demand it puts upon the reader,” he said. “It is not the kind of literature that worries about readers being bored and running off to watch television. It’s not catering to

the vacillating demands of mediocrity. No writer would do that today and no publisher would think that kind of reading is profitable.” Hemon visited America in 1992 as a young journalist and stayed to visit friends in the United States and Canada. When Sarajevo came under siege during the Bosnian War later that year, he chose to stay in Chicago. Though Hemon doesn’t have many family members left in Sarajevo, he still visits the city two or three times each year and has a number of close friends and connections. Hemon began publishing books and collections of short stories in 2000. He has received awards for almost each release, such as the National Magazine Award for Fiction from The New Yorker in 2009, a “genius grant” from the MacArthur Foundation in 2004, a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2003 and the John C. Zacharis First Book Award from Ploughshares in 2001 for his work, “The Question of Bruno.” One of his later books, “The Lazarus Project,” is based on the true story of Lazarus Averbuch, an Eastern European immigrant in Chicago who was killed in 1908 by George Shippy, Chicago’s police chief at the time. “The Lazarus Project” began as most of Hemon’s projects begin—with a lot of idling. At the start of a new project, Hemon said his creative process begins with thinking and avoiding work until the pressure of writing can no longer be avoided. “I think about [the project] for a very long time; and there are stories I’ve written and I’ve thought about for nine years,” Hemon said. “When I started with ‘The Lazarus Project,’ I’d thought about it for at least two to four years. It’s idling for awhile, but what I start, I finish.”

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» COLLEGE

Continued from Front Page

“A very, very small increase in tuition and a big increase in scholarships,” Carter said. “We’ve decided to make student scholarships a priority.”

He said that in the 2009-2010 academic year 500 scholarships were offered to incoming freshmen and those scholarships will increase in the next school year.

“We refer to ourselves as a ‘student-focused’ institution,” Carter said. “What better way to put our money where our mouth is than to put it in scholarships?”

Carter said no tuition dollars were spent on building the Media Production Center, which opened at the beginning of the spring 2010 term.

“We said ‘no tuition dollars,’” he said. “We said we were going to raise [the money]. We said we were going to leverage ourselves in the right way to get done what we needed to get done, and we did that. But the MPC is only one sign of what’s happening here at the college as far as new additions. We’re always doing something.”

Carter said the opening of the MPC is

“

The MPC is only one sign of what’s happening here at the college as far as new additions. We’re always doing something.”

-Warrick L. Carter

he said.

According to Mark Kelly, vice president of Student Affairs, applicants for the 2010-2011 academic year are up by 43 percent, compared to last year’s applications.

“There is still great interest in this place,” Carter said. “And the interest continues to be high because of the quality of what everyone in this room does.”

John Trierweiler, executive vice president of the SGA, said the SGA is very pleased Carter addressed the student body.

“We’re pleased he shared with us the progress the college is making moving forward,” Trierweiler said.

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just one in a list of events at the college, including the Columbia College community on Facebook, the beginning of an honors program, a new office for degree evaluation, a new Fashion Studies Department and Columbia playing host to the Chicago International Film Festival and the European League of Institutes of the Arts in April.

Carter continued his speech by addressing the low enrollment numbers for the 2009-2010 academic year.

“Although enrollment is down for this year, applications are up for next year,”

» TERKEL

Continued from PG. 3

and research, so see Kate, I came prepared,” Mitchell said waving several sheets worth of notes from which she frequently prompted herself. “That’s one thing we learned from Kate. Always show up prepared.”

Mitchell was the first winner of this award in 1994.

Moore’s award was presented by Phil Kadner, a former award winner and columnist for the Southtown Star. He commended her for the approach of her reporting for Chicago Public Radio stating, “Terkel would be proud.”

During Moore’s acceptance speech, she recalled her initial inspiration for becoming a journalist: “It must have been during an episode of ‘Murphy Brown,’ an episode when they had the young intern. Her name was Natalie Moore.”

The editorial team of the Illinois Progress Web site was awarded for their vigilant reporting on unemployment and producing original content informing Illinoisans of the current struggles in the job market upstate.

“

It really started to set in how much [impact] when the 20th letter showed thanking us.”

-Josh Kalven

“It really started to set in how much [impact] when the 20th letter showed thanking us,” said Progress Illinois Editor Kalven of their first signs of positive feedback.

Sharing the award were Progress Illinois’ two reporters, Doster and Caputo, who Kalven thanked for their patience with the site’s progress and growing pains.

Longtime friend of Terkel and fellow political activist Timuel Black gave his reflection on Terkel’s legacy as a fearless political activist striving for equality, which was met with a resounding ovation.

Community Media Workshop’s President Thom Clark presented a video with many Chicago journalists honoring Terkel. Clark also saluted three Chicago journalists who died within the past year, including well-respected interviewer John Callaway, CLTV

political reporter Carlos Hernandez Gomez and The Chronicle’s faculty adviser and instructor Jim Sulski.

The awards closed with a performance sing-along led by a folk band of various Chicago media profiles resonating throughout the award’s auditorium,

with a piece by a long-deceased servant of underserved communities, Woody Guthrie’s “This Land is Your Land.”

chronicle@colum.edu

A+D

2009/2010
Lecture Series

The Art + Design Department, the Photography Department and Ellen Stone Belic Institute for the Study of Women and Gender in the Arts and Media present:

Mickalene Thomas

Thursday, March 18
6:00 pm @ Stage Two
618 S. Michigan Ave.

A reception will take place immediately after the event outside of the lecture hall.

New York-based artist Mickalene Thomas is known for her elaborate paintings adorned with rhinestones, enamel and colorful acrylics. Her depictions of African American women explore notions of black female celebrity and identity while romanticizing ideas of femininity and power. Reminiscent of 70s style Blaxploitation, the subjects in Thomas’ paintings radiate sexuality. Women in provocative poses sprawl across the picture plane and are surrounded by kitschy decorative patterns inspired by her childhood. Mickalene Thomas earned her MFA at Yale University in 2002 and completed a residency at the Studio Museum in Harlem, New York. Currently she lives and works in New York.

colum.edu/artanddesign



Once in the Morning, 2005, Courtesy of Rhona Hoffman Gallery.

PHOTOGRAPHY

ELLEN STONE BELIC
INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF
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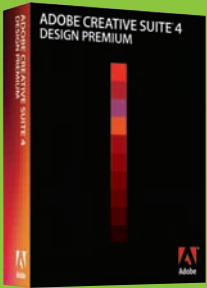
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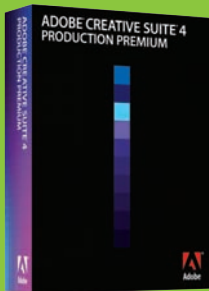
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CRITICAL ENCOUNTERS
FACT & FAITH

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

One nation, under
what's-his-name?

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

by Morgana L. Bacon
Sophomore Theater Major

"... and to the Republic for which it stands: one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." I, along with countless fellow classmates in Green Meadows Elementary School, recited this phrase every day. Routine, I thought—right hand over heart, left hand at side, say the words and get on with the day. For years, I watched my teachers and peers recite the same phrase to a red, white and blue blur in the corner of the classroom, and I mindlessly followed.

"What's God?"

My mother stands by the sink, clearing the dishes we had eaten from moments earlier. The sound of the running water and clanking china fills the room. My elder sister, Ashley, flips through channels on the television for a few seconds before landing on a show. The dog whines at my mother's side, tail wagging, hopeful for scraps left over from the meal. Ashley, now engrossed in the program, turns up the volume to an annoyingly high level in order to drown out the kitchen noises. My father fills his mug with his favorite ice tea before I ask the question again.

"Hey! What's God?"

I was not born into a family that used religion as a foundation for morality. Rules were not based upon spiritual beliefs, partly because of my parent's agnostic convictions. Therefore, God was not a subject we traditionally discussed in my house-

hold. Although I am now grateful for my upbringing, at age 9, I thought of it as a conspiracy—knowledge that everyone else was aware of. Everyone except for me. I felt left out. Stupid even, because I did not know what the awkward, three letter word in the Pledge of Allegiance was. The word that was capitalized even though it was in the middle of a sentence. The word everyone else seemed to understand. My mother and father looked at each other, then at me. Finally Dad said, "Let's talk."

The next morning in school, I looked at the large clock on the wall before sitting down at my desk. 7:55 a.m. I had five more minutes. I sat down and rummaged around in my backpack for the homework I completed the night before. Three more minutes. The classroom began to fill with students, who also settled in their assigned seats. I looked up at the clock again, just as my teacher asked everyone to stand up for the Pledge. I did not stand. Instead, I sat there with my fingers laced together and my feet planted firmly on the floor.

Now I was walking down the hall quickly, but not in any real hurry to get where I was going. I stopped and knocked firmly on the door that was labeled "Principal's Office." The door opened before I even finished my knock. They were expecting me.

I was suspended from school for the rest of the day. My teacher claimed I was "a disruption to the class." I told her I did not know how that could be, as I had not said a word.

Then again, I suppose that was the point.

My parents did not force me into having any kind of religion. When it came to faith, I was always encouraged to make my own decisions. The discussion I had with my parents that night opened my eyes. Why was I forced to say a pledge to this God every day if I did not even know who He was? This culture that consists of Islamic, Buddhist, Hindu, Jain, Shinto and countless other belief systems, claims to be a multi-ethnic society. One that revolves around freedom, whether that pertains to choice, speech or religion. Sure, every American citizen has the right to choose their own faith. But once chosen, is the country actually tolerant of that faith?

Perhaps that is a question we Americans need to ask ourselves before reprimanding a 9-year-old for her skepticism about God, or calling this country a "melting pot."

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» TUITION

Continued from PG. 4

for four years. In addition, over the next couple of years the college will dramatically increase its retention scholarships. The retention scholarships are directed at enrolled students who didn't receive aid in the beginning of their studies who now have a high need and merit to provide them with school support from the college.

Student Government Association President Jessica Valerio said that she thinks that the increases are a huge accomplishment by college President Carter and his cabinet.

"As a student, any increase is a burden, and students are feeling financial straining more and more," Valerio said. "However, it's been a goal since [the] second I walked on this campus for our administration to keep the tuition increases below 5 percent. I think 3.3 is huge accomplishment."

Valerio said that the increase might play a role whether or not future and current

students will be able to afford attending Columbia, but she doesn't think it would be the only factor.

"Students will feel it," Valerio said. "But it's certainly worthwhile to consider compared to other private institutions in Illinois and across the country, increases that are occurring for the next academic year are far above 5 percent. That might be an attraction, I don't know, but applications are up. Students want to be here, they know about us, they are excited about Columbia, the question is whether or not they can afford it. Does the [3.3 percent] increase come into play? Sure, but I think it's in addition to a number of factors as well."

DeSalle agrees.

"I don't think the tuition increase is going to be the factor that pushes somebody to not enroll here or leave the school," DeSalle said. "I think, more importantly, what's going to happen is if a parent has lost a job or other big issues in families, the bigger ticket items, is going to be the major factors. The increase is very modest. That's not going to be the breaking point."

Inalin@chroniclemail.com

"THE RUNAWAYS' BURSTS WITH ENERGY, YOUTH, EXCESS, FEMALE EMPOWERMENT, SEX, DRUGS AND ROCK 'N' ROLL."
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Jazz'd Up

Athletes not paid to be role models



by Jazzy Davenport
Managing Editor

WHEN I sit and check sports news outlets for the most recent updates, I cannot help but be reminded of how athletes shouldn't be seen as role models.

We view these athletes as heroic because of their abilities in sports. They perform for us. They entertain, but when the game ends, they are not superhuman.

Every time I watch my favorite news station or check a Web site, there always seems to be a story about how an athlete has made a poor decision. Whether it is Tiger Woods' infidelity, Mark McGwire's steroid confession or most recently, Allen Iverson's alleged gambling and alcohol addiction or Ben Roethlisberger's two sexual assault accusations, athletes continue to remind us that they are just human beings who happen to be in the spotlight.

I have been a victim of disappointment when it comes to my favorite athletes. So many athletes like Michael Jordan, Marion Jones, Michael Phelps and, yes, Tiger Woods have let me down over the course of their respective careers. They have all shown us just how human they are by engaging in something as minute as infidelity and divorce or something as big as lying about taking performance-enhancing drugs,

or simply being careless by being photographed with a bong.

Nowadays, it is more important than ever before that parents step in and become role models for their children. We as a society need to place less value on entertainers such as athletes and celebrities and hold ourselves more accountable. We have given these entertainers way too much power and allowed our youth to idolize them. It is time the older generation steps up to the plate and becomes more responsible.

Though I believe athletes should behave better because of the attention that inevitably comes with their job and the impact they have on youth around the world, they only have as much power over children as parents allow.

Sure, athletes demonstrate great qualities that can be teaching tools to young children, including pursuing your passion, perseverance and resilience, diligence, commitment and hard work. However, a true role model should be someone accessible and close to children.

Children risk falling victim to disappointment every time they choose to place these flawed human beings on a pedestal. It is OK to enjoy them in their quest to master their individual craft, but once the buzzer sounds, children should cling to someone close to them. Athletes are paid to win—not raise children.

jdavenport@chroniclemail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

3/17/10

Chicago Blackhawks vs. Anaheim Ducks

The Chicago Blackhawks travel west to take on the Anaheim Ducks at the Honda Center in Anaheim, Calif. The Ducks have allowed more than 200 goals during the NHL season, while the Hawks have let just over 160 into the net. Puck drop is at 9 p.m. and the game can be viewed on WGN.

Honda Center
Anaheim, Calif.

3/19/10

Chicago Bulls vs. Cleveland Cavaliers

The Chicago Bulls welcome the Cleveland Cavaliers and former NBA MVP forward LeBron James to the United Center. James currently averages 30 points per game in 39 minutes played per game, the best in the NBA as of press time. Tipoff is at 7 p.m. at the United Center and the game can be seen on Comcast SportsNet.

United Center
1901 W. Madison St.

3/18 & 20/10

NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament Round 1

The first round of the NCAA Men's College Basketball Tournament opens in select cities across the country. The single-elimination tournament kicks off with games in New Orleans, Providence, R.I., San Jose, Calif. and Oklahoma City. Check local listings for games and times.

National Event
Can be seen on CBS

Renegades baseball ready for new season

Athletic club preps for season, opens new home stadium

by Jeff Graveline
Assistant Health & Fitness Editor

AFTER MONTHS of winter waiting, baseball season has finally arrived in Chicago. The weather is warm enough for teams across the city to take to the fields and dugouts to play America's pastime once again. Even here at Columbia, the Renegades men's baseball team picked up its bats and gloves, ready to begin the new season.

Since the beginning of the spring semester, the baseball team has been busy working out at the 731 S. Plymouth Court fitness facility. Often coming in groups of three to five members, the team has built a strong foundation for the upcoming season, said Mark Brticevich, coordinator of Fitness, Athletics and Recreation at Columbia.

The offseason has become a thing of the past, as the Renegades are ready for their first game against Ball State University on March 20. Team captain Dan Gallagher said the team is ready to compete.

"We're definitely going to be better than last year," Gallagher said. "I think we got more practice in and we picked up a couple guys at the right positions. Last year, we had a lot of arm issues, we weren't prepared for the season. This year, I think we're a little bit better prepared and hopefully the arms will hold up."

With 18 players from Columbia, the

baseball club will travel across the Midwest to play. The Renegades will make their home debut in April at their new home field against Illinois State University.

After years of playing on University of Illinois at Chicago's campus, the club was forced to move due to monetary constraints.

"UIC was just too expensive; they knew they had everybody down here," Brticevich said. "There aren't too many fields in the downtown Chicago area and I think they kind of took advantage of the situation."

However, the move has resulted in the club being able to host games at Standard Bank Stadium, 14011 S. Kenton Ave., Crestwood, Ill. The stadium is home to the Windy City Thunderbolts, a minor league team that plays in the Frontier League.

"It's a really nice stadium and it's actually fairly cheap [to play there]," Gallagher said. "UIC basically left us with no choice, so we went out looking and it's actually cheaper than UIC last year."

There are disadvantages the Renegades will face as a club team. While they will play other club teams from different universities and colleges, other schools use their club teams as feeder or rehabilitation programs for their official teams.

"That's something that students have to understand, we're only club sports," Brticevich said. "But everybody else that is playing club sports that we're going up against, these kids are dedicated as if they are NCAA [National Collegiate Athletic Association]. They may be not at that level of talent, but



File Photo

A baseball club member practices his pitching mechanics under the watchful eye of a coach during a previous season.

they have that level of drive."

