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Wiretapping woes give black eye to Medill » PAGE 33

THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

The official news source of Columbia College Chicago | December 13, 2010 | Volume 46, Issue 15 | www.ColumbiaChronicle.com

Web Exclusive Video

'Dexter' star motivates students

Monstrous staff cuts at Field Museum

Institution's financial woes to affect research programs

Brock Brake THE CHRONICLE

The Field Museum, 1400 S. Lake Shore Drive, possesses various iconoic pieces, like Sue the T-Rex that cost $8.36 million, or the mummies lying inside the Ancient Egypt exhibit. Pieces like these are inteneded to draw visitors, but admission revenues continue to decline regardless.

by Spencer Roush
Editor-in-Chief

FOR MORE than 30 years Dave Willard has spearheaded an arguably morbid research project: Collecting birds that fall to their untimely death after flying full force into McCormick Place's clear glass structure.

At first glance this seemed like strange behavior or an odd collection to keep, but that wasn't the case.

Collecting these birds has allowed Willard and fellow Field Museum of Natural History researcher Doug Stotz to discover volumes of information concerning birds' migratory patterns in the region. Their discoveries have made headlines and aided researchers in various scientific endeavors.

However, Willard's work with this ongoing project is coming to a close. He is being quietly moved out of the Field, 1400 S. Lake Shore Drive, after years of research. The museum has offered him early retirement to help balance the economic woes facing the institution.

Willard isn't the only one leaving unexpectedly. The Field's finances continue to languish in the hole the recession put it in. It's putting a strain on top administrators to make significant cuts to departments and slash program components, among others.

In total, 46 staff members have been offered buy-out incentives and early retirement. Much of the staff who were offered buyouts have already left the museum, but others who were offered early retirement, like Willard, are counting down until Dec. 23—their final day.

This isn't the first staff trimming in recent times. It was reported that the Field let 88 employees go in 2007.

One staff member, who asked to remain anonymous because of possible repercussions, said in 25 years he experienced four financial dips in the institution and each time it recovered, but this is "far and away the most extensive belt tightening" he's witnessed.

"The first 10 years I worked here you would've had to shoot someone to get laid off," he said.

The Field's President and CEO John W. McCarter Jr. announced the changes in September marking the museum's second year of its five-year financial recovery process, including eliminating the 46 staff positions and closing the museum's 100-year-old Harris Educational Loan Center, which acts as a lending library of museum materials for teachers and home school classrooms, until fall 2012. These are only two of the other cost saving initiatives.

"Sadly, charities are having to make some tough choices, particularly in the arts," said Sandra Miniutti, vice president for Charity Navigator, an online service that evaluates charities and their

» **SEE MUSEUM**, PG. 38

Student adorns White House

Joins volunteers in readying presidential mansion for Christmas

by Sam Charles
Assistant Campus Editor

CHRISTMAS AT the White House has a rich tradition, dating back to 1856 when President Franklin Pierce decorated the first Christmas tree in the presidential home. This year, one Columbia student was able to make his mark by helping decorate.

Alexander Schneider, 23, senior theater major, was one of 97 volunteers selected to help put up Christmas decorations for the White House's annual holiday celebration.

Schneider and thousands of other Americans mailed in letters applying to help prepare the White House for Christmas.

"In October 2009, I started sending in letters [describing] why I wanted to decorate and why it was my dream," Schneider said.

He sent one letter every month to President Barack Obama, First Lady Michelle Obama, the White House's Chief Floral Designer Nancy Clarke and both senators from his native state, Minnesota, Al Franken and Amy Klobuchar.

He said the idea came to him after watching the "Christmas at the White House" television specials for more than a decade.

Schneider said his professors also helped him get to the White House.

Jacqueline Penrod, an associate professor in the Theater Department, is Schneider's Set Design professor.

"[Penrod is] an inspiration with the amount of detail and time commitment she puts in," Schneider said. "She always pushes you to the next level."

To take advantage of this opportunity, Schneider took a week off from classes. The decorating process began immediately after Thanksgiving, on Nov. 26.

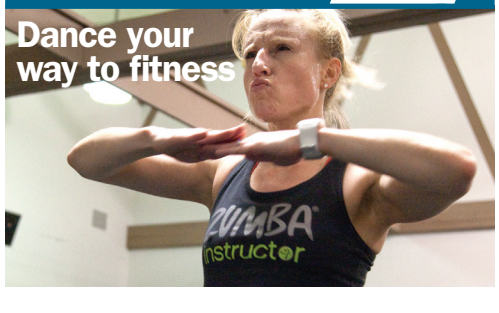
"He's so organized," Penrod said. "He's someone who plans his time and thinks all of his work through."

The 97 volunteers were managed by a designer from an outside company. The theme this year, as decided by the

» **SEE WHITE HOUSE**, PG. 7

Courtesy ALEXANDER SCHNEIDER

Health & Fitness » PG. 13



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EDITOR'S NOTE

Mum is not always the word

by Spencer Roush
Editor-in-Chief

COLUMBIA'S ADMINISTRATION doesn't make it easy to dig up the dirt for fear answers to tough questions may not send a positive message.

Granted, I'm sure the college isn't hiding any secrets as daunting as the WikiLeaks cables making top U.S. officials squirm and feel sheepish for being caught red-handed and talking about peers like gum-smacking school girls. I'm also sure the dirt isn't as juicy as a famous star's extramarital affair or any other piece of trashy entertainment news.

Nonetheless, Columbia administrators can be tight-lipped. And, this being an interesting time in history because of WikiLeaks' work to reveal classified government documents, gauging the amount of information Columbia administration and safety and security offices offer to The Chronicle or any other curious Columbians is also worth analyzing.

A few stories come to mind when I consider the college's transparency, including an article printed on Sept. 13 about an attempted mugging at the 218 S. Wabash Ave. Building, or another published on Oct. 18 about the resolved bed bug situation in one of the Buckingham dorms and the investigation of the phony bomb threats in multiple college buildings printed on Nov. 8.

With all of these articles, Columbia administration and safety and security offices were apprehensive to give up information and refused to answer some questions the student body, faculty and staff deserved answers to.

We should have known why the 33 E. Congress Parkway Building wasn't evacuated when the second bomb threat came in, and we also should've been given a rundown of the attempted mugging that happened to a Columbia staff member so the rest of us know what to look for if the suspects are on campus.

Lastly, students living in dorms should be notified of the specific bed bug incident details and that it was properly taken care of by an extermination team. Bed bugs are mean little critters and we'd all sleep better at night knowing they're gone.

Instead of receiving cooperation from the college and details about these incidents, Chronicle reporters often got the runaround, which risked publishing an incomplete story. This is unfortunate for a couple of reasons: one, not commenting makes the college look like it's doing something shady when it probably isn't; and two, The Chronicle is unable to get the full story. This can lead to factual errors and an uninformed campus.

However, there are exceptions to this disclosure problem with some top administrators who will comment on nearly anything and will call back journalists promptly. For them, The Chronicle is greatly appreciative.

As for the rest, journalists and Columbia administrators need to work together to inform students, faculty and staff. Information the college withholds can occasionally affect people's safety and this is far more important than blemishing Columbia's polished reputation.

sroush@chroniclemail.com

NEWS FLASH

12/14/2010

When We Became Fish: A Poetic Endeavour

A poetic showcase sponsored by the Performance Art Poetry workshop. The event will feature readings and performances from Ace Royal, Akia Chenise and Mo'nique Ne-Chi'Rye. The event will last from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Quincy Wong Center for Artistic Expression,
Wabash Campus Building
623 S. Wabash Ave.

12/17/2010

"Voyage to the Origin"

"Voyage to the Origin" is a collaboration between students in the Theater and Science and Math departments. The exhibition will present the findings and works of Charles Darwin and offer new and creative insights via their own work. The gallery will run through the spring.

C33 Gallery
33 E. Congress Parkway Building

This is the last issue of The Chronicle for the fall 2010 semester. We would like to thank you for your readership. We will be back in print on Jan. 24, 2011. In the meantime, please check our website ColumbiaChronicle.com for updates over the break.

CAMPUS POLL

"How do you feel about WikiLeaks?"

Ambria Taylor
freshman
film and video major

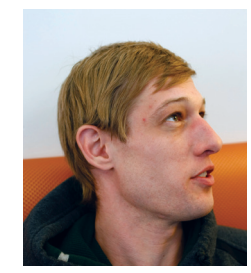
"I think it's the coolest thing ever because it's [an] inspiring call for transparency. Even though I think most of the content might be questionable, it's a really interesting and fascinating way for people to rise up against things they think are wrong or unfair. It's kind of unstoppable. Even if it gets shut down it's going to set a new precedent."

Melissa Smith
sophomore
music major

"I think what [they do] is pretty bold, putting information out there that people don't really have. People should be able to have a link to everything they wouldn't [normally] have a link to. Being able to get a hold of information that's not available to the public on a normal basis is a great idea."

Micah Schmelzer
junior
interdisciplinary arts major

"I think it's important to de-mystify everything the government tries to hide from us. So I think it's important to keep those lines of communication open, even if it is considered dangerous."



Shawn Smith
freshman
cultural studies major

"It seems to me the guy behind it [doesn't have] good intentions. I don't know what his motive is but I think he should be stopped. I'm all for it being shut down."

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Campus

Site might predict mayor

Scorecard website named most informative in race for Chicago mayor

by Heather McGraw
Contributing Writer

Brent Lewis THE CHRONICLE

Dan Sinker, assistant professor in the Journalism Department, has created a mayoral tracking website.

WHILE DAN Sinker spends his days as an assistant professor in the Journalism Department, his other projects are catching attention.

His website, ChicagoMayoralScorecard.com, was acknowledged by The Huffington Post as the most informative site on the upcoming Chicago mayoral elections in an article on its website on Nov. 23.

"It's been the most informative thing we've seen in terms of information on all of the candidates," said Jen Sabella, Chicago editor at The Huffington Post.

Sabella said the site was a useful tool for the aggregated style of The Huffington Post.

"He would continuously add where the candidates stood in terms of are they running—are they officially in, are they not, are they out—because it was changing on a day-to-day basis," Sabella said.

According to Sabella, the site can be used as a tool for reporters and readers alike.

"It's a one-stop shop for somebody interested in the mayoral race," Sabella said.

Sinker said he had that goal in mind when creating the site.

"Basically, the idea is to give a very quick, easy-read display of all of the information about candidates in the [mayoral] election," Sinker said.

Unlike other news providers, Sinker's site doesn't concentrate on one or two candidates, it seeks to provide information about all of the mayoral candidates.

"Some of these names—if you're going in to vote on Feb. 22—you will have never seen in any newspaper, and that's a disservice to being an informed electorate," Sinker said. "That's a big part of it to me: just actually having a list and having information built into that list."

Aside from a full list of candidates, The Huffington Post states the amount of information provided is what sets the site apart from other outlets.

"I started thinking about this idea of compiling a dashboard for all of the candidates, so pulling in all of their Web presence, as well as doing things like tracking polls and marking any other kind of weirdness like, for instance, right now all of the objections to all these people's [nominating petitions]," Sinker said.

In version 2.0 of his website, Sinker gathered information for all the candidates officially named by the board of elections. The site changed since its creation, shortly after Daley announced he didn't intend to run for office again.

"In those early days it just seemed like there were 8,000 candidates, and you didn't know what was real and what wasn't," Sinker said. "The news organizations covering it didn't have a definitive list."

As the list narrowed, Sinker updated information. He plans to provide additional details on candidates as the race progresses.

"Right now there are 20 people, so finding things in common among all 20 to be able to display is hard," Sinker said. "Once there are 10, especially as the race matures, more and more people are going to have similar sets of data you can pull from."

Although there is an abundance of information on candidates, the site's simple navigation and clear organization makes it easy to process for Paris Lewbel, sophomore journalism major.

> "Basically, the idea is to give a very quick, easy-read display of all of the information about candidates in the [mayoral] election."
>
> -Dan Sinker

"It's simple, and nowadays websites can be confusing to navigate," Lewbel said. "Something that is simple, able to show the polls, what their status is, who they are and what they used to be is a good thing."

Lewbel is a member of the College Conservatives and lead anchor for "Chaos Control," Columbia's political show airing on Frequency TV.

"With the younger culture [today], people aren't really aware of what the candidates are running for," Lewbel said.

Esta Kallen, co-president of the League of Women Voters in Chicago, said she thinks knowing what a candidate did before running is an important factor.

"If someone is looking for a concentrated area, a concentration of information about this candidate and not just him saying 'Vote for me because...', it gives a little background on the person," Kallen said.

Dick Simpson, professor and chair of the Department of Political Science at the University of Illinois at Chicago, likes having information on candidates who are contested.

"This site is providing useful information about the candidates, including whose petitions have been challenged and money available for the campaign," Simpson said.

Simpson thinks there might still be an issue with the site, though.

"The problem is always for people to find a website like this," Simpson said.

But according to Sinker, The Huffington Post's acknowledgment of the site may go a long way in promoting it, and he said he appreciates his project being noticed.

"You always want recognition for the work you do," Sinker said.

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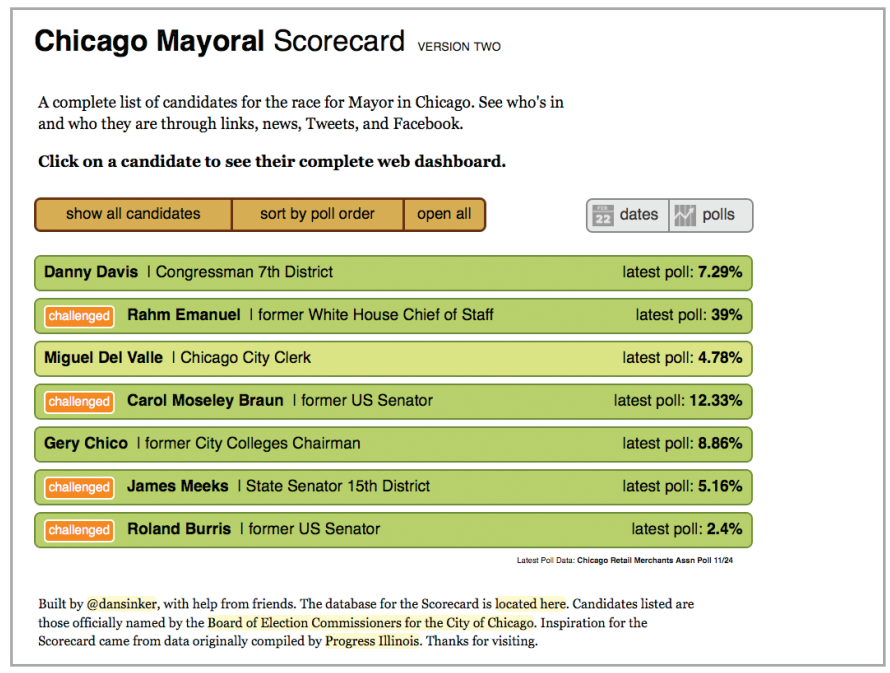

Brent Lewis THE CHRONICLE

The site ChicagoMayoralScorecard.com tracks the candidates for Chicago mayor. It has been recognized for its comprehensiveness by The Huffington Post.

LAS faculty gets new ranking

Instructors chosen based on professional merit, general excellence in field of study

by Drew Hunt
Assistant Campus Editor

THE SCHOOL of Liberal Arts and Sciences has officially joined The School of Fine and Performing Arts as well as The School of Media Arts in having an official ranking system that determines which instructors receive the title of professor.

Twelve faculty members in the School of LAS have officially been given the rank of professor by the college. Instructors in the Departments of Humanities, History, and Social Sciences, Science and Mathematics and English were selected based on the sterling achievements of their individual professional careers, said Deborah Holdstein, Dean of the School of LAS.

STOCK PHOTO

Steven Kapelke, Provost and and senior vice president of Columbia, played an integral part in implementating a new faculty ranking system.

Holdstein was among the twelve faculty members to receive the rank of professor, along with Garnett Kilberg-Cohen, David Lazar, Karen Osborne, Jeff Schiff and Tony Trigilio of the English Department; Stephen Asma, Joan Erdman and Dominic Pacyga of the HHSS Department; and Charles Cannon, Pan Papacosta and Constantin Rasinariu of the Science and Mathematics Department.

Implementing a rank system in the School of LAS was an initiative led by Provost and Senior Vice President Steven Kapelke as well as Vice President of Academic Affairs Louise Love.

In an email sent to faculty members, Kapelke said those who earned the rank of professor have demonstrated excellence in their continued efforts as teachers, artists and scholars.

"Each [instructor] has...contributed

» SEE LAS PG. 9

Columbia helps students fight stress

College offered hands-on approach to end-of-semester pressure at Dec. 7 workshop

by Katy Nielsen
Assistant Campus Editor

Brock Brake THE CHRONICLE

Massage specialists from Hired Hands Day Spa, 630 W. Webster Ave., give students free massages on Dec. 7 as part of De-Stress Week.

DE-STRESS SEMINARS, counseling services and free massages are some ways Columbia helps students cope with stress before finals and the holidays.

Jackie Sowinski-Hamlett, director of Counseling Services and a therapist at Columbia, said identifying triggers is the first step to managing stress.

Students had the chance to talk about their end-of-the-semester stressors and triggers at a stress management workshop monitored by Sowinski-Hamlett on Dec. 7 at the 618 S. Michigan Ave. Building. Stressors for students included final exams, living up to familial and personal expectations, dealing with difficult professors and other personal dilemmas.

"Right now is just a stressful time of the year because of the holidays and finals," Sowinski-Hamlett said.

According to Sowinski-Hamlett, people often have high expectations, which can be habit-forming and stress-inducing. Breaking those habits means identifying triggers and finding ways to cope.

Having a good support system, the ability to communicate effectively, setting boundaries, developing relaxation techniques—like a two-minute breathing exercise, mediation and guided imagery—and meeting with a therapist were some suggestions Sowinski-Hamlett said may reduce anxiety.

Columbia offers students 10 counseling appointments every semester, which is part of the health services fee included in full-time student tuition. Joshua Robinson, sophomore music major who attended the workshop, said meeting with a counselor from time to time has been helpful for him.

"It helps because you get to talk about things you don't tell everybody," Robinson said. "They hold onto your secrets."

Sowinski-Hamlett said when students are in high-stress situations immune systems can be compromised. Students often neglect three basic human needs when they are stressed: sleeping enough, maintaining a good diet and exercising regularly.

"These are areas we actually have a lot of control over," Sowinski-Hamlett said.

However, many students neglect their bodies when they are stressed out.

When Sowinski-Hamlett asked students at the seminar if any of these things were being done, they burst into laughter. There was a unanimous "no" that followed.

Elizabeth Martin, sophomore film and video major, said she tends to get sick after finals and overeats to deal with stress. Martin said balancing school, work and family life contribute to her anxiety.

"I'm just letting it all attack me at once," Martin said. "I'm crash-sleeping, I write a big paper and then fall asleep at my desk."

Two on-site massage specialists from Hired Hands Day Spa, 630 W. Webster Ave., were paid by the college to give students free massages at the Residence Center, 731 S. Plymouth Court, during the event.

"People hold most of their stress in their upper body," said Whitney-Margeaux Gurley, a clinical massage therapist from Hired Hands.

One student who lined up to get a massage was Dacia Hill, freshman music major. Hill has been feeling pressure because of family issues, finals and the daily commute she makes to classes.

"I've been a little stressed out," Hill said. "I thought it would be nice to take a break and just relax for a little bit."

According to Mark Brticevich, fitness coordinator at Columbia, students need to take time out for themselves and learn to take deep breaths to calm down.

"The more stressed you become, [the] more shallow your breathing [is]," Brticevich said. "The more stressed you become, the less ability you have to remember things."

Brticevich and Sowinski-Hamlett said it is important to take care of your body's physical needs to reduce stress.

"I know students say, 'Oh I'm busy. I don't have time,'" Brticevich said. "When you're busy and stressed is when you need to take time and de-stress."

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Monday December 13
Composition 1 A Recital 12:00 PM
Singers Showcase 7:00 PM

Tuesday December 14
Composition 1 B Recital 12:00 PM
Student Composer Showcase at the Sherwood 7:00 PM
Masters Program in Composition II Recital 7:00 PM

Wednesday December 15
Composition 1 C Recital 12:00 PM
Masters Program in Composition I Recital 7:00PM
CCC Chorus at the Sherwood 8:00 PM

Thursday December 16
Composition 1 D Recital 12:00 PM
Advanced Composition Recital 7:00 PM
At the Conaway
Pop Rock Ensemble: Styles 2 7:00 PM

Friday December 17
Midi Recital 12:00 PM
CCC Brass Ensemble Recital 5:00 PM
at the Sherwood
Composition 3 Recital 7:00 PM

Saturday December 18
Composition 3B Recital 4:30 PM

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Chicago Public Schools' students juke for success

AEMM major creates after-school program after Fenger death

by Shardae Smith
Assistant Campus Editor

Brent Lewis THE CHRONICLE

Students participating in The Juke Institute after-school program practice footwork dancing at Marshall Metropolitan High School on Dec. 8.

FOOTWORK AND juke are two Chicago-style dance forms popular with the city's youth. A Columbia student inspired by tragedy has found a way to incorporate the dance into an education-related program with an organization called The Juke Institute.

Junior arts, entertainment and media-management major Quiana Edmond co-founded The Juke Institute in 2009 and now is seeking a free-standing home for the organization. The program is dedicated to performing arts and uses juke music and footwork dancing as a catalyst to motivate youth to excel in school.

Footwork is an urban street dance. With emphasis on fast movement of the feet, it also incorporates special gestures and arm movements. Juke music is also fast-paced and is well suited to footwork dancing.

Edmond and Ryan Willis, an alumnus of DePaul University and co-founder of the institute, said they thought of the idea in 2004, but it was an after-school fight in which Chicago Public School student Derrion Albert was beaten to death, that pushed Edmond and Willis to put their plan in motion.

"I saw the video [of Albert's beating], and it resonated something in me; something had to be done," Edmond said. "We didn't want to be people [who] sat back and said, 'That's a shame, those kids need something to do,' and we knew we were sitting on this idea."

Edmond contacted Alderman Carrie Austin (34th Ward) about her plans. She was directed to Christian Fenger Academy High School, 11220 S. Wallace St., and the program was implemented as an after-school program under the U.S. Department of Education's School Emergency Response to Violence grant.

For the 2010 fiscal year, CPS received a $500,000 SERV grant from the Barack Obama administration to go toward education-related services to help the school recover from a violent or traumatic event in which the learning environment may have been disrupted. A portion of the money was given to Fenger, where Albert and his attackers were students.

"[The program] is a way to notice the youth engaged in the [footwork] culture who attend CPS schools and use it as a way for them to do better and get out of their situations," Edmond said.

The Juke Institute currently works out of three CPS high schools, Wendell Phillips Academy, 244 E. Pershing Road; John Marshall Metropolitan High School, 3250 W. Adams St; and Fenger.

Any student who attends these schools may be part of the program, but an elite group of students, who already knew the dance moves, were chosen as team members. They have the chance to earn community service hours when the program visits local elementary schools to teach younger children the dances.

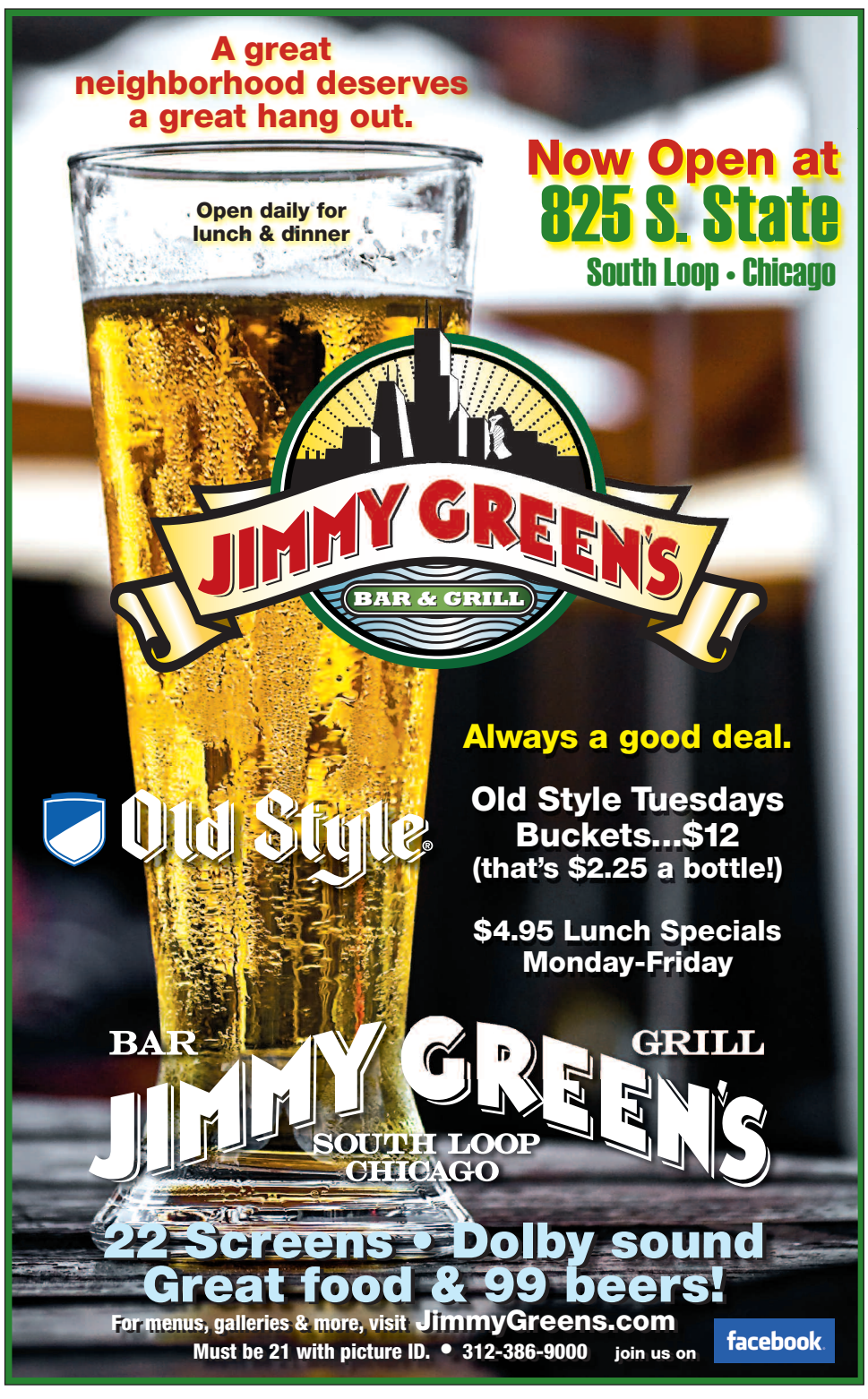
Rashad Harris, an alumnus of Homewood-Flossmoor High School and a lead instructor for The Juke Institute, said there is a side of the juke and footwork culture people don't get to see because the movement is local.

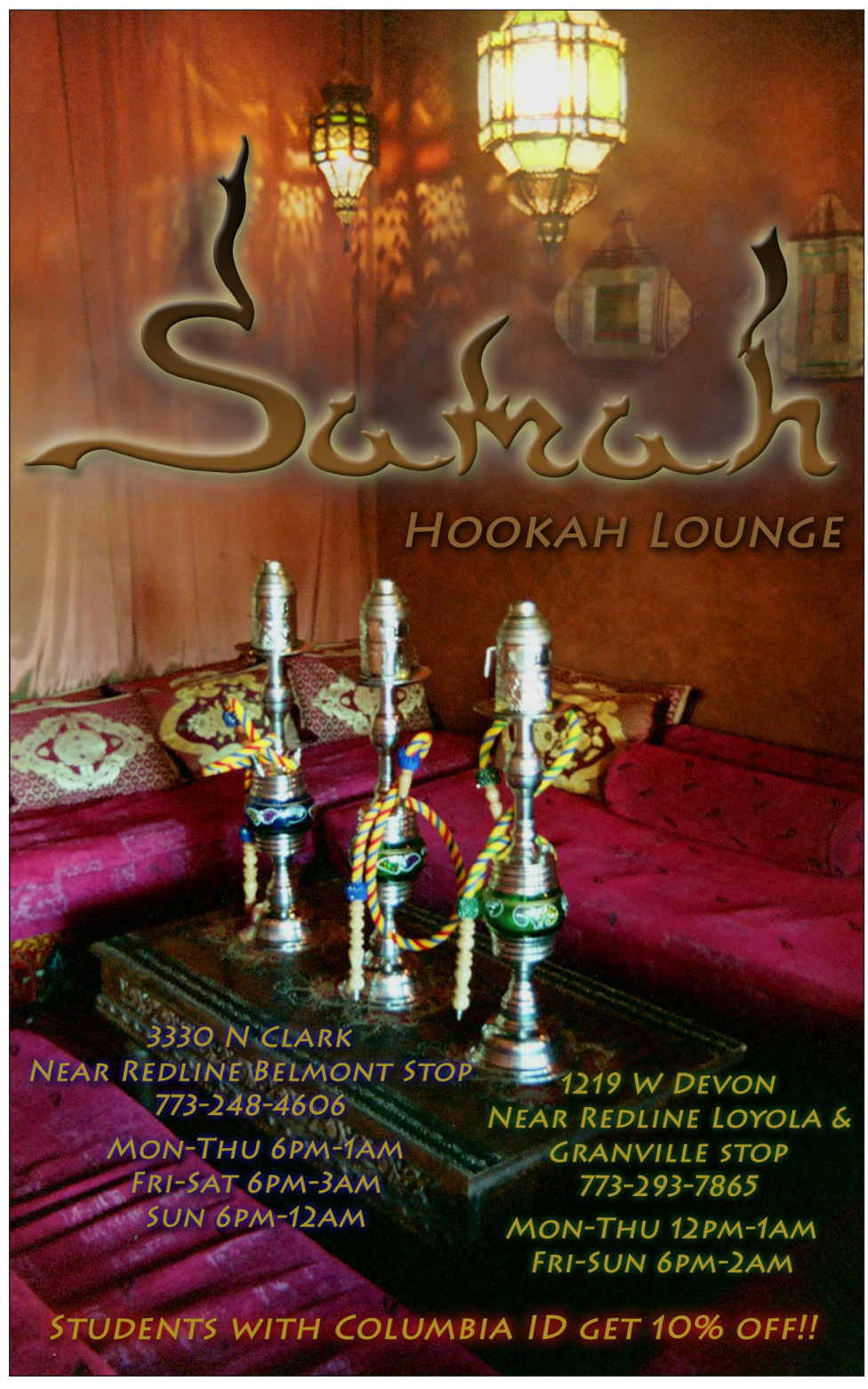
"I see how [The Juke Institute] affects the kids on the streets," Harris said. "It gave them another outlet, something positive. My goal is to spread [it] out from Chicago- and [reach out to] more kids."

Edmond said the institute's philosophy is to take the students as they are, regarding grades and behavior. But upon joining the program, students are expected to improve in school, although Edmond said that doesn't always happen. She said she has seen some improvements in students' grades and sometimes gives wake-up calls to improve their attendance.

The Juke Institute is considered a short-term education-related service by the SERV grant guidelines, and the time span for the program was only supposed to be for one year. Fenger will continue to fund the program from its school budget. Edmond and Willis applied for the Pepsi Refresh Project in an effort to win $250,000 for a building to house the program. The Pepsi Refresh Project will award the

» **SEE JUKE**, PG. 9





» WHITE HOUSE

Continued from Front Page

First Lady, is "Simple Gifts." However, decorators were still given some artistic freedom, Schneider said.

Primarily, Schneider helped design the State Dining Room, which contains an 1869 portrait of President Abraham Lincoln.

"The designers [showed us] a sample on one of the trees," Schneider said. "Even though there was a basic design and idea, we were able to use a lot of our own creativity and add in our own design work."

According to Schneider, most of the other volunteers working on the decorations were much older than him, with the exception of a sophomore from Marquette University, the group comprised many homemakers and retirees, Schneider said.

"I probably brought the median age down about 20 or 30 years," he said.

Despite the age gap, participants became close friends during their time together.

"We formed a family bond," Schneider said. "It was really fun getting to know everyone from across the country."

His grandmother was also invited to join him in Washington, D.C. In his letters to the various officials, Schneider always included "P.S. I'd love to surprise my grandmother with an invitation." He received notice of his selection to help decorate last October. The message was addressed "Dear Alexander and Grandmother."

"I love design in general, and I knew I wanted to do something hands-on and artistic," he said. "A lot of the different departments, especially Art and Design, Theater and Film, geared me toward a good, thorough background."

Schneider changed his major a few times during his Columbia career, initially studying in the Film and Video Department. The exposure to different curricula helped him appreciate different forms of design.

John Green, chair of the Theater Department, said the work Schneider did in Washington, D.C., helps show how many different styles fall into the category of Set Design.

"What Alexander is doing is creating public spectacle," Green said. "Any formal Christmas decoration in a large, formal public space, which the White House is, represents a great tradition of creating public spectacle, which helps us broaden the whole idea of what [set] design is."

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Courtesy ALEXANDER SCHNEIDER

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create... change

Staff union resolves pay negotiations

Lengthy bargaining process ended with majority vote to accept salary increase

by Drew Hunt
Assistant Campus Editor

File photo

United Staff of Columbia College President Mike Bright announced on Dec. 9 the union has accepted a wage increase of 1 percent. The decision was reached by a majority vote from union members.

AFTER MONTHS of negotiations between the United Staff of Columbia College and the college administration, the two parties have come to terms on the details of a pay increase for all unionized staff. The agreement includes a 1 percent increase in salary, retroactive to Sept. 1, as well as 1 percent bonus to come on Jan. 15, 2011.

Earlier this year, the college offered non-unionized staff and full-time faculty an identical pay increase, which went into place immediately. However, the US of CC continued its negotiations, seeking to secure a higher salary for the unionized staff.

But according to Jennie Fauls, assistant director of the First-year Writing program, as time passed, non-negotiating members of the US of CC grew impatient with the lack of progress in bargaining.

A portion of the staff remains at odds with union officers concerning a myriad of issues. Many cite a lack of transparency on behalf of the US of CC as contributing to mistrust among the its members.

However, according to Linda Naslund, administrative assistant in the Fiction Writing Department and a member of the US of CC's negotiating team, any ill will directed toward the union is unfounded based on the results they were able to produce.

"We really worked hard at this," Naslund said. "It's not like we're a bunch of doofuses who didn't know what we were doing."

The US of CC also claimed the negotiations team was successful in forcing the college to repeal its initial offer of no wage increase to the current 1 percent, which Union President Mike Bright said in a press release was a great achievement.

However, Provost and Senior Vice President Steve Kapelke said the college never offered a zero percent increase and any assertion otherwise is patently untrue.

Regardless, the union's officers held a vote in which non-negotiating members could have a say in whether the negotiations team should accept the college's offer of 1 percent or continue bargaining for a higher salary.

Voting took place during Dec. 2 and Dec. 3 and resulted in 182 votes in favor of approving the offer and 24 votes rejecting—or 88 percent acceptance among those participating.

According to Naslund it is common for unions to allow its non-negotiating members to have a say in the process by way of a vote.

Naslund said although the union leaders might not have gotten the exact deal they strived for, members of the US of CC should be pleased with what they have accomplished in their negotiations.

"[We got] a salary increase and a bonus for unionized staff, which has never been done before here," Naslund said. "We were hoping to get the best that we could."

But while negotiations proved to be a more complicated process than usual, Kapelke said bargaining ended congenially.

"Every negotiation has its own nature," Kapelke said. "Some take longer, some not as long. The length of [the] negotiation doesn't mean there were problems."

Kapelke also said the main goal of the negotiations was to assure unionized staff members the administration is consistently pleased with their efforts.

In the meantime, Naslund said the union is open to any of its non-negotiating members stepping forward to help with the next series of salary negotiations, which will take place in February 2011.

"We need more people to help out in the bargaining unit," Naslund said. "If somebody thinks they can do a better job, I think we'd be happy to have them on our team."

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Brent Lewis THE CHRONICLE

» JUKE

Continued from PG. 6

The Pepsi Refresh Project will select the top two ideas from businesses, nonprofits and people who it believes will have a positive impact on the community. The Juke Institute is currently ranked in the top 13 percent of all ideas submitted.

"We need a spot where people can check [our dancing] out," Harris said. "There aren't a lot of places where kids can go footwork, but footworkers need to come together and get more organized, then expand."

Edmond said a permanent location for the program will help keep children off the street and footworking alive.

According to Willis, footwork has the ability to teach students responsibility and prepare them for adulthood.

"The dedication, determination, perseverance and practice it takes for [students] to excel in footwork relates and transcends into everyday life, and those are the values we try to instill in them."

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» LAS

Continued from PG. 3

significantly to the creation of a firm foundation for the college's faculty rank system," Kapelke said in the email.

Traditionally, when a college or university hires new faculty members, they become what is known as a tenure-track faculty members and are given the title of assistant professor of their particular discipline. According to Holdstein, in order to earn tenure, an instructor must demonstrate advanced proficiency in creative activity, teaching and service.

Upon earning tenure, the instructor earns the rank of associate professor and is then eligible to become a full professor in their particular department.

Because the School of LAS' ranking system is fairly new, Holdstein said one of the first steps was to determine who might be qualified to become a full professor in his or her respective field. The college used an expedited process for its initial selections as opposed to a more customary ranking system.

"If there were people around the college who were exceptionally accomplished...those people could apply for full professorship before we actually had in place the regular process for applying," Holdstein said.

But despite the unorthodox approach, Holdstein said the college chose worthy instructors to receive the rank of professor.

"[We used an expedited process], but that doesn't mean those people didn't have very careful review—they did," Holdstein said. "We also got outside letters from scholars around the country, testifying to whether these people were qualified to become full professors in their respective disciplines. Those people more than met the criteria."

Additionally, Holdstein said other professors from surrounding schools were consulted in the process to ensure those chosen were suited for the rank.

Upon applying for the expedited process, Erdman said she was asked to submit letters of recommendation from her colleagues in and out of the academic community in order to cement her status as a qualified instructor.

> "This is something that reflects what goes on in the profession at large."
>
> -Debra Holdstein

"My letters from my colleagues all said 'I thought she was already a full professor'," Erdman said. "One of the reasons that hadn't happened...is that we didn't have rank. For me, what it means is it's a kind of affirmation of what I've been doing."

Erdman, who works in the field of anthropology, said while professors in the School of LAS had received tenure, there was no ranking system in place to give them the title of professor. She said instituting a system was the next logical step.

"I think that it's important for this college to recognize its faculty," Erdman said. "And by recognize, I mean affirm their achievements, applaud their accomplishments and understand that in addition to teaching, faculty have professional careers and have an impact on their field, even beyond their students here."

According to Holdstein, the most important aspect of implementing a ranking system in the School of LAS is that it reflects other institutes of higher learning.

"This is something that reflects what goes on in the profession at large," Holdstein said. "We [now] have a recognizable standard and set of criteria and ways of identifying people of accomplishment that reflects what goes on at other major instructions of higher learning across the country. And that's always good."

Holdstein, Kapelke and other administrators are currently working on finalizing the rank system they will use in the future, which Holdstein said she hopes will go into practice in the next academic year.

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Photographer living his dream

Columbia alum wins several awards for his photojournalistic work

by Katy Nielsen
Assistant Campus Editor

Courtesy SCOTT R. BRANDUSH

The photo above, taken by Scott R. Brandush, won first place in the general news photo category. Faith Jones of the Northwest Indiana Patriots Tea Party protest yells, "Freedom isn't free," to passing motorists.

Courtesy SCOTT R. BRANDUSH

Scott Brandush won six awards for photojournalism at the Crown Point Star weekly newspaper.

IT WAS a lifelong passion that became a career for Columbia alumnus Scott R. Brandush. As a staff photographer at the Crown Point Star, the sister paper of Northwest Indiana's Post-Tribune, he received recognition for his work after entering his first photography contest.

Brandush, 29, took home six awards—and was a finalist for photo of the year—at the Hoosier State Press Association Better Newspaper Contest awards banquet held at the Indiana Convention Center on Dec. 4.

He graduated from Columbia in 2003 with a photography degree, and was a dedicated student who said he commuted from Lowell, Ind., two hours by train every day he had class.

"A camera was the first thing he ever asked for as a kid for Christmas," said his mother, Susan Brandush-Denny.

Brandush would take his camera everywhere and photograph everything around him. When he realized he wanted to make photography his career, Columbia seemed like a natural fit, Brandush-Denny said.

It was Columbia Artist-in-Residence John H. White who made a profound impression on Brandush in college, ultimately influencing his career path. After he took a course taught by White, Brandush knew he wanted to be a photojournalist.

"He was my inspiration, he molded me as a photographer," Brandush said. "He was the best teacher I ever had in my entire life."

Elizabether Chilsen, academic manager of the Photography Department and curator of Manifest, said it is the high standards Columbia sets for its students that distinguishes it from other institutions.

"It's really through making the work that students learn the medium and profession," Chilsen said.

Brandush said he attributes his success largely to Columbia. His education at the college gave him the chance to discover himself as an artist.

"Everything he knows he learned at Columbia," Brandush-Denny said. "I'm so excited for Scott."

For Brandush, the joy of his job is hearing people's stories, getting an inside look at their lives and having the opportunity to express himself creatively.

"I love meeting people ... from different walks of life," Brandush said. "Every day is different, every assignment is different and I love photography, which is a bonus."

Brandush covers high school sports—everything from swimming to baseball, football and basketball. He said shooting sports allows him to be creative because they provide opportunities for a photographer to capture interesting visual moments.

"It's about timing," Brandush said. "The more you do it, the better you get at it."

Brandush received first place for best action photo and general news photo, second place for best sports action photo and best sports feature photo. He was also a finalist for photo of the year and finished third for best multiple group photo and best spot news photo.

His job is not always easy, especially when he is assigned to tragic events.

"My photos are never more important than the person I am photographing," Brandush said. "I try to sympathize with the person, but at the same time, I have to do my job."

He said getting his current position at the Crown Point Star took several years of perseverance.

For photojournalism students, Brandush said "Don't get discouraged, jobs are hard to find in this field ... but the more you shoot, the better you'll get."

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The implications of an absence of imagery

by Ali Beyer
Adjunct Professor, Television Department

THE RECENT suicides of students, who endured anti-gay bullying, which received significant attention from the national press, have me remembering my own experiences in college in a very homophobic environment. It makes me angry that this type of homophobia remains prevalent on campuses today.

As a visual art student at a prestigious art college in the Midwest, I became mindful of my audience and my intent as I worked. I was encouraged to "paint what I know." As is typical of many young people in college, I was interested in myself and issues relating to my personal identity. Although I "came out" to my friends and family, this was not something I had really delved into artistically, and this was where my attention turned.

I rarely saw images of butch females in visual culture, and my research confirmed this observation. I decided making positive images of these unseen women would be a constructive contribution I could make with my art. I felt this was a subject I could speak about with authority, and I would have a chance to write my own narrative. I was excited, enthusiastic, and I soon learned, extremely naive.

> "Queer people are the only minority whose culture is not transmitted within the family."
>
> -Nayland Blake

As I painted large-scale portraits of masculine females I realized exactly how conservative the climate at my school was. As students, teachers and other people in the painting department became uncomfortable and ultimately angry with my work, I became more committed to it.

Young LGBTQ students, especially female (out as well as those who were not), frequently came up to me after critiques or when they saw my work in exhibition spaces to let me know how meaningful it was to them, to see this type of imagery and hear someone in class stand up for it so strongly. This meant much more to me than the formal group critiques withstood.

Common statements I received in critiques from my peers and professors were: "Nobody wants to look at that; that's not a man or a woman." In my head, I would finish their statements with a phrase I had heard many times before: "just a freak of nature." I thought, What about Matthew Shepard? Didn't any of that matter? It was just a few years ago.

"Why do you make images of gay people? They don't have it so bad." I heard that on my first day, and I almost quit. But I'm rather stubborn, so once that started happening, I was more determined than ever to force them to put up with me. I read books on queer theory so I could argue effectively when I felt attacked, and when Harmony Hammond came to speak, I proudly clutched my copy of "Lesbian Art in America."

To actually accomplish anything in this setting, I would have to take deep breaths and maintain my composure (which I was not always capable of doing). I would have to deflect the anger and remind myself that my subject matter was up to me, and we did not spend half the time in other people's critiques debating whether their subjects were worthy. I insisted their questions about the validity of my subject matter revealed their homophobia, and suggested we instead spend that time debating why this type of imagery was not more commonplace in art.

As an open lesbian who created and studied art history and visual culture for more than one decade, when I think about this year's Critical Encounters theme—Image and Implication—I think about the implications of an absence of imagery.

Imagery is power. The absence of imagery is erasure. Whom do you emulate when images of people like you are not shown? What if the images of people like you are not created with you in mind? How does this affect young people who are in the process of becoming aware of their place in society? The ramifications and reverberations of an absence of imagery can be extremely detrimental.

We need to promote and provide positive imagery of LGBTQ culture for our young people, especially those desperately looking for connections and reassurances in hostile, isolated environments, including college campuses. There have been some encouraging recent developments, such as the YouTube channel "It Gets Better," launched by sex and relationship columnist Dan Savage. This led to the "Make It Better" Project, which provides information and resources to gay-straight alliances nationwide. Organizations such as Groundspark, which runs the "Respect for All Project," are working to develop inclusive, bias-free schools. Efforts like these are reaching an audience who needs this type of encouragement, and I hope it truly does get better.

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CRITICAL ENCOUNTERS
get involved

We are looking for concise essays from faculty, staff and students. These voices will provide us with a variety of perspectives on the importance and impact of the images we confront and create.

Successful essays generally make one solid point or have one central focus. Try to make that point by telling a story; use description and anecdotes to bring your story to life for readers. Submissions should be approximately 750 words; expect them to be edited down for publication.

Making Meaning," like "Image & Implication," will explore how images—visual, verbal and virtual—affect us. How do images determine the way we see our world and our role in it? How do our images of other people affect the way we respond to them? What kind of images foment action? What is our responsibility as image-creators?

Send essays via e-mail to Sharon Bloyd-Peshkin at Speshkin@colum.edu or criticalencounters@colum.edu. Please include your academic department and your classification (student, staff, faculty, administrator). If you are a student, please include your major and your level (freshman, sophomore, junior, senior). Include your contact information (e-mail and phone).

image + implication
CRITICAL ENCOUNTERS

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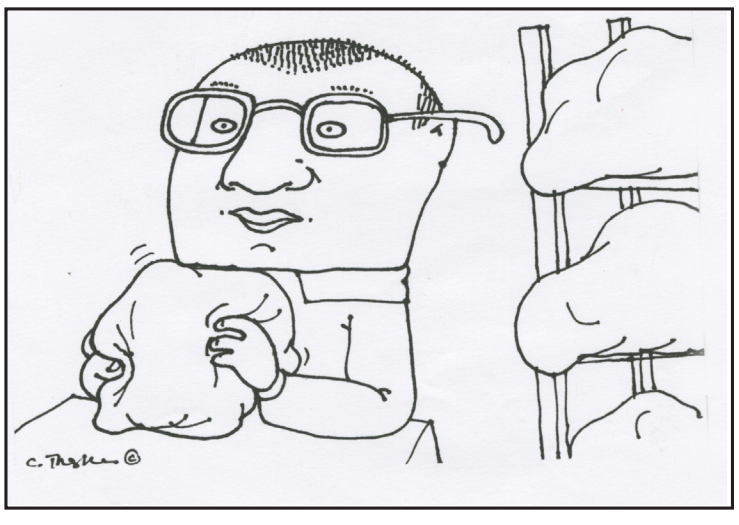
This week's image

Submit captions to CaptionContest@Chroniclemail.com or tweet suggestions to @CCChronicle-The author of the winning caption will receive a $5 Dunkin' Donuts gift card.

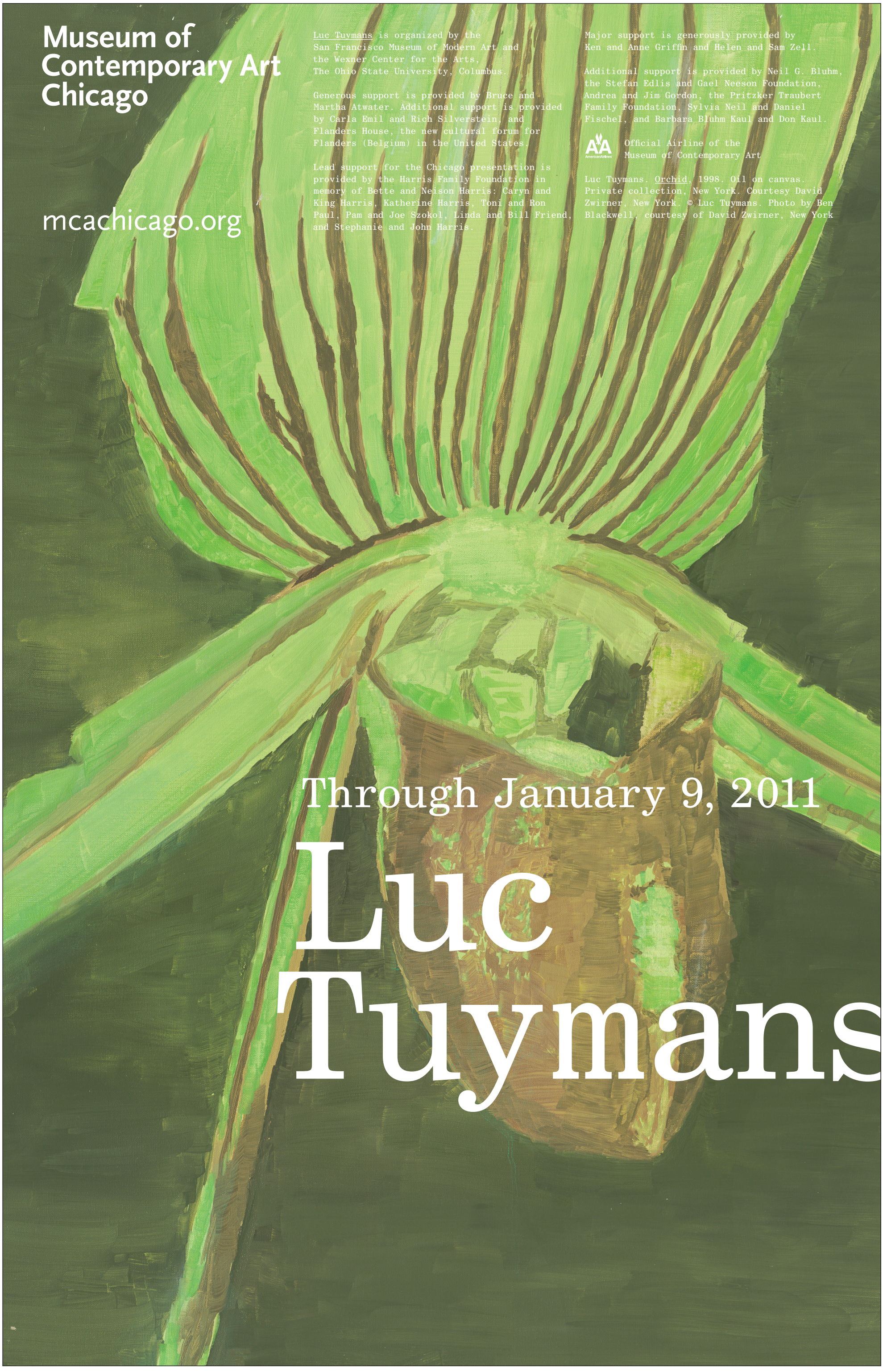
Caption Contest
Last week's image



Winning Caption

"Now if only I could get this looking even more amorphous..."