Another issue facing the Renegades is funding. Because the team is only on the club level, it is not fully financially supported by the school. Team members must provide their own equipment and transportation to and from games. The team does so through fundraisers and paying directly out of pocket.

However, the factors that face the Renegades on the field are their main concern. With expectations on the team running high, Gallagher and Brticevich are both

expecting the team to meet the new season's challenges head on.

"Like anything, I want them to be competitive," Brticevich said. "I want them to make a good showing of themselves, to play sound baseball, to try not to give away don't expect them to win every game under the sun, as long as they don't get blown out. They dignify themselves well if they do those types of things. To me, that's a winning season."

jgraveline@chroniclemail.com

Identifying allergies, key to surviving spring

As hay fever begins, experts advise getting tested, preparation

by Ivana Susic
Assistant Health & Fitness Editor

SPRING IS right around the corner and it's time to get ready for warmer weather. Most people will take out their windbreakers, sneakers and short-sleeved shirts. More than 9 million Americans will also take out their seasonal allergy medication, according to the University of Chicago Medical center.

Every year, the onset of spring signals the pollination of trees and grass. This pollination triggers a response in many individuals that leads to a runny nose, sneezing and watery eyes — classic signs of allergies.

Allergic rhinitis, commonly known as seasonal allergies or hay fever, is caused when membrane lining, such as that in the nasal passages, comes in contact with a natural molecule, such as pollen, that produces a negative reaction in the body. Histamine is released by the immune system and skin can redden as blood vessels dilate, explained Dr. James Thompson, board-certified allergy and asthma specialist in Chicago.

"The mucus glands are overactive, causing a running nose ... or post-nasal drip in the throat, which can lead to coughing," Thompson said.

Immunoglobulin E, or IgE, is the antibody associated with triggering an allergic

response and is located on mast cells in the immune system. The pollen, combined with mold spores from damp weather, as well as environmental pollution is "the perfect storm" if you have allergies, he said.

While no one is sure why humans developed allergies, Thompson said one common theory is that it began centuries ago as a defense mechanism to get parasites off our bodies.

"It's gone awry now ... because [the immune system] reacts to things it shouldn't," he said.

Changes in pressure can cause sinus problems, which can be confused with allergies; many people with colds during spring may also think they have allergies.

"If it's late April or early May and [the person] has been fine the rest of the year, it's plausible to think it's allergic, but it could just be a viral process also," Thompson said.

What differentiates an allergy from sinus problems or a cold is itchiness, said Dr. Joel Klein, a board-certified allergist in the north suburbs of Chicago.

"Itching distinguishes very reliably between an allergic process and an infectious process," Klein said.

If seasonal allergies are a common occurrence for an individual, Klein recommended beginning medication about a month prior to when allergies usually begin to act up. This allows time to build up resistance.

"Act preemptively instead of once the symptoms start," he said.

According to Klein, there is no difference between indoor and outdoor allergy medi-

cations, regardless of the labeling as such. Antihistamines work whether someone is inside or out, he said.

"[Antihistamines] block molecules in the body, whatever the allergen is," Klein said.

Dr. Laura Rogers, a board-certified Chicago allergist, said heredity constitutes a "very strong component" in whether someone develops allergies.

If one parent suffers from hay fever, there is a 50 percent chance the child will as well, and if both parents have hay fever it can be as high as 75 percent, according to Rogers.

She advised those who think they have allergies to get tested by an allergist to find out what their exact allergies are. While a blood test is often done by a primary care physician, it is not as sensitive as a skin test.

The test scratches the surface of

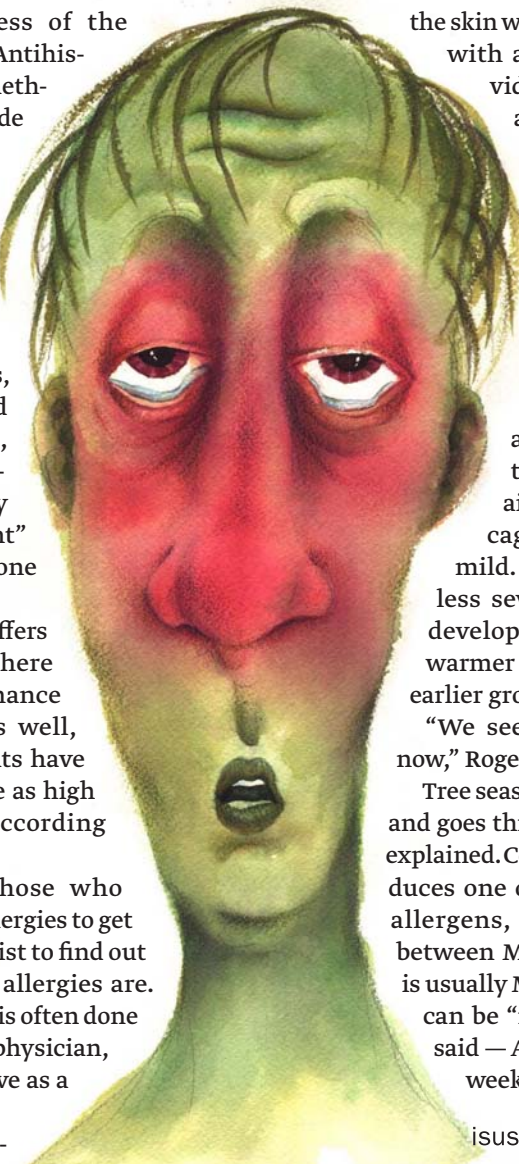
the skin with proteins associated with allergens. If the individual has allergies, the antibodies will react and produce a localized reaction similar to a mosquito bite.

"It's always a good idea to get a [skin] test," Rogers said. "It's just 15 minutes."

Some allergens are already making their way into the air, since the past Chicago winter was fairly mild. When the weather is less severe, pollen tends to develop earlier because the warmer weather allows for an earlier growth.

"We see some on the radar now," Rogers said.

Tree season starts late February and goes through May, Thompson explained. Cottonwood, which produces one of the more common allergens, begins to pollinate between March and April. Grass is usually May-June and ragweed can be "nailed to the day," he said — Aug. 15 — for four to six weeks.



STOCK IMAGE

isusic@chroniclemail.com

SUMMER & FALL 2010

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Lenny Gilmore THE CHRONICLE

Despite the cold temperature of Lake Michigan, more than 1,700 people participated in the 10th annual Polar Plunge, on March 9, to benefit the Special Olympics.

Polar Plunge participants embrace Lake Michigan

Thousands turn out to take on cold, raise money for Special Olympics

by Jeff Graveline
Assistant Health & Fitness Editor

FUNDRAISING FOR a good cause can make people do strange things. On March 9, Chicago’s 10th annual Polar Plunge proved just that.
More than 1,700 people from across the

state took to North Avenue Beach, 1630 N. Lake Shore Drive, and enjoyed an icy dip in Lake Michigan.
“The main reason for doing this is because it’s a great cause,” said Mike Yonk, a 26-year-old financial planner from Chicago. “The Special Olympics is a great cause and [Special Olympians] don’t get many times a year to really shine, to be the center of attention. Plus, it’s just a fun time.”
Thanks to those who participated in the event, the Special Olympics received

thousands of dollars to help the more than 5,000 Special Olympics athletes in the Chicago area for events throughout the year.
For some, the plunge was an old habit. Many attendees participated in the plunge at least once before; some had participated in the event every year since its inception 10 years ago.
But for those who took the icy plunge for the first time, there were no trepidations, only excitement.
“First of all, [the Polar Plunge] is something I’ve always wanted to do,” said Brandon Sparling, who raised the second highest amount of money on team Liquid Courage. “I’ve seen polar plunges going on here and there, all over the place, and I was like, ‘You know what, I’d like to do that some time.’”
Sparling got his opportunity to participate in the Polar Plunge because of the organizational skills of his friend Yonk.
Yonk organized the event’s largest team, with more than 60 members signing up to run down the beach and into the chilly waters of Lake Michigan.
The large group Yonk put together raised the most money out of the many participating groups and had the highest individual total raised by anyone participating.
As of March 10, Yonk’s team, Liquid Courage, had raised more than \$14,800 for the Special Olympics through donations from friends, family, strangers and local businesses.
Team Liquid Courage did several large fund raisers before the event, including a charity poker tournament and a 100-person flippy cup tournament at local bars. Along with the fundraisers, Yonk and his friends hounded everyone they knew to join their cause.
“[I did] a lot of badgering,” Yonk said.

“I set up a Facebook event wall back in January and just got all my friends to add all their friends on. We got a lot of e-mails, called a lot of friends; we got people from pretty much every social circle.”
With so many supporters, Liquid Courage and the rest of the participants readied themselves for a cold weekend.
However, Mother Nature had other ideas and gave participants an overcast, 46-degree day. With such great conditions, Yonk and his team were excited about the event even more than last year.
“I was excited looking at the weather approaching up to the week,” said Cliff Payne, another Chicago native who was part of team Liquid Courage. “It looked like it was going to be in the 40s, so I was pretty happy that out of all the weekends to do it in March, I think we got a pretty favorable weekend to do it.”
After what Yonk endured last year, he said the conditions could not have been better.
“Last year it was snowing out, [Lake Michigan] was frozen over,” Yonk said. “They had to have two bulldozers clear out the whole thing. The first two steps in the water was just four feet of slush.”
While the event only lasted a few hours, the memories the participants have will stick with them. As will the feeling of accomplishment from bringing in so much money for the Special Olympics.
Those feelings have led Yonk to plan an even bigger group next year, with a goal of getting 100-plus people together and raising even more money than this year.
For more information on how to donate to the Polar Plunge or to sign up for next year’s event, visit ChicagoPolarPlunge.org.

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A bug snack

Just a few key ingredients result in a salty, savory treat



by Andrew Billmyer
Advertising Account Executive

IT'S THAT time of night—the time of night when one is up late cramming for that last midterm and slowly the hunger bug creeps up. The question is: sweet or salty, crunchy or chewy? Decisions, decisions.

Tomorrow's exam can take a back seat; all one can think about are delicious snacks. Raiding the fridge, tearing through the cabinets and sweeping through the pantry only to find a few vegetables, a handful of raisins, a bottle of honey and jar of smooth, creamy peanut butter. With a favorite plate at hand, a masterpiece unfolds: the bug snack.

First, collect three stalks of celery and wash them under cool water, then pat dry. Next, slice off the ends of the celery to leave three clean stalks.

Lay the three stalks on a cutting surface and slice each in half horizontally. Place the six pieces on the plate and begin to build the bug. Take the honey and lightly drizzle it onto each piece of celery, coating the inside crevice completely.

Next, carefully spoon one tablespoon of your favorite rich and smooth peanut butter onto each of the six pieces, covering the honey and filling the inside of the celery.

Finally, the most important ingredient comes into play—the icing on the cake; the

butter on the popcorn. Of course, it's the raisins. Those glorious, antioxidant filled, dried pieces of fruit!

Place eight on each peanut buttery, crunchy, honey-filled piece of celery like buttons on a snowman and it's time to dig in.

The combination of sweet, salty, crunchy and chewy answers the study hunger pangs. The protein from the peanut butter and the natural sugar from the honey and raisins both taste good and are healthy.

The moral of the story is to think twice

Lenny Gilmore THE CHRONICLE

INGREDIENTS

3 celery stalks
1 1/2 tablespoons honey
6 tablespoons smooth Peanut butter
48 raisins

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Rinse 3 stalks of celery and pat dry.
2. Cut stalks of celery in half horizontally.
3. Lightly drizzle honey onto the celery halves.
4. Spoon and spread 1 tablespoon of smooth peanut butter into each celery piece.
5. Place eight raisins onto each celery piece.
6. Enjoy.

before tossing aside those random foods that can always be found lingering on the top shelf of the kitchen cabinets. One can never know what a delicious snack they could make. And always remember, food generates brain power, so next time you get stuck in a rut, there's always refuge in a creepy-crawly friend waiting to come to your rescue.

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Luck of the Chi-rish

Veterans speak out

U.S. ARMY Reserve Sgt. Alex Villatoro’s words cast a silence over the crowd gathered in The Hideout. Villatoro has been called to serve in Afghanistan for his third deployment. He shared with the audience that he is against the Iraq and Afghanistan war, but a part of them.

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



Lenny Gilmore THE CHRONICLE

In addition to Sgt. Alex Villatoro (above) and other veterans, local musicians and artists, including Mark Messing from Mucca Pazza and Sad Brad Smith, spoke at The Hideout, 1354 W. Wabansia Ave.

VILLATORO IS a member of the Iraq Veterans against the War, the organization that hosted the event at The Hideout, 1354 W. Wabansia Ave., on March 8. He was one of 13 people who took the stage to perform or speak. Among them were actors, a professor, musicians, a prison guard from Guantanamo Bay and veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq. The organizer’s goal for the night was to educate the audience and give them a first-hand account of what it’s been like for troops during the past nine years.

“I’m hoping that I can shed a new light for these soldiers before we leave,” Villatoro said. “It might seem too much of a dream. I wish we all could just stand and say, ‘We’re not going.’ I wish it was that easy. That’s my struggle.”

Villatoro told the audience he felt conflicted about his re-deployment and didn’t want to leave his soldiers under someone else’s command.

“My biggest struggle right now is another sergeant might take my position and lead them the wrong way,” Villatoro said.

Northwestern University history professor Rajeev Kinra also spoke. He was invited by the Iraq Veterans Against the War to give historical context in Iraq and Afghanistan and he said most people don’t know that history—even those who served in those countries.

“The veterans who spoke yesterday made that point,” Kinra said. “Most of them expressed in one way or another that when they got there, things were totally different

than what they had been led to believe.”

Kinra said he felt good about how the night went and got a good response from both the audience and the veterans there.

One attendee, Matthew B. Ornstein, was deployed in Umm Qasr, Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He served in the United States Coast Guard, clearing the waterway where the Tigris and Euphrates rivers meet. He is one of the founding members of the Chicago Iraq Veterans Against the War chapter.

Ornstein joined another anti-war organization, Veterans for Peace, while the boat he was stationed on, the USCGC Walnut, made its return trip to the United States. His decision to join the Veterans for Peace and help found the Chicago chapter of Iraq Veterans Against the War reflects his disillusionment with U.S. Policy

“I was in the service when 9/11 went down, and my gut response—I don’t know if it was as an American or as a man—was we have to go bomb somebody,” Ornstein said. “I was all about it. I thought we would make the world a better place by knocking down the Taliban. Then two years later, they said there were [Weapons of Mass Destruction] coming ... I wanted to believe.”

His time served was relatively tranquil compared to others and was isolated from much of the fighting.

“In Iraq, I didn’t kill anybody,” Ornstein said. “Nobody tried to kill me. I had a pretty benign job ... we gave all-new navigational aides to the Kwar Abd Allah waterway lead-

ing into Iraq to and from the gulf to make it safe and navigable ... I really left my corner of the country in better shape than we found it.”

On Iraq Veterans Against the War’s Web site, the organization calls for the immediate withdrawal of all occupying forces in Iraq and reparations for human damage caused by the United States. Kinra said he is anti-war, but the situation requires a sense

of perspective.

“The reality of the situation is [President Barack] Obama can’t just walk in the door and say, ‘OK, we’re leaving,’” Kinra said. “It wouldn’t be practical or advisable. The question is how—if you want to ultimately leave—do you do it responsibly? There’s no easy answer to that question.”

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Lenny Gilmore THE CHRONICLE

Chloe Johnston (above) performed skits with Jessica Hudson based off of the U.S. Army/Marine Corps Counterinsurgency Field Manual. She is demonstrating what it is like to be inside a military tank.



Brent Lewis THE CHRONICLE

Tampico has been a Chicago-based street artist for many years. She plays several instruments including the violin and guitar, while tap dancing, singing and whistling.

Celebrating street jams

Organization educates about public performers, coordinates additional gigs

by Mina Bloom

Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

A DISREGARD for street musicians' guitar tricks or harmonica solos in the El tunnel is incredibly common. But, aside from adding character to the city's urban environment, these musicians have a rich musical background and sincerely love what they do, which is why in 2009, musicians Sarah Barnes and Gabriel Chapman founded a soon-to-be nonprofit organization called Chicago Street Musicians.

The group was designed to provide additional performance opportunities for street

musicians and to educate the public about the talents of Chicago-based musicians, who contrary to popular belief, are neither beggars nor homeless, Chapman explained.

"We both share a passion for trying to shed light on musicians who might not be well-recognized," said Barnes, who works full time as the vice president of marketing and communications for Cook Associates Inc., which is a business centered around mergers and acquisitions advisory services.