– Erick Frausto
senior, audio arts and acoustics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Luc Tuymans

Health& Fitness

Intramural Week confusion

Volleyball, soccer postponed leading to no success for Columbia, Roosevelt

by Etheria Modacure
Assisstant Health & Fitness Editor

THE COLUMBIA Renegades club sports program has worked all semester to create awareness, increase participation and get new leaders to help build its teams. With the difficulty of finding adequate space to host any games, it's been a struggle for the program to find consistent success.

From Dec. 6 through 9, the Renegades hosted an intramural tournament at the South Loop Elementary School 1212 S. Ply mouth Court. The tournament consisted of basketball, soccer, volleyball and dodgeball.

Unfortunately for the Renegades, this tournament didn't turn out to be helpful in gaining more participants. The first event, basketball, on Dec. 6, was successful because students from Columbia and Roosevelt University took part in a half-court game of roundball.

Volleyball and soccer were canceled on Dec. 6 because there was a scheduled science fair at South Loop Elementary. This may have had an affect on dodgeball being canceled on Dec. 9 because of a disproportionate number of participants

"We work with what we get," said Kevin Hartmann, vice president of the Renegades. "We really don't have adequate space to play any of these sports. Its kind of our constant struggle, finding places to play."

The basketball games were 3-on-3 and played on each half of the court. Hartmann said the Renegades always wanted to do tournaments such as this to get more participation from Columbia students.

"We're just trying to do different events to get our name out there, and let [students] know we exist," Hartmann said.

While the tournament could have been fun for students, the agony of losing a basketball game wasn't good for Zachary Meyer, a sophomore film and video major at Columbia. Meyer's team lost a few games in the basketball tournament, but he was pleased with the Renegades' efforts to have an athletic event for students.

He acknowledged that Columbia needs to put together more intramural events so more can participate.

"We have nothing else really to do for athletes who [don't play regularly]; we don't have intramurals," Meyer said. "It was fun to come out, shoot around and play some games."

A lot of students were notified of intramural week through campus signage and the student loop portal. They weren't notified of the cancellations until they arrived at the gym.

After the abrupt announcement of the cancellation of volleyball and soccer, Micheal L. Vander Heyden, coordinator of Recreation and Wellness at Roosevelt was able to work with the school to get both tournaments reinstated.

This didn't have an immediate impact on soccer because according to Vander Heyden,

» SEE RENEGADES, PG. 15

UPCOMING EVENTS

12/13/10

Long Island University vs. Northwestern University

The Northwestern Wildcats return to the court after a 13-day layoff to face the Long Island Blackbirds. Northwestern is off to a 4-0 start, the first since the 1992-1993 season.

Welsh-Ryan Arena
1501 Central
Evanston,Ill
7 p.m.

12/14/10

Restorative Yoga series

For those looking for a study break, the Restorative Yoga series at the University of Chicago is the place to be. This yoga program will focus on relaxing and releasing stress and tension from parts of the body. Class times are at 5:15 and 6:45 p.m. Suggested $5 donation for non U of C students.

Rockefeller Memorial Chapel
1156 E. 59th St.

12/15/10

Colorado Avalanche vs. Chicago Blackhawks

With the loss of Patrick Kane and Marian Hossa, the Hawks will need to find better scoring efforts from Patrick Sharp, Bryan Bickell and Jonathan Towes. Rookie goalie Corey Crawford will look to improve on his solid season.

United Center
1901 W. Madison St.
7:30 p.m.

Zumba participants dance to stay in shape

Latin dance fitness program gets people to move, work out

by Jaclyn Howard
Assistant Health & Fitness Editor

Brent Lewis THE CHRONICLE

Julie Steffen dances in front of the Zumba class as she leads them in their workout.

THE TIMELESS art of dance has survived throughout several centuries. Constant body movement produces fitness benefits, and modern dance-fitness programs have become a trend.

At the Lou Conte Dance Studio, 1147 W. Jackson Blvd., a mix of hit music, and reggaeton plays loudly throughout the room as participants in the Zumba dance program shimmy and shake to the sound while following the two instructors' lead. Participants walk off the dance floor for a quick break, sweating but ready to continue their workout.

"I've been to other classes, but this is wonderful," said participant Stephanie Turner, 48. "I love the variety [of dance] and the different workouts."

Zumba is a Latin dance fitness program that uses various international styles of music for young and old people, according to instructor Julie Steffen. She said the biggest difference between this dance fitness program and others are the non-verbal cues given to participants.

Zumba classes can be found nationwide. In Chicago there are more than 600 classes within the area, according to Zumba's class listings, including one in the University Center of Chicago, 525 S. State St. Steffen, co-founder of Chicago Fitness Parties, said she enjoys teaching the Zumba class there because the students have high energy and are familiar with some of the music and steps. She encourages people to try a class.

"All of the cuing is in my hands, face and body language, so I am not really cuing out loud," Steffen said. "You really have to look at the instructor; there is a lot of eye contact between you and the instructor."

She said the typical calories burned per class varies from person to person but can range anywhere between 400 and 700 calories per hour.

"The main fitness benefit is the high-calorie burn," Steffen said. "You are going to get your heart rate up, you are going to get moving and get breathing."

One of Steffen's favorite things as an instructor is seeing the results Zumba participants have.

"That is the best part: having people come up to you and say they are wearing jeans they have not worn in 20 years," she said.

To participate in Zumba, a dance background is not necessary. Holli Hitchens, self-employed fitness instructor, teaches a level of class called Zumba Gold for those starting out or with physical limitations.

"It does utilize specific Latin dance steps," Hitchens said. "It is geared toward the general public where you can shake it up and follow along. What makes this class different is we are not really teaching dance technique but basically teaching you a good workout from warm-up to cooldown."

Steffen said finding the right instructor is key for a good Zumba program experience because each instructor teaches differently.

"A good Zumba instructor you will be able to follow," Steffen said. "[They are] not someone who dances for themselves in the mirror but truly dances for their students, interacting and cuing in a way that is easy to follow."

She said her class has a relatively high impact because she enjoys jumping around and incorporating hip-hop into the workout.

"I think part of the energy of the class comes from the fact you are dancing, smiling, interacting with other people in the class," Steffen said. "You are able to let your guard down for awhile, shimmy and have fun. You can forget about everything else for an hour."

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STAYIN' SAVVY

'F' for females, report says

by Stephanie Saviola
Managing Editor

IT'S ASTOUNDING to see the levels of ignorance and carelessness when it comes to caring about our health and well-being, especially in 2010.

A health report card by the National Women's Law Center released some "shocking" statistics that might give insight into our health education progression.

Today, more women test positive for certain sexually transmitted diseases linked to infertility, along with a reported increase in binge drinking and smoking.

Additionally, more women are obese, diabetic and hypertensive than they were a few years ago, which puts them at higher risks for strokes and heart disease.

This is just disappointing. Women should be making progress with their diets, health and lifestyles, especially with all of the information we know today about STD risks and cancer probabilities.

The report card, an initiative by Healthy People 2010 of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, was filled with many "F" grades.

Besides several F's, women's health overall in the nation received a "U" for unsatisfactory.

The report card was broken into several categories such as prevention, reproductive health and mental health. In the prevention category, grades were both failing and unsatisfactory across the board.

Women also fail to eat the required daily fruit and vegetable servings. And a quarter of women in the report never get physical activity throughout their day, which shows they lead inactive lifestyles.

The report also showed a significant decline in cervical cancer screenings since 2007.

Some medical experts say the decrease in testing might be due to the decline of health care coverage and misconceptions of the vaccine that protects against certain strains of the human papillomavirus.

While the increase in poor health and lifestyle choices are upsetting, they are not shocking in the least. What can we expect when a poofy-haired, orange girl named Snooki, who is busy slamming drinks and hooking up in hot tubs, is a current favorite in the celebrity world?

It's easy to blame the ever-expanding trashy pop culture world we live in, but it's important to remember that, unlike reality TV, we live in the real world and still face the consequences of poor decisions.

Lackadaisical attitudes and ignorance about health and yearly check-ups are becoming all too common in our generation.

I'm perplexed by the number of women, especially young women, who fail to have yearly check-ups and protected sex. There is no mention of men's health in the study, but it would be interesting to see statistics about their health and diet choices.

Let's hope the next report card round gives some passing grades.

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Rest needed to function, not late nights

Adequate sleep important for restoring memory, physical health

by Jaclyn Howard
Assistant Health & Fitness Editor

IN A world of 24-hour grocery stores, late-night television and instant communication, getting enough rest becomes more of an afterthought in today's society, though it is essential for functioning daily and keeping healthy.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than one quarter of Americans said they do not get enough sleep. The consequences of this can lead to more than just being tired the next day, but serious health complications that can result in death, said Robert Aronson, medical director of Cardinal Sleep Disorder Centers.

"Typically sleep does not get a lot of respect," Aronson said. "[It is] taken for granted, and there are many people who are chronically sleep-deprived."

Getting enough rest restores our body functions, improves mental health and prevents common disease, according to Tina Jenkins, director of clinical sleep programs for Merit Sleep Management.

"Sleep is just essential, if not more than food and water," Jenkins said. "Each stage of sleep has a purpose; it is what keeps us healthy."

Jenkins said the deep stage of sleep is where the immune system repairs itself from daily strains, and the dream state of sleep is what aids in restoring mental health.

"Can you imagine being conscious for every thought you have during the day or everything you visually see? It would drive us crazy," Jenkins said. "The dream state is your brain processing, making some sort of sense of priorities."

Dreaming can begin within the first 90 minutes of sleep, lasting anywhere from 30 seconds to five minutes. Jenkins said as the night progresses, dreams become longer and more intense.

"Your dream state is a very active stage of sleep when your blood pressure is irregular, your breathing is irregular and your heart is racing," Jenkins said.

The stage of sleep where dreaming occurs is known as the REM cycle, or rapid eye movement. David Schwartz, diplomat for the American Board of Dental Sleep Medicine, said by not getting enough REM sleep or experiencing frequent interruptions during this stage can result in memory impairment.

"Your brain does not function well," Schwartz said. "You are not as alert during the day and you are not able to process that information as well."

Jenkins said night terrors can disrupt this sleep cycle, occurring in the deepest, most restorative sleep. Although seen often in children, night terrors are not uncommon among college students and are provoked by high stress and sleep deprivation.

"Someone who is having a night terror will awake right away with their eyes open, very frightened," Jenkins said.

Schwartz said drugs and alcohol can affect the way people function when they sleep, specifically the REM cycle.

"It can delay it into the early morning hours," Schwartz said. "So [I have] patients that come in REM suppressed."

The CDC recommends seven to nine hours of sleep for adults, but Aronson said the time could vary by individual, but keeping those numbers in mind as a basis of how much sleep one should get.

"We typically define it as the amount of sleep required for an individual to function well and feel refreshed," Aronson said.

He said in extreme cases there are long-term and short term sleepers. Long-term sleepers need 10 hours or more a night and short-term sleepers need five or less to be functioning well the next day. But on average, he said seven to eight hours is usually enough for a young adult.

In a busy society, Aronson does not see this trend of sleep deprivation changing.

"I see it worsening," Aronson said. "We do a lot of things at night now we used to do during the day. It is getting worse, not better."

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STOCK IMAGE

High Sox payroll has team ready to win

After spending a wealth of money the past three seasons, its time for South Siders to rule

by Etheria Modacure
Assistant Health & Fitness editor

Photo Illustration by Jonathan Allen THE CHRONICLE

White Sox pitcher Jake Peavy will make $16 million in 2011; center fielder Alex Rios $12.5 million; first baseman Paul Konerko $12 million; pitcher Mark Buehrle $14 million, and Adam Dunn $12 million. All five players will be the highest paid on a Sox team looking to contend in the AL Central next season.

THE WHITE Sox missed the playoffs in 2010 for the second consecutive season. The team's game attendance averaged 27,091 fans, ranking 17th overall in the Major Leagues. For 2011, more Sox fans will need to support the team at home to help pay for its recent additions.

Adam Dunn agreed to a four-year, $56 million deal with the Sox on Dec. 3. Shortly after, the Sox were able to retain one of its most popular players in catcher A.J. Pierzynski, who agreed to a two-year, $8 million deal to remain on the South Side. On Dec. 8, first baseman Paul Konerko agreed to a three-year, $37.5 million deal to stay with the Sox.

With the Sox footing the bill for contracts ranging from $12.5 million for center fielder Alex Rios to $16 million for right-hand pitcher Jake Peavy, adding Dunn, re-signing Konerko and Pierzynski will exceed a payroll that was at $105.5 million before opening day in 2010.

> "It's been a team effort this offseason to try to find as much revenue as we can"
>
> -Ken Williams

Dunn will make $12 million in 2011, $14 million in 2012 and $15 million in 2013 and 2014. He acknowledged coming to a highly competitive team attracted him the most.

"I'm joining a team that's already been successful," Dunn said when he was introduced during a press conference on Dec. 3 at U.S. Cellular Field. "This is a great opportunity to not only win, but [to] win a World Series."

For the Sox, making it back to the World Series has been a costly adventure for both General Manager Ken Williams and Chairman Jerry Reinsdorf. After winning the World Series in 2005 with an opening day roster of $75.2 million, the Sox steadily increased their payroll but only made the playoffs once, in 2008.

In 2008, their payroll was at a team high of $121 million. This was after the team finished in fourth place with a 72-90 record in 2007. Right-hand pitcher Mark Buehrle signed a contract extension in the middle of 2007 for four years at $56 million, which gave him an annual salary of $14 million.

While the Sox didn't give up any players to land Dunn because of free agency, his name was linked with the team in July before the trading deadline. At the time, the Sox acquired Edwin Jackson from the Arizona Diamondbacks. Jackson made $4.2 million last season and will see a nearly 99 percent pay increase in 2011 for a salary of $8.75 million.

Although Williams was able to land Dunn and re-sign Pierzynski and Konerko, he understands how costly these moves were but jokingly put the pressure on Reinsdorf.

"There will be very few people who have spent as much as I have before Christmas," Williams said. "Fortunately Jerry [Reinsdorf] is the one that's got to pay for it."

High payrolls don't typically equal success for any team. The Texas Rangers reached the World Series this past season with an opening day payroll of $55.2 million.

Williams said Reinsdorf exhausted himself this offseason looking for additional ways to find revenue and gave credit to the team's marketing department and accounting.

"It's been a team effort this offseason to try to find as much revenue as we can," Williams said. "We're out on a limb a little bit, but we have faith in our fans and the ballclub."

Last season, four teams in the top 10 of payrolls before opening day made the postseason. The New York Yankees had a payroll of $206.3 million; Philadelphia Phillies $141.9 million; World Series champion San Francisco Giants $98.6 million and the Minnesota Twins had a payroll of $97.5 million.

Williams has been regarded as an aggressive general manager by peers and the media. Pierzynski said that's what makes the team great.

"The one thing about Kenny, he isn't afraid to make moves and go get [players]," Pierzynski said during a conference call. "When he believes in a [player], he goes and gets him and keeps him around."

In 2009, the Sox traded four pitchers, including pitchers Clayton Richard and Aaron Poreda to the San Diego Padres for pitcher Jake Peavy. Peavy had already signed a three-year extension with the Padres for $52 million and now the Sox will pay for it. In August of that year, Rios was claimed off of waivers. His contract through 2014 is worth $12.5 million for 2011 and 2012; $13 million for 2013 and 2014. Rios orginally signed his contract as a member of the Toronto Blue Jays in 2008.

Neither move has helped the Sox reach the postseason and some thought the team wouldn't be able to afford any more big contracts this offseason..

With all of these signings and the increased pressure on Sox fans to fill U.S. Cellular Field, Pierzynski knows 2011 could be special, given the moves that were made. It remains up to the team to produce on the field.

"The moves [Williams] makes and the moves he has planned, if they all work out, it will be awesome," Pierzynski said. "We'll go into spring training with a great chance to win. That's one of the main reasons I wanted to come back and be a part of a winning organization."

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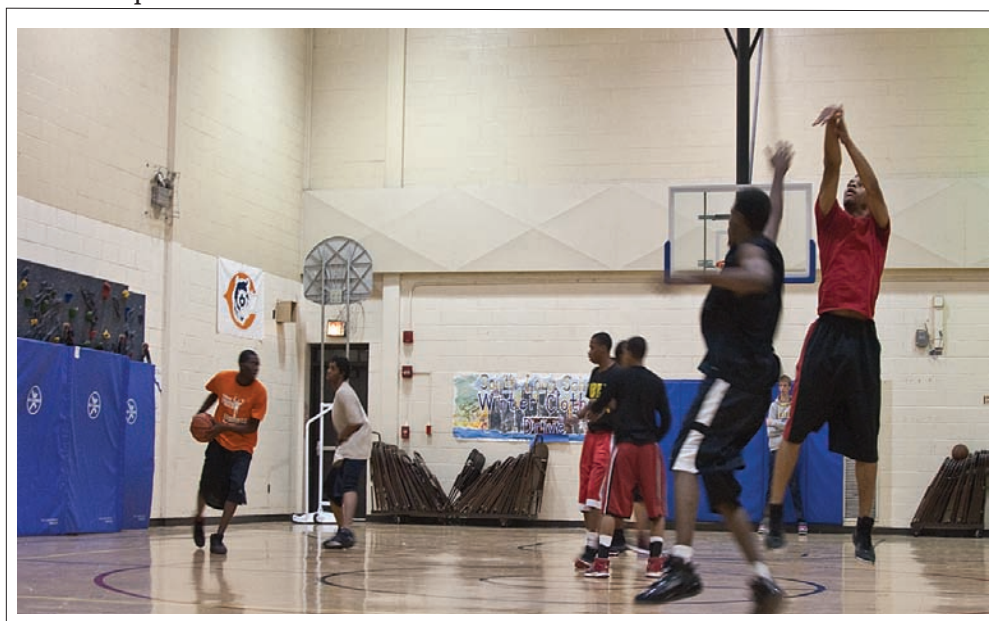

Etheria Modacure THE CHRONICLE

Intramural Week didn't go as expected for Columbia and Roosevelt University. The most popular tournament of the week was basketball which lasted for nearly three hours on Dec. 6.

Courtesy MCT NEWSWIRE

Both A.J. Pierzynski (top right) and Adam Dunn deferred money in their new contracts to the latter stages of their career. This helped the Sox re-sign veteran Paul Konerko on Dec. 8.

» RENEGADES

Continued from PG. 13

there was a strong turnout on Dec. 7. Volleyball, however, turned into a practice more than a competition.

On Dec. 9, dodgeball didn't attract as many participants as in the past, and Vander Heyden said the cancellation and reinstatement of volleyball and soccer could have influenced students not to show up.

Vander Heyden said this shouldn't have a negative effect on future events unless students don't live close to campus and feel there's a strong possibility it can be canceled.

"If you were really set on coming and then it turned out 'Oh last minute' and you come in and you commuted into the city and now you find out your events canceled," Vander Heyden said. "Possibly [it could have an effect]. You could be like 'Why am I going to come back if events keep getting canceled?,'"

Patrick McKenzie, a student at Roosevelt, said though he was eager to play dodgeball on Dec. 9, he enjoyed the intramural week. McKenzie said it was confusing at first because he didn't know what was going on with volleyball and dodgeball but he still came to the gym despite the perplexing two days.

Just having an athletic weeklong event was more gratifying to McKenzie than not being active before the holidays. He said he wasn't upset about the on again off again happenings with the week.

"As long as we're having fun and I'm meeting new people, that's what college is about," McKenzie said. "I won't get too mad about it."

For more information on the Columbia Renegades visit colum.edu/renegades

To get information on fitness and recreation at Columbia contact the Fitness, athletics, and recreation (FAR) office at (312) 369-6920

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Appetizing Asian cuisine

Spring rolls are delicious treats any time of year

by Darryl Holliday
Metro Editor

Tiela Halpin THE CHRONICLE

LOOKING FOR something easy to feed your friends so they think you're cool and thrifty, yet mildly exotic and tastefully refined? Well, stop looking and make winter spring rolls. Your regular mega-grocery store probably doesn't carry rice paper, so take a trip to Chinatown, or find an Asian specialty food store nearby. It's entirely up to you.

First, gather up the vegetables and herbs you'll need for the rolls: one cucumber, one carrot, a handful of chives, broccoli sprouts and mint leaves.

After obtaining said rice paper, the easy work begins. That is, except for learning how to properly prepare it—which can be difficult. However, before getting to that, peel and chop those vegetables. Cut the cucumbers and carrots into thin, 3-inch matchstick-size strips. Cut the chives into 3-inch strips. Then gather the vegetables and herbs that don't need much preparation, such as the mint leaves and broccoli sprouts, and place all the prepped veggies off to the side because this next part is serious business.

Place a dry towel on a flat surface. Fill a large bowl with warm water, then dip each of the rice papers one at a time into the water until they become soft. When the texture of the rice paper softens, take them out and lay them out on the towel in as much of the original circle shape as you can manage.

Patiently (but keep in mind if you don't go quickly enough the rice paper will firm up) place approximately four to five pieces of cucumber, an equal amount of carrots, two chives, several mint leaves and a modest amount of broccoli sprouts on the lower half of the rice paper.

Roll the rice paper from the bottom half, folding in the sides as you go, until you reach the top.

Repeat this process for three to four winter spring rolls—or until you run out of vegetables.

Place your rolls on a plate lined with damp paper towels (or the rice paper will dry out) and cut them diagonally in half.

You'll also need a dipping sauce. Use a soy or teriyaki sauce or any other blend of your choice. MarthaStewart.com recommends mixing one-fourth teaspoon of fish sauce, one small red chili pepper and one tablespoon of grated carrot ... but she can't tell you what to do.

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INGREDIENTS

- 1 cucumber, peeled and seeded
- ¼ cup of mint leaves
- ¼ cup of broccoli sprouts
- 1 peeled carrot
- 1 handful of cut chives
- 1 package of rice paper

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Set large bowl, dry towel and plate with damp paper towel aside.
2. Peel and cut cucumber and carrots to 3-inch matchstick-size strips.
3. Set other ingredients aside.
4. Pour warm water into bowl.
5. Soak rice paper, one at a time, in water and set wet rice paper on dry towel.
6. Place vegetables and herbs on bottom half of rice paper.
7. Roll the rice paper from the bottom half, folding in the sides as you go.
8. Set completed rolls on plate with damp paper towel.

KEY

How To: Soothe a sore throat

Calm the pain of an irritated throat with simple tips that can be done at home

by Jaclyn Howard
Assistant Health & Fitness Editor

LATE NIGHTS and early mornings weaken the immune system, making people prone to sore throats, an unwelcome distraction from daily tasks.

According to Renee Scola, doctor of internal medicine at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, pain in the throat can indicate possible illness or be a reaction to an irritant in the environment around you.

"Sometimes when people initially get a sore throat, it can be the first sign of a cold" Scola said. "The thing you want to worry about is some soreness is are the first sign of strep throat."

A sore throat needs to be taken care of, no matter what the source of the pain is, Scola said who offered some tips on how to soothe a sore throat.

1 Gargle salt water

This may seem almost too simple, but Scola said this household remedy can be a quick cure for sore throat. "You can get stuff stuck in the cracks of your throat or areas of irritation," she said. "By gargling, this can help flush that out."

2 Over-the-counter medicine

To allay the pain of an annoying sore throat, ibuprofen and throat lozenges may temporarily help. Many of these products can be found in nearby convenience and grocery stores.

3 Spend time in steam

During the winter months, the air is dryer both outside and inside. Dry air can make throats feel irritated, and Scola suggests investing in a humidifier or spending time in steam from the shower.

4 See a doctor

If pain continues and is more than an annoyance, it is important to see a doctor. It could be a sign of strep throat, and doctors may prescribe antibiotics. Scola said it is important to finish the dosage "If someone has strep throat that wasn't treated with a full course of antibiotics, that could progress to rheumatic fever," she said. "And that is a problem that can affect a person's heart valves."

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The U.S. Bureau of Labor & Statistics predicts faster-than-average job growth for psychology professionals, with the 10-year growth rate expected to be double-digit for psychologists and for counselors. This growth, among the highest of all professions, is driven by the need for services in non-traditional settings such as social service agencies, substance abuse treatment clinics, schools, hospitals.

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Faux snow brings out winter spirits

Local businesses defy forecast, make it snow on demand in Chicago

pg. 22

Arts& Culture

A sweet challenge for local architects

Professionals design gingerbread houses to benefit Unity Temple

by Luke Wilusz
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

Tiela Halpin THE CHRONICLE

This gingerbread replica of the Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State St., was designed by a team from Cook Architectural and won first place at Edible Edifice on Dec. 9. All of the Edible Edifice submissions were available for purchase via a silent auction to benefit Unity Temple Restoration Foundation.

A TEAM of Chicago-based architects, engineers and modelers recently got together and built a scale model of a museum it designed using cutting-edge technology like 3-D modeling software and precision laser cutting. This process was nothing new, and it was strictly business-as-usual, except for one little detail—the model was made entirely out of cookies and other sweets.

Edible Edifice is a fundraising event that involves professional engineers, designers and architects who take a new approach to that traditional holiday favorite, the gingerbread house. This year's event was held on Dec. 9 at Room & Board, 55 E. Ohio St., where submissions were rated by a panel of judges and auctioned off to benefit Unity Temple Restoration Foundation. The foundation is dedicated to preserving Frank Lloyd Wright's Unity Temple, which was completed in 1909 at 875 Lake St. in Oak Park, Ill.

Emily Roth, executive director of UTRF, said the foundation called for local professionals to create designs for the event, and it received 11 total entries.

"We asked local architects, designers, engineers—anybody who would like to participate—and we have challenged them to defy convention in the same way Wright defied convention," Roth said. "We've asked them to reinterpret the traditional gingerbread house through 21st Century eyes."

Tiela Halpin THE CHRONICLE

The "Museum for Ginger Rights" was designed by FitzGerald Associates Architects, based on its design for the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, which is currently under construction in Winnipeg, Canada.