After spending a great deal of time in the Washington Blue Line subway tunnel, Chapman realized many of the musicians he encountered exhibited real creative talent. After talking with many of them, he discovered some had incredible backgrounds in music.

"I thought: 'Someone should organize a gig for these musicians. Their music should be featured,'" said Chapman, who plays guitar and sings for his latest projects, Juno+Jupiter and About A Girl.

After conducting a survey to ask street musicians why they choose to play on the street as opposed to clubs, Barnes and Chapman began their initiative by organizing a music video project for the song "Sweet Home Chicago," involving about 18 different musicians to draw attention to some of the unknown, or perhaps overlooked talent.

Crystal Bowersox, for example, is a 24-year-old musician who works with Chicago Street Musicians and performs gigs around the city and her native town of Toledo, Ohio. Bowersox is currently one of the finalists in this season of "American Idol."

Many of the other Chicago street musicians are also educated, classically trained and motivated.

"There's a drummer who's written instructional drum books, one of the musicians was starting grad school studying social work at University of Illinois at Chicago, a bunch of the guys who are playing at Potbelly, wine shops, churches, clubs, bars—all around town," Chapman said. "They have recordings and they're doing all kinds of neat things."

Chicago Street Musicians mainly receives visibility from its Web site, Facebook page, Twitter and street musicians who pass the word along. Its job, Chapman said, consists of coordinating gigs for the musicians they choose to work with by simply acting as a go-between for companies that request performers and the performers themselves.

"We do not work as a booking agency," Barnes said. "We do not receive any money from organizations who want to hire them because Chicago Street Musicians is purely volunteer."

Some of the more recent jobs Chicago Street Musicians has coordinated include an ad agency promoting Axe body spray, Active Transit Alliance promoting car-free day, a Chicago Cares benefit and celebrating the new Columbia Sportswear store on Michigan Avenue, Chapman said.

But despite such accomplishments, Barnes pointed out that negative stereotypes associated with street performing have to do with cultural ignorance.

"You go to Europe, you'll see a bunch of street performers and it's a part of their culture," Barnes said. "We're stuck with this stereotype in the states and it's simply not reflective of who they are."

Growing up in Haiti, Fritz Legros played in the National Orchestra at age 15. Since 1984, however, he played guitar on the street in New York City and moved to Chicago to do the same in 1995.

Legros, who plays guitar, harmonica and sings primarily in the Jackson El tunnel, is currently recording and has recently played music at Haitian benefit concerts across the city.

Barnes and Chapman discovered Legros after reading a Chicago Tribune article and approached him about becoming a part of their organization. Legros said they do a wonderful job of bringing together the Chicago street performers community, most of whom he knows.

"People might think, 'Why are they begging?'" Legros said of street performers. "But then they realize you're actually playing great music—like, 'Man, you could be playing in the club or a recording artist. You sound good.'"

For more information, visit ChicagoStreetMusicians.com.

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FILM REVIEW

Not so wonderful Alice

Director’s usual dark, weird creativity becomes normal

by David Orlikoff
Film Critic

TIM BURTON is not a director—he is a brand. His name defines an aesthetic built from dozens of longtime creative collaborators, from Danny Elfman and Helena Bonham Carter to the lesser known Colleen Atwood and Chris Lebenzon. I don’t mean that he is more bigheaded than anyone else in Hollywood; he might be very appreciative of their work defining his aesthetic. But our understanding of the product is not factual, it privileges his myth of authorship. So much so, in fact, that there are people walking around adorned with characters from “The Nightmare Before Christmas” that do not know the film was directed by Henry Selick.

And as a brand, our perceptions of him are more than just inaccurate; they are actively doctored as if he were a politician or clothing company. Tim Burton is a weird, dark visionary outsider who somehow keeps getting away with his crazy shenanigans—or so the myth goes. But after seeing his latest film, “Alice in Wonderland,” which Hollywood insiders like Richard D. Zanuck fronted over \$200 million dollars for, I’m struck by how normal it was. Of course, he has a distinct visual style and I don’t need to mention the film stars Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham

‘Alice in Wonderland’

Starring: Mia Wasikowska
Director: Tim Burton
Run Time: 108 minutes

Rating: PG

Now playing at local theaters.



Carter, this time with Anne Hathaway and newcomer Mia Wasikowska playing Alice. But does that make him weird, or transgressive in any way? No, it makes him pretty.

Once upon a time, Burton directed a film called “Edward Scissorhands” about an outcast whose differences were dangerous and the girl who grew to see the beauty of his alternative lifestyle. Nowadays, it seems like Burton’s characters are always more tame than his biggest Hot Topic-shopping fans. It might not be fair to say he’s sold out, if only because we made him what he is. America needs an inside outsider, an acceptable weird—it’s at the core of our national identity. As we grow up, we are all told we are special, and when we go to school we learn about the rebellious founding fathers and the intrepid Lewis and Clark. We want simultaneously to be individuals and to have our individuality lead the mainstream to loving us. I can’t think of another director that embodies this more than Tim Burton.

The plot and structure of Alice are very disappointing. Coupled with the fact that this is a meaningless remake, the theme of



MCT Newswire

Mia Wasikowska plays Alice in Tim Burton’s remake of the classic film “Alice in Wonderland.” Wasikowska stars alongside Burton’s usual cast of Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter.

destiny made it impossible to enjoy anything beyond the most superficial plastic elements of the film, which were of course its strong suit. Alice is supposed to be in this crazy, absurdist land, but for some reason all the rules of conventional drab storytelling still apply. This is a battle of good against evil more clear-cut than in “Star Wars” or George W. Bush’s argument in support of the “War on Terror.”

After reading this, you might be thinking I still owe you a review. And normally I agree that a person should be able to read a piece of criticism and decide if they might like the film based on its description, regardless of the conclusions the author made. But in this case, I believe my review will have little influence on the movie-going public. Those who love Burton just love Burton. I used to be one of them, and that’s why I’m so hard


on him now.

Though at its core a bad film, there are many redeeming factors in “Alice.” Both queens, but particularly Bonham Carter’s, are positively splendiferous. The visuals are better than those of “Avatar” and the ensemble cast of CGI animals are very fun.

At the tea party, Depp promises that on the fraptious day, if she slays the Jabberwocky, then he will do a dance. And guess what, that was the plot of the film. Whether or not you like it depends entirely on your enjoyment of Depp’s hatter doing a goofy dance to goofier music. So I can’t tell you if you should see this movie or not. I don’t know how you feel about goofy dances interrupting the lack of narrative. Maybe you love them. I think they are just OK.

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OPENS NATIONWIDE MARCH 26

Volunteers work toward literacy

Nonprofit makes great strides since 2006, new program this summer

by **Mina Bloom**

Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

THE ABILITY to effortlessly read a book on the train is in stark contrast with the number of Chicagoans who simply cannot comprehend words on a page. Close to 61 percent of low-income families in Chicago don't own children's books and 20 percent of Americans read at or below a 5th grade level, according to ProLiteracy Worldwide.

Since 2006, Open Books combated these alarming illiteracy statistics in Chicago by developing creative writing and reading programs for inner-city students and adults. The nonprofit opened a bookstore in November 2009 and organizes events that stress the importance of literacy, which are all made possible by the number of passionate volunteers who wholeheartedly commit themselves to the mission of the organization.

"The reason we've been so successful is because people love to read out there and once people find out the grave situation we're in, they want to be able to support it somehow," said Becca Keaty, director of marketing and public relations for Open Books. "Reading is a very easy thing to wrap your brain around. You know how to read so it makes you feel empowered to help others."

Keaty, who founded the organization along with Executive Director Stacy Ratner, recalled the beginning stages of Open Books as a mere idea amongst friends in Ratner's basement.

"In that time frame of the business we were very busy collecting books, spreading awareness, recruiting volunteers and figuring out what kind of programs we wanted to do," Keaty said. "Three years were spent doing those sorts of things before we opened our bookstore in November of 2009."

Proceeds from the colorful public bookstore with an apparent reading-is-fun vibe, at 213 W. Institute Place, fund Open Books' literacy program. Kevin Elliot, Open Books bookstore manager, said patrons of the bookstore are diverse.

"We're next to the The Moody Bible Institute, so at first a lot of our customer base was from there, along with the people who live in the neighborhood," said Elliot, who began working for Open Books in October 2009 and worked in bookstores for nine years before then. "Now it's like, 'I live in Wicker Park and I always go to Myopic Books, but I heard about you guys.' And those people become repeat customers."

At the bookstore, about 65 people volunteer to help shelve, take inventory and implement customer service. Overall, more than 3,000 volunteers help each facet of the organization thrive, explained volunteer coordinator Ava Zeligon. Whether they become writing coaches or college mentors, supervise events or complete administrative tasks, volunteers are the

crux of the operation.

"They're all bright, passionate people who have a wide variety of strengths and experiences," said Zeligon, who began working at Open Books as a literacy intern in May 2009. "We're able to share how literacy has touched them and extend them to those who might not be so fortunate."

Some of the programs include but are not limited to Open Books' Buddies Reading Program, Adventures in Creative Writing field trips, VWrite, a virtual college mentor-

ing program, and annually participating in Printers Row Lit Fest, the Midwest's largest literary event.

With all of the new space in the literacy center, Zeligon said they will begin hosting a program called Wordshop, where educators or experienced workshop leaders will come and collaborate to teach reading and writing classes for students and adults this summer.

For more information, visit OpenBooks.com.

hbloom@chroniclemail.com



Andy Keil THE CHRONICLE

Kevin Elliot is the store manager at Open Books located at 213 W. Institute Place.

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Celebrating Irish

The history of Chicago is rich and infused with many different world cultures living and working together. The diverse cultures within the city have all added their own characteristics to the community. Be it architecture, dance, music or cuisine, Chicago is its own cultural melting pot. Now, however, is the time when one specific culture in the city steps into the spotlight to celebrate their personal heritage and cultural impact—they are the Irish-Americans.

March 17, St. Patrick's Day, has long been a city-wide celebration resulting in numerous festivities which include two of the most popular city events: The St. Patrick's Day Parade and The Southside Irish Family Festival. These two events alone bring the Irish-American population of Chicago and countless fans of the holiday together to relish the traditions of Irish culture. Most people are unaware that the city's history is full of Irish influence. From the beer people drink right down to churches, Irish-Americans have helped shape what Chicago is today.

During the St. Patrick's Day celebration, Chicago celebrates its Irish heritage by going green. That is to say, the city dyes the Chicago River a vibrant green. The dyeing of the river is world-renowned and tourists from around the globe travel to see it happen. The dye itself is a secret, with the recipe under lock and key, but there is no doubt Chicagoans are proud to show their support for their Irish neighbors.

Much like other cultures, Chicagoans owe a great deal to Irish-Americans. When Chicago first became a city, Irish immigrants and settlers helped develop the architecture of the city, and build the canals that the city uses for exporting and importing goods. The Irish have been a key building block to Chicago's society, said Tim McDonnell, executive director of the Irish American Heritage Center.

"They are a huge part of the general make up of the city and the fabric," McDonnell said. "The history of the city itself is included

with them. The Irish had a huge hand in building this city, building its canal, its buildings and bridges. They did much of the hard work that laid the infrastructure for one of the world's greatest cities."

McDonnell said that over the past 150 years, Irish-Americans have moved to Chicago and made the city one of the most Irish-populated cities in the world.

"Musically speaking, a lot of Irish musicians look to Chicago as a place to try and break into the U.S. market"

-Brian Keigher

"Chicago is a trading hub. In the beginning, a lot of Irish came here to help build the Illinois-Michigan canal," McDonnell said. "The core message is that [Chicago] is the crossroads of Irish-America. That is not only in the current context because [Chicago] is such a proud Irish hub, but in the historical context as well."

Apart from Chicago, the Irish who came to America also helped create eastern cities like New York and Boston, both of which have prominent Irish-American populations to date, McDonnell said. After providing assistance in the eastern cities, the Irish migrated westward to California to chase gold; resulting in a large Irish community in San Francisco.

According to the 2007 United States Census, Chicago is home to more than 201,836 thousand citizens with Irish heritage, including Celtic, which comprises about 7.1 percent of the total 2.8 million residents in the city. Due to the large population, the Irish-American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave., stays busy year-round to help preserve the Irish culture.

Opened in 1976, the Irish-American Heritage Center has been hard at work preserving, educating and demonstrating the beauty of the Irish culture,



Story by Colin Shively
Design by Lisa Danielson



Photo by Dean Battaglia

Chicago's Culture



Photo by Cathy Curry

McDonnell said. The center moved into its current location in 1985. The Heritage Center does indeed celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a variety of shows, performances and exhibitions, but in reality is it just another day for them.

"The Heritage Center is pretty unique, every day is pretty much St. Patrick's Day here," McDonnell said. "This place is extraordinary in preserving the traditions in music, dance, theater, singing and in sports and making sure that the Irish traditions live on in Chicago. This is the house to walk into if you want to get a taste of what it is like in Ireland."

The Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St., much like the Irish-American Heritage Center, doesn't limit its Irish culture events to just St. Patrick's Day. Throughout the year, it proudly demonstrates the vibrant culture by hosting artists of all backgrounds from Chicago and even from Ireland.

"Musically speaking, a lot of Irish musicians look to Chicago as a place to try and break into the U.S. market because there are so many Irish here," said Brian Keigher, programs coordinator for the Office of Cultural Affairs. "They feel like it isn't that far of a jump from Ireland. They feel more at home."

The Cultural Center has played host to numerous performers that have brought true Irish culture to

Chicago. Sean Cleland, a famous Irish fiddler, is one such performer who has made a name for himself in the city.

In 2003, Cleland founded the Irish Music School of Chicago because he wanted to share and teach the traditional methods of Irish music. The school reaches out to Chicago-based Irish musicians to come and pass their knowledge on to students interested in learning that style of musicianship. Students who have competed with the school have received numerous awards such as the 2009 Midwest Fleadh Cheoil from 2005-2009.

"The great thing about Chicago is that there are so many different cultures," said Kathy Meldic, business manager at the Irish School of Music. "You can't go anywhere without experiencing some type of culture and [Cleland] wanted to create a place where anyone can come and experience the richness and uniqueness of Irish music. The teachers we have here are just amazing in getting the students interested in music and the students themselves are just, amazing."

McDonnell described Chicago as the crossroad of the Midwest, where cultures of the world blend together and bring about the culture in which Chicagoans live on a daily basis.

"The Irish-Americans in Chicago, and across the nation, are proud of their heritage. McDonnell said, "We have helped shape this city into what it is today and being

able to show our culture through various means is not a way to make us better than others, but to show a piece of the people who live here."

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Sundance festival director talks film

‘ODDSAC’ features Animal Collective, images to create visual album

by David Orlikoff
Film Critic

DANNY PEREZ is a visual artist with a powerful aesthetic. He considers himself 21st Century, an alternate term for post-postmodern. His work is expansive, textured and dark, bordering on absurd and psychedelic. It involves the audience with its raw emotion and visceral effect on the senses.

Perez has been a longtime friend and collaborator with the band Animal Collective, finding their unique sound a perfect playground for his images. In the past he has directed two music videos for them and lately, he has been very busy. Perez just had a major exhibition at the Guggenheim Museum with Animal Collective and continues to screen what they are calling a visual album after its premier at Sundance this year. “ODDSAC,” is a collaboration between Perez and the band, featuring 53 minutes of his unique visuals and their new music made just for this project. “ODDSAC” comes to Chicago with Perez and members of the band March 17 at the Music Box Theater. The Chronicle talked with Perez by phone to ask him about his current successes, evolution as an artist and where he hopes to go from here.

The Columbia Chronicle: How did the exhibition go at the Guggenheim? The pictures online look amazing.

Danny Perez: I was pretty satisfied. Everyone

involved had to jump through a lot of hoops to get it done, so I think in the end the timeframe I had was pretty ridiculous. Just the fact that we got anything up is pretty sweet. I liked it. I think I achieved what I wanted to achieve. I don’t honestly know if it’s what other people wanted or what they were hoping it was going to be, as far as it not being a concert. It was cool, it was a good opportunity to move forward with some aesthetics that I’ve been trying to get into lately. So I’m satisfied in that regard.

The Chronicle: You said you achieved what you wanted artistically, what was that?

DP: I think it was either the desire to have it function beyond just an art show with stuff on white walls and be an exhibition where we wanted to create something that could be ever-changing, as far as the lighting and the video and all these other elements. And something that would appear different from the top floor or the bottom floor. So I think in that regard we were able to present this odd form of controlled chaos that I think is indicative of a lot of my work.