Steve Wasilowski, chief operating officer for FitzGerald Associates Architects, organized a team at his firm to create a cookie-based replica inspired by the model it designed for the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, which is currently under construction in Winnipeg, Canada.

"It's a radical-looking building and probably not one that lends itself to replication in cookie dough," Wasilowski said.

He said the Edible Edifice submission was intended as a morale boost for the firm, and members of the project enjoyed working on something lighthearted for a good cause.

"We thought it would be a fun activity," Wasilowski said. "And we thought it would be entertaining to try and employ some of our new architectural tools and techniques on a building model made of cookie dough. We're using 3-D modeling and lasers to cut the cookies on our particular model."

Charles Cook, principal of Cook Architectural, put together a team to build a model of the Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State St. He said the building's iconic status in the city and unique design elements drew the team to it.

"We liked, for one, the kind of massing of the structure—it had some depth to it with these large arch windows [with] the brick arches that step back into it," Cook said. "And [we also liked] the more flamboyant elements up on the pediment in the corners that kind of give the building some vitality. We thought those would be fun elements to recreate in confectionary components."

However, Cook said some of those elements presented unique challenges to his team.

"We wanted to convey the glassiness of the big arch windows," he said. "So we were able to do that by creating sugar-candy glass panes, and then we lit the building from the inside so you see that transparency."

The proceeds from auctioning off the models at Edible Edifice go toward restoring and preserving Wright's Unity Temple, which Roth said is in need of serious structural repairs.

"Water is Unity Temple's greatest enemy, and over 100 years there's been a great deal of deterioration of the original concrete structure," Roth said.

She elaborated, noting that as water enters the concrete and freezes, it expands, which can cause the concrete to crack and fall off in chunks.

"We are very concerned about the structural integrity of the building over the next decade or so," Roth said.

Cook said Unity Temple was important to preserve because it's a classic representation of Wright's work while remaining distinctly different in purpose from his later designs.

"A lot of the works [Wright] was famous for were private residences or corporate kinds of buildings, like the Johnson Wax Building—at least in the Midwest," Cook said. "But [Unity Temple] is one of the few buildings designed as a public building to begin with, and it embodies a lot of the unique features he brought to the world of architecture. I think it's a treasure that needs to remain accessible to everybody."

Wasilowski said he agrees Unity Temple is important to preserve and restore, but he emphasized that all examples of classic architecture in Chicago are significant and worth protecting.

"I think they help define what the city is and make it unique," he said. "Without those kinds of buildings, we don't differentiate ourselves. Part of what makes Chicago an attractive place to come and visit and stay and work and live is we have this kind of heritage and culture that supports historic buildings. It's part of the allure of our city."

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"A" To Zepeda

Don't waste time wishing for youth

by Benita Zepeda
Managing Editor

SCIENCE AND technology progress rapidly every day. These advancements helped society in innumerable ways, but what has this done to how we function as a culture and species?

Instead of growing old and wearing aging signs proudly across one's face, people seem to nip, tuck, pop pills and drink mystery diet concoctions to stay youthful. Many people's photographs can't even appear on Facebook anymore without being altered. We are a culture obsessed with staying young.

However, it isn't just the U.S. that fears laugh lines and gray hair. Recently, President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan asked a research institute for the third time to find the "elixir of life"—a formula to be immortal.

This is beyond bizarre, especially considering he is in such a high-status position and has been in power for more than 19 years. Shouldn't he realize this isn't the right thing to be worried about right now?

Part of life is death, and no one is supposed to live forever. Whatever one's beliefs are about the afterlife is completely irrelevant. Scientifically, we're not meant to live that long.

Nazarbayev claims anti-aging medicine and research is the future of science. He also said if scientists don't look into it, they will fall behind the rest of the world.

For plenty of people who have lived amazing lives and aren't ready to move on when the time comes, this breakthrough would be amazing. But the world needs to focus on issues we have a chance to influence, such as a cure for cancer.

Life is meant to be lived, and with that comes old age. People should be grateful if they make it to their 70s and 80s. Instead, many are stuck with the idea that in order to be wanted, one must be physically beautiful.

Look at 23-year-old reality star Heidi Montag, who already has had more than 10 plastic surgeries modifying her body, which cost $2 million and were performed consecutively on the same day. It's insane and excessive.

An efficient way to get more out of life is to halt spending money on cosmetic solutions or dreams of stumbling upon the fountain of youth, and use that money or time doing interesting things. People who spend gargantuan amounts of money on cosmetic surgery are on the same path as everyone else. That is, unless Nazarbayev gets his hands on the secret to eternal youth.

People should spend their money on ventures, such as snorkeling, before coral reefs are extinct instead of a nose job. Why not pay for what could be the best tasting meal of your life by a gourmet chef instead of worrying about a couple extra pounds here or there?

Living in the moment instead of wishing and fantasizing how things could be different will feed the mind and soul. That is far better than looking 25 for as long as possible. When you enjoy life and are happy, it's the best way to stay healthy and live a lot longer.

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MPAA overturns NC-17 rating

'Blue Valentine' wins appeal, will be released as R-rated

by Steven Zeitchik
MCT Newswire

THE MPAA overturned the rating for the romantic drama "Blue Valentine," starring Ryan Gosling and Michelle Williams, downgrading the movie from NC-17 to R. A controversial sex scene that initially landed the film the NC-17 rating will not be changed.

The decision—which comes as a result of an appeal by distributor the Weinstein Co.—means the movie can now be released to a broad array of theaters when it opens on Dec. 31, and it can be seen by people under age 17 if accompanied by an adult.

Weinstein Co. co-founder Harvey Weinstein and counsel Alan Friedman presented their case in front of a 14-member board on Dec. 8. Gosling said two weeks ago he hoped to attend the appeal hearing, but that he wouldn't be able to make it because of scheduled commitments.

Weinstein Co. Chief Operating Officer David Glasser, who said he believes "the message the MPAA is sending here is it's a new era," also said Weinstein went in front of the board with a 200-page dossier of letters and arguments, as well as 3,000 tweets, in support of an R.

The film initially was given the strict rating because of what the Weinstein Co. said was a scene in which Gosling's character performs oral sex on Williams' character.

The studio and director Derek Cianfrance had argued for several weeks the scene was integral in showing the development of the couple's relationship and that, without any nudity, it was not exploitative or gratuitous.

The MPAA said the "Blue Valentine" case marks the sixth time this year a film's rating was appealed. Traditionally, the MPAA and its Classification and Rating Administration win the appeals, forcing studios to alter their movies or live with more severe ratings.

The decision, then, marks a victory for the voluble Weinstein and avoids a potentially thorny situation in which he either would have been forced to back down and cut the scene or release the film as an NC-17, which would have limited its distribution and marketing opportunities.

The ruling comes after several weeks of media campaigning by Weinstein—a campaign that culminated in a special screening on Dec. 4 inviting members of the Hollywood community to see the film and weigh in via an online petition. Two weeks ago, Cianfrance told the Los Angeles Times the appeal was a "chance to stand for something," citing what he believed was a "form of censorship" on the MPAA's part.

He also said he couldn't see any way the scene could be altered without undermining the point of his movie.

"Cutting the scene would have been cutting into the heart of the film," Cianfrance said.

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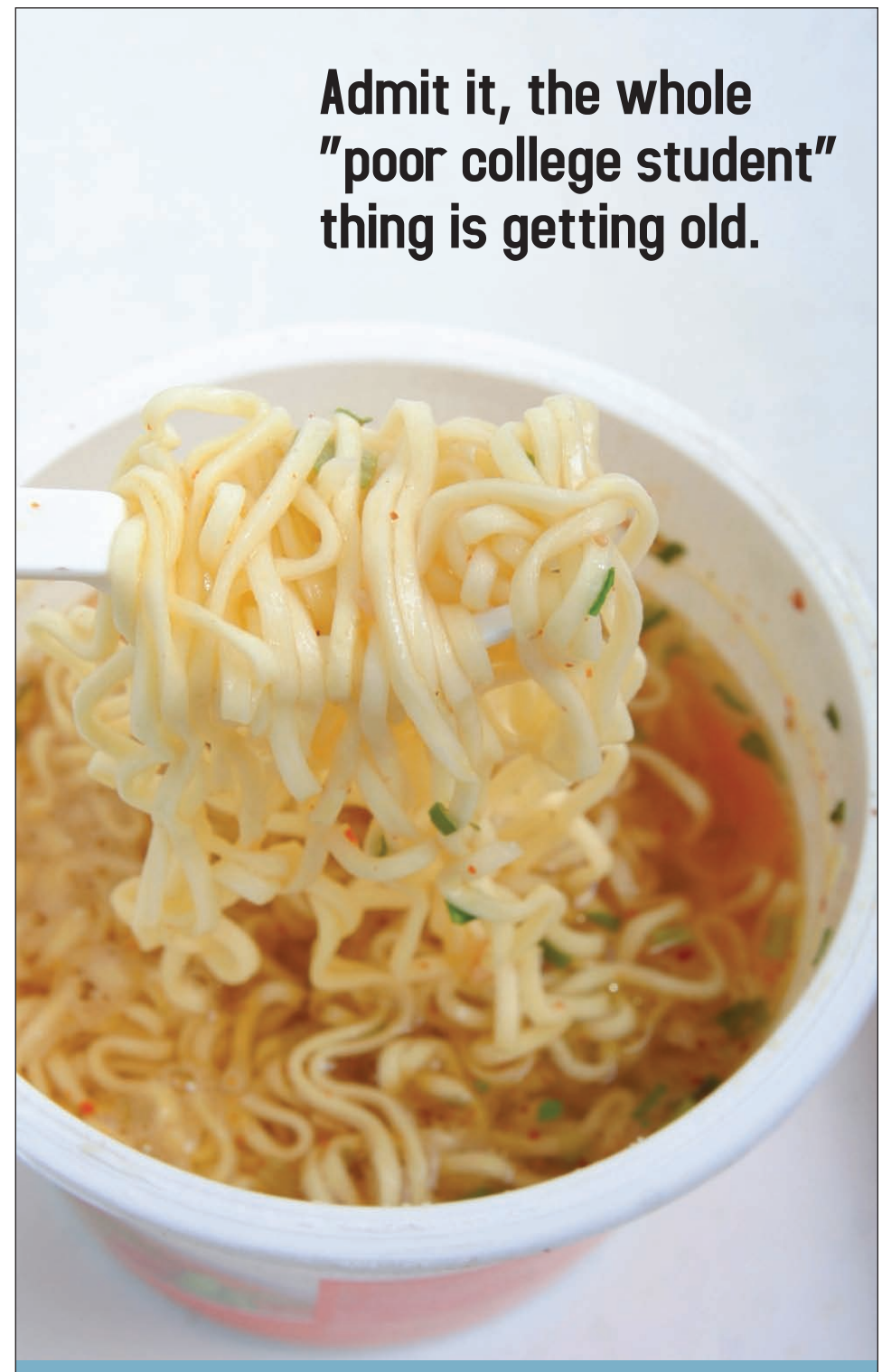

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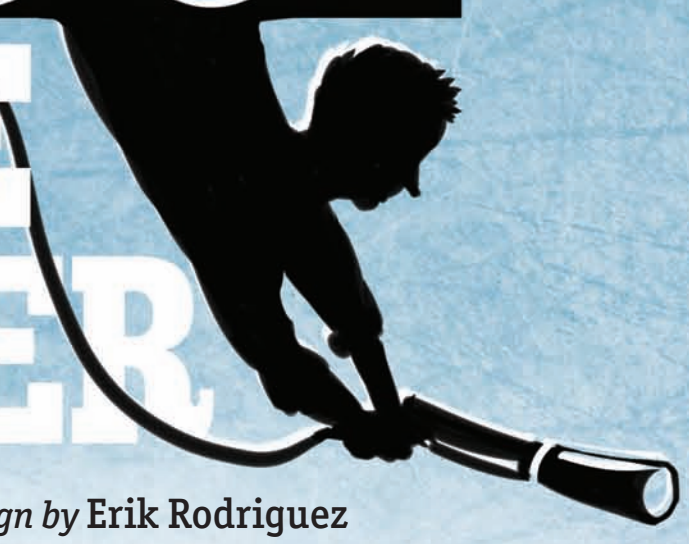

Written by Brianna Wellen *Design by* Erik Rodriguez

On a seemingly mild day in November, long before Chicago's first major snowfall was forecast, blankets of white snow covered 18-year-old Kevin Manetti and 17-year-old George Obrochca's neighborhood. On a movie set in the Chicagoland area, a light "snowfall" covers actors' shoulders while the crew and passersby remained untouched. On indoor sets flakes are also conjured up, adding to stage play design's magic and believability from scene to scene. With the city's fickle weather in their own hands, snowmaking professionals are taking the city by storm.

Gaining business as one of the only artificial snowmakers in the city, Manetti and Obrochca's company, Chicago's Snow Makers, represents the recreational side of an industry making strides in local films and theater. Bringing the snowmaking technology to residents' backyards on a smaller scale, it's possible to have the physical aesthetics of a snowy lawn and snow to play in during milder months.

As avid snowboarders, Manetti and Obrochca found themselves driving more than two hours to Wisconsin every weekend in the winter. Tired of the constant journey, they researched other options on the Internet and came to the conclusion that although the Chicagoland area may get a ton of snow in the winter, there usually isn't enough to snowboard on. Additionally, it isn't reliable enough to fall whenever the snowboarding mood strikes them.

"We decided if we made our snow, we could snowboard in our backyard and save a lot of time and travel," Manetti said. "We got started and made a small little snow machine. It got bigger and bigger, and now we've made tons and tons of snow."

Courtesy of Kevin Manetti

By looking up free instructions online, they spent approximately $25 at hardware stores to build their own machine. According to Obrochca, their machine uses a snow gun—essentially a pressure gun—to push water and air through a pressure washer and an air compressor. This breaks the water into tiny particles while making it really cold. As the particles hit the air, they freeze and turn into snow. At first the machine took hours to get up and running, but now they have the process perfected—it takes 20 minutes.

So far their customer base is in residential areas. Because of their smaller, homemade machines, it's all they can handle at the moment. Every experience they've had with customers has been different, Obrochca said.

"It's very custom for every person because everyone has different land, different snow quality and different quantity they want," Obrochca said. "A lot of people like it for decoration, and a lot of people like [to] surprise their kids with a huge pile of snow. We particularly started doing it for snowboarding. Now we'll put a huge pile of snow in the front of the house just for fun for people to see driving by."

For larger projects in the Chicagoland area requiring artificial snow, snowmakers are typically called in from outside companies. A window display for Columbia Sportswear, 830 N. Michigan Ave., used snowmakers provided by the company's Oregon headquarters to get people's attention with its "human freezers" that allow shoppers to test out the company's new brand of thermal wear in real life conditions, according to Columbia Sportswear's website. Wisconsin-based company, Sturm's Special Effects International, has been frequenting the Chicagoland area with its snowmaking expertise on the set of the movie "Contagion," director Steven Soderbergh's current film due out in 2011.

Dieter Sturm, creator of Sturm's Special Effects International,

“A lot of people like it for decoration, and a lot of people like to surprise their kids with a huge pile of snow. We particularly started doing it for snowboarding. Now we'll put a huge pile of snow in the front of the house just for fun for people to see driving by.”

– George Obrochca

Dieter Sturm created snow for motion pictures for more than 26 years, a viable option for small startups like Chicago’s Snow Makers, he said. The same concept is employed, but on a much larger scale—the small machine used by Manetti and Obrochca is comparable to a truck-sized machine on the movie set.

Courtesy MCT Newswire

“On [the ‘Contagion’ set], we’re going through semi-trailers of block ice that gets shaved and chipped down to the consistency of real snow at about 800 pounds a minute,” Sturm said. “On camera, you’ll be looking at the real snow from the snowmaker truck in the foreground and then everything else white in the background is snow foam [and] snow blankets.”

In the effects business, snow’s visual appearance is more important than its physical makeup or recreational use. According to Sturm, there is a huge variety of processes taken into consideration in each scene of each movie utilizing up to 15 or 20 different products to create believable winter scenes.

“Each different application has different purposes and reasons, some for close-ups, some for whiting out large areas, some are more for frost, some [for] more icicle looks, falling snow, big snowflakes, small snowflakes, [the list] goes on and on,” Sturm said. “The whole point of what we’re trying to do is making it as realistic as possible, so when you’re watching it on screen and you don’t even think about the fact that it’s winter, you just know it’s winter. Then we’ve done a very good job.”

Unlike Chicago’s Snow Makers and companies that use snow for recreational purposes, such as ski and snowboard trails, Sturm’s company is not always working under ideal conditions. Chicago’s Snow Makers can keep its snow from melting until temperatures reach the upper 40s and 50s. Sturm has the challenge of creating realistic snow in temperatures reaching into the 80s and 90s. For situations such as these—when snow has to be simulated from synthetic materials like plastic—Sturm created a biodegradable option comparable to the look of real snow, which is also environmentally friendly. This concept grabbed him a technical Oscar Award in the 1990s and is now the industry norm.

The controlled temperatures of indoor stage plays cause production companies such as M and M Production Design Inc. to utilize similar techniques. It becomes a process of tricking the eye instead of creating a product comparable to snow, according to Mary Margaret Bently, creator of M and M Production Design Inc. Incorporating glitter and cotton batting along with technical lighting techniques makes the snow believable, she said.

“The human eye sees better than the camera does,” Bently said. “It’s the hardest thing to fool, so you really have to think about what distance you’ll be from it, how it’s lit and where the camera or the audience will be.”

Sturm encourages companies like Chicago’s Snow Makers to keep working independently and be aggressive with opportunities in the snow making industry as they continue. As for Manetti and Obrochca, they plan to keep their options open and work to create bigger and better snow machines as more people discover a need for their business.

Their focus is on gathering a larger customer base next season in October and November when the weather gets colder but the snow has yet to fall. Wherever it takes them in the future, Manetti and Obrochca will continue making snow, regardless of whether if it’s only for their benefit.

“You can never have a mountain too big, so we just keep adding onto our giant pile,” Manetti said. “We’ll be able to snowboard a lot longer than anyone else out there.”

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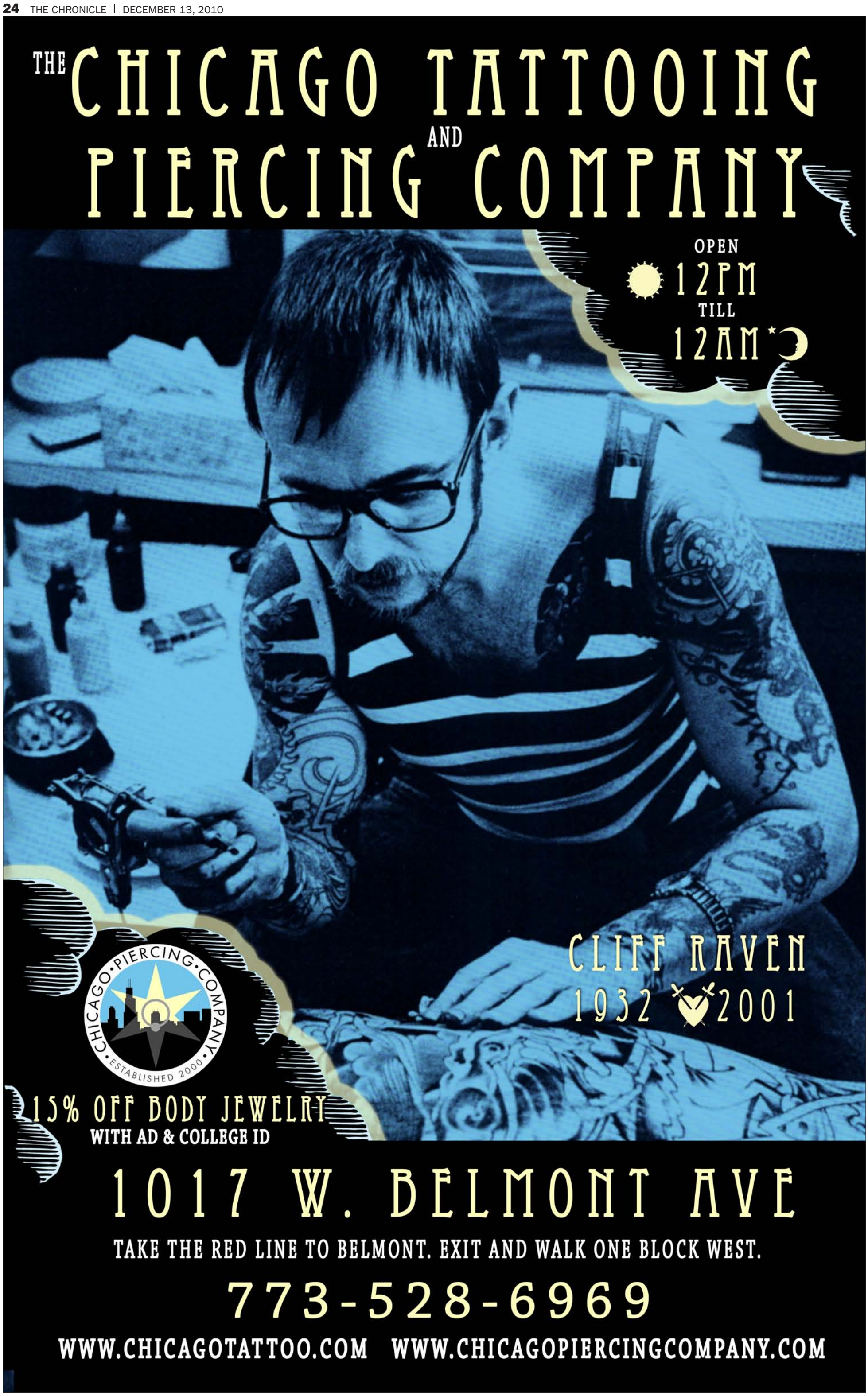
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'Not just a gallery'

Tiela Halpin THE CHRONICLE

Eliezer Ortiz Jr. and John Burks opened Strictly Locals, an artists exchange that caters to local artists and community members.

Uptown venue opens with multipurpose, multicultural mission

by Mina Bloom
Arts & Culture Editor

HAND-CRAFTED FLOORS, waterfalls, an array of canvases in all mediums and work stations will greet artists, community members and anyone in between at Strictly Locals, 4866 N. Clark St., this month. Not intended to be a typical gallery, the 3,000-square-foot space is more aptly described as Uptown's newest, all-inclusive cultural haven.

Strictly Locals, though first conceived this fall, held a grand opening event on Dec. 10. Full-time carpenter Eliezer Ortiz Jr. and actor John Burks developed the artists exchange studio to eventually host everything from yoga classes to food crawls. It will also serve as an art gallery and a performance space for underappreciated, unknown artists in the city.

To accommodate all different types of events, Ortiz designed everything to be multipurpose: The disc jockey booth can be converted into a stage, the front desk into a bar, the walls separating private work spaces can easily be taken down and an artists' lounge with whiteboards is secluded.

"I'm not sure if I've ever heard of a cultural center for artists besides studio spaces or huge warehouses," said Ortiz, who is a graphic designer and tattoo artist. "We're going to have events, parties, benefits and welcome associations. Our artists are going to have a lot more people looking at their art than just art-minded people. We're not just here for gallery lovers; we're here for everyone."

Burks said they chose the north end of Uptown for their location because it's not a neighborhood oversaturated with galleries and the like.

"It's not an area everyone makes a destination and we think Strictly Locals can be a destination," Burks said. "We want to be a beacon for the artistic community."

Ortiz names Pilsen and The Flat Iron Arts Building, 1579 N. Milwaukee Ave., in Wicker Park, as artistic destinations in the city, which is why he wanted to start a small company on the North Side. The construction, which involved building a deejay booth, bar and convertible work stations took 45 days from start to finish, he said.

Ortiz's devotion to construction, which Burks calls a piece of art on its own, mirrors Strictly Locals' mission.

"It doesn't have to be your typical art gallery where you walk around and it's all sectioned off and quiet," Burks said. "We want to be able to entertain people."

For example, from Dec. 17 to 19, Strictly Locals will host a handmade holiday art fair. A comedy showcase will take place on Jan. 15, and the duo has plans to open a cafe within the space as well.

As of now, artists don't have to meet any certain criteria to see their work hanging on the space's walls—friends and people in the community who express interest are welcome, Burks said.

Eventually, though, Burks said they will develop an advisory committee, which will determine artists' acceptance.

Research microscopist and Andersonville resident Sebastian Sparenga, 32, noticed the new multicultural space with original carpentry in the neighborhood while walking his dog. Now, Sparenga's work will be showcased for the first time at Strictly Locals.

Sparenga, who became involved after merely walking past Strictly Locals, is an example of how approximately 40 percent of the artists currently involved were able to showcase, Ortiz said—because of high foot traffic.

"I've wanted to do this for a long time and seeing the place open up down the street from me was the get up and go to get myself in gear and get pieces together," Sparenga said.

Through working at McCrone Research Institute, 2820 S. Michigan Ave., and teaching weeklong intensive courses on any kind of analysis that could benefit from use of the microscope, Sparenga took up photography because, as he puts it, documenting things under the microscope is art.

For a soft-opening event on Oct. 30 at Strictly Locals, Sparenga put up four pieces featuring images of different heated chemicals and allowed them to recrystallize on the slide, he said. By looking through the microscope with various filters in place, brilliant colors and patterns illuminated the chemicals.

After living in the Andersonville area for two years, Sparenga isn't aware of any places like Strictly Locals in the neighborhood.

The scientist-turned-photographer has since come up with ideas he thinks will work perfectly in the space, such as nine larger pieces shown in a sequence that focus on a chemical transforming from one color to another.

"I think Elie's and John's idea is different," Sparenga said. "They want to make it a homey, artistic community for people to share ideas and hold events. Everyone's been really excited and I hope the buzz continues."

For more information, visit StrictlyLocals.com.