The Chronicle: Was the project all your doing or did you collaborate with Animal Collective?

DP: The visual end was basically all me and the

audio end was all them. And we worked together as far as what the tone would be and how these things would go together visually and sonically. But the visual end is all me as far as its being based on my designs and I work with a team of people that I have to fabricate all the stuff and lay it out. And, at the same time, I’m working the video elements that work in conjunction with the more sculptural elements. It’s a lot of work and a lot to manage and keep cohesive when it’s being made in all these different areas with different people and such.

The Chronicle: How did you get started as an artist? What has your evolution been?

DP: I started off in film. I went to film school in New York and at that point I was working towards making more narrative movies, but at the same time working with animation and more visual elements as far as costumes and such. But basically after college was when I was spending a lot of time on the road with Black Dice and Animal Collective and that really informs a lot of my opportunities and my aesthetic. So just from doing visuals over the years, and having more of a relationship with musicians than filmmakers, even with the medium of film I feel like that kind of informs my editing style and the way I interpret how things should move across the screen. So if anything, music has been and continues to be

super influential—I would argue I am more influenced by music than by other media. I met Animal Collective around 2001 and that was their first tour, and that was my first tour. And we met and we’ve just been friends since, and from hanging out over the years just watching movies together, being on tour, I think we have a lot of similar tastes and I can tell when I’m designing something, I can tell with their tastes if they are gonna go for it or not and I can kind of fashion towards that. And vice versa, I think the fact that I’m very well versed in their music allows them to fashion things in that regard. There are certain songs I do like or don’t like, and for a certain scene they can say, “Oh I don’t think Dan is really going to like this movement” or vice versa.

The Chronicle: Is there a narrative in “ODDSAC?”

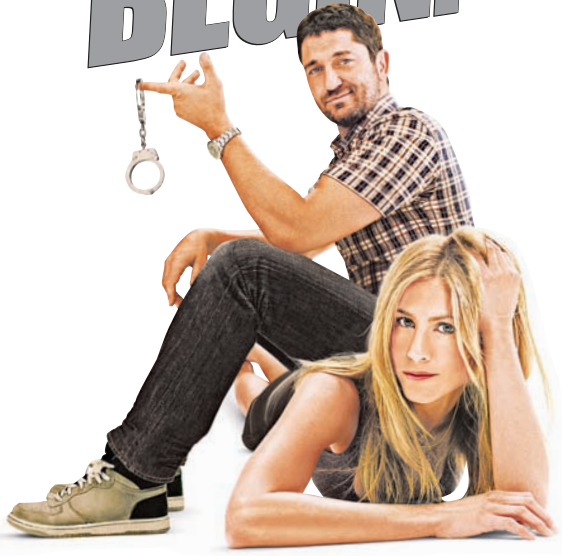
DP: There are narrative elements and I would argue there’s a psychological narrative or definitively some kind of arc there, but it’s pretty devoid of the normal trappings such as dialogue and plot and structure and such. But there’s a narrative there to me. It has an arc of its own and I like to think it’s just moving in its own language. That was kind of the whole idea to create something that could communicate, something different or something that we felt wasn’t present in a lot of movies or has just been barely scratched upon the surface of.

To read the full interview with Danny Perez, go to ColumbiaChronicle.com and navigate to the Arts & Culture section.

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Playing with art

IAM Department exhibit showcases work by game design students, faculty

by Luke Wilusz
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

THE INTERACTIVE Arts and Media Department celebrated a culture of fun and frivolity last week with the opening of the third annual “Art of Play” exhibit.

The exhibit, which features work by game design students and faculty, as well as two- and three-dimensional artwork from other concentrations, focuses around a central theme of lighthearted, playful fun. The show’s March 11 opening also featured a classic game competition put together by Columbia’s Regen Game Club.

Sal J. Barry, an IAM adjunct faculty member and coordinator of the show, said he wanted “Art of Play 3” to be a departure from a culture of what he considers overly-serious art installations, focusing instead on “games, play and fun.”

“I think a lot of Columbia exhibits are a little too serious sometimes,” Barry said. “I think a lot of art is really serious. I mean, it’s always like ‘Fact and faith and fiction’ and ‘Where will you go when you die?’ and ‘What does this mean?’ and it’s suffering and stuff like that. And we’re just like, ‘Games, fun, play!’ Upbeat, you know? It’s not going to be a dimly-lit room. It’s going to have fun stuff. That’s really what I want it to be about. There’s plenty of outlets for the more moody stuff, but this isn’t one of them.”

Barry said while some of the games featured might contain violence, their main purpose

is still fun and entertainment, so they are included in the show.

“Games might use violence, but that’s still as a means of release or a means of fun,” he said. “If you think of a fighting game, you’re beating the hell out of the other guy, but you’re having fun. After playing ‘Street Fighter’ for an hour, you’re not pissed off, you don’t want to go out and beat up somebody; you’ve had a good time. So violence in games can be an outlet; it can still be enjoyable. It’s pretend. It’s make believe.”

Barry, who teaches Web Design and Authoring Interactive Media courses in the department, noticed the “Art of Play” show—which has happened every year since 2008—wasn’t on the schedule for this year. He decided to step up and organize it in order to give game design students an avenue through which to showcase their work. He also made a point to showcase faculty work along with student projects.

“I think it is a good feeling for the students to have their work displayed with faculty,” Barry said. “I think it kind of brings us closer together than, ‘This is student work and this is faculty work and they can’t be together.’”

Aaron Baker, a programming major whose game, “Facesketball,” was featured in the show, said the exhibit gave students a more organized time table and forced them to work like professionals.

“One thing that people look for when you go out in the world to find a job is completed projects, how many games you’ve finished,” Baker said. “[‘Art of Play’] gives you a deadline, you know, something to work towards, and at that point you have to declare it finished.”



Andy Keil THE CHRONICLE

From right to left: Donald Smith, a sophomore theater major, beats opponents Dane Foltin (Audio Arts & Acoustics) and Phil Hogan (Theater) at “Warlords” on the Atari 2600. The classic gaming competition was held March 11 in the lobby of the 916 S. Wabash Ave. Building.

Patrick Budris, who worked on a game called “Cowboy Six Gun Run” with game development major Andrew Forster, said the show puts a spotlight on underappreciated talent at Columbia.

“I think it’s good for raising awareness,” Budris said. “Because our program seems to be a lesser-known one at Columbia and we have a lot of talented students in the department. I think it’s a really good showcase for them to show off what kind of skills they have.”

Barry said the retro game focus for the competition after “Art of Play’s” opening was specifically chosen to invite people who might not normally play games to participate.

“The people coming to the show are probably not going to be interested in a competition unless it’s games that are accessible to them,” said Barry, who provided two Atari 2600 consoles for the Regen Game Club to use in the competition.

He said people would be less intimidated by one button and a joystick than they would by the current generation’s complex controls, and would be more likely to play.

While the exhibit focuses on showcasing the games themselves, Barry said he wished there was more space available to do an exhibit highlighting the often-overlooked artistic aspects of video games.

“Nobody will look at a well-designed game and say, ‘Wow, this is really good,’” Barry said. “I mean, they might take a look at a movie and say, ‘Wow, this is really good,’ or a graphic design and say, ‘Wow, this is really good.’ But as a game, it’s just like, ‘Oh yeah, that’s a cool game,’ and nobody really thinks about what goes into it.”

“Art of Play 3” runs through April 1 in the IAM Department’s Project Room, located in the 916 S. Wabash Ave. Building, room 111.

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Young director’s big break in ‘After.Life’

Filmmaker goes from short film at Sundance to Hollywood feature

by Luke Wilusz
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

FILMMAKER AGNIESZKA Wojtowicz-Vosloo had a lot of success early in her career. As a film student at New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts, her first short film, “Pâté,” premiered at the 2001 Sundance Film Festival. Since then, she graduated from film school and went from short filmmaking to write and direct her first feature, “After.Life,” a psychological thriller starring Liam Neeson,

Christina Ricci and Justin Long. It is set to hit theaters April 9. Vosloo grew up in Warsaw, Poland, and considered going to film school in Łódź, Poland, before she decided to emigrate and study at NYU. The difficulties young filmmakers experienced in the Polish film industry largely influenced this decision.

“When I was in high school, I realized that in Poland, at that point, to have a debut as a filmmaker or a theater director you would nor-

mally have to wait until you’re like 40,” she said. “Which is kind of a scary thing because as a young filmmaker you want to start making movies and have hands-on experience. But in Poland, it takes a very long time to actually have your debut. [It’s] just how the system is set up.”

Vosloo started at NYU in 1999 and made “Pâté”—a post-apocalyptic short dealing with survival instincts and cannibalism—on a very limited budget during her second year of school.

“It had a very kind of rich visual world to it, which was a huge challenge for me because as a student, I didn’t have money,” she said. “So I had to be very resourceful in terms of creating this whole world. But I loved the challenge.”

Her resourcefulness included finding broken furniture on the streets of New York, persuading local businesses to donate food or supplies and working at all hours of the night and in any kind of weather to put her vision on film. And it paid off.

“It’s such a great short film that I’m still showing it in my classes to show her very original way of directing the actors; how to do almost a

post-apocalyptic subgenre adaptation of the Hansel and Gretel story,” said Karl Bardosh, one of Vosloo’s film professors from NYU.

“Pâté” earned her the critical acclaim and recognition that allowed her to begin working on a feature. She got an agent her second year of school and was offered scripts for feature films, but she declined all of them.

“It was very tempting to take them,” she said. “Because how many times do you have something offered while you’re still in school, you know? It was a huge, huge, huge opportunity, but I decided actually not to take them because I didn’t respond to them and I believed that I have to do something that I’m passionate about. It’s very hard for me to do something I’m not passionate about. I don’t believe in that.”

Instead, Vosloo began writing the script for “After.Life” in 2005 after graduating from NYU in 2003. She said the process for developing a feature film was virtually identical to developing the short, only on a larger scale.

“You develop the material that is good, that you believe in, and then you basically just persevere, you know?” Vosloo said. “You have to be persistent. You have to believe in what you do, I would say. If you don’t believe in what you do then no one else will.”

Once the script was finished, independent producer and financier Bill Perkins picked it up. Perkins said he was impressed by Vosloo’s writing, vision and enthusiasm.

“Based on the quality of the script and her passion, her preparations for it—she prepared for a long time—we felt comfortable taking a bet on her,” Perkins said.

Now that “After.Life” is done and awaiting release, Vosloo spends time thinking about her next project. She said she’d like to work on a comedy to break her current trend of darker, psychological films, although she doesn’t think too much about genre when she writes.

“It has to be a story,” she said. “I think it all starts with a story that grabs you, and the rest you create. But as a filmmaker, you need the right story that connects with you, that resonates with you. So it’s not really that much about the genre, it’s more about the story and then finding the right way of telling that story for me.”

Whatever the young director ends up working on, Perkins said he’s confident she’ll have a long career ahead of her.

“I don’t think you could stop her,” Perkins said, laughing. “You’d have to throw her in jail for her not to have a long career. I mean, it’s a tough time in the movie business right now. There are less films being made and there’s less capital available, but I’m sure Agnieszka will find a way.”

“After.Life” is distributed by Anchor Bay Films and opens nationwide April 9. For theater locations and showtimes, check local listings.

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STAFF PLAYLIST

CRISTINA AGUIRRE, MULTIMEDIA EDITOR



U2 // SWEETEST THING
PASSION PIT // SLEEPYHEAD
VAMPIRE WEEKEND // A-PUNK
LACUNA COIL // SPELLBOUND

BRENT LEWIS, PHOTO EDITOR



LAURYN HILL // I FIND IT HARD TO SAY (REBEL)
LIL WAYNE // SINGLE
KINGS OF LEON // REVELRY
SAUL WILLIAMS // TALK TO STRANGERS

LAURA NALIN, ASSISTANT CAMPUS EDITOR



LES PETITS PILOUS // JOLIE FILLE ELECTRO FIDGET (BLO-
ODY BEATROOTS REMIX)
ELIOT LIPP // GLOW STICK
MF DOOM // PERFUME OF DOOM
MIMOSA // FLUX FOR LIFE

BENITA ZEPEDA, CAMPUS EDITOR



MIIKE SNOW // SILVIA
PHOENIX // LISZTOMANIA
KID CUDI // SKY MIGHT FALL
PASSION PIT // SLEEPYHEAD



CHICAGO AUDIOFILE



Courtesy LARRY MEYER

From left: Jeremy “JT” Lindsay (vocals, guitar), Mike August (drums), Chris Neal (keys, sax), Dan Abu-Absi (guitars, mandolin) and Drew Lindsay (keys, accordion) comprise JT & the Clouds.

JT’s family band sets the groove

by Cody Prentiss
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

JEREMY “JT” Lindsay considers his band, JT & the Clouds, a family—a working unit of six performers making the music they enjoy. Because of it, the groove-infused blues and soul they produce is uniquely theirs. Lindsay plays with his brother Drew Lindsay and friends he grew up with in Toledo, Ohio. They’ve released three albums and have a fourth, “Caledonia,” scheduled for release on April 16.

The Chronicle recently talked to Lindsay about the new release and why being unique in Chicago is an advantage.

The Chronicle: How is your latest record going to be different from your other CDs?

Jeremy Lindsay: The JP Nero record we did in 2008 was a bunch of pretty sad songs. They all came from a raw time emotionally, and it was fitting they were together. The record kind of ended up being soft and kind of sad—a little weirder in terms of some of the sonic textures. I think for this one, we were kind of anxious to get back to a full band just playing—not a lot of studio tricks. Just getting after it as a band, which is what I think we do well. The songs are little more compact and the record on the whole grooves really hard. I’m really proud of it in that respect. This is a record you can put on for an entire drive and not worry about being put down or falling asleep.

The Chronicle: Have you found that sounding different than what people expect has helped you be successful?

JL: Maybe. I think that Chicago is a great music town and there are a number of places that you can play in town that don’t cater to a type of music. The rooms that we like to play in Chicago—like the Empty Bottle, where we’re doing our CD release, or The Hideout or Schubas—they’re indie music rooms, but they’re not ghettoed to one thing. It’s not like you know you’re going to hear this type of band when you go to this one place. I think that helps in

Chicago because people are pretty open-minded when it comes to what they’ll see. It doesn’t have to be any one thing. I think in the larger market, sometimes it provides some difficulties. People always want to put you into something that people can easily understand and compare to something that came before. I understand that impulse, but we’re not too intrigued by it. You do what you do and hope people sort it out. We have a certain amount of faith that there’s a lot of music fans out there [and] that’s exactly what they are looking for too—something that is a little bit different and something that doesn’t fit easily in the things that came before. They’re out there. It just takes a little more work to find them.

The Chronicle: What’s been the craziest experience you’ve had since you’ve started performing?

JL: About two years ago, we did a whole tour in February and early March in the eastern states and eastern Canada. It was a really rough, snowy winter. It was basically blizzards everywhere and I feel like we, in our band van, were following this one vicious storm or it was following us, city to city. We were on a little highway outside of Vermont on a night when I think they got the most snow they’ve had in 75 years in Vermont, which is a pretty snowy state. It was like 30 inches over the course of a day. There was a truck that jackknifed up ahead of us, so the whole highway got stacked. No one could go anywhere. It was snowing so hard we sat and watched snow pile up around people’s doors to the point we thought we would be buried, but they finally got it and dug everybody out. That seems like a mundane thing, but that does stick with bands that are touring all the time because it is kind of crazy to be out on the highways all the time. It’s not the safest place in the world, there’s a lot of crazy [stuff] that happens on the nation’s highways.

For concert listings about JT & the Clouds and a sample of their music, visit JTandtheClouds.com.

wprentiss@chroniclemail.com

music downloads

Week ending March 9, 2010

#1 Album



Almost Alice
Various Artists

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

United States

Break Your Heart • Taio Cruz	1
Imma Be • Black Eyed Peas	(1) 2
Hey, Soul Sister • Train	(2) 3
Need You Now • Lady Antebellum	(3) 4
Baby • Justin Bieber	5

United Kingdom

Rude Boy • Rihanna	(2) 1
In My Head • Jason Derulo	(1) 2
You ... Dirtee Love • Florence + the Machine	(3) 3
Empire State ... Broken Down • Alicia Keys	(5) 4
Starry Eyed • Ellie Goulding	(4) 5



Lights
Ellie Goulding

Spain

We Are the World ... for Haiti • Artists for Haiti	(1) 1
El Run Run • Estopa	(3) 2
Meet Me Halfway • Black Eyed Peas	(4) 3
Somos el Mundo 25 por Haiti • Artists for Haiti	4
Stereo Love • Edward Maya, Vika Jigulina	(5) 5

Source: iTunes

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TOP 5



Emi Peters/Copy Chief

Reasons to look forward to spring

Spring break: Spring break is only one week away and I couldn't be happier. One whole week to relax; reorganize, not focus on school or work and catch up on some much needed sleep is all I could ever ask for.

My birthday: After I turned 21 last year, I didn't think there would be anything to look forward to for subsequent birthdays. This year, however, I learned about the golden birthday, which is celebrated when a person turns the age of the day they were born on. I turn 22 on the 22nd of March. Break out the Courvoisier!

New album releases: Spring is usually when some of the best new music comes out, and this year is no exception. Gorillaz, Erykah Badu, She & Him, Drake, The Black Keys and MGMT have some of the most anticipated albums dropping this season. I cannot wait to tune in.

Live shows: As the weather gets warmer, great musical acts are more inclined to come out and play. I've already got my tickets lined up for Beach House, Camera Obscura and Little Dragon.

The weather (duh): It's pretty obvious that warm weather is infinitely better than cold, and everyone is pretty sick of winter by now. The first signs of spring are my favorite things to witness in the city: patches of green grass peeking out from under melting snow, how all the pretty flowers start to bloom in Grant Park and people slowly shedding layers of heavy winter clothing.



Amber Meade/Copy Editor

Things to do in my lifetime

Write at least one novel: Once I find a muse (real or figuratively), I'll be somewhat set. Following this would be to finish what I'm working on now, get published and actually sell books.

Get pierced ears and a tattoo: It's sad that I don't even have my ears pierced, but I'll eventually get around to it. I want to get my first tattoo once I get my first book published.

Learn the drums: I attempted teaching myself the drums back in high school on a friend's out-of-tune set. I wanted my own, but failed due to lack of income. Hopefully I can start taking lessons sooner than later because I'd like to start a cover band and play tons of Elton John songs.

Learn to drive: My permit became tattered and yellow in my wallet, as I never actually drove (I'm pretty sure my foster mom was frightened when I was behind the wheel). I never got my license and the permit expired after a year. I'd like to learn one day just to have the skill. Until then, I'm unreliable.

Take a road trip: So maybe I'm a little rusty in my map-reading skills and don't know how to drive a car, but there's still time, right? Road trips are a little cliché, but my real reason is to find long lost relatives in California.



Taylor Norris/Copy Editor

Improvements for Columbia

Calendars: Too many! There are simply more calendars at Columbia than I can keep track of. Every Columbia organization has an individual calendar and our Web site has multiple pages on which those calendars can be posted. All of this culminates a rather unorganized system with inconsistent information.

Posters: I think a media arts school can handle posters and propaganda with much more finesse than we currently do. While Columbia organizations make nice posters, they don't stand out because our designated poster walls are overcrowded with old posters from past events. Each department should make a weekly sweep of out-dated posters.

Colum.edu: Our Web site has potential, but it is missing a few things. The pages are visually pleasing, but many links lead to dead pages and the Student Life page is unorganized.

Alert system: My co-workers received text messages and e-mails from Columbia when severe winter weather closed our campus for one evening in February. Thankfully I was in the office so they could inform me because even though Columbia has my contact information, I didn't receive any alerts. Maybe it was a technical error and we can hope for better next time, but this system needs some work if the school desires it to be completely effective.

Tally-ho: No need for improvement here, actually. I want to mention that I think the daily Tally-ho might be the most useful communication venue that Columbia consistently maintains.



AP Exchange

Caught in the act

AS CLICHÉ as it sounds, the loudest critics are the ones who have something to hide. Such is the case with California Sen. Roy Ashburn.

On March 3, Ashburn, 55, was stopped by the police due to suspicious driving after leaving the nightclub Faces in Sacramento, Calif. The senator was arrested without incident and charged with two misdemeanors: driving under the influence and driving with a blood alcohol level higher than .08 percent, according to CBS13, Sacramento Area Local News.

Aside from being arrested for a DUI as a state senator, Ashburn was also seen leaving a gay nightclub accompanied by an unidentified male in his car. Ashburn has voted against every civil liberty bill pertaining to same-sex rights in the past 14 years. And, if the first sentence didn't give it away already, it turns out that Ashburn's stance was merely a facade. Ashburn admitted he was gay to local radio host Inga Barks on March 9, just two days after he was arrested.

Now, the extent of Ashburn's shame here is worrisome. Supposedly, he wanted to keep his personal and professional lives separate, which makes some semblance of sense. In this case, however, Ashburn's apparent self-loathing is selfish. Ashburn's hypocritical actions ultimately send out a disappointing message to the gay community, to which he belongs, about the state of their struggle. If gay state senators—albeit secretly gay ones—won't even vote for same-sex rights, who will? Not surprisingly, the jackass said he does not plan to run for any public office after his term ends later this year, Fox News reported.

—H. Bloom



Ian Hernandez uses his collection of top designer clothing to randomly assemble a look that promotes his classic personality.

Andy Keil THE CHRONICLE



by Colin Shively
Arts & Culture Editor

IAN HERNANDEZ, an interdisciplinary major combining fashion retail and marketing communications, wears a perfect chaotic blend of the world's top designers. From his blue Prada shoes to his Burberry handbag, Hernandez knows what it takes to look stylish.

"I really don't put too much thought into anything, I kind of just go," Hernandez said. "I just grab random things and put them on. Usually it matches but sometimes it doesn't, but it still looks good. Not everyone can do it because it takes a certain type of person, but it happens."

However, Hernandez said that wasn't always the case. Like most people, his personal fashion

evolved over time, experimenting with different trends to learn what would suit him.

"When I was younger, it was crazy," Hernandez said. "I don't know what I was thinking with some of the stuff that I wore. I definitely wore more daring things. My mom told me I was ahead of Lady Gaga at the time and she has pictures to prove it."

During his time in middle and high school, Hernandez was part of the preppy crowd, he said. He wore the popped-collar, Abercrombie and Fitch look, yet it was his uncle who introduced him to designers such as Prada and Dolce & Gabbana.

Since discovering the world of top designers, Hernandez has been following fashion trends page by page.

"GQ is kind of like my Bible, besides the Bible," Hernandez said. "If I see something I like, I will get it."

In the ever-changing world of fashion, one never knows what trends will pop up next. But one fashion trend that isn't going anywhere is classic sophistication. Hernandez portrays this look on a daily basis so he can be prepared for anything.

"First impressions are everything to somebody and you never know who you are going to meet on a daily basis," he said. "So how do I know if when I am running to the grocery store, I am not going to meet my future employer?"

cshively@chroniclemail.com

REVIEWS



SIIIIIIIICK



SHOULDER SHRUG



NOT BAD, NOT BAD

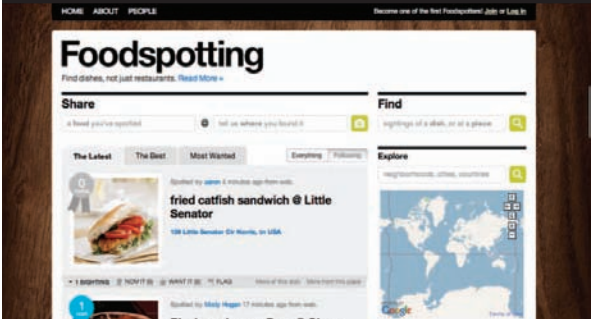


WORTH A GIGGLE



HAPPY DANCE!

PRINT



FOODSPOTTING.COM

The idea is genius: you can browse food options at local restaurants via pictures other people send in. The only problem is that the idea and name are complete rip-offs of TasteSpotting.com, a longstanding character in the food blog world. I really wish the RedEye hadn't endorsed this.—*T. Norris*



“POSITIVELY FIFTH STREET” BY JAMES MCMANUS

With images of old Las Vegas, sex, murder and lots of gambling, McManus wrote the perfect weekend read. It's a first-person perspective of McManus covering Binion's World Series of Poker for Harper's Magazine while playing in the game as an amateur, and making it to the final table.—*S. Roush*



KOIKOIKOI.COM

For any budding graphic designer, Koikoiko.com is a fantastic resource for tutorials, inspiration and insight. I have used it countless times when I'm in a creative jam and need to get new ideas for projects. I have learned just as much from it as I have from many of my classes.—*J. Allen*



MOVIES / TV / DVD



“AGENTS OF CRACKED” SEASON ONE DVD

Cracked.com's first original video series comprises 14 episodes brilliantly written and performed by regular columnists Dan O'Brien and Michael Swaim, who play on buddy-cop clichés in the big, bad world of Internet comedy. Every joke is spot-on, and regular Cracked readers will love the subtle inside jokes throughout the series. The deleted scenes and colorful commentary sweeten the deal, but the series alone—90 minutes of absurd wonderfulness—would definitely be worth the \$10 asking price.—*L. Wilusz*



“THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PYJAMAS”

I admit I judge my movies by the cover, and when I saw the odd scene of a gate separating a boy in striped pajamas on Netflix, it won me over. At first, I thought this was going to be a fun, weird film—I was so wrong. The film took place in World War II, where a young boy whose dad was a commandant at a concentration camp made friends with a Jewish boy at that camp. They talked, played chess and then came the saddest ending. It's a good movie to watch.—*C. Aguirre*



“THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG”

The newest Disney movie to hit DVD was over-hyped long before its theatrical release. Just because it stars a black princess doesn't mean it's perfect. There are blatant cultural stereotypes and other classic Disney features—heteronormativity, sexism, classism, etc. Still, old favorites have these issues and “Aladdin” still awes me every viewing. “The Princess and the Frog” is cute, occasionally funny and the songs are enjoyable, but nothing you'll memorize in one sitting.—*L. Wardle*



MUSIC



EVELYN EVELYN: “EVELYN EVELYN”

Conjoined twins Evelyn and Evelyn Neville leaked the first track of their soon-to-be-released, first full-length album—sort of. The girls are a fictional manifestation of the comedic and musical talents of Jason Webley and Amanda Palmer. The united work of these two amazing (and peculiar) artists is beautiful, humorous and a tad eerie.—*L. Wardle*



KARAOKE

While not technically a band or a specific song, any time there's an opportunity to watch a bunch of amateurs try to belt out “Livin' on a Prayer” or any rap song from the '90s, I'll show up. Karaoke is easily one of the best inventions to happen to our society since sliced bread. So pass the mic and cue up some '80s rock, 'cause I got next.—*J. Graveline*



LADY GAGA FT. BEYONCE: “TELEPHONE”

Much like the “Bad Romance” music video, GaGa's new video was highly anticipated to ad nauseum. Yet, GaGa fans couldn't get enough, myself included. Finally, the debut came on March 11. I watched it—and again—and again. The nine-minute short movie was amazing. Watching GaGa and Beyonce dance together was nearly too much for me. Apart from the obvious product placement, this video was perfect. Let's make a sandwich.—*C. Shively*



RANDOM



NOISE CANCELLING HEADPHONES

What is there to not like about the wonderful companion known as noise cancelling headphones? For one, they block out any A-holes you don't feel the need to listen to. They are great on airplanes and when you are on the loud el train. During the winter, they can double as musical earmuffs whose pillow-like qualities comfort you on your dreadful journey home. They're a great way to block out just about anything. Did I mention the sound quality is a lot better too?—*B. Zepeda*



TRAVELING WITH A PET

I recently adopted Willow, my little snuggle muffin of a cat. However, she has since proved to be a hamper on my bank account. Southwest Airlines only permits a certain type of carrier, so I recently had to not only buy a ticket for her, but I had to spend money that could have otherwise been allocated toward my own benefit on a carrier. If I wanted a kid, I would have a kid.—*L. Nalin*



SARAH JESSICA PARKER AT THE ACADEMY AWARDS

The Academy Awards is a night of glamour, fame and fashion. One of the most entertaining things to do is to make fun of celebrity fashion choices on the red carpet. And I did just that. Sarah Jessica Parker, wearing a yellow dress and sporting a horrible fake tan was by far one of the worst on the carpet. When I first saw her, I thought to myself, “Why, she looks like an Oompa Loompa in drag.” Bad move SJP, bad move indeed.—*C. Shively*



Editorials

Keep carp out without impacting industry

THE U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is under intense scrutiny from six Great Lakes states and various environmental groups that are urging the closure of major Chicago waterways due to the possible infiltration of Asian carp into Lake Michigan.

The closure of the navigational locks has been avoided because of the strain some Chicagoans and Illinois politicians claim would be placed on the charter cruises, boat tours and cargo shipping. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been experimenting with other techniques to keep the Asian carp out, including adding a third electrical barrier, chemical treatments and catching the fish to utilize them as a food source.

Some surrounding states, including Michigan, Ohio, New York, Minnesota, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, are not satisfied by the progress and have tried to force the closure of the locks anyway. Michigan Attorney General Michael Cox claims if the fish entered Lake Michigan, it would affect 800,000 jobs related to the Great Lakes and the \$7 billion fishing industry.

Even though the army corps hasn't closed the locks, it is considering new options and may decide to close the waterways during

certain days of the week to deter the fish from entering the lake. Their recommendation is expected this month.

Keeping the locks closed part of the time is still a brash decision and the positive effects are likely to be minimal compared to the effect on the cargo shipping industry and tourism industry this summer, which is estimated to be catastrophic. Plus it isn't clear if closing the waterways for several days a week will keep the carp from entering.

A bounty could be placed on the fish to encourage commercial fisherman to catch the invasive species and create a fishing frenzy that would help eliminate the Asian carp population.

The fish could be sold at stores, and because there will be an abundance of carp, the extra meat could be given to shelters or food depositories.

To eliminate the Asian carp threat without damaging the economy, other precautions should be taken before making a decision to close the locks. Doing so for several days a week is an extreme gesture. Without knowing whether this option would even be successful, Chicagoans may be impacted, but not the invasive carp.

Learning Studio needs more availability

AFTER RECEIVING criticism from some faculty and staff in late February about the lack of communication at Columbia's Learning Studio, the center's to management has made an effort to address some of their concerns. However, there are more improvements to be made.

The Learning Studio, located on the first floor of the 618 S. Michigan Ave. Building, is a tutoring facility that caters to many academic departments at Columbia. In January 2009, all tutoring services throughout the college were brought together to be housed under one roof. Since its opening, faculty and staff have identified problems and offered solutions, including group tutoring sessions. This suggestion can respond to the lack of individual tutoring time available for students.

There are 75 tutors in the Learning Studio, thus, many students are unable to sign up for a one-on-one session through Oasis because there are limited 50-minute sessions. Students can block out one time to meet repeatedly throughout the semester, leaving that tutor less available for other students.

Still for other students, tutoring is

required for their class. If students miss a Basic Math class, they must make up the hours at the Learning Studio.

In order to assist more students in the studio, there should be group tutoring sessions offered for those who miss the same Basic Math class, or for students studying the same subject.

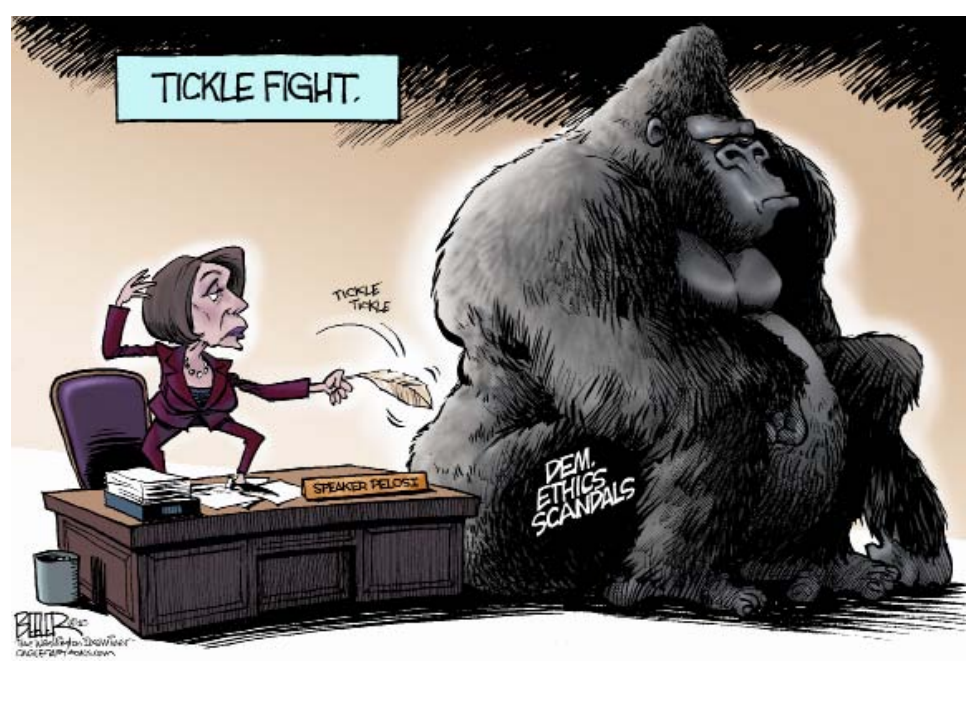
This would also be beneficial for students who work better in groups or are intimidated by one-on-one attention.