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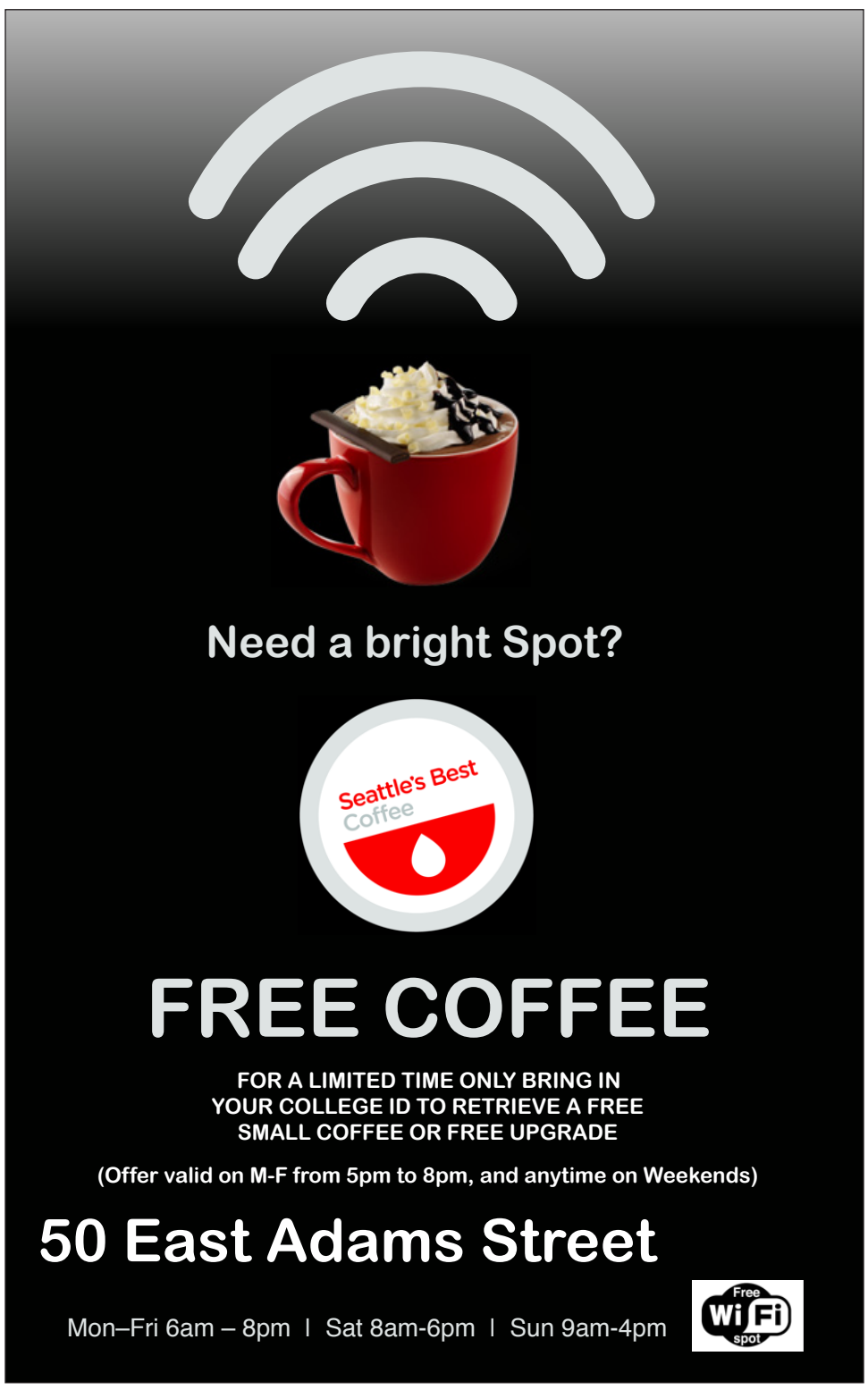
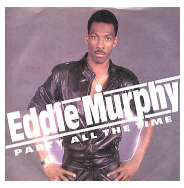


STAFF PLAYLIST

TIELA HALPIN, PHOTO EDITOR



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MINDLESS SELF INDULGENCE // I'M YOUR PROBLEM NOW
EVERY TIME I DIE // SHE'S MY RUSHMORE
BOBBY DARIN // MACK THE KNIFE

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THE RAINCOATS // LOLA
SEBADOH // BLACKED-HAIRED GIRL
FANG ISLAND // THE ILLINOIS

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THE BEATLES // STRAWBERRY FIELDS FOREVER
DAVID BOWIE // QUEEN BITCH
THE KINKS // STRANGERS

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#1 Album

Glee: The Music
Glee Cast

Top tracks

( ) Last week's ranking in top five

United States

Firework • Katy Perry	(1)	1
Grenade • Bruno Mars	(3)	2
The Time • Black Eyed Peas	(2)	3
What's My Name? • Rihanna & Drake	(5)	4
We R Who We R • Ke$ha	(4)	5

Now That's What I Call Xmas!

United Kingdom

Whip My Hair • Willow		1
The Time • Black Eyed Peas		2
Your Song • Ellie Goulding	(1)	3
Only Girl (In the World) • Rihanna		4
Like a G6 • Far East Movement	(5)	5

Via Dalma
Sergio Dalma

Spain

Christmas Lights • Coldplay		1
Only Girl (In the World) • Rihanna	(1)	2
The Time • Black Eyed Peas	(2)	3
Loca • Shakira	(3)	4
Barbra Streisand • Duck Sauce		5

Source: iTunes

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AUDIOFILE

Brock Brake THE CHRONICLE

From left: Chris Wienke, Nick Cudone, Matthew Irizarry and Aaron Sweatt of Carbon Tigers sat down with The Chronicle on the second floor of the 618 S. Michigan Ave. Building.

Tigers talk 'Burrows'

by Luke Wilusz
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

LOCAL INDIE rockers Carbon Tigers made quite a name for themselves the past year. They won the Chicago Regional College Battle of the Bands in April and tied for third place at Columbia's Biggest Mouth competition—four of the five band members are Columbia students. They played at Subterranean, 2011 W. North Ave., on Dec. 11, to celebrate the release of their new EP, "The Burrows." Bassist Aaron Sweatt, singer Chris Wienke and guitarists Nick Cudone and Matthew Irizarry sat down with The Chronicle to talk about their future plans.

The Chronicle: How and when did Carbon Tigers get started?

Aaron Sweatt: We started in May 2009, basically just through mutual friends. We just got together and jammed, and it worked out.

Nick Cudone: That's pretty much it. We had two different bands that were kind of on their way out, I guess, and we just got together and played.

Matthew Irizarry: We also used to have an old singer who was a Columbia alumnus who moved back home, and we picked up Chris, who sings for us now and is about to graduate this year.

The Chronicle: What can you tell me about "The Burrows?" Is this your first EP?

MI: Yeah, as Carbon Tigers, this is our first official release. We did it as legit[imate] as possible, went the whole nine yards mixing and mastering.

The Chronicle: How long was that in the works?

NC: We started entertaining the idea of putting out an EP back in March. Before that, we had a two-song winter demo we cut with some Columbia class at Rhythm Cafe, [62 W. Huron St.], and then at their friend's home studio. Matt and Aaron were kind of like, "We need a release, we need something to promote ourselves, we need a product or whatever." At first we were planning for April, then we were planning for June, then July, and then we finally came together in August, and throughout that whole time span we had been writing music. We finally went in at the end of August and decided we were going to put these five songs on the EP. They were among seven other songs we all voted on.

AS: It was interesting because we got Chris on board as our new vocalist this past May, and he was in the studio with us a month later cutting "To Carve Our Shapes," a song on the EP out now. We went into the studio and worked with Neil Strauch to see if we'd like him and want him to produce the EP, and it worked out pretty well. We started recording the EP back in June and went through the first week of September, then spent a month mixing it. The CDs actually shipped out [on Dec. 7].

The Chronicle: What's it like balancing the band with schoolwork?

NC: I'll say it downright: it sucks; it sucks a lot. Me and Chris and our drummer, [Jeff Simonelli], we're in our senior year, so we're doing senior capstones and bigger papers and we're in the upper-division part of our coursework. And I work on the South Side, Chris works, Jeff works. So it's like, you've got to go to work, you've got to do your schoolwork, you've got to get all those papers done, and then you've got to do well in school and work, and then you've got to do the band. It's pretty exhausting. I'm really stoked it's almost all over so I can focus on music.

The Chronicle: So what are your plans for the future? What's next for Carbon Tigers?

AS: We're playing the Chompilation release show for AEMMP Records here at Stage Two [in the 618 S. Michigan Ave. Building], in February. We're hoping to do South by Southwest this March, and we're looking to do a nationwide tour come summer and maybe do a re-release of the EP.

Chris Wienke: I think we'll try to work on some regional touring at the beginning of next year. We're going to try to get a new van, and once we have a reliable van we can start trying to book little mini-weekend tours and college tours and stuff while we're still in classes next semester.

For an extended version of this interview, visit ColumbiaChronicle.com. To listen to tracks from "The Burrows" or watch webisodes of Carbon Tigers recording the EP, visit CarbonTigers.com.

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Courtesy MCT NEWSWIRE

Lyric Opera's newest creative consultant, Renee Fleming, with Timothy Jessell at the Artist's Dinner at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C., on Dec. 4.

Lyric's new creative direction

Veteran soprano takes on consulting position at local opera company

by John Von Rhein
MCT Newswire

IN A coup certain to add luster to the company's national and international reputation, Lyric Opera of Chicago appointed the celebrated American soprano Renee Fleming to the newly created position of creative consultant. Her five-year term is to begin immediately. The announcement came on Dec. 9 at a press conference at the Civic Opera House, 20 N. Wacker Dr.

In her new capacity, believed to be a first for a major American opera company, Fleming, 51, will join the Lyric board as a vice president and take an active leadership position within the artistic administration. Along with performing opera and concerts at the Lyric, she will work with senior officials to create new projects, expand education and marketing efforts and collaborate with other Chicago arts organizations, including the Chicago Symphony, Art Institute of Chicago, Goodman Theatre and Harris Theater.

Fleming, moreover, will be involved in the selection of a composer and the property itself, for a new opera scheduled to have its world premiere during Lyric's 2015–2016 season.

The singer also will be at the forefront of an annual series of classic American musical theater works, beginning with a new production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Oklahoma" following the subscription season in spring 2013.

The artist, who already serves on the board of New York's Carnegie Hall and whose performance calendar is booked through 2016, said she hesitated at first when Lyric Board President Richard P. Kiphart offered her the position over lunch in New York in February.

"Honestly, it never crossed my mind," Fleming said.

But after mulling the offer and the possibilities of "really affecting change in the opera world" in a high-profile capacity in Chicago, she accepted.

"The opportunity to do something really new and different is very exciting to me at this, the prime of my career," Fleming said. "Lyric's interest in outreach, marketing and education coincides perfectly with mine. The beauty of this situation is I get to learn from the inside how a major opera company operates on a daily basis."

Philip Gossett, a Chicago music scholar who is a retired professor at the University of Chicago, said the initiatives Fleming is announcing suggest Lyric has exciting plans for the future.

"Add [Fleming's] presence to those of [Riccardo] Muti and [Yo-Yo] Ma at the [Chicago Symphony Orchestra] and one sees Chicago is poised to maintain its premier status in the world of music," Gossett said. "I hope only that the appointment of [Lyric Opera General Director William Mason's] successor will prove equally exciting."

Fleming, who has not appeared in a staged opera at Lyric since "La Traviata" in 2008, will portray the Countess in Richard Strauss' "Capriccio," with Davis conducting, and participate in Lyric's 60th anniversary gala in fall 2014.

Before that, she will headline two other concerts. Baritone Dmitri Hvorostovsky will join her for a "subscriber appreciation concert" in January 2012, honoring Mason's 50-year involvement at Lyric. Mason has announced he will step down as general director at the end of the 2011–2012 season.

Fleming will also recreate the role of Blanche DuBois for semi-staged concert performances of Andre Previn's "A Streetcar Named Desire," based on the Tennessee Williams play, scheduled for spring 2013. Previn composed the opera expressly for Fleming, who sang it to great acclaim at the 1998 world premiere.

Fleming said she is interested in developing programs that will "help newcomers test the opera waters," rewarding their curiosity with "user-friendly, non-patronizing resources," such as the series of Web-based videos she and Davis are preparing to promote Lyric's 2011–2012 season.

Along the same lines, she added, is a new program with Chicago's Merit School of Music that would groom talented, young Chicago-area singers for entry into Lyric's Ryan Opera Center apprentice program.

Echoing one of Yo-Yo Ma's central objectives as the CSO's creative consultant, she expressed her commitment to fostering understanding and appreciation of the art form among young people.

Fleming's coming aboard the Lyric should prove an added incentive for the best opera administrators in the business to vie for the position that William Mason's impending retirement leaves open. Certainly her experience and far-flung connections in the opera world make her counsel invaluable as the company continues its search for a new general director. And her high-profile position in the cultural life of the city should kick up Lyric's successful capital campaigns to even higher levels.

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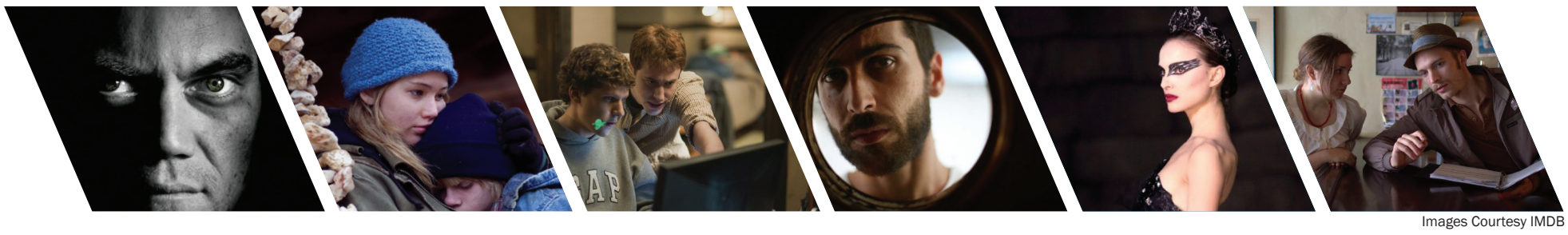
Top 10 of 2010 {films}



Images Courtesy IMDB

Film critic Drew Hunt counts down the best films of the year

By Drew Hunt
Assistant Campus Editor

'Tiny Furniture'

USA, DIRECTOR: Lena Dunham

10

Lena Dunham's film is a fiendishly clever effort—one that bears no marks of a debut feature. Dunham stars as Aura, a film theory major and YouTube video maker who moves home after graduating college only to find disillusion. "Tiny Furniture" is an honest self-examination and a sort of denigration of post-grad malaise that satirizes New York-style bohemia. But Dunham is never entirely pessimistic. Her disregard of privilege and aversion to social climbing is refreshingly modest, and so is her unapologetic relationship with her body and sexuality. It's also very funny, making light of awkward hookups, iPhone porn and departed pet rodents.

'Mother'

SOUTH KOREA, DIRECTOR: Joon-ho Bong

9

This strange and startling film from Korean director Joon-ho Bong marks yet another unconventional effort. It's fairly common on the surface: A mother's son is accused of murder so she sets out to prove his innocence. But the film is laced with odd humor and wry experimentation. Throughout his career, Bong refused to play by the rules of genre filmmaking. Not unlike his monster movie, "The Host," "Mother" subverts audience expectations by toying with convention. It's deceptive in the way a film like "Inception" wishes it were: Bong relies on unique characterization opposed to convoluted plot points to create intrigue, and the film succeeds because of it.

'Restrepo'

USA, DIRECTORS: Tim Hetherington, Sebastian Junger

8

This riveting documentary chronicles one year in the life of a platoon of U.S. Army troops stationed in the most chaotic and dangerous regions of Afghanistan. As the soldiers literally fight to survive, the directors succeed in eliminating any external aspects and focusing the story solely on the soldiers. However, it's nearly impossible to ignore the circumstances of their plight. The result is a harrowing and sometimes enraging experience. It's a wholly honest film and the year's best documentary.

'I Am Love'

ITALY, DIRECTOR: Luca Guadagnino

7

"I Am Love" is an unapologetically lavish melodrama in the vein of a film by Luchino Visconti. Like Visconti, fellow Italian Luca Guadagnino is a decidedly hands-on director—almost to his detriment. But the flailing emotionalism of "I Am Love" is made tolerable by a stunning visual style. Tilda Swinton stars as the film's main character, and Guadagnino's camera renders her nothing short of majestic. Her lionization could have led to the film's downfall, but Swinton is as good as she's ever been, effectively saving "I Am Love" from wallowing in romanticism, like so many of Visconti's films did.

'Winter's Bone'

USA, DIRECTOR: Debra Granik

6

A disarming look into a world of unease and hostility, Debra Granik's "Winter's Bone" is a graceful merger of naturalism and stylization, one that renders the Ozarks as a hauntingly uninhibited landscape. Any beauty it possesses is lost in Michael McDonough's brilliantly stirring cinematography—even the trees look menacing in this world. As far as narratives are concerned, the film is as engrossing as they come. It's a kind of backwoods neo-noir, as bleak as it is captivating. The performance given by Jennifer Lawrence—who plays the film's main character, Ree—is brimming with gravitas. She's already garnered major award nominations—a trend that shouldn't stop any time soon.

'My Son, My Son, What Have Ye Done?'

USA/GERMANY, DIRECTOR: Werner Herzog

5

The lack of public awareness of this film is undoubtedly due to its inaccessibility. While its theatrical run can only be described as sporadic, Werner Herzog's latest film is his best since his documentary "Grizzly Man." "My Son, My Son, What Have Ye Done?" is chockfull of Herzogian goodness: Michael Shannon plays a typical Herzog protagonist, a mentally unhinged obsessive whose aggressive behavior appears to be devoid of rationality. Frequently pitted against the indomitableness of life and nature, Herzog's heroes devolve to pure inanity. What results is a visceral filmic experience, and "My Son, My Son" is a sort of spiritual sequel to films like "Aguirre: The Wrath of God" and "Fitzcarraldo."

'The Social Network'

USA, DIRECTOR: David Fincher

4

Like his 2007 film "Zodiac," Fincher's latest is a forensic study of an impenetrably obsessive outcast who reconstructs the world by infusing it with his own crippling insecurities. It's the most intelligent mainstream American film to be released in years—a sort of cynically fatalist tale about the corruptibility of big business. But the character Mark Zuckerberg (note: the character, not the actual guy), portrayed by Jesse Eisenberg, represents much more than the cutthroat nature of the American dream. Blinded by pride and aimless egotism, he is the Charles Foster Kane of the iGeneration.

'Carlos'

FRANCE, DIRECTOR: Olivier Assayas

Olivier Assayas' remarkable film manages to be epic and contained in equal spurts—a sprawling, five-hour marathon and a nuanced character study. His account of the international terrorist Ilich Ramírez Sánchez—aka Carlos—packs all the punch of an action flick, but it's Assayas' deconstruction of the global community that makes the film resonate so profoundly. Assayas continues to be one of Europe's most preeminent auteurs.

3

'Black Swan'

USA, DIRECTOR: Darren Aronofsky

2

Having run the gamut of bodily destruction in his 2008 film, "The Wrestler," Darren Aronofsky returns to similar themes in this psychological thriller. Natalie Portman takes the place of Mickey Rourke as Aronofsky's would-be punching bag, providing a vulnerability that belies the decimation of her mind and body. Aronofsky induces squirms and pathos in equal dosage, ritualizing the act of ballet to the point of brutality yet retaining all of its grace and beauty. It's a spectacular achievement and his best film to date.

'Dogtooth'

GREECE, DIRECTOR: Giorgos Lanthimos

1

In a film that owes a great deal to the static framing and structural cinema of Chantal Akerman's "Jeanne Dielman," Giorgos Lanthimos' subversive dissemination of the modern family is an unrelenting, bitingly satirical masterpiece. For reasons unexplained, a married couple sheltered their three adult-aged children from civilization, dictated their knowledge of language and customs, and formed an elaborate mythology of the outside world to prevent them from leaving their home. The results are nothing short of animalistic. The children become prone to violent outbursts and emotional breakdowns as the illusion of their existence begins to break down. The subtle chaos of Lanthimos' film examines the balance between nature and nurture, with nature—and the violent barbarism therein—frequently winning out. It's not an easy film to watch, but the rewards are plentiful.

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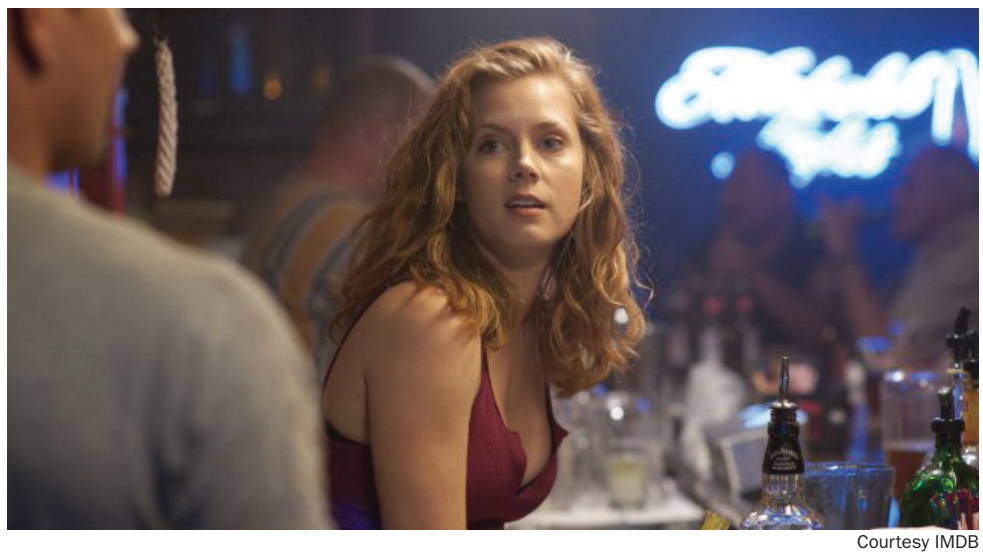
Adams curses up a storm in 'The Fighter'

Actress cast against type as foul-mouthed tough chick in latest film

by Roger Moore
MCT Newswire



Courtesy IMDB

Amy Adams plays tough-talking bartender Charlene in "The Fighter," which opens nationwide on Dec. 17.

THAT CANNOT be our sweet and wholesome little Amy Adams playing Charlene the barmaid, donning a wicked, fierce Boston accent and cussing a blue streak in "The Fighter," can it?

Such language! "Son-of-a" this and "mother" that. Our Amy would blush at having such coarseness cross those bee-sting lips!

"The only time I blushed having to let loose like this was when we did the scene where Christian [Bale] comes to visit Charlene on the porch, and I yell at him on the intercom to the apartment, and then out the window," Adams recalled with a laugh. "I'm yelling all these awful words, just screaming them, and the man walking the dog in the background of the scene is actually a priest. I thought, 'Oh great. Let's get this over with quick.' But David [O. Russell, director of 'The Fighter'] kept going, 'Call him something different!' I was like, 'I don't know any more swear words, David! My vocabulary is depleted.'"

There is no way on this Earth Amy "Enchanted" Adams could be as demure as we've seen her on screen. In movies that had her playing an irritable, occasionally profane cook ("Julie & Julia") or a Jazz Age floozy ("Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day"), Adams always tilted the characters more toward the cute and naughty than the nasty. But one of the great pleasures of the critically acclaimed "The Fighter," said Box Office Magazine, is watching "mousy-voiced Adams draw her shoulders back and tell her future in-laws" off in a performance that is "continually fun and full of surprises."

If "The Fighter," which stars Mark Wahlberg as boxer "Irish" Micky Ward and Christian Bale as his junkie half-brother and trainer, Dickie Eklund, is an Oscar contender, Adams has a lot to do with it. Russell cast her against type and let the sparks fly.

"David sent me 20 pages of script, and in those 20 pages, Charlene got into a fight," Adams said. "I said to him, 'You want me for Charlene? This tough girl?' Normally, I have to go into meetings to convince directors and casting people that yes, I do have a tough side. But David said, 'Oh, you're totally Charlene."

In "The Fighter," Charlene is the college-educated redhead who takes up with Micky, looks out for his best interests and stands up to his big, trashy, domineering family, which treats him like a gravy train and wants him to keep training with his unreliable ex-boxer brother. To play a woman this tough, Adams had to put her game face on and keep it on, even to her notoriously combative director.

"There were plenty of times David couldn't tell if I was really mad about something on set or if I was just being Charlene," Adams said. "'No, no. I'm just feeling Charlene today.'"

Her co-star in the film, Melissa Leo, became a pal during the shoot, and marvels about the transformation Adams underwent.

"She really wanted to step out of herself, her image, and she did it whole heartedly and joyously," Leo said.

Adams, 36, said she channeled a bit of her childhood, a phase she went through "trying to impress my older brothers and their friends by, you know, cursing." When she finished the film, she warned her family about its content (it's her most sexual role), and later had a baby. As she adjusted to new motherhood, she found a part more in her comfort zone—a new Muppet movie, co-starring Jason Segel.

"I loved the Muppets as a kid, and having a daughter has taken me back to that age," Adams said. "I feel so open. All those walls you build as an adult sort of come tumbling down when you have a child. My daughter is letting me be a kid again on a movie set. You really believe [the puppets are] real. I don't want to give away the movie, but Kermit gives a monologue at the end of the film that made me cry."

Not something tough-gal Charlene would admit to. But Adams makes sure there is no hint of the brassy Boston-accented barmaid in the Muppet movie.

"You know, Disney didn't think my Charlene persona was appropriate for their movie," she laughs. "Not at all. So I had to give her up. Alas! I had a great time making 'The Fighter.' But I am having the best time making 'The Muppets,' and I don't have to blush, either."

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TOP 5

Jackson Thomas / Copy Editor

Things on my bucket list

Perform in drag: I love watching drag queens take the stage. They have exaggerated body and dance movements, on-cue lip-synching and amazing "glamazon" looks! I know if I were to do it I would be one fierce biyotch with charisma, uniqueness, nerve and talent. Werrrrk!