The tutoring groups should be limited to four to seven people, so the tutor can attend to each student.

Because the tutors would be responsible for up to seven students, more time should be allotted for group sessions. Depending on the project, tutors should also be able to extend their time with students.

Even though some students work better in groups, others prefer to be tutored alone, and that option should remain.

In order for students to take advantage of the Learning Studio, more time slots should be available to students. Group tutoring would give more students assistance, which is what the studio needs to accomplish in order to be successful.



MCT NEWSWIRE

Letter to the Editor:

Re: Miscommunication in Learning Studio?

THE COLUMBIA Chronicle recently ran an article about "Miscommunication in the Learning Studio." The writer noted that the "tutoring initiative receives mixed criticism from various departments," though the writer only focused on one department. In referencing our internal tutor and student surveys from last semester, the writer highlighted some second-hand information regarding the challenges the Science and Math Learning Center tutors experienced last semester as we worked to integrate the use of technology to improve the way students made appointments at the Learning Studio. Had the writer asked me about these concerns, I would have happily addressed them.

Before the article was even published, we had already implemented changes to address the things that weren't working for tutors and students and I alluded to this in my comments. The Science and Math Learning Center director and tutors were involved in that process and with the adjustments we made.

We asked for feedback from all tutors and students because we wanted to know what was and wasn't working as we are still a new combined unit on campus and it is essential to ask tough questions and work to improve what isn't working. The results of our surveys were shared with all Learning Studio tutors and staff at our internal spring kick off retreats.

I followed up by e-mail to the writer right after my interview to include a few points as shown below but this information was not printed. I wrote:

In the fall semester 2009, the Learning Studio conducted two separate student satisfaction surveys with students visiting the Learning Studio. 34 percent of students visiting the LS during these weeks answered the online questionnaire. Here are some things we learned:

- 100 percent of respondents visiting the Conaway Achievement Project (CAP) said that they would recommend the CAP program to other incoming students.
- 99 percent of respondents visiting the Writing Center said that their tutoring experiences met (53.3 percent) or exceeded (45.6 percent) their expectations. 97 percent said they would come back to the Learning Studio again for tutoring at the Writing Center.
- 100 percent of respondents visiting the Science and Math Learning Center (SMLC) said that their tutoring experience met (35.6 percent) or exceeded (64.4 percent) their expectations. 100 percent said they would come back for tutoring at the SMLC.
- 74 percent of respondents strongly agreed that their visit to the Learning Studio improved their ability to be more successful at Columbia and 23 percent somewhat agreed.

We will continue to ask tough questions and to strive to deliver superior tutoring and other academic support for Columbia students as we settle in to our new location as one combined organization.

Julie Redmond
Assistant Vice President for Academic Support,
The Learning Studio
Columbia College Chicago

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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.

Extreme protests leave viewers unaffected, annoyed



by **Spencer Roush**
Commentary Editor

ACTIVISM CAN be carried out in many ways, from giving monthly donations to the National Rifle Association to someone strapping themselves to a tree to avoid its demolition.

If someone is willing to donate money in this struggling economy or face humiliation by chaining themselves to a piece of bark, they are an activist who truly cares for their cause.

Lately, it seems like there is an activist group for every cause imaginable. For example, actor Woody Harrelson's first effort was saving ants from crusty elementary school

"Their points may be valid or worth considering, but when it's covered up by controversy, it's nothing more than radicals who look ridiculous and annoy everyone around them."

kids who enjoyed stepping on ant beds.

Because there are a plethora of groups that ask for donations or support, the causes often blur together. While walking down State Street on Columbia's campus, within two blocks someone asks, "Do you have any time for the Earth today?" Another few steps down and a person asks, "Would you like to save an abused puppy?"

However, there are activists who don't blend in with the rest of the crowd—extreme activists. These are radicals who count on turning heads and making a scene, like the newest activists to join the crowd on Columbia's campus who hand out magazines with President Barak Obama sporting an Adolf Hitler mustache.

Instead of telling people about their cause and where they may draw parallels between the two figures, the protestors use a controversial image to shock viewers. The activists bury the issue in the vandalized image of Obama using a stigmatized mustache. The picture turns many people off immediately.

Instead of possibly having a perspective to consider, these activists just look crazy and any passer-by will be sure to pretend-chat on their cell phone in order to avoid them.

Many other radical activist groups use

similar tactics. Some shout profanities while others provide disturbing displays or graphics to persuade people to follow their cause.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals consistently use models and displays during protests for effect. PETA has been involved in many controversies since it was founded in 1980. The group is difficult to take seriously because of its radical activism, especially when they place a nearly naked model inside a cage of plastic to emulate packaged meat.

The models just look crazy, not like someone with a new perspective.

Pro-life groups commonly use this tactic when displaying pictures of aborted babies on signs. Some groups post the pictures on vans and drive them around cities.

Do the pictures of aborted babies really change the minds of pro-choice supporters? Probably not. Instead, the pictures are disgusting, not motivating. It makes one question the sanity of the protestors.

According to the Pro-Life Action League's Web site, being looked at as insane is exactly what they want when they carry their grotesque signs around. The action league considers the images as a reminder of the cause to the United States.

Their Web site reads: "If in the wake of our Truth Tours, a thousand conversations begin with 'I saw a bunch of anti-abortion wackos today' and end with a frank, and long overdue, discussion of abortion, we consider our image worth the sacrifice."

Whether the conversation goes further than 'I saw a bunch of wackos' is doubtful. People have strong convictions about major social issues, such as abortion, and seeing radical protests probably won't change the way they feel or how they vote.

Extremists will almost always be the activists at whom people laugh and whose motives are questioned. They will not be the people whom others join in protest. The extravagant displays and grotesque images dilute the meaning of the demonstration.

Their points may be valid or worth considering, but when they shroud their points with controversy, it's nothing more than radicals who look ridiculous and annoy everyone around them.

Activists make a difference when they inform people by handing out literature and talk with others about their cause and why it's important.

sroush@chroniclemail.com

ROAMIN' NUMERALS

70 Percent of Massachusetts' voters who say they approve of Republican Sen. Scott Brown's job performance, according to RasmussenReports.com. Thirty percent of those voters strongly approve of his performance. Brown won the late Sen. Edward M. Kennedy's seat, which had been held for 47 years by the Democrat.

Age at which Corey Haim died from a possible overdose on March 9, according to ChicagoTribune.com. Reports said the overdose was probably accidental. Haim was famous for his teen role in "Lost Boys." He collapsed in front of his mother at an apartment complex before he died. Prior to his death, Haim was suffering from flu-like symptoms and had been taking over-the-counter and prescription medications.

Proposed Percent increase on state income tax to raise money for education, ChicagoTribune.com reported on March 10. Gov. Pat Quinn asked for this surcharge during a budget speech to the House and the Senate because it would be enough to restore Illinois' education budget to its current levels and supply money that's owed to public schools, community colleges and four-year universities.

Additional years of sexual activity that is expected for a healthy male at 55, according to a March 10 WashingtonPost.com article. Data of two surveys comprising two different age groups was analyzed by experts at the University of Chicago to determine the correlation between being healthy and maintaining a sex life. Women can expect 1.1 additional years of sexual activity if they are healthy at 55.

15

Phish hops on the 3-D jam bandwagon for concert



by **Laura Nalin**
Assistant Campus Editor

HOLLYWOOD'S NEWEST bursts of cinematic technology, 3-D movies, have been taking over silver screens across the globe. From Tim Burton's "Alice in Wonderland" sequel to the record-breaking "Avatar," these high-end movies seem to be picking up momentum at an incredible rate. Following the rapid success of "Avatar," DreamWorks CEO Jeffrey Katzenberg said from now on, all of the studio's films will be made into three-dimensional motion pictures.

Television channels have also jumped on the coattails of this groundbreaking trend

"Fans like me around the globe see this announcement as not only tremendously gratifying, but also amazing."

by discussing the possibility of making their channels more accommodating to a 3-D format. Not only is this remarkable, but it is one of the coolest things I've ever heard. If this actually happens, I for one cannot wait to see Troy Polomalu or Sidney Crosby two inches away from my face on a weekly basis.

What I am most excited about is a film set to debut in April 2010: "Phish 3D." Although the band has released very little information regarding its theatrical release, the film will give fans a chance to watch the quartet's three-day Halloween weekend festival at the stunning Empire Polo Theater in Indio, Calif.

I can't speculate too much about what the film features, but I can say what elements I hope to see. I can only imagine how beautiful the postcard-esque scenery will be in 3-D. The cloudless skies, lines of palm trees and rocky mountaintops will perfectly accompany the psychedelic eye candy of art installations and one-of-a-kind lighting. All the while, Trey Anastasio will lay down some of his sickest electric guitar licks as the rest of the band chimes

in with organ-fueled blasts, heavy basslines and stylistic drum beats to create some of the best music exposed to mankind—in 3-D.

What I am definitely hoping to see in the film is the pyro-infused "Mike's Song," which was one of the final songs played on the evening of Nov. 1, 2009 which segued into one of my personal favorites, "2001." There is no way that bit of footage will make it to the cutting room floor—it's just too good. I also can't help but wonder if I am going to see a mass glow stick war or a heap of glow sticks flying through the air, coming toward my face, or if they will somehow edit that out.

Many fans are seeing this wonderful announcement as Christmas in April. Rumors of this movie have circulated in music blogs and various other Web sites, such as PhantasyTour.com, since the October festival. However, fans can sleep easy now knowing the release is closer than they imagined. Not only was this announcement exciting, it was also quite timely because the plans for the film leaked just six days before the band revealed its highly anticipated summer tour schedule.

Whether or not you like Phish's music, this band still has more capital than any of the nonsense indie bands with obscure animal-themed names that most Columbia students listen to. Although a lot of Phish's biggest fans have traded their patchwork and tie-dye for BMW sports utility vehicles and timeshares in Denver, they are still one of the most prominent bands in musical history.

Fans like me around the globe see this announcement as not only tremendously gratifying, but also amazing. Not many bands have succumbed to this marvelous craze. I can guarantee you the ones that have (ahem, Jonas Brothers) do not have the pyrotechnics or lighting techniques Phish has.

Not only will this film get everyone excited for the summer tour and take a lot of folks down memory lane, but it will also give the rest an opportunity to watch an epic and blissful weekend. Now that Phish is coming to the movies, fans can quote their 1988 song "Dinner and a Movie," and say, "Let's go out to dinner ... and see a movie."

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Lenny Gilmore THE CHRONICLE

Westboro Baptist Church protests gays, Jews, Tom Brokaw

Radical group with extreme views takes to Chicago streets for protest

by Stephanie Saviola
Assistant Metro Editor

THE CONTROVERSIAL group the Westboro Baptist Church, which is best known for its anti-gay, anti-Jewish and anti-American protests, made its way to Chicago for its latest round of campaigning.

They were armed with signs that read "God hates America," "God hates fags" and "Jews stole the land."

The group started 19 years ago. Even though they have caused a major uproar, there are only 70 members, including children, in the entire church, according to one of its members.

The Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center held a humanitarian awards dinner at the Hyatt Regency, 151 E. Wacker Drive, with award-winning journalist Tom Brokaw as the keynote speaker.

Members of the Westboro Baptist Church took the opportunity to protest outside. There were approximately seven protesters, including one small child.

Police guarded the members of the church so they could not be approached during the protest.

Few people or members of the press could cross the street to get close to them. However, The Chronicle was able to speak to Westboro member Shirley Phelps-Roper.

"There was one [event] where Tom Brokaw was getting an award from a Jewish organization, so that was a two-for," Phelps-Roper said.

Phelps-Roper is most recognized by her appearances on television stations such as Fox News and CNN, where she has argued

her views on fallen American soldiers. She and her church believe that the military incubates homosexuality.

Phelps-Roper and her organization have extremist views on issues of race, religion and sexual orientation, to name a few.

They also believe it is immoral to be homosexual, that Jewish people are destined for Hell and America is doomed.

During the protest, members of the Westboro church put an American flag on the ground and stepped on it. Phelps-Roper was arrested for a similar incident several years ago in Nebraska when she let her 8-year-old son step on the American flag.

"Destruction of this nation is imminent," Phelps-Roper said.

The group also believes this country has become more doomed since President Barack Obama took office.

"When you look up and you see that [this] nation, the most powerful office in the world, has spewed forth the Beast, and he came right out of your corner of the country [Chicago] the Antichrist: Obama," Phelps-Roper said.

Besides calling Obama the Antichrist and the Beast, Phelps-Roper also referred to Vice President Joe Biden as the Beast's lapdog.

During the rally, more than 100 people from organizations like Equality Across America and other gay rights activists.

"I'm here to help drive the bigots away," said Giovanni Flores, 21. "They are extremely outnumbered. It's great to see all these individuals who support gay and lesbian causes."

Some activists were armed with



Lenny Gilmore THE CHRONICLE

(Top) Members of the Westboro Baptist Church display their signs outside the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 151 E. Wacker Drive, where renowned journalist Tom Brokaw was the keynote speaker for an event held by the Illinois Holocaust Museum. (Above) Gay rights activists came together to show their disapproval of the group.

signs of peace and love, some with anti-Westboro Church slogans, formed across the street from the Westboro Baptist Church.

"They are radical. They are extreme in a way I've never seen," said Terri Griffith, a professor of gay and lesbian studies at Columbia. "Part of what they are interested in doing is inciting violence. They don't think gay people are people, so I think that goes to the heart of that."

When asked if the Westboro Baptist Church was here to harm people, Phelps-Roper responded by laughing and stated, "That is so funny." She then quoted a Bible scripture and talked more about doom and damnation.

"If we cannot convince you with words,

we don't want to convince you," Phelps-Roper said. "Imminent is the word of the hour."

Many critics of the Westboro group make a strong case against the group calling themselves Baptist.

"I have a difficult time seeing them as a religion," Griffith said. "I've seen some documentaries about them. Most of them are just made up of Phelps' family."

After the protest, members of the church were escorted back to their car in a garage by sev-

eral Chicago Police Officers on bicycles.

Phelps-Roper diverted many questions by quoting verses from the Bible.

"The final outcome for this nation is very grim," Phelps-Roper said. "We have a lot of work to do so we have to split up and go out on these streets."

Phelps-Roper said for the past 19 years, members of her church have been on the streets everyday advocating their beliefs.

"Ultimately, they have the right to say what they think, but we have the right to protest against what they say," Griffith said.

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Family Farmed Expo celebrates local food

With spring near, Chicago's locavore fest kicks off the growing season

by Margaret Lang
Assistant Metro Editor

FANS OF locally grown produce came together as the Family Farmed Expo celebrated its fifth annual event at the University of Illinois at Chicago on March 11. This food festival included workshops about local food, urban agriculture and information about growing your own food.

The event ran for three days. The first day focused on the Financing Farm to Fork Conference, which brought together investors, farmers, food businesses and funders to help create new financing opportunities.

The Family Farmed Expo's Financing Farm to Fork Conference supports the local food movement by encouraging investment in farm and food production, processing and distribution businesses.

Mary Jo Schnell, a nonprofit business consultant, attended the Family Farmed Expo event for the first time. Schnell works with land conservation issues, planning programs.

"The event brings to focus some of the issues that urban areas are struggling with," Schnell said. "There's an academic art to it, but the real life stories, with how people are dealing with these issues are very important to understand."

Schnell also discussed her main interest in attending the Family Farmed Expo event.

"Land. I really liked the idea on financing concepts, models and formulas for any-

thing from small family farms, and again linking that to some of the local land efforts to establish such kinds of business models," Schnell said. "I think the event was terrific and I look forward to getting more in-depth knowledge about some of the smaller presentations we've had here where you get a little taste of what these people do."

Conference speakers at the Financing Farm to Fork Conference included national and regional experts and investors who spoke about food businesses, farm financing and food access. Also attending the conference were farmers, food producers, bankers and agricultural specialists from the city, state and federal levels.

Jim Schultz, founder of Open Prairie Adventures, spoke at the event about his organization, which is a venture capital firm focused on investing in early growth-stage companies in life science sectors.

Kyle Welborn, program manager at Chicagoland Entrepreneurial Center, is a co-sponsor of the event and said he thinks the event is important to educate people about the importance of local organic produce.

"We work to create jobs in the region and this event is important to connect members of the community around very specific missions involving access to food, and also to help people build successful businesses," Welborn said.

Family Farmed Expo's mission is to expand the marketing, production and distribution of locally grown and produced food to enhance the health of Chicago's communities.

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FEATURED PHOTO



Andy Keil THE CHRONICLE

"I've had a total of three classes cancelled due to furlough days so far," said Sara Agate, a junior at University of Illinois at Chicago. Agate spoke to a crowd gathered at the James R. Thompson Center, 100 W. Randolph St. during a protest last Monday, March 8. The state of Illinois has failed to pay more than \$487 million to fund operations at the three University of Illinois' campuses.

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City Council honors felled police officer

March meeting includes resolution for Sgt. Haymaker, who died last month

by Patrick Smith
Assistant Metro Editor

MAYOR RICHARD M. Daley opened the March 10 City Council meeting by honoring Police Sgt. Alan Haymaker, who died in the line of duty last month.

Haymaker was killed when his police car slid out of control and crashed on Lake Shore Drive near Irving Park Road while he was speeding to respond to a burglary in Lakeview. Several aldermen rose to speak about the officer, including 2nd Ward Alderman Bob Fioretti, who represents the South Loop.

“Since I’ve become an alderman, I’ve been to four funerals for men in blue,” Fioretti said. “We don’t do enough to honor them and recognize them while they are alive.”

Fioretti went on to quote Socrates about the value of living a “good life.”

Daley said it was unfortunate, but not surprising, that people do not do enough to honor police officers while they are alive.

“No one recognizes anyone before they die, even your family members, you don’t realize who you have in your own life,” Daley said.

Daley said he was especially impressed that Haymaker graduated from Moody Bible Institute.

“He went to Moody’s and became a theologian ... he was a police officer. He was a church member. He was a family member.”

Haymaker’s family and police officers

who worked with him, including Police Superintendent Jody Weis, attended the City Council meeting. While all of the aldermen in attendance rose to vote aye on a resolution honoring Haymaker, Daley stepped down from his seat to shake hands with Haymaker’s family.

“He was a well-respected police officer; he handled himself in a professional way but also in a passionate way,” Daley said. “The outpouring at the services was overwhelming; [you could tell] he was really a remarkable man.”

Alderman Tom Tunney (44th Ward) was one of the aldermen to rise to honor the officer. He said Haymaker died as a hero. It was in Tunney’s Ward, at 3167 N. Clark St., that an early morning burglary occurred, leading to Haymaker’s crash. At around 5 a.m. on Feb. 22, Haymaker’s car skidded off Lake Shore Drive at the Irving Park Road exit and slammed into a light post.

Haymaker worked as an officer in the 44th Ward.

There were news reports speculating the poor condition of Haymaker’s police car caused him to crash, but Daley dismissed that notion.

“No, they have to go at high speeds,” Daley said. “When you go at high speeds it’s very, very dangerous.”



Brent Lewis THE CHRONICLE

Mayor Richard M. Daley stands in front of a projected picture of Police Sgt. Alan Haymaker at the March 10 City Council meeting. Daley and several council members honored the officer, who was killed in the line of duty in February.

Haymaker was a third-generation Chicago Police Officer, who worked out of the Town Hall Police District, at 3600 N. Halsted Ave., since December 2009. He joined the police force in 1988 after working as an assistant pastor.

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» DALEY

Continued from Front Page

crisis was “not a recession” but “a total realignment of America.” He blamed a good deal of the country’s funding woes on the two wars in which the United States is involved.

“We are a global power, we’re competing against China,” Daley said. “They don’t go to war; we’re spending more money on war, on 10 years of war. If they took half of the money from war, we wouldn’t be talking about a lot of these issues, but the federal government wants to go to war. Our century started with 10 years of war, that’s not a good sign for your century.”

Daley also criticized Gov. Pat Quinn when he said the state knew about its financial troubles last year and did nothing.

“You cannot keep borrowing money,” Daley said.

The mayor reiterated his position that nothing was off the table in terms of privatization of Chicago’s assets and services, saying private companies are more efficient because they know more about turning a profit than municipalities.

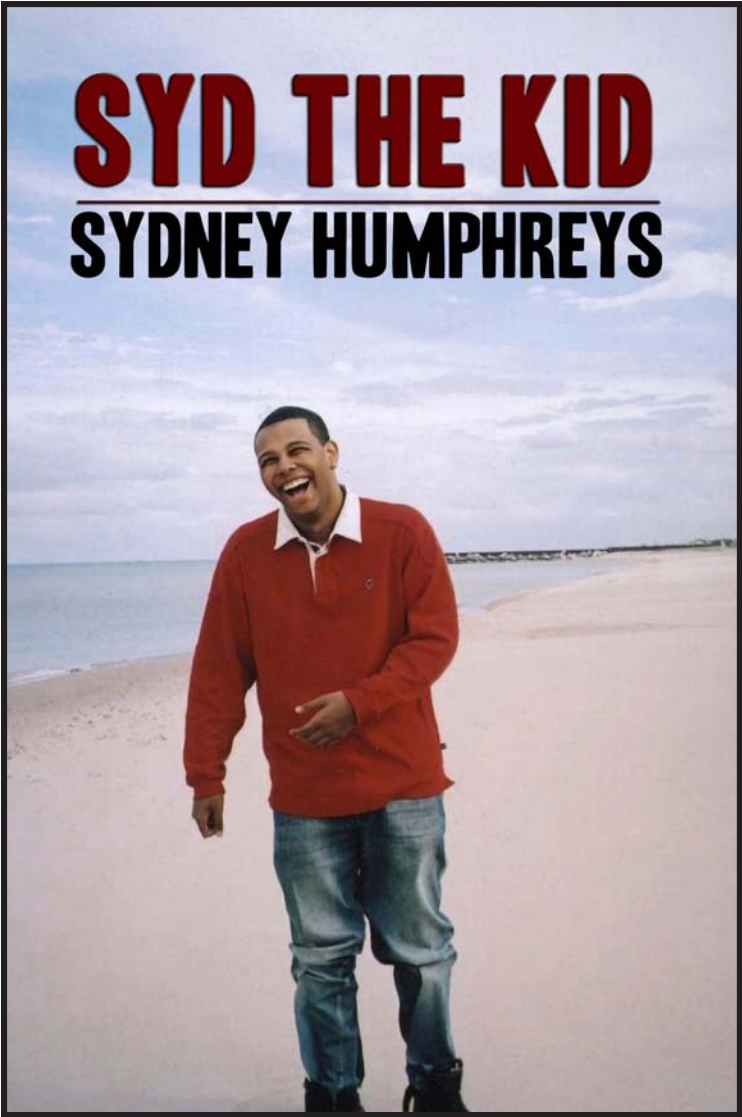
On the Fenger High School beating the mayor lamented that “no one cares about” the kids at Fenger, including the students’ own parents. “Where is the personal responsibility?” he asked.

The mayor also seemed to take aim at President Barack Obama’s attempts to reform health care.

“The government doesn’t know nothing about health care,” Daley said.

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PHOTO BY RACHEL KIRBY
ITALY

Chicago ‘Cultivating Great Performances’

Flower and garden show hosts annual event at Navy Pier

by Margaret Lang
Assistant Metro Editor

TOP HORTICULTURAL, landscaping and gardening experts came together at the 16 annual Chicago Flower and Garden show to present their work. The show included a marketplace, gardening seminars, hands-on demonstrations and horticulture competitions.

The Chicago Flower and Garden Show returned to Navy Pier on March 6, where it featured its 25-garden exhibition designed by leading gardening and landscaping experts.

The show was sponsored by Belgard Landscapes, a nationwide network of paving stone and garden wall products manufacturers.

“Cultivating Great Performances” was this year’s show theme, which highlighted Chicago for being known as a wonderful theater location. The show featured displays inspired by “Wicked,” “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” and “Miss Saigon.”

The new floor layout for the show was designed by Terry Guen Design Associates Inc., a Chicago-

based landscape architecture and urban design firm.

“The vision for this year’s theme was to make it comfortable and enjoyable,” Guen said. “This year doesn’t even compare to last year because the new show floor is inviting and you know what you’re looking at.”

For the shows theme “Cultivating Great Performances” Terry Guen Design Associates Inc. incorporated theatre with gardening and landscaping.

“I built two stages for the show’s theme with chairs around the stage; and if I had to do it all over again, I would have put the stage right in the middle of the show floor to make it stand out more,” Guen said.

Guen’s company will also design the show floor for the 2011 Chicago Flower and Garden Show.

Sue Leadley, a gardener, experienced the show’s opening for the first time this year.

“I love the Chicago Flower and Garden Show,” Leadley said. “I’ve never come on the first day before, and the first day is lovely because everything is fresh.”

The two major themes this year were vegetable gardening and the use of perennials. These money-saving techniques can be cultivated in one’s own backyard.

Judy Surna, a lifelong gardener,

picked up many ideas from the different themes at the show. Surna said she was born a gardener. As a child she would make mud cakes and mud pies in the garden.

“My daughter, granddaughter and I were all talking about how well it’s organized, and we like the fact that the displays are here and the commercial is in one area,” Surna said. “I thought the idea for the theme was very good, and there are a lot of good ideas to be taken home that you can include in your own garden, like for instance, the window boxes.”

Returning to the Chicago Flower and Garden Show was Richard Hawke, a plant evaluation manager who presented a seminar “Onward and Upward.” Hawke showcased a variety of vines, including the Boston ivy and the Japanese hydrangea vine, and discussed proper ways to grow and care for them.

“I have grown every vine that I have mentioned today, but the majority of my program has been with the clematis vine,” Hawke said. “I have looked at clematis for about 15 years, and have evaluated hundreds of clematis varieties over the years.”

Hawke’s main research with the plant and evaluation program is with ornamental plants, mainly herbaceous perennials, to deter-



Rachel Jones THE CHRONICLE

Hun Lee sells her painting in the marketplace of the Chicago Flower and Garden Show on March 6.

mine the best garden plants for the upper Midwest.

“The plant evaluation program is a comparative trial system,” Hawke said. “We take a group, for instance, asters, grow everything that is commercially available with asters and grow them side-by-side in a test garden over the course of a minimum of four years.

We find out their ornamental traits and how adaptable they are.”

The purpose of the plant evaluation program is to recommend not only to the gardening public, but also to the green industry the plants best suited for Chicago and the Midwest region.

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Journalist who covered Clinton White House visits Columbia

Nina Burleigh comes home to Chicago, speaks with students about her career

by Stephanie Saviola
Assistant Metro Editor

AUTHOR AND journalist Nina Burleigh returned to her hometown of Chicago to talk about her career experiences with The Chronicle and several classes at Columbia. Burleigh recently returned to the United States after spending seven months in Italy doing research for her new book about the Amanda Knox trial. Burleigh is still working on the research portion and once the book is published, it will be her fifth one. “The research was hard because no one spoke English over there, contrary to belief,” Burleigh said. “I took Italian classes and worked with a translator and I’ve learned what it’s like to work in a country where freedom of speech doesn’t exist.”

Burleigh was a Washington correspondent for Time and People magazines during the Clinton administration before transitioning into an author. She spent the first several years of her career as a freelance writer. “I got lucky,” Burleigh said. “The economy was similar [when I graduated college] to what it is today.” After years of freelancing, Burleigh was offered a contractual position around the time of former President Bill Clinton’s first election. In Washington, she made a name for herself through several articles regarding Clinton’s personal and political life. “I learned that there is a point where the rigid rules are bendable, not breakable,” Burleigh continued. “It’s a challenge of personality to get people to talk to you, some people have it, some people don’t.” Burleigh is a journalist first, but rather



Brent Lewis THE CHRONICLE

Journalist Nina Burleigh visited Columbia’s Journalism Department to speak about her experience as a Washington correspondent for Time and People magazines.

than writing hard news stories, she has found a niche with interesting twists and takes on news stories. While working in Washington, Burleigh started writing a book that would later be published as “A Very Private Woman: The Life and Unsolved Murder of Mary Meyer.” The book is a biography of the life and controversy surrounding one of John F. Kennedy’s alleged mistresses: Mary Pinchet Meyer. “I’ve been really lucky that I have been able to write about things I am interested in,” Burleigh said. “I just follow my curiosity while keeping in mind what the market wants.” In 2003, Burleigh’s second book was published, “The Stranger and the Statesman,” about philanthropist James Smithson, who

founded the series of Smithsonian museums in Washington. “I thought I was going to write fiction for a long time, so that was pulling me to the side, but I did hope I was going to write books,” she said when asked if this was the career path she had hoped for. Burleigh was offered a staff position at People Magazine in New York in 2006. “Nina did freelance work for me 20 years ago when I was an editor at the American Bar Association,” said Stephanie Goldberg, a journalism professor at Columbia. “The story she wrote was part of a package that became a finalist in the Lisagor competition. It was readily apparent that she was uncommonly talented and destined for greater things.”

The writer continues to work on her books, but hopes to get back into news writing and sometimes misses working in Washington. “I really do like the news business,” Burleigh said. “I’m addicted to it.” Burleigh is married to photographer Erik Freeland and the pair have two children. When Burleigh was working in Italy, she brought the entire family with her. “He’s very involved,” Burleigh said. “If he wasn’t, I couldn’t have had children.” When the author is not working on her books, she teaches a master’s class at Columbia University in New York, where she and her family reside.

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IN OTHER NEWS

Chicago’s First Lady

According to the Chicago Sun-Times, Mayor Richard M. Daley’s wife Maggie Daley returned home from the hospital just five days after having a foot-long titanium rod inserted into her leg to relieve pain caused by a malignant bone tumor. Daley will now undergo rehab for her leg. She needs the help of a walker or crutches to walk. Daley was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer in June 2002. The mayor said his wife was “doing very well,” and he thanked people for sending her flowers, cards and their prayers.

Blackies’ operators busted

The operators of Chicago’s Boston Blackies burger restaurants were charged on March 11 with defrauding two banks of nearly \$1.9 million in a check cashing scheme, according to The Chicago Tribune. The two men arrested were a father and son duo. Authorities said they arrested the father at the U.S.-Canada border as he was trying to flee the country. The two men are family friends of Democratic Senate candidate Alexi Giannoulias. The men are accused of writing bad checks from their Broadway Bank accounts to other banks.

Gutierrez helped

According to the Chicago Tribune, testimony in the federal corruption trial of a Chicago developer revealed that U.S. Rep. Luis Gutierrez met with the developer and Mayor Richard M. Daley to push for approval of a real estate venture. Gutierrez has not been charged with any crime. The developer, Calvin Boender, is on trial for allegedly bribing Alderman Isaac Carothers to help support his West Side construction project and help changing zoning code. Gutierrez is a friend and golfing partner of the indicted developer.

Allow drunk soldiers?

Senator Jim Webb (D-Va.) said at a hearing of the Senate Armed Services Committee that it is worth considering whether soldiers should be allowed to drink to relieve stress. According to the Sun-Times, Webb, a Vietnam veteran, said a ban on alcohol consumption in war zones should be lifted. His remarks were part of a broader response to a recent Military Times investigation into the military’s use of anti-depressants and other drugs for treating mental health issues. Webb called the amount of self-medicating among soldiers “astounding.”

OFF THE BLOTTER



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

- 1

Can’t hardly wait

According to police reports, a male was arrested for stealing a case of beer just three days before his 21st birthday. On March 10, a 7-11 clerk saw the alleged offender enter the store at 600 S. Dearborn Ave., take a 24-pack of beer and flee. The clerk called the police and then followed the man out of the store. The employee pointed out the suspect and he was arrested. The beer was returned to 7-11.
- 2

Abuse investigated

On March 8, detectives responded to a call at 71 E. 16th St. regarding an incident that occurred on Feb. 7. According to police reports, on that day a 2-year-old child returned to his mother’s home after a weekend visitation with his father. When the child’s mother changed his diaper she noticed severe bruising on both of his legs. She took the child to the hospital where his injuries were photographed.
- 3

Cocaine bust

Six grams of cocaine were discovered in a home on the 1500 block of South State Street on March 3. According to police reports, the drugs, valued at \$750, belonged to a 50-year-old male who lived in the residence where the drugs were found. The suspect was arrested for possession, his court date is pending.
- 4

Child endangerment

According to police reports, a 17-year-old female came with her infant child to the 3rd district police station on March 8. The woman had nowhere for her and her child to stay. Her mother had allegedly thrown her and her son out of the house after he was born in November. The girl’s mother was arrested for endangering a child.