Marry Trey Songz: Trey might think he's straight, but I don't believe it. He hasn't met me yet, and I'm too sexy compared to his female groupies. All those girls he sings about are just cover-ups. One day I'll be able to call myself Mr. Neverson. Don't believe me? "Can't Be Friends," "I Invented Sex" and "Neighbors Know My Name" really referenced me.

Be a judge on "Top Model": Tyra Banks keeps upping the prizes and changing the judges. When the show is finally in its 30th cycle (it most likely will get there) and Tyra is old and gray, you'll see me as editor-in-chief of some well-known and popular magazine—Vogue perhaps.

Appear on "1 Girl 5 Gays": I recently started watching this show on LOGO, and it's absolutely hilarious. One girl discusses outrageous topics with her panel of gay male friends, and I would fit in perfectly. I know my attitude, sarcastic personality, smart mouth and rude remarks would destroy those other boys.

Move to Los Angeles: I enjoy living in Chicago, but I cannot stand the weather. I've always wanted to visit L.A., and because I'm a summer baby I think I'd love the year-round warm weather. A change of scenery is always nice, too.

Jonathan Allen / Senior Graphic Designer

Reasons I'm poor

Columbia: I really have no idea what I was thinking when I chose Columbia. After all, these loans, my credit score and GPA are the same and my wallet lays awake at night sobbing because it's so hungry.

Columbia: Yesterday I spent about $60 on supplies for one of my finals. Sixty dollars! That's about my food budget for two weeks. Thus, I will have to switch my diet from chicken and ramen to acrylic paint. Tonight I feel like dining on Cadmium Red.

Columbia: I just love shelling out half a grand on books and supplies at the beginning of every semester, and then selling them back to the school for a third of the price at the end of the year. If anyone wants my $100 art history book from freshman year, contact me. EFollett won't take it back.

Columbia: Though Columbia calls itself a four-year college, it is not known for teaching math properly. Unless you organize your schedule with infinite precision from your freshman year to senior year, prepare to have a few surprises when it comes to what Columbia requires from you before you can get your handsome degree.

Boots: They were $120 boots, and I love them. I can't explain how great they are because I'm too busy admiring them. Yes, it was reckless and I now won't eat for a few months, but my feet are super cozy.

Ying Kau / Graphic Designer

Reasons it is bad to have a birthday near Christmas

Near finals: My birthday is a week before Christmas, and comes during college finals. For many years, I asked my mom why I was born during finals. Everyone is studying so they don't care if it is your birthday.

2-in-1 gift: Parents are smart. Until the economy improves, I will only get one gift for my birthday and Christmas. What a great deal!

No birthday cake: I remember how hard it is to get a birthday cake at Christmas time, especially when your family doesn't like to plan ahead. On my 10th birthday, they went to bakeries in town, but they were only selling cakes for Christmas. They ended up getting me a cake for my birthday that had Santa Claus on it and said "Merry Christmas." Thanks for coming to my birthday, Santa!

All chaos happens: It is the time of the year when exams take place, schoolwork piles up and everybody is stressed. All the stress accumulates throughout the year, so I always get myself into trouble before my birthday. Fighting with friends, boyfriends and family seems to happen more at the end of the year. Specifically, I always break up with my boyfriend right before my birthday. Is it a curse?

It's cold outside: I love sunshine and the beach. Can I have a beach birthday party? Can I go to Great America for my birthday and ride all the roller coasters? Can I have an ice cream birthday cake with a picnic in the park? No.

MEAN MUGGIN'

Another arbitrary best albums of the year list . . . what a shocker

by Mina Bloom
Arts & Culture Editor

ROLLING STONE released a list of its favorite 30 albums of 2010 on Dec. 7, and though I wasn't surprised by many of its choices, I didn't agree with a great deal of them. It did manage to stick Yeasayer's "Odd Blood" in there—at No. 26, of course.

But let's take a look at some of its picks that left me dumbfounded: Eminem's "Recovery" at No. 9, Vampire Weekend's "Contra" at No. 6, Jamey Johnson's "The Guitar Song" at No. 5 (Who is this person? I have no idea!) and M.I.A.'s "Maya" at No. 19.

By no stretch of the imagination is "Maya" as dynamic as "Kala." Vampire Weekend's overbearing, live lightshow on their "Contra" tour left me wondering why I ever hummed along to "Oxford Comma" when it first hit the blogs.

Did balding Rolling Stone editors list what they thought were obscure, "cool" young people bands alongside John Mellencamp, for example, to seem well-rounded?

As for Eminem's "Recovery," I'm pretty sure "No Love" is one of the only top-10-list-worthy tracks off the album, thanks to Weezy's verse, of course. That brings me to my point. Some of the albums on the list are moderately good—but they shouldn't be making a best of list. Perhaps 30 is too high a number.

At the very least, Kanye West's "My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy" topped the list. It was released in late November, though, which says a lot about the album itself and the fact that 2010 may not have been a great year for stellar, cohesive albums.

hbloom@chroniclemail.com

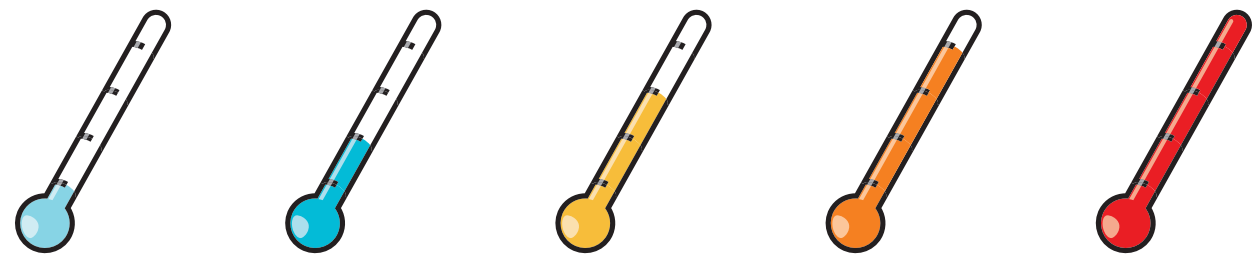
check me out

Cody Severa, sophomore, product design major
"Zumiez is the only place that still has skate gear."
Jacket: Zumiez, $160; Hat: Zumiez, $20; Shoes: Zumiez, $60

Jordan Compis, senior, marketing communication major
"I just want to be beautifully efficient."
Jacket: London Thrift Store, 4 pounds; Shoes: Doc Martin, $120; Scarf: Rudy's Roundup, $32

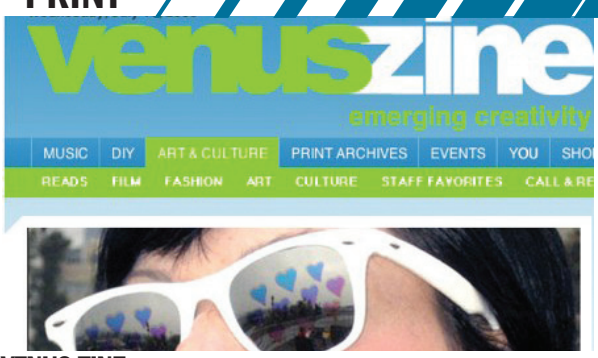
Photos Tiela Halpin THE CHRONICLE

HOT & COLD



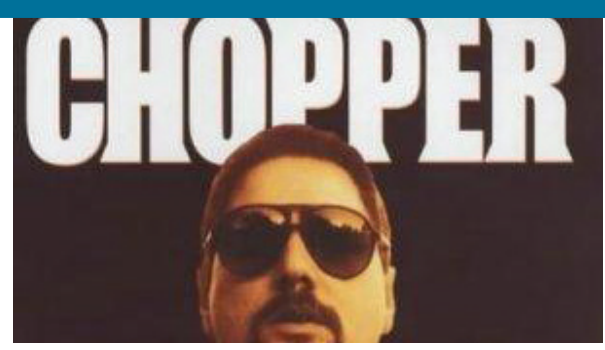
Nothin' | Could be worse... | Not bad, not bad | I'm feelin' this | HOT HOT HOT

PRINT



VENUS ZINE

After a lot of back and forth, Venus Zine has yet again made the decision to stop the presses. While it is beefing up its online presence and will continue publishing there, it's sad to see the print medium struggle. Plus, the images in this magazine were excellent for collages. What's a poor girl with scissors and a glue stick to do now?—*B. Wellen*



"CHOPPER" BY MARK BRANDON READ

After a second watch of the film adaptation of this book—which stars Eric Bana as the earless, tattooed Australian ex-convict—I had to pick Read, aka "Chopper," for my Abnormal Psychology final. Read is known for his unbelievable storytelling—which would explain why this book is a semi-autobiographical account of his life as a career criminal—but he's nevertheless a darn good storyteller. He's a little antisocial and narcissistic at times but can still tell a story.—*A. Meade*

TIME OUT CHICAGO, DEC. 9–15 ISSUE

Time Out's "100 Best things we ate (and drank) this year" issue, on stands Dec. 9, has become my newest decadent wish list. Luckily the lack of vegetarian food featured narrows it down to a few select dishes I long to try, but it reminds me of all the Chicago restaurants I dream of dining at: Bonsoiree, Takashi, Sprout, The Purple Pig and the list goes on. Maybe someday. —*E. Blick*

MOVIES / TV / DVD

"TREE OF LIFE" TRAILER

The trailer for Terrence Malick's newest film, "The Tree of Life," was attached to a few films during the weekend. Aside from his debut "Badlands," there's not a whole lot about the reclusive director that really blows my skirt up—however, his newest effort looks pretty spectacular. Since Malick has only released four films since 1973, and the film's release will likely be preceded by mass amounts of hype, here's hoping it doesn't reach Avatar-levels of annoyance so I'll actually feel like seeing it.—*D. Hunt*

"THE WALKING DEAD" SEASON FINALE

Frank Darabont's adaptation of Robert Kirkman's long-running comic had a spectacular first season, even if it was far too short at a mere six episodes. While I enjoyed the sixth episode, it didn't feel very satisfying as a finale. It would have worked very well as just another episode, but it failed to tie up nearly all of the first season's loose plot threads—most noticeably with the lack of any confrontation between Rick and Shane—leaving me frustrated that I have to wait until October 2011 to find out what happens next.—*L. Wilusz*

TURNER CLASSIC MOVIES

Recently tuning in to the TCM station, I realized how many great programs it offers for movie buffs aside from its usual rotation of classic Hollywood films. The "Movies and Moguls" series takes a look at each transitional time period in Hollywood and offers some of the most complete retrospectives I've seen of Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney this month. It brings back my appreciation and love for the golden era of the silver screen. — *B. Wellen*

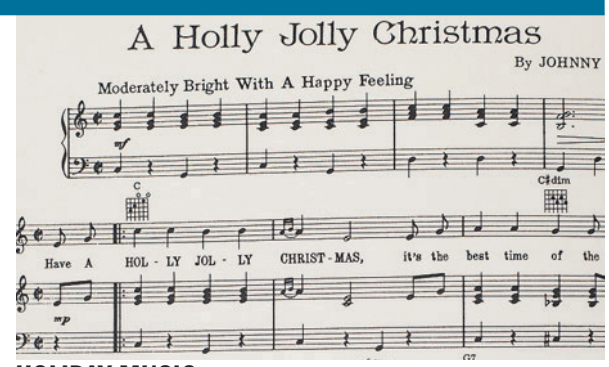
MUSIC

END OF THE YEAR LISTS

Every year, there are dozens of "Top 10" or "Top 50" albums of the year lists written, with each author thinking theirs is the most insightful thing ever written. Unfortunately, only a few of them actually hold any merit and even fewer back their claims up with actual facts. The worst part is there are a lot of good critics who write these, but their opinions are lost in the myriad of amateur bloggers who think their word is gospel.—*S. Charles*

OFWGKTA

Odd Future Wolf Gang Kill Them All are either a brilliantly contrarian hip-hop collective or a bunch of bored skate-rats with nothing better to do. What's certain is their music bangs. Led by rapper and producer Tyler the Creator, Odd Future is a stable of rappers who reside in L.A. The outfit's best emcee—16-year-old Earl Sweatshirt—is either in jail, rehab, on the run from the law or some combination of the three, but his record—the aptly titled "Earl"—sounds like hip-hop from another planet. Crazy stuff. —*D. Hunt*



HOLIDAY MUSIC

I don't mean to be a Grinch, but I'm pretty sick of holiday music. It seems like disc jockeys started playing "Holly Jolly Christmas" a little on the early side this year, and I'm more than ready for them to stop. I'm tired of the sappy holiday songs; they irritate me more than show tunes. Every year I am subjected to "All I Want for Christmas" by Mariah Carey at least 15 times. So to all radio stations, please cut the holiday songs from your playlists because it's not making me feel very jolly at all.—*K. Nielsen*

RANDOM

BEING BROKE DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Before this year, I've always been able to set aside a bit of extra money for the holidays. I'm lucky to have a small family and humble friends who never want much, but I enjoy giving gifts. I'm not a crafty person and can't rely on making something snazzy when I'm strapped for cash. Next year's goal: Learn to brew beer to give as presents.—*E. Blick*

GREYHOUND BUS

I am a frequent public transportation traveler; there isn't a mode of transportation I haven't tried. Greyhound buses tend to be hit or miss. I once took it to Spartanburg, S.C., and was stranded overnight in Knoxville, Tenn. Most recently, I traveled to St. Louis by Greyhound bus, and the worst part about my travels was the man snoring behind me. When you take the Greyhound, you are taking a gamble for sure.—*J. Howard*

7-ELEVEN CHICKEN TENDERS

If you die any time after eating these chicken tenders you could probably claim that 7-Eleven murdered you. These are, without question, the most bogus chicken tenders anywhere, ever. It's bad enough 7-Eleven charges for dipping sauce, and it's worse the dipping sauce comes off looking better than the tenders. And when I say "tenders," I mean "chicken tenders," though I suspect they're really just recycled paper products and bread.—*D. Holliday*

Commentary

Editorials

Bookstore needs to update shelves

TEXTBOOKS CAUSE headaches for most students twice a semester. Prices are always too high and buyback rates are never high enough. It's hard to justify spending $150 on the latest edition of a book required for a class when there is no guarantee it can be sold back next semester. It's no surprise many students get books elsewhere—prices are almost invariably cheaper, even more so when considering Chicago's sales tax.

The bookstore's new Rent-A-Text program was an appreciated effort to help students with the financial burden of textbooks, but better offers exist elsewhere. Many websites offer similar rental programs with a wider selection of books for less money. Programs like Amazon's book buyback don't limit what books will be accepted based on the most recent edition or demand for the title, the way the bookstore does.

If there is any hope of getting more students to patronize the campus bookstore, it needs to stay ahead of the curve. Electronic textbooks are starting to take off, and student interest is growing. Instead of lugging around a giant book, the same information is available online or for download, often with the option to access for a certain period of time and at a fraction of a physical text's cost.

E-books are also a more environmentally friendly option. Buying used textbooks is one way to be green, but not when students ship in single books from across the country based on the best online deals.

Columbia should encourage teachers to use the latest methods when distributing information to students. Likewise, the bookstore should explore the potential of e-books, subscription programs and renting or selling portable reading devices. If it can make competitive offers before other outlets it will attract more students.

If the bookstore is unable to change what it offers to better suit students Columbia should consider finding an alternative provider. Most college campuses have more than one bookstore. Considering the success of new initiatives like ShopColumbia, students tend to respond to a more local, independent presence on campus.

Monitoring redistricting reform

ONCE THE 2010 Census results are finalized, the scramble to redraw legislative districts will begin. The process is notorious nationwide for back-door deals, secrets and gerrymandering. District lines are based on which communities politicians want included in their voter base.

On Dec. 1, the Illinois Senate passed the Redistricting Transparency and Public Participation Act, a reform package designed to have the public more involved in legislative redistricting. The measure moved to the House and has until Jan. 11 to be approved or the bill will not be enacted in the current session.

The legislation's principles move in the direction our state needs to take. The act aims to bring transparency to the process by requiring redistricting committees to hold four public hearings throughout the state. It also protects minority groups from getting too split between districts to influence election outcomes. The House should pass the act to encourage stricter, fairer practices during redistricting.

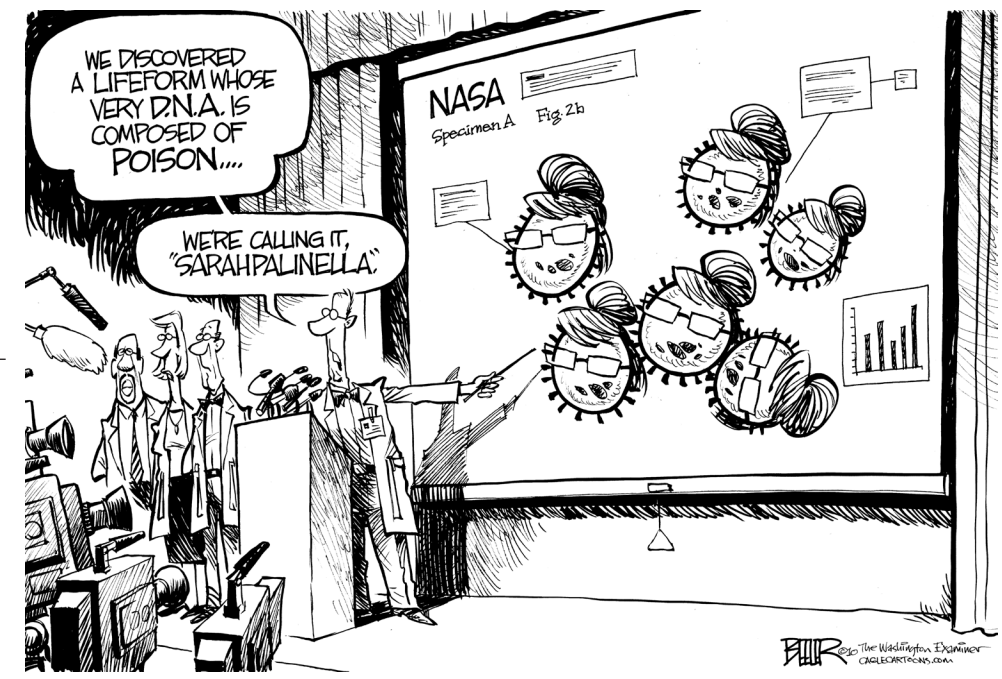
However, if the act is passed, realizing its potential will largely rest with Illinois citizens. Seven amendments to the act were rejected, including prohibiting map drawers to take an area's party voting history into account. Public hearings would not require the committee to present new map drawings at any point.

If citizens take full advantage of the meetings it should allow them to oversee the process, make suggestions and demand specifics from legislators. If the act is passed it is imperative citizens attend these hearings and take a more active role in a process that affects our vote more than many realize.

If the act fails to pass and redrawing state maps begins without reform, citizens should demand more transparency and unbiased planning from the redistricting committee by contacting their legislators. Illinois has no bipartisan commission to review the process; therefore citizens must become the independent watchdog.

Whether or not the bill is passed, there will be little impact on the redistricting process unless Illinoisans continue to press the issue and urge change.

Courtesy MCT NEWSWIRE



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Have an opinion about something you read in this newspaper?

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

—The Columbia Chronicle Editorial Board

Chicago's icy winter sidewalks need more attention

"The weather is certainly no excuse to avoid shoveling—put on an extra pair of socks and suck it up."

by Eleanor Blick
Commentary Editor

CHICAGO'S FIRST substantial snowfall of the season came on Dec. 4 and was met with the usual first-snow-of-the-season excitement—massive amounts of road salt, an onslaught of terrible driving and a swift dip in winter wonderland enchantment when the flakes stopped and bitter cold followed the next day.

As usual, sidewalks all across the city were left unshoveled. The temperature drop turned compacted snow to ice, and Chicagoans slipped and slid across sidewalks all week.

I don't understand Chicago's blatant disregard for proper winter sidewalk care. Surely, everyone grumbles and curses the unknown name of whoever failed to shovel his or her fair share. And yet, so many sidewalks regularly remain unshoveled.

Downtown sidewalks are always clear and salted well, but many people don't give neighborhoods the same attention. I am tired of wearing ugly, hefty snow boots to avoid slipping one week after snowfall because others didn't do their civic duty.

Is it laziness or wimpiness? Or perhaps it's a "blame it on the landlord" situation? Whatever the combination of excuses might be, none makes up for creating a dangerous walk for others.

First and foremost, shoveling is required by city law. Section 10-8-180 of the Chicago Municipal Code reads: "Every owner, lessee, tenant, occupant or other person having charge of any building or lot of ground in the city abutting upon any public way or public place shall remove the snow and ice from the sidewalk in front of such building or lot of ground."

The law says people have three hours to remove snow if it falls before 4 p.m. If it falls overnight, it needs to be removed by 10 a.m. Ice needs to be sprinkled with salt or sawdust.

Sidewalks in front of typical Chicago buildings—three flats, greystones, six units, etc.—usually aren't more than 20 or 30 feet long. Shoveling such a small space takes 10 minutes, tops. It's a quick, easy job neighbors appreciate, especially when it's done promptly.

In my hometown of Milwaukee, shoveling took hours. Even with two or three people, clearing our massive driveway of snow was an all-afternoon affair. After big storms we would have piles of snow in the yard topping 8 feet high. Naturally, I am an adept builder of snow forts and a proficient shoveler who will never complain about taking care of her 25-foot long Chicago sidewalk. If it's a particularly long snowstorm, I'll even shovel twice.

Sometimes, my Maine-born roommate and I will go so far as to shovel a path along our neighbors' sidewalks, for the sake of the hundreds of people who walk down our street every day to the nearby el station. Sure, it's cold outside and our fingers and toes might be frozen and stiff, but this is Chicago. Crappy winters are kind of our thing. The weather is certainly no excuse to avoid shoveling—put on an extra pair of socks and suck it up.

But allow me to climb off my high horse to simply say I look out for the safety and convenience of myself and my neighbors. I would hate to see anyone slip because I was too lazy to properly clear off my own sidewalk.

And as the law states, shoveling and salting are not necessarily a landlord's responsibility. In my experience, by the time someone is sent to the property to take care of the snow, it's been trampled into a sheet of ice. Ask the landlord to provide the salt, or maybe take a few dollars off the rent if you offer to take care of all the shoveling.

Snowy cities across the country have laws similar to Chicago's but levy stricter repercussions for non-shoveling scofflaws. For example, Madison property owners are fined $114 for their first violation and $177 for every subsequent violation, plus the cost of a city crew coming out to remove the snow.

That's a revenue idea I wholly support.

eblick@chroniclemail.com

ROAMIN' NUMERALS

32 Percentage of employers hiring in the Midwest, according to a Gallup Poll released on Dec. 7. The Midwest has the highest hiring rate and the largest hiring increase of any region since October.

58 Percentage of people who celebrate Christmas and said they are more likely to wish a casual acquaintance "Happy Holidays" than "Merry Christmas," according to a Dec. 7 Rasmussen Report.

34 Percentage of likely U.S. voters who said they think it is possible to win the war in Afghanistan, according to a Dec. 7 Rasmussen Report. The number is down from 47 percent in February.

59 Percentage of the American public who favor gays and lesbians serving openly in the military, according to a Gallup Poll released on Dec. 7. While 23 percent oppose, 18 percent are not sure.

Ethical questions bring blemishes to Medill's reputation

"The mere allegation of illegally recording interviews is a serious black eye for Medill."

by Sam Charles
Assistant Campus Editor

RECENTLY, NORTHWESTERN University's Medill School of Journalism came under fire for allegedly violating Illinois' law on proper recording techniques. In Illinois, a court order must be obtained to clandestinely record someone, or the interviewer must get the interviewee's consent before a conversation is recorded.

The allegation stems from students' work in the Medill Innocence Project. The project, founded and directed by professor David Protess since 1999, aims to give investigative journalism students first-hand experience by looking into unclear court cases that sent people to prison and, in some cases, death row. To date, the project has helped 11 wrongly convicted prisoners go free.

Prosecutors claim Medill students wore hidden recorders while interviewing witnesses as part of their investigation into the 1979 murder of a security guard in Harvey, Ill. Northwestern has since hired a former U.S. attorney to look into the students' actions.

Medill has a long-standing reputation as one of the premier journalism schools in the country, with highly successful alumni scattered across dozens of major newspapers, magazines and television outlets.

The mere allegation of illegally recording interviews is a big black eye for Medill.

The school takes good journalism seriously, or so it seemed. A "Medill F" is an automatic zero given to a student for making a factual error in a story, such as misspelling a name or getting someone's age wrong.

The "Appendix II: The Code and Outside Conflicts" section of The Medill Integrity Code, which every student in the department must adhere to, indicates if students are concerned with or unsure of an ethically questionable situation, they should defer to the senior director of Undergraduate Studies, senior director of Graduate Studies or the dean.

"It is not a valid excuse to say, 'I did not know the appropriate standards and definitions,'" the code stresses.

In this case, Protess authorized the recordings, claiming the students in question only wore the hidden devices to alert an on-hand private investigator if a dangerous situation arose.

He knowingly put his students in an ethically questionable situation. At Columbia, our professors make it clear what to do and what not to do in similar situations. You don't secretly record people—ever.

The code makes no attempt to explain what circumstances could be considered questionable, leaving a massive loophole that could be manipulated on a case-by-case basis: "Because it is impossible to list every possible permutation of situations that might arise ... standards and definitions in the Northwestern University and Medill handbooks are not all-inclusive."

Northwestern's tuition is more than $50,000-per-year. Professors should never put their students in a legally questionable situation like that, especially when those students are spending more to attend college than the average American earns annually.

It's not the media's responsibility to do police work, and professors and students at Medill aren't above the law.

The Medill Integrity Code also explains what could happen to students who violate it, which seems to fit in, in this case. "Penalties for code violations range from letters of warning to exclusion from Medill and/or Northwestern University."