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46						47					48	
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52						53					54	

3/21/10

- ACROSS
- 1 “Judging ____”
4 Elly May Clampett’s uncle
7 Alda or Rachins
11 Caustic soap ingredient
12 Paul’s “Mad About You” cousin
13 “The ____ Ranger”
14 Greek letter
15 Award for TV shows and actors
16 Had debts
17 MSNBC’s “Hardball with ____”
20 Actress Susan of “L. A. Law”
21 “____ Believer”; Monkees hit song
22 Film director Preminger
25 Doctors’ org.
26 “Cat ____ Hot Tin Roof”
29 Actress on “Law & Order: Criminal Intent”
33 Barney Fife’s title: abbr.
34 “____ Bloopers & Practical Jokes”
35 ____ Johnson of “Laugh-In”
36 Take advantage of
37 Barker and Bell
39 Actress on “Ghost Whisperer”
46 Jai ____
47 “____ Rock”; Simon & Garfunkel hit
- 48 Daniel ____ Kim
49 Winter pear
50 Peebles or Long
51 Hotel
52 “The O. C.” role for Adam Brody
53 Buicks, Chevys & Pontiacs: abbr.
54 Curvy letter

- DOWN
- 1 ____ Guinness
2 Fictional story
3 Calendar period
4 Actor Smits
5 Columnist Bombeck
6 ____ Emmy Awards; prizes for talk shows, game shows, and soaps
7 Hawaiian greeting
8 Actor Rob
9 Once more
10 Sparks and Beatty
15 Ending for Japan or Siam
18 “American ____”
19 IRS agent, for short
22 “The New Adventures of ____ Christine”
23 Golf ball holder
24 Recipe amt.
25 Words of understanding
26 Hockey’s Bobby
27 Tiny insect
28 Paul Bunyan’s implement
30 “The ____ Bitsy Spider”
31 “____ Shade”
32 ____ off; leave quickly
36 Actor Robert
37 “____ Family”; V. Lawrence sitcom
38 Santa ____, CA
39 Taxis
40 ____ vera; skin lotion ingredient
41 Ship’s pole
42 Injure
43 Actress Falco
44 Richardson and McKellen
45 ____ Wearhouse; clothing chain

Solution to Last Week’s Puzzle

T	O	M		G	H	O	S	T		S	A	M
E	W	E		A	B	A	T	E		C	P	A
A	N	A		R	O	K	E	R		R	A	T
R	E	R		A	N					S	O	U
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HOROSCOPES



ARIES (March 21 - April 20) Workplace politics and minor differences between colleagues are not easily avoided this week. Co-workers or business partners may now ask for final documents or written explanations. Added costs, long-term spending or unexpected repairs may be key issues. Provide detailed facts, figures or estimates. Friday through Sunday highlight bold romantic discussions, home changes and complex family decisions. Speak your mind and expect honest observations: all is well.



TAURUS (April 21 - May 20) Group activities are rewarding over the next few days. Social gatherings and family events will increase confidence this week. Use this time to foster understanding between loved ones or explore new trust in intimate relationships. Long-term romantic promises take on serious and practical tone. Respond quickly. After mid-week, watch for business officials to restructure team projects or find positive outlets for new employees. Stay balanced: new discussions will prove controversial.



GEMINI (May 21 - June 21) Brief love affairs are delightful this week but, unreliable. Respond positively to new flirtations, but avoid serious expectations. At present, potential friends or lovers will require extra time to reveal their true feelings: expect quiet moments as well as sudden outbursts or quick discussions. Later this week a distant friend may need comfort and emotional support. Family or financial changes are accented. Ask gently probing questions and offer advice: your insights will be appreciated.



CANCER (June 22 - July 22) A younger friend or relative may be unusually upset this week by a rare social argument. If so, expect roommates or long-term companions to be unresponsive to home proposals or vital family concerns. Encourage patience and avoid detailed financial discussions: emotional disputes are intense but will soon prove temporary. Late Saturday, a past colleague or work official may present an unusual job request. New projects will take extra time to finalize: ask for detailed paperwork.



LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22) Ongoing money restrictions will now steadily fade. Reduced payments, special arrangements or added sources of income are highlighted over the next nine days. Carefully study documents and finalize outstanding agreements. If not properly completed or verified, small but important details may be easily misinterpreted. Stay focused. After mid week, some Leos will receive an unique invitation to travel, study or join a new social circle. Don’t hold back: there’s much to learn.



VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) Image: A large tiger walking through the woods. Message: Courage. Loved ones may this week respond poorly to family suggestions. Social planning or travel schedules may be a strong theme. Watch for signs of group involvement before proposing change. Go slow and wait for improvement: at present close relatives and long-term friends may feel unusually distrustful of shared motives. Late this weekend, romance, sensuality and rekindled passion are a strong theme: stay alert and expect the return of past lovers or distant friends.



LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23) Enjoy familiar home activities and private social encounters this week. Over the next few days physical vitality may be low; rest and allow the body extra time to adjust to new health regimes. After Thursday, romantic partners will offer seductive overtures and gentle flirtations. Emotional breakthroughs will soon captivate your undivided interest and move stalled relationships forward. Be expressive and make sure others appreciate your thoughts, needs and goals: all is well.



SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Close relatives are introspective this week and may be easily irritated by new information. Recent disappointments with older friends or authority figures may be an underlying influence. Avoid public discussion, if possible, and wait for consistent improvement: complex issues of self-esteem or public reputation are a central theme. After Thursday, business and financial decisions will work to your advantage. It’s time to take action: ask friends or colleagues for reliable paperwork.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21) Financial limits will soon be revised. Early this week someone close may provide improved money strategies or extra funding. Employment advancement or creative business plans are accented. Thoroughly discuss all new risks or options: timing, family obligations and ongoing payments will now require careful consideration. After Friday, a new friendship may quickly evolve into romantic attraction. Listen to your first instincts: complex social restrictions may soon prove bothersome.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20) Group events or rare invitations may this week bring a fresh circle of friends into your life. Several weeks of sluggish romantic progress or emotional isolation now needs to end. Explore new activities and respond quickly to all social proposals. Optimism and self-awareness will soon be a continuing theme. Don’t hold back. Late this weekend accents property decisions and minor power struggles within the home: expect relatives or roommates to push for revised obligations.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19) Rental agreements, property restrictions or new purchases will require determination this week. Authority figures or older relatives may be unwilling to provide permissions. Remain focused: disrupted plans will cause lengthy delays, but will eventually lead to success. Later this weekend, enjoy private social encounters or light romance. Intimacy and renewed trust will prove highly rewarding in the weeks to come: make sure loved ones understand your needs and intentions.



PISCES (Feb. 20 - March 20) Family planning is easily disrupted over the next five days: expect loved ones to present conflicting schedules or disjointed social priorities. Act as mediator, if possible. Close relatives and long-term friends may disagree on home celebrations or public events. Advocate compromise. Your suggestions will be closely studied. After Saturday, many Pisceans will begin a new era of social interest, business ambition and career expansion. Ask key officials for special favors.

monday, 3//15



C Become an Orientation Leader
2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Residence Center
731 S. Plymouth Court
(312) 369-8675
Orientation leaders are not your typical, common, or mainstream students—they are different. If you want to get more out of your college experience while representing Columbia and meeting new people, apply for this not-so-average job, for not-so-average people. Attend this informational session to pick-up an application and learn more about being an orientation leader.
FREE

tuesday, 3//16

C Culture and Conversation: Traveling in Peru
11 a.m. - Noon
Multicultural Affairs Conference Room
618 S. Michigan Ave. Building, 4th floor
Eleturia@Colum.edu
During J-Term 2010, 13 Columbia students traveled to Peru as part of Elio Leturia and Teresa Puente's Travel Writing course offered by the Journalism department. Students wrote travel articles, submitted blog posts, worked on multimedia projects, shot photos and produced short videos about their experiences. Join us for Culture & Conversation as they share their journey.
FREE

C Create Change Recovery Group
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Wabash Campus Building
623 S. Wabash Ave., room 216
(312) 369-8700; call to reserve a spot
Create Change Recovery meetings are now being held on campus. The group gathers to talk and listen. No pressure. Just talking and supporting. Meet other people who feel similar struggles and similar life challenges. There is no need to feel the anxiety and pressure of alcohol dependency alone.
FREE

C Tips on Tuesdays: What Can I Do With My Major?
Noon - 1 p.m.
Multipurpose Studio
618 S. Michigan Ave. Building, 4th floor
(312) 369-7569
FREE

C Biggest Foot Dance Competition Auditions
5:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.
The Loft
916 S. Wabash Ave. Building
spb@colum.edu
FREE

wednesday, 3//17

C Industry Night Info Session
10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Portfolio Center, Wabash Campus Building
623 S. Wabash Ave., room 307
(312) 369-7280
It is no secret that Industry Night is an amazing networking opportunity. Join us for this very informative overview of industry night.
FREE



C Among Tender Roots, Laura Anderson Barbata
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
916 S. Wabash Ave. Building, room 150
Contact mpotter@colum.edu
FREE

C Biggest Foot Dance Competition Auditions
4 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Hokin Hall, Wabash Campus Building
623 S. Wabash Ave.
Contact spb@colum.edu
FREE

thursday, 3//18

C Columbia for Haiti! C.U.M.A. Benefit Concert
7 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.
1104 Center
1104 S. Wabash Ave.
Contact
ColumbiasUrbanMusicAssociation@loop.colum.edu
Columbia Urban Music Association is hosting a benefit concert that will include performances such as live bands, dance and spoken word by a variety of Columbia students. 100 percent of the proceeds will go to Haiti
Donations recommended



C Film Screening "Waiting to Inhale"
7 p.m. - 10 p.m.
South Campus Building
600 S. Michigan Ave., room 101
Contact norml@loop.colum.edu
FREE

C Dinner and Discussion: "Jesus Camp"
7 p.m.
Internet Café, The Buckingham
59 E. Van Buren St.
(616) 862-4525
FREE

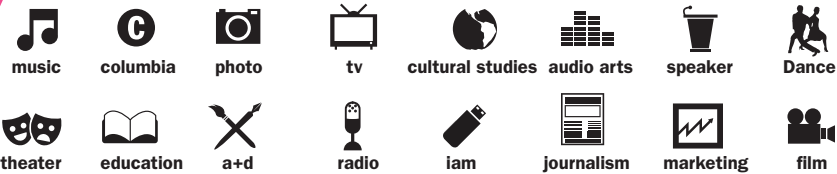
C Making Books in the Rainforest: The Shapono School in Alto Orinoco
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
916 S. Wabash Ave. Building, room 150
Contact mpotter@colum.edu
FREE

friday, 3//19




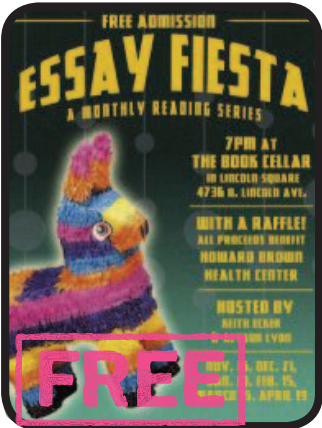
C Dinner and a Movie
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Multipurpose Studio
618 S. Michigan Ave. Building, 4th floor
(312) 369-7458
FREE


C Emotional Education
Noon - 1 p.m.
Residence Center
731 S. Plymouth Court
(312) 369-8700; call to reserve a spot
FREE




monday, 3//15


 **Essay Fiesta**
7 p.m.
The Book Cellar
4736-38 N. Lincoln Ave.
(773) 293-2665
Local writers Keith Ecker and Alyson Lyon host humorous, true-life tales by Chicago-area comedians, novelists, poets, journalists, bloggers and playwrights. Buy a raffle ticket to raise funds for the Howard Brown Health Center.
FREE





 **Outlaw**
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Blackstone Hotel
636 S. Michigan Ave.
(312) 542-3437
See more than 12 large graffiti works and several smaller illustrations by Brooklyn B-boy and tagger-turned-artist Mike “Mr. Kaves” McLeer on the hotel’s Art Hall floor, including two works commissioned for MTV’s reality show “Real World: Brooklyn.” The outlaw theme marks Kaves’ nod to underground cultures shared by Brooklyn and Chicago. The show also features two graffiti works by Blackstone general manager Robert Cartwright, a childhood friend of Kaves.
FREE

tuesday, 3//16


 **Music Yoga Flow**
10:45 a.m.
Exhale Spa
945 N. State St.
(312) 753-6500
\$22

 **“The Long Red Road”**
7:30 p.m.
The Goodman Theater
170 N. Dearborn St.
(312) 443-3800
\$39 - \$45

 **Stitch ‘n’ Bitch**
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Kopi - A Traveler’s Cafe
5317 N. Clark St.
(773) 989-5674
FREE

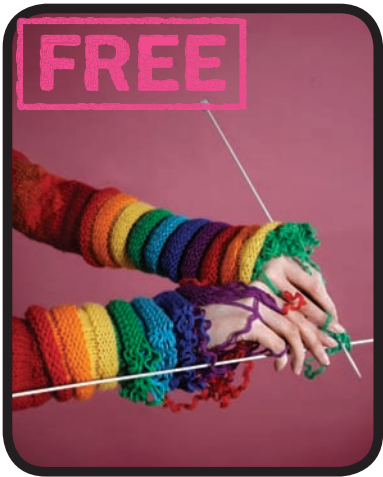
 **“The ‘Free’ Improv Show”**
10 p.m.
The Playground Theater
3209 N. Halsted St.
(773) 871-3793
\$5

wednesday, 3//17


 **Chemically Imbalanced Comedy Open Mic**
8:30 p.m.
Chemically Imbalanced Theater
1420 W. Irving Park Road
(773) 865-7731
FREE

 **Soup and Bread**
5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.
The Hideout
1354 W. Wabansia Ave.
(773) 227-4433
FREE


 **Happy Hookers**
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Mother’s Too
14 W. Division St.
(312) 266-7444
RSVP at MothersToo@sbcglobal.net
A crochet class for all experience levels. “Hooker” is a nickname for someone who crochets. BYO supplies, or pay a small fee (\$3-\$10) for materials. Drink specials include \$4 well drinks and \$6 Stoli cocktails.
FREE



thursday, 3//18

 **Adler After Dark**
6 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Adler Planetarium
and Astronomy Museum
1300 S. Lake Shore Drive
(312) 922-7827
\$7 - \$15


 **Chicago Golden Gloves Quarterfinals**
7:30 p.m.
St. Andrew’s Gym
1658 W. Addison St.
Info@ChicagoGoldenGloves.com
Amateur boxing matches for men and women at novice and open division levels. Open division winners represent Chicago at the national tournament.
\$10 - \$15

 **Words that Kill**
7 p.m.
Lilly’s
2513 N. Lincoln Ave.
(773) 525-2422
\$5 or a canned food donation


friday, 3//19


 **“Abigail’s Party”**
8 p.m.
A Red Orchid Theater
1531 N. Wells St.
(312) 943-8722
\$25 - \$30

 **12th Anniversary**
11 a.m. - 10 p.m.
312 Chicago
136 N. La Salle St.
(312) 696-2420
\$12 for select entrees, boxes of pastries and bottles of wine


 **Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis**
8 p.m.
Symphony Center
220 S. Michigan Ave.
(312) 294-3000
\$34 - \$129


saturday, 3//20

 **“Chess”**
8 p.m.
No Exit Cafe
6970 N. Glenwood Ave.
(773) 347-1109
\$25 - \$30

 **“Trust”**
8 p.m.
Lookingglass Theatre in the Water Tower Water Works
821 N. Michigan Ave.
(312) 337-0665
\$28 - \$62

sunday, 3//21

 **“Celia: The Life and Music of Celia Cruz”**
7 p.m.
Athenaeum Theater
2936 N. Southport Ave.
(800) 745-3000
\$35 - \$100

 **Scrabble Sundays**
1 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Swim Cafe
1357 W. Chicago Ave.
(312) 492-8600
FREE; Winner gets a free drink



FORECAST

AccuWeather.com Seven-day forecast for Chicago

Forecast icons and temperatures for Monday through Sunday.

poetry

music

museum

comedy

sports

art

theater

bicycling

television

food

night Life

games