The university is holding true to its word by bringing in its own counsel to look into the practices of the journalism school's project. It must be a difficult thing for Northwestern to side against one of its most prestigious schools, but it is a necessary action. Northwestern as a whole deserves credit for taking this allegation so seriously and not immediately pledging its allegiance to Medill.

It's nearly impossible for a journalist to repair his or her damaged reputation, let alone an entire school, especially one with a reputation as sterling as Medill's.

This allegation might blow over in a few months, but the journalism school at Northwestern will always have this smear on its reputation. The university can work to fix it by sending out more great reporters, editors, anchors and producers into the field, but it will always be there.

It's a long fall from the top.

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SENIOR COLUMNS

As each semester comes to a close, our graduating seniors take a moment to reflect on their time at Columbia.

Coffee, tea and wilder memories

by Lisa Wardle
Copy Chief

DURING A recent trip to visit my family in Seattle, my father and I sat sipping coffee with an old friend of his. I heard many tales from their youth: the girls they attempted to pick up while riding bicycles, their pirate radio station and an effort to pull a weather balloon behind a car.

They told me to do crazy things while I am young and able because those are the memories that stick most. I'm not so sure about that.

One reason I attended Columbia was to avoid living on campus, so there are no dorm parties in my memories. Instead, I moved into a 12- to 15-person housing cooperative in Hyde Park. We spent nights playing folk music, baking while naked, watching movies on the lawn, pole dancing and riding a mechanical bull one memorable time in Oberlin, Ohio.

But the house is mostly mellow, and those are the main memories I will keep of it. If you ask any of my housemates, they might say I'm the most domestic. I enjoy spending hours putting together themed six-course meals, crafting temporary ceiling artwork for the kitchen and playing board games with them.

Columbia allowed me a variety of opportunities I will remember, from selling handcrafted candles at ShopColumbia to creating holograms in science class. Though I yearn for a copy editing job, I anxiously await the opportunity years down the line to write and bind books for my child to read.

The one semester I spent abroad in Melbourne, Australia, was absolutely splendid. I enjoyed reading literature written by aboriginal Australians, learning about the country's history and traveling. One week I visited New Zealand, taking time to bungee jump over a river and hike up volcanoes. Another week I bused around Tasmania, Australia, partying with bikers, molding sand sculptures and hiking to waterfalls and black sand beaches.

> "I will mostly remember the last few years with my mother."
>
> —Lisa Wardle

I will have memories of my housemates, Columbia and the Down Under, but I will mostly remember the last few years with my mother. She was the most stubborn woman I ever knew—she would give my 7-year-old self money to force on friends' parents when we went to see a movie or ice skate—which worked well in the end because everyone knew exactly what she wanted.

She was diagnosed with cancer a few weeks before I began college. Throughout those three years and two months while we were in other cities, the separation was sometimes difficult to bear. But we made a deal I would graduate as planned.

"People keep telling me you're not going to finish school," my mother said during one of our last days together. "But I keep telling them that you have to."

When I visited her in the summer, there were no tears left to cry, so we sat with our tea, played games and talked. We both knew where each other was headed. And it was all right.

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I would settle for nothing less

by Ciara Shook
Copy Editor

I FIRST heard about Columbia three years ago when I was a sophomore at Lake Land College. As a student ambassador for the college, I worked one night at a high school job fair in Taylorville, Ill., and saw Columbia's table, adorned with a tabletop sculpture of interlocking cards. Though I was looking to transfer within the year, I'd given little thought to where I was going after graduating from LLC.

At that point, I was looking to attend Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Ill. It was 20 miles from my house and was where many area kids went. But I wanted to move away, and knew the last half of college as my ticket out. My expectations of my major and the kind of college I would attend were foggy, but I knew I wanted a skill set beyond working as a newsroom beat reporter.

> "I wanted to create a change that would shape my career."
>
> —Ciara Shook

Instead of being attracted to LLC's robust agricultural and business programs like other seniors at the job fair, I looked for nearby institutions that might, by chance, have just the "kick-ass" journalism program I was seeking. When I saw the Columbia table behind the LLC table and asked the representative about the peculiar sculpture, she explained it was a pamphlet "you build yourself," which was reflective of Columbia's ideology of an artist's growth. She handed me a business card with a lime green disc on its edge that read "Create ... change." Damn straight.

I wanted to create a change that would shape my career, and I wanted to do it in a place that would enrich my life better than my 250-population town (that's 250 people, not 250,000) provided me in my 19 years of living. What better place to do this than at the largest arts and media institution in the country?

When I came to Columbia I quickly learned my education is what I would make of it. If you aren't passionate about your field while attending this college, you won't last a week in your profession. I pushed myself in my education, deciding if journalism wasn't for me, at least I received my tuition dollars' worth in draining the faculty of its energy by asking dumb questions and giving my menial opinion toward world issues.

I realized I loved journalism and, interestingly, all its disadvantages. I learned this in my journalism classes and discussing the industry's state with my peers and professionals in the trenches—discussions that should have scared me away but only entranced me. But a healthy helping of education also came from working at The Chronicle. Through 48 issues, countless interviews and lots of hours lost in the newsroom (that's not like the real world, right?), I love what I do. As of this issue, I have no job prospects but I still can't imagine doing anything beyond some variation of journalism, like creative non-fiction or documentary filmmaking.

In short, I fulfilled the promise I made to myself in moving to the city two years ago. I would make the most of Columbia, though my career will show if I create change in my industry. In the meantime, I've created change in my life.

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I will always remember Columbia's melting pot

by Colin Shively
Operations Manager

WELL, THAT is that. I have finished the last paper I will ever write for college. All that is left are two exams and a presentation and then my college career will be complete. I am not sure whether I deserve a congratulations, good luck or maybe a little bit of both.

Columbia is not like any other school. It is a unique environment that couldn't be replicated anywhere else. That is why I transferred here from Ohio. I needed something new, vibrant and challenging. I got exactly what I asked for.

Looking back on my three years at Columbia, I'm beginning to see my peers, colleagues and my professors who challenged me at almost every turn, and for that I am grateful. There is no mathematical equation (yes, we do have math at Columbia) to show all I have learned and am prepared to do so once I go out into a world still unfamiliar to me. I must admit, I am scared, if not fearful about taking the first step. The job industry is dismal, our economy is still on the rocks and unemployment is on the rise. Who wouldn't be afraid?

But through my time here and living in Chicago, I have learned one valuable thing I will always take to heart: I have my friends, family and co-workers to help guide me and push me in the right direction when I am at a loss. Without them, I would never have made it to Columbia and all the way to graduation. They have seen me cry, be angry and crazy, but they all stuck with me and it's something I won't be able to repay. Thank you to all my friends, you are my Chicago family and I love you dearly.

Since enrolling at Columbia, I have worked at The Chronicle day and night, week after week. It has been grueling at times, but they have been the best times of my life while on campus. I have made friendships and connections that will last beyond Chicago.

> "We all have different passions, different knowledge and experiences."
>
> —Colin Shively

The Chronicle isn't replicated anywhere else on campus. We have a mini-Columbia College in the office with journalism, photography, fiction writing, graphic, advertising, marketing communication, fine art, film and video and even fashion design majors all working together. It is the real world, in a way.

Columbia teaches us we can't do everything on our own—the world was not created by any single person. If we want to do as our motto says and "create change" in this world, then the first step is with us coming together toward that goal. We all have different passions, different knowledge and experiences. But if this oddball Chronicle staff can win "Best of the Midwest" and best overall in the entire state of Illinois, than we can certainly make a change in the outside world. True, a single person could change the world, but there is strength in numbers.

You are a strange school, Columbia. But you are, after all, where misfits come together and start to create and change the world. Our inspiration comes from the knowledge you give us. I will miss you.

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Metro

Formerly incarcerated, on hard times

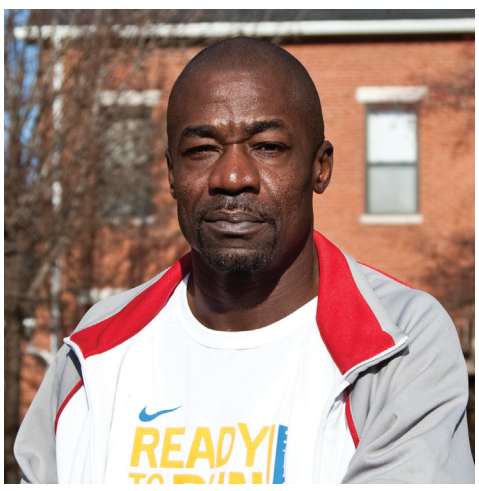
Employment, re-entry difficult during record inmate surge, programs aim to provide aid

by Darryl Holliday
Metro Editor

JERMELL SLEDGE of Chicago Heights spent 12 years in Illinois prisons before re-entering society. He was fired from Walmart after the company learned about his ex-offender status and said he has gone six months to a year without a job despite spending up to eight hours a day looking for one.

Sledge, 34, is one of the nearly 260,000 individuals released from Illinois prisons every year, according to Cory Foster, spokesman for the Illinois Department of Corrections. Many of these individuals are finding it increasingly difficult to find employment and transition back into the community.

According to IDOC's most recent quarterly report released on Oct. 1, the state prison system is nearing capacity with a record high of more than 47,000 inmates currently in the state's 27 prisons.



Brent Lewis THE CHRONICLE

David Williams was formerly incarcerated, but now resides at St. Leonard's House and has turned his life around.

"Prisons are so crowded that there aren't programs available to help people stay out of [them]" said Bob Dougherty, executive director at St. Leonard's Ministries, which provides employment, residential and education services for formerly incarcerated men and women. "So more often than not, a person comes out of prison not much better than he or she went in."

According to Dougherty and Ric Gudell, executive director of the Illinois Manufacturing Foundation, programs aimed at guiding ex-offenders through the re-entry process increasingly find many individuals don't have the life skills necessary to be successful once released.

"Unless we help them, the numbers will continue to grow," Dougherty said, noting the state's recidivism rate—the rate at which ex-offenders re-offend—currently stands at more than 50 percent.

Organizations such as St. Leonard's, 2100 W. Warren Blvd., among others, have provided necessary skills through education and job training. The nonprofit includes two separate interim housing facilities for men and women accepted to the program upon leaving prison. In addition to its residential services, St. Leonard's also maintains the Michael Barlow Center, which provides education and employment training in fields such as green building maintenance.

David Williams, a 46-year-old West Side native, has resided at St. Leonard's for eight months. He was incarcerated three times at various Illinois prisons since 1986 but said St. Leonard's has helped him find employment and change his life.

Brent Lewis THE CHRONICLE

St. Leonard's Ministries provides comprehensive residential, case management and employment services for those released from prison with resources needed to rebuild their lives.

According to Williams, more programs are needed to curb the rise in imprisonment, especially for youth headed down the road he was on.

"In this day and age there aren't enough programs, they're closing down schools and recreation centers and opening up prisons," Williams said. "Basically you're telling [communities] you want these young people to end up in prison and not in school."

Throughout the last 30 years, the number of inmates rate has risen drastically around the country, and in Illinois. Prisons in the state saw a rise of around 7,500 inmates in 1970 to more than 47,000 in 2010. This corresponds with a national surge of around 250,000 to more than 1.5 million inmates in the same period.

According to Marc Mauer, executive director of the Sentencing Project, the sentencing of more people for longer periods of time is largely due to policy changes and not changes in the crime rate. Policies such as the U.S. war on drugs and the "get tough" movement, which began in the 1970s, are largely seen as factors in the country's unprecedented rise in incarceration.

"I think we should take a close look at

» SEE PRISON, PG. 40

Changes forthcoming when new lines are drawn

Political control of new district map will have long-lasting consequences for residents

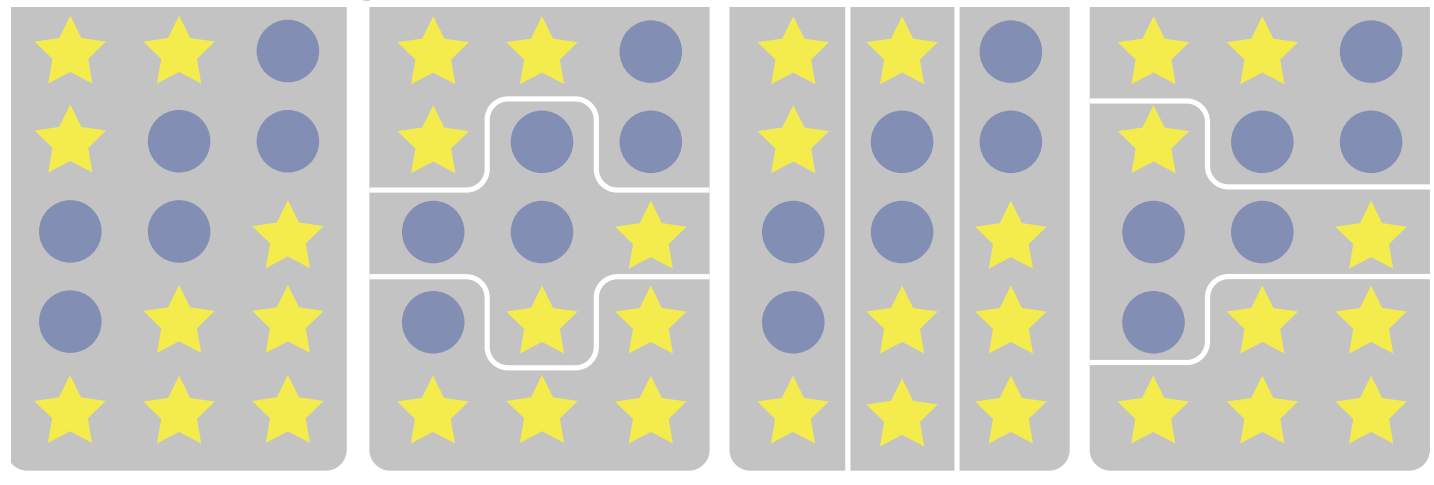
by Darryl Holliday
Metro Editor

POLITICIANS WILL have to draw the lines somewhere—though it will be residents who experience the effects of new district boundaries. Federally mandated plans to legislative district lines are underway with broad consequences for voters in the city and state.

Redistricting, the process of drawing U.S. district lines to equalize populations based on changes in census data, occurs every 10 years and has a unique process in the state of Illinois, but a move is afoot to change it.

The Redistricting Transparency and Public Participation Act is currently making its way to the state House of Representatives. According to its sponsor Sen. Kwame Raoul, it aims to protect minority voting rights and create greater transparency in the redistricting process. Additionally, the Senate-approved bill, which has until Jan. 11 to gain the House's approval, would mandate four public hearings held throughout the state to better inform the process.

Because redistricting is a largely political, partisan process, "gerrymandering"—the drawing of borders for political gain—often makes the process highly politically charged in states such as Illinois where the legislature is in charge of map drawing.



Ying Kau THE CHRONICLE

Sample population: each symbol represents a voter in a generic state. Stars: majority party; circles: minority party. 3 to 1 ratio.

Option 1: Model represents a fair redistricting. Dist. 1: 3-2 majority; dist. 2: 3-2 minority; dist. 3: 4-1 majority.

Option 2: Gerrymandered districts. Majority party re-maps area to gain complete dominance in every district.

Option 3: Gerrymandering by minority party to ensure over-representation. 'Packing' of dist. 3 leaves dist. 1 and 2 in 3-2 minority party control.

"The nature of what types of policies your state is going to have for the next 10 years is dictated by that map in many ways because it will tend to set what the majorities are," said Rep. Mike Fortner, a redistricting expert and former mayor of West Chicago.

According to Fortner, politicians often draw the maps in a way that favor their political party, making the drawing of the map a very powerful tool. In the last three decades the map strongly reflected the party that had the power to draw it.

After census data is released in January, negotiations will begin to determine the fate of districts and therefore populations, in the city and state. Congressional redistricting, unlike legislative redistricting, has very little in the state constitution guaranteeing a specific legal process as long as federal law is met.

State legislators will have until June 2011 to draw a map, but if they are unable to come to consensus, a commission of four Democrats and four Republicans will be set up. According to Fortner, if that group cannot come to consensus, the creator of the map will simply be drawn out of a hat—which happened in the last three redistricting cycles.

However, unlike the last three cycles in 1981, 1991 and 2001, Democrats have single-party control regarding the legislature and the governor's office—making a random drawing unlikely.

Gerrymandering by the majority, and sometimes minority, party has a long

» SEE REDISTRICTING, PG. 40

Lawn furniture to remain on lawns

Group hopes to eliminate tensions, 'dibs' in Chicago neighborhoods

by Meghan Keyes
Assistant Metro Editor

WHILE WALKING down a snowy street in a bustling Chicago neighborhood, one may pass children playing, holiday decorations, snow-covered trees and the occasional lawn chair in a freshly dug parking spot.

Chicago's tradition of "dibs"—using items to save the parking spot you shoveled out—is illegal, although the law is rarely enforced. One Chicago group, Chair-Free Chicago, wants to end the winter system of reservation and neighborhood hostility.

"Just because it's a tradition doesn't mean it's good," said Kevin Lynch, creative lead at Proximity Chicago, the company behind Chair-Free Chicago. "The emotional reaction seems to be far greater than the actual act. It doesn't take long to shovel out a parking space."

The Chair-Free Chicago website offers free signs to print, declaring the area a chair-free zone, as well as more confrontational signs to place on space-saving items already outside. Heavy-duty, plastic covered signs are available for purchase on its website.

"When you think of dibs, it really gives neighbors an organized system to be selfish to each other," Lynch said. "We wanted to create a system where neighbors can be thoughtful to each other and let other neighbors know we're not going to tolerate this behavior in the area."

The Department of Streets and Sanitation, which is in charge of snow removal, said the practice is illegal.

"We are initially tolerant because our priority is fighting snow," said Matt Smith, spokesman for the department. "Our focus will always need to be keeping roadways safe and clear and keeping traffic moving."

The website for Chair-Free Chicago launched this winter, and debate about it followed on the Internet. Many people defend their spot-saving because of the time spent shoveling. Others don't understand why people can't get along.

Ron Lowy, a 59-year-old music teacher and nearly lifelong Uptown resident, said he didn't start seeing this behavior until the late 1980s, and the attitude bothered him.

"It's not the thing to do; it's not American," Lowy said. "People keyed cars or poured water on their doors so they couldn't open them [if they took their space]."

He and his friends decided to take action after his friend's car was keyed. They spoke with their neighbors about the practice but saw little change, so they escalated their effort.

"I personally came up with the idea [to] take all the junk," Lowy said. "On both sides of the block, we collected all the junk and brought it to the intersection of Grace and Troy [streets]. We stacked all the empty five-gallon buckets, chairs and brooms 8–10 feet high. No one was going to drive through that."

Lowy said the city collected the sculpture, but the stuff returned. They continued their sculptures almost every week that winter. Alderman Richard Mell (33rd Ward) sent an e-mail to address the situation, asking residents to end dibs.

"We didn't like the junk being left out, but we really didn't like the length of time the items would be out," Lowy said.

Lynch and Lowy hope Chair-Free Chicago can restore neighborhoods as a community and reduce isolation and hostility among residents.

"[A sign] communicates to the neighbors, 'Hey, you know what, this winter we're going to treat neighbors like neighbors,'" Lynch said. "The goal is to give people who are frustrated by the system a voice to communicate just as clearly as dragging a chair into a street."

Lowy also said he hoped the city would realize enforcing this law could be a source of revenue and end the problems among people.

"It creates bad blood between neighbors and strangers who don't understand," Lowy said. "There's something really exclusionary about it, and unfriendly. I think it's a good movement."

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Courtesy CHAIR-FREE CHICAGO

Chair-Free Chicago's signs range from declarations to direct attacks on space-saving items.

"They're everything you want in a hot dog/italian beef joint. Fast, cheap, tasty." –Onur U., Chicago, IL.

"I just found the BEST gyro I've had in my LIFE here..." –Dan D., Arlington Heights, IL.

"I want to just find Max and shake his hand for making some good burgers." –Liza B., Chicago, IL.

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CRISIS AT THE MUSEUM

A continued investigation from Front Page

» MUSEUM

financial stability. "What we see historically is funding switches from arts groups and people tend to give more to, for example, human service charities, like food banks, homeless services."

Miniutti also said most museums have noticed plummeting grants and contributions, which are an essential source of revenue, in the 2009 fiscal year.

Right now, it's hard to tell where the Field currently stands on donations because its 990 Form for 2009 isn't available yet. According to the 990 Form for 2008, which the U.S. Internal Revenue Service requires of non-profit institutions such as The Field, grant money and contributions drew more revenue during the recession, but the museum's investments took a hit, losing roughly $1.84 million in value. Just a year prior, investments reportedly earned nearly $21.1 million in profit.

Competing institutions on Chicago's Museum Campus faced similar investment losses and staff cuts. But the museum source said the other institutions made better decisions to escape their financial slump, which the Field has failed to emulate.

He explained that the staff cuts are detrimental to the museum because the "sciences, academic staff and the building's collections run this place and give [it] credibility."

Nancy O'Shea, spokeswoman for the Field, replied in an e-mail that the museum departments impacted by the cuts would "reorganize and prioritize" to assure the museum's work continues.

The museum source disagreed, and, speaking meta-phorically said the Field "should be buying hamburgers, but the museum has continued to buy T-bones," referring to particular blockbuster exhibit choices the administration brought in to boost foot traffic in the museum. He said with more consideration of exhibit choices, perhaps some of the vital researchers and collections managers could have continued their work.

Some of these controversial choices include the 2006 Chicago tour of "Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs" which cost an undisclosed amount. But museum sources said it came with a hefty price tag. "Jacqueline Kennedy: The White House Years—Selections from the Kennedy Library and Museum," was an '02 blockbuster exhibit, which cost the museum a reported $1 million fee. As for their performance at the turnstiles, the Field never officially released figures on how much either exhibit made.

> **"[Exhibits] have piqued the public's interest and helped drive attendance to the museum ... The decline in paid attendance is directly linked to the current economy."**
>
> ***-Nancy O'Shea***

However, O'Shea said the blockbuster exhibits "did not lead to any financial difficulty."

Exhibits were also scrutinized because some showings didn't seem to fit neatly under the museum's "natural history" theme, such as Jackie O's dress display or "The Art of the Motorcycle" '98–'99 exhibit. This stretching of mission is something Stephen Asma, author of "Stuffed Animals and Pickled Heads: The Culture and Evolution of Natural History Museums," said is typical among natural history museums to boost admissions.

Asma, who is also a Columbia Humanities, History and Social Science professor, said research showed bringing odd exhibits to intrigue different demographics into the museum doesn't have the effect institutions look for. He explained that normally when someone isn't a museum-goer he or she only walks through that particular exhibit of interest and leaves without going through the rest of the displays.

The idea is getting people to meander through all of the displays and spend money at the gift shop and restaurants, but Asma said he's found this tactic doesn't have that result.

Other than the traveling exhibits being expensive and seemingly out of place at the natural history museum, multiple sources said admission numbers are also low because of boring exhibits, citing environmental conservation displays and the '02–'03 "Pearl" exhibit as examples.

"[Conservation exhibits are] dry and it's not necessarily something people wanted to be reminded of—to be reminded of how many years we've got left on this planet," a source said. "Gee, what fun."

When O'Shea was asked about the exhibits' shortfalls, she responded by saying the "recent temporary exhibitions, such as 'Real Pirates,' 'Mammoths and Mastodons: Titans of the Ice Age,' 'The Nature of Diamonds' and our current exhibition, 'Gold,' all performed well. They have piqued the public's interest and helped drive attendance to the museum ... The decline in paid attendance is directly linked to the current economy."

O'Shea also said permanent exhibits like "Sue," "The Lions of Tsavo" and "Inside Ancient Egypt," bring in patrons.

Whatever the reasons are for admission revenues being down, the Field is working to curb fund deficiencies and rumors about the staff cuts and Harris Loan Center are running rampant because of it.

Harris Educational Loan Center

The Harris Educational Loan Center is 100 years old, and possesses the largest collection of dioramas that are lent out of any museum. So the fact that it's closing its doors until fall 2012 has created quite a stir among Field staff.

Banker Norman Wait Harris gave the Field an endowment of $250,000 in 1911. According to the endowment stipulations the money was to accumulate interest and continue giving children a chance to enjoy and learn from the Field's artifacts in their

Layout by Jonathan Allen
Photography by Brock Brake

own classroom.

Daniel Brinkmeier, former manager of the Harris from '96-'98, who now works as a Field Museum Associate in Anthropology and Zoology, said Harris is a "treasure" and the dioramas "are artifacts in themselves," and they serve as art.

Brinkmeier said in his opinion, some of the higher-ups, making decisions concerning Harris, aren't fully aware of its impact on children and schools because it serves underprivileged neighborhoods that can't afford museum admission.

This is not the only time Harris has been mentioned as a possible place to trim costs, but this is the first time it's come to fruition.

An e-mail was sent on Dec. 3 notifying Harris users it would no longer issue exhibit dioramas or experiences boxes, which are compilations of audio visual and other themed- supplemental material to teachers and other users. The notice said the museum needed time to "renovate, refurbish and reimagine the objects currently available for loan."

Most staff would agree the dioramas have experienced wear and tear throughout the years and some need updating and refurbishing. However, some staff members didn't think the Harris' doors needed to be closed to do so, unless Field administrators were being tricky with the intention of never reopening—or that was the rumor anyway.

Beth Crownover, interim head of the Field's Education Department, said they have every intention of reopening after reevaluating the center's contents and discussed how the materials could best be utilized.

All of the employees running Harris were let go, which is a main reason why some staff members are questioning the sincerity of the museum's vow to reopen it because they wonder who will be renovating Harris. Crownover said a different in-house team will take care of the project.

The museum source said the center is probably being closed down because it's just considered an extra expense with its operational costs. In theory, the original endowment should accumulate enough interest to sustain itself for the most part. There is also a $60 or less—depending on the borrower—annual fee for Harris materials.

This leaves some staff members wondering if the endowment's principal was spent or if it's being funneled to fund other initiatives. One of the rumors is that the museum's online educational video games are getting the Harris money.

O'Shea and Crownover denounced the validity of such rumors, saying that yes, the endowment is still functioning as normal, and the Harris family's donation is being used according to the endowment's stipulations.

> **"I love this place. I've held artifacts no one else has."**
>
> ***-Long-time museum employee***

Crownover said the video games are "absolutely not" being funded through the Harris endowment and Harris is being closed down to figure out how to raise more interest in the program and get more people interested in checking out the dioramas in addition to refurbishing materials.

Brock Brake THE CHRONICLE

The Harris Education Loan Center has approximately 900 dioramas that complement other Field Museum exhibits. Harris is being closed down until fall 2012 to refurbish materials and reevaluate the program, according to Field officials.

Mark Kennedy, an exhibit designer at the Field who tweaks broken pieces in dioramas, said the problem with the program's popularity is probably the lack of marketing. He said the fact that it is self propelled through word-of-mouth this long is an amazing success.

Kennedy said he is fond of the dioramas and that he's had 80-year-old people come up to him and say "I used to look at those cases when I was a kid."

The exhibit designer also said some boxes are particularly important because of the records they keep. An example is a diorama featuring frog molds that were intricately hand-painted with realistic coloring in the '20s and it's the only record the Field has of their actual appearance. This is because the cataloged frog specimens lost their coloring after floating in alcohol since that time.

Brinkmeier said no one can deny Harris' importance in the community and the history it contains, but the museum is financially struggling and he's sure there will still be a place for the program at the museum.

Other museum employees are still skeptical of Harris' return, even with the Fall 2012 reopening date scheduled.

"It's difficult to distinguish what's honest and what's just being said," the museum source said concerning Harris' status and the rest of the museums, cost-saving measures.

The source said departing employees love the museum as well as the Harris program and they were only thinking of their department's future when they chose the buyout or early retirement options.

"I love this place," he said. "I've held artifacts no one else has."

As for the staff that is still employed, he said they're happy to pick up the slack, but the struggle to reach financial stability "isn't over by a long shot."

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» PRISON

Continued from PG. 35

who we're sending to prison, why and what other kinds of supervision we could do in the community setting that could divert some of those people away from prison into more constructive ways of dealing with the consequences of their crime," Mauer said. "Right now far too many prisons function as warehouses with relatively little in the way of education, vocational and substance abuse training."

Approximately 95 percent of the country's prisoners will eventually return to the community. According to Mauer, for groups where jail-time has become excessively commonplace, such as low-income, disadvantaged communities of color, the cumulative impact of such high imprisonment rates is critical.

Though some formerly incarcerated individuals, such as David Williams, have had their persistence pay off in the form of employment, many more deal with the stigma of incarceration that restricts them from productively re-entering society.

As the economical reality remains dire for many, formerly incarcerated men and women are placed at the end of the line, despite attempts to change their lives and rejoin the community.

Maurice Richmond, 45, who was incarcerated for eight years, is in a similar position, though he remains hopeful that he will eventually find employment.

"It's about being patient and doing the right thing," Richmond said. "I'm not going back to the streets, no matter what happens. I'm going in all the right directions and doing the right things. Eventually something will come my way."

dholliday@chroniclemail.com

» REDISTRICTING

Continued from PG. 35

history in the U.S. According to Fortner, there's no reason to expect this year will be any different.

Though attempts were made to fundamentally change the redistricting process in Illinois, such as Senator Raoul's Senate Amendment 121 and a citizen-led initiative proposed by the League of Women Voters, no such proposal has yet garnered the votes necessary to pass.

> "This map stands for 10 years—that's long-lasting. It's important we get it right."
>
> -Whitney Woodward

According to Whitney Woodward, policy associate at the Illinois Campaign for Political Reform, a big reason for this is a lack of public awareness.

"There's meaning behind how districts are drawn, it's just not always apparent to the public why they're drawn that way," Woodward said. "With the opportunity to involve the public we think there's going to be more interest from residents in overseeing and watchdogging these processes."

Redistricting affects residents on many levels of daily life, from school zoning and everyday neighborhood maintenance to the election of representatives and districting of their homes.

The districting of minority groups is commonly a contentious issue in the process, according to Fortner, because politicians have been known to "pack" and "fracture" those groups for political gain.

Chicago's 4th district, represented by Rep. Luis Gutierrez and known as the "earmuff district," is a clear example of this kind of gerrymandering, though according to Woodward, for good reason. The ICPR makes the case the 4th district, with its odd and far-reaching shape, was formed to comply with the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and to give the substantial Latino population in the area the opportunity to elect the representative of their choice.

However, the negative impact of gerrymandering can be seen in areas like Chicago's Chinatown, which is divided among four city wards and three congressional districts. Many residents of the area, including Woodward and Raoul, find this lessens the voice and vote of Chinatown residents and complicates matters of interaction with the local government.

Raoul's current legislation will aim to protect areas from this sort of fracturing and preserve the voting rights in other minority areas of the state as redistricting comes into full swing early next year.

Despite the typical under-the-radar nature of the map-drawing process, Woodward and Fortner see the coming cycle as an unprecedented opportunity for residents to become involved.

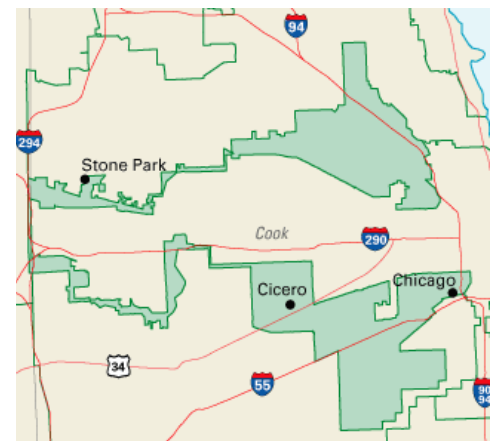
"Ten years ago people didn't really have access to this type of information—there wasn't a meaningful way for them to get involved in the process," Woodward said. "This decade that could be a lot different. Through open-source software people could be drawing their own maps."

In fact, resident map drawing has already begun as many websites now feature the various perspectives of citizen map drawers, providing a new opportunity to refine and expand the ways in which districts can be re-envisioned.

Many expectations and predictions have arisen regarding the forthcoming census report, such as the possible creation of a second Latino district in Chicago and the possible loss of one Illinois congressional seat. Though regardless of what's to come, many advocates of redistricting reform see the addition of guidelines and transparency as good for the process.

"This map stands for 10 years—that's long lasting," Woodward said. "It's important we get it right."

dholliday@chroniclemail.com



NATIONAL ATLAS

Chicago's 4th Congressional District (green shaded), represented by Rep. Luis Gutierrez, is considered gerrymandered by many, though the argument is made that the area is districted to provide the substantial Latino community the opportunity to elect a representative of their choice.

THE CHICAGO JAZZ ENSEMBLE

with Music Director Dana Hall presents

From the William P. Gottlieb Collection/Library of Congress

THURSDAY
JAN
20

Jon Faddis by Andreas Larsson

The Great Summit: The Music of

LOUIS ARMSTRONG & DUKE ELLINGTON

with special guest conductor and performer JON FADDIS®

7:30 p.m. Harris Theater for Music and Dance

Shake off the January chills with *The Great Summit.* The CJE honors the legacy of two of the jazz world's most legendary talents with an inspired performance of Ellington and Armstrong favorites from the CJE's music library. Renowned trumpeter Jon Faddis returns to Chicago to join the band as special guest conductor and soloist for this concert.

TICKETS: $15–45
Columbia College Faculty/Staff receive 20% discount using code 'CCC.'
Call 312.334.7777 or visit HarrisTheaterChicago.org
HARRIS THEATER:
205 E. Randolph Drive
Millennium Park

create... change

Columbia
COLLEGE CHICAGO

FEATURED PHOTO

Brent Lewis THE CHRONICLE

Protesters marched in front of the Dirksen Federal Courthouse, 219 S. Dearborn St., Dec. 9 to voice their opinion of Congressman Mark Kirk's "no" vote on repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." The protesters urged people to call and fill up the Illinois Senator-elect's voicemail with a demand to change the vote. They also called Kirk's office to let him hear the protest.

IN OTHER NEWS

Line of duty

According to the Chicago Tribune, 2010 has been the deadliest year for Chicago police officers since 1984. Six officers were killed this year, five in the line of duty. In the last 100 years the city experienced a significant decrease in officer deaths. A string of deadly years in the late 1920s and early 1930s reached its zenith in 1928, 1929 and 1931 when 17 officers were killed each year. According to experts, the killings are alarming but don't reflect a trend. Police Superintendent Jody Weis pointed to a "breakdown in the value system" in Chicago communities.

Barbie Video Girl

A statement from the FBI has some parents up-in-arms, according to the Chicago Tribune. The bureau released a cyber-alert to law enforcement agencies warning that the newest version of Barbie—"Barbie Video Girl"—could contain evidence in child pornography cases. Though the FBI later issued a follow-up statement saying no evidence of inappropriate use of the camcorder-equipped doll has been found, opinions from parents have been mixed. "If they don't take it off the market, it may get to point where I won't buy Barbie products anymore," said Stephanie Pav, of Western Springs, Ill.

DREAM Action

The DREAM Act, legislation that would provide a path to citizenship for certain young people brought into the country illegally as minors, passed 216 to 198 in the House of Representatives on Dec. 8. According to AllVoices.com, the act will be presented to the Senate for debate next week. "We saw last night in the House that there is genuine support for the DREAM Act that crosses party lines," said Illinois Rep. Luis Gutierrez. "We forged a coalition of Democrats and a handful of clear-thinking Republicans to put the DREAM Act over the finish line in the House."

Investigation expanded

Federal grand-jury subpoenas served to 14 Midwest activists in September expanded to include at least two Chicago-area women, according to WBEZ.org. Attorney Jim Fennerty represents some of the anti-war activists who defied an order to appear before a grand jury in the city this October, and said at least one of the new subpoenas requires the Chicago recipient to appear before the jury on Jan. 25. "They're widening the scope of this investigation," Fennerty said. "They're trying to squeeze anybody they can." A spokesman for the FBI Chicago office would not comment.

OFF THE BLOTTER

1 Don't touch myTouch

A 34-year-old woman's cell phone was stolen while she rode the Chicago Transit Authority Green Line on Dec. 6. A male suspect approached her and snatched her cell phone, a myTouch valued at $359, while she left the train at the Roosevelt stop, 22 E. Roosevelt Road. He then fled on foot, according to police reports. The phone was not recovered.

2 Steal this book

A man was arrested for attempting to steal a book from the Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State St., on Dec. 7. A security officer saw the suspect take "The Dragon's Son," conceal it and walk past the checkout area, according to police reports. The subject was detained by library security and taken into police custody without incident. The book was returned to library staff.

3 You snooze, you lose

A 46-year-old man was riding a northbound Red Line train at 3 a.m. on Dec. 5 when he fell asleep. According to police reports, upon waking near the Chicago and State stop, he discovered his cell phone, wallet, credit cards, CTA pass, driver's license and social security card had been taken from his pants pocket. The victim was advised to contact his financial and phone companies.

4 Mercedes smashed

A man's car was vandalized in the 2 E. 8th St. parking garage overnight on Dec. 6–7. When the victim went out to the parking garage, he found the bumper had a black line on it and the driver's side window was smashed in on his 2002 Mercedes. There were no other signs of damage, according to police reports. Security cameras were present at the time of the crime.

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

Games

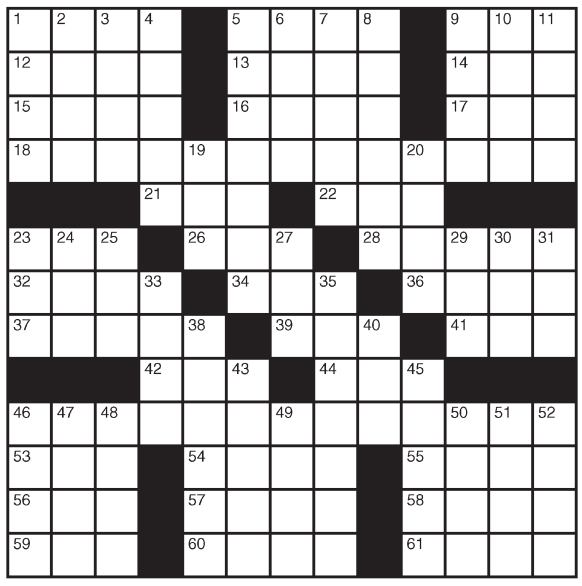
SUDOKU Level 3

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

CROSSWORD

THE TV CROSSWORD

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams



ACROSS
1 Mrs. Dithers of "Blondie"
5 Dean of "Lois & Clark"
9 Way in: abbr.
12 "Once __ a Mattress"
13 "One Life to __"
14 Billy __ Williams
15 MGM animal
16 "White Wedding" singer Billy
17 Nada
18 "Hollywood Squares" host
21 Lloyd Bridges series, "__ Hunt"
22 "Mad About __"
23 Final: abbr.
26 Letters on Cardinal caps
28 Character actress Volz
32 Connery or Astin
34 __ my dust!
36 "My Favorite __"
37 "Lou Grant" star
39 "__ Comedy Jam"
41 Fruity beverage
42 Rin Tin Tin or Lassie
44 Nutrition letters
46 Monty Hall's game show
53 John's Yoko
54 Gabor and Peron
55 Columnist Bombeck
56 Jack of "Barney Miller"
57 Hayworth or Rudner
58 Jennifer of "Star Trek: Voyager"
59 Immigrant's class: abbr.
60 "The Defiant __"
61 May Wong or Pavlova

DOWN
1 Cosby's "I Spy" co-star
2 Sheriff Taylor's kid
3 Stephen of "NewsRadio"
4 Meara and Archer
5 Sally Field movie, "A Cooler__"
6 Turturro of "The Sopranos"
7 "Ebony and __"
8 Ozzie or Harriet
9 Mrs. Babish of "Laverne & Shirley"
10 Diamond or Simon
11 "Tammy __ Me True"
19 Notes of scales
20 __ Lewis & the News
23 "Born in the __"
24 Paul or Brown
25 Author of "The Joy Luck Club"
27 "__: A Dog"
29 Narcs' grp.
30 Way cool!
31 "People __ Funny"
33 Beatty and Buntline
35 Brewer and Wright
38 Ned or Cesar
40 Medicines approval grp.
43 MacLeod of "The Love Boat"
45 Ms. Rogers St. Johns
46 "Win, __ or Draw"
47 Sonny Shroyer series
48 Worker's device
49 "__ & Allie"
50 Gray or Moran
51 Sitcom co-starring Clifton Davis
52 Turner of "Madame X"

Solution to Last Week's Puzzle

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

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HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21–April 20) A powerful wave of nostalgia, subtle romantic pressure and past memories may soon arrive. Some Aries natives will now return to simpler times in key relationships or re-establish a once passionate love affair. If so, watch for important lessons: Repeated patterns may now reveal deeper feelings. Friday through Sunday highlight rare financial announcements from a relative or roommate. Inheritance, loans or successful applications may be a key concern: Stay alert.

TAURUS (April 21–May 20) Long-term friends and trusted relatives may offer unreliable information concerning new relationships or potential love affairs this week. If so, expect cancelled plans, revised schedules and fast reversals during the next nine days. Remain patient, however: Loved ones will provide a detailed explanation of their reservations and lingering social doubts. After Wednesday, contact old business associates or mentors: Valuable career or financial opportunities may soon be available.

GEMINI (May 21–June 21) Financial details, spending habits or short-term work proposals may soon require special attention; after Monday, watch for authority figures to challenge past records or introduce rare policy changes. Extra sources of income are also featured: Carefully study all options. For some Geminis, a complicated opportunity from the past may also reappear. If so, expect continuing political triangles, minor tensions and revised job titles. Remain determined: Much is changing.

CANCER (June 22–July 22) Unusual family messages or social announcements may now initiate bold discussions or rare decisions: Late Monday, expect past habits and yesterday's loyalties to be a prime concern to loved ones. Remain dedicated, however, to your own course of action: Added Emotional duties and dramatic changes are unnecessary. Thursday through Saturday authority figures may demand access to private financial records or legal documents. Go slow: A diplomatic response is best.

LEO (July 22–Aug. 22) For many Leos, insights from the past will have a powerful appeal this week: After Monday, expect subtly repeated patterns in intimate relationships to trigger unusual discussions. Lack of emotional connection or returning social problems may be at issue. If so, gently encourage loved ones to reveal their private fears or anxieties: You won't be disappointed. Later this week, business officials may be eager to shift blame for ongoing miscalculations. Don't confront: Sensitivity will prove vital.

VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22) Business partnerships and trusted relationships will offer surprising rewards this week. After Tuesday, watch for a previously reluctant romantic partner or work associate to announce a renewed faith in long-term commitment. Remain focused on final family decisions or completed work projects and all will be well. Later this week, a close friend may introduce a controversial friendship or new love interest. Be supportive: Your reaction will make a powerful impression.

LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 23) During the next 12 days, loved ones may be temporarily reluctant to witness emotional change in your life. Although social confidence and the prompt attention to family obligations may be quickly challenged, don't avoid key discussions with friends or relatives. Tuesday through Friday accent complex home decisions, ongoing power struggles between friends and bold group negotiations: remain quietly diplomatic and all will be well. After Saturday, rest: Private reflection will be helpful.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24–Nov. 22) Early this week, make sure loved ones understand your needs are valid and deeply felt. Although communications may be difficult this week, some Scorpios will soon experience a powerful new wave of romantic passion and social intimacy. After Wednesday, expect honest discussion to help resolve recently strained emotions or minor disappointments. Friday through Sunday, business creativity is needed: Research new income sources and ask probing questions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23–Dec. 21) Work officials may present controversial suggestions this week: After Tuesday, expect new concepts to initiate unlikely business alliances. Promotions, improved income and revised team assignments may all be on the agenda: Watch for important policy changes and/or an inappropriate reactions from close colleagues. Later this week, a romantic attraction from the past may reappear and demand attention. Set clear boundaries: Yesterday's emotions need to fade.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 20) Friends and lovers may be socially restless this week. After Monday, avoid unproductive family triangles and expect others to be easily influenced by new opinions or minor comments. Watch actions and reactions carefully: Key relationships will now require extra sensitivity. Wednesday through Saturday, a workplace official may temporarily relinquish control of an important project. If so, refuse to act as team leader: This is not the right time to bring creative ideas to old problems.

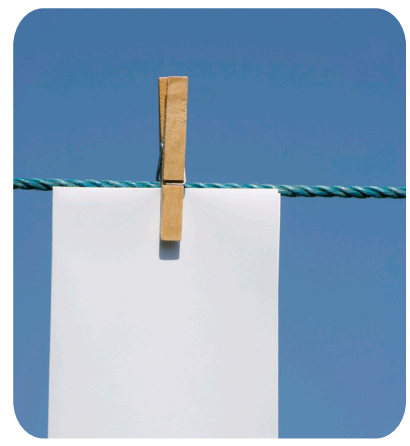
AQUARIUS (Jan. 21–Feb. 19) Before midweek, watch for a long-term friend or relative to introduce a unusual solution to a recent social problem. Minor jealousies, silly power struggles or ongoing family disputes may all be an issue. Remain open: unique ideas and honest public discussions will encourage immediate and lasting agreement. After Thursday, someone close may reveal unexpected debts or financial limitations. Offer concrete ideas and practical wisdom: Your past experience will prove invaluable.

PISCES (Feb. 20–March 20) Relocation or changes to the home environment may soon require serious public discussion: Before midweek, expect friends and lovers to confidently state their needs and emotional ambitions. New proposals may be presented with humor, wit or social banter; respond with warmth and optimism. After Friday, an old friend or past lover may reappear. If so, fast decisions and obvious statements of loyalty may be needed. A dynamic and revealing week: Stay alert.

Stay In

"Study Break/Dance Party: Go Crazy!"
12.14.10
7 – 8 p.m.
Quincy Wong Center for Artistic Expression, Wabash Campus Building
623 S. Wabash Ave.
Meagan Stevenson, Meagan.Stevenson@gmail.com
$2

Do finals make you strung out? The Producing Live Performances class is hosting "Study Break/Dance Party: Go Crazy!" for everyone during finals week. Free food and beverages will be provided, and DJ Ras will perform. A live video screening will also complement the music.



The Clothesline Project
12.15.10
Noon – 4 p.m.
Quincy Wong Center for Artistic Expression, Wabash Campus Building
623 S. Wabash Ave.
(312) 369-8202
FREE

Michelle Sayset's Service Learning Writing and Rhetoric II: Writing Women Safe class cordially invites you to attend The Clothesline Project—a visual display that raises consciousness of violence against women. This provocative display provides an opportunity for survivors of violence to break the silence with their stories.

12.19.10
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
$20

(312) 369-6709
Film Row Cinema,
1104 Center
1104 S. Wabash Ave.

Ring in the holiday season with this classic ballet. Live from the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow. Choreographed by Yuri Grigorovich and performed by the world renowned Bolshoi Ballet, this well-loved fairy tale will put you in the holiday spirit. Approximate running time is two hours including intermission.

Monday 12.13

African-American Cultural Affairs village lunch
Noon
Multicultural Affairs Conference Room
618 S. Michigan Ave. Building, 4th floor
Chris Terry, Aaca@colum.edu
FREE

Singers Showcase
7 – 8 p.m.
Music Center,
1014 S. Michigan Ave.
(312) 369-6300
FREE

Tuesday 12.14

"Alumni on 5, Fall 2010"
All day
Columbia Library, South Campus Building
624 S. Wabash Ave., 5th floor
(312) 369-7157
FREE

Better Telling Our Story meeting
3 – 5 p.m.
Hokin Hall, Wabash Campus Building
623 S. Wabash Ave.
(312) 369-7606
FREE

Wednesday 12.15

"Art in the Library"
All day
Columbia Library, South Campus Building
624 S. Wabash Ave., 5th floor
(312) 369-7157
FREE?

Columbia College Choir in concert
8 – 9 p.m.
Sherwood Conservatory of Music
1312 S. Michigan Ave.
(312) 369-6179
FREE

Thursday 12.16

"Voyage to the Origin"
9 a.m. – 7 p.m.
C33 Gallery
33 E. Congress Parkway Building
(312) 369-8177
FREE

Senior concert
7 – 8 p.m.
1104 Center
1104 S. Wabash Ave.
(312) 369-6179
FREE

Friday 12.17

"Post-Human//Future Tense"
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
The Arcade
618 S. Michigan Ave. Building, 4th floor
(312) 369-6643
FREE

Student piano recital
Noon – 1 p.m.
Music Center
1014 S. Michigan Ave.
(312) 369-6179
FREE

fitness/health | music | columbia | tv | cultural | audio arts | performance
theater | a+d | radio | iam | speaker | journalism | literature
marketing | film | celebrity | childhood | photography | exhibit | food

Saturday 12.18

"Tomboy"
Noon – 5 p.m.
Glass Curtain Gallery, 1104 Center
1104 S. Wabash Ave.
(312) 369-6643

Composition 3B Recital
5 – 6 p.m.
Music Center
1014 S. Michigan Ave.
(312) 369-6179
FREE

FREE MOVIE PASSES

Pick up the Chronicle every Monday to see what free movie passes we offer each week

Get Out

“Spoiler Alert: Everybody Dies”

12.18.2010
11 p.m.
$22–$27

Second City
1616 N. Wells St.
(312) 337-3992

In the blockbuster of human life, we all know the outcome—no spoiler alert needed. In spite of this inevitable ending, we continue to live our lives, find joy and understand the world around us. From cold feet on your wedding day to the comfort of viewing the comic misadventures of others on reality TV, “Spoiler Alert: Everybody Dies” reminds us in the end, we are all in this together.

Caroling at Cloud Gate
12.17.2010
6 p.m.
Millennium Park
201 E. Randolph St.
(312) 742-1168
FREE

Fifty-minute holiday sing-alongs at The Bean feature a different choral group each week.

FREE

Christmas sing-along and double feature: “It’s a Wonderful Life” and “White Christmas”
12.11.2010
“It’s a Wonderful Life” at 12:30 and 6:40 p.m.; “White Christmas” at 3:35 and 9:45 p.m.
Music Box Theatre
3733 N. Southport Ave.
$17 for double feature;
$12 for one film

Sing carols with Santa between screenings of “It’s a Wonderful Life” and “White Christmas” during this 27th annual event.

cultural · museum · music · movie · theater · literture/class · food · games

bar/nightlife · sport/fitness · tv · photography · performance · art · political · holiday

Monday 12.13

Winter Wonderfest
10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Navy Pier
600 E. Grand Ave.
(312) 595-7437
FREE entry; $15–$18 for rides and attractions

S- - - Show open mic
8:30 p.m.
The Shambles
2050 W. Division St.
(773) 486-0200
FREE

FREE

Bucktown Pub’s First Ms. Pac Man Tournament
9 p.m.
Bucktown Pub
1658 W. Cortland Ave.
(773) 394-9898
$5 in advance; $6 at the door; includes one beer and one play; 21+

Wednesday 12.15

“No Tell Motel”
11:59 p.m.
Debonair Social Club
1575 N. Milwaukee Ave.
(773) 227-7990
FREE; RSVP required for champagne reception: Info@DebonairSocialClub.com

Black and White Night: “The Cosby Show” potluck
9:30 a.m. – 1:30 a.m.
Hollywood Lounge
3301 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.
(773) 588-9707
FREE; 21+

FREE

Holiday customer appreciation party
7 – 9 p.m.
O’Donovan’s
2100 W. Irving Park Road
(773) 478-2100
$10 suggested donation; 21+

Friday 12.17

Zoolights
5 – 9 p.m.
Lincoln Park Zoo
2200 N. Cannon Drive
(312) 742-2000
FREE

Ali and Jerry’s Holiday Spectacular
9 p.m. – midnight
Mullen’s on Clark
3527 N. Clark St.
(773) 325-2319
FREE; 21+

Tuesday 12.14

“Song Poems 101” with Ed Crouse
9 – 11 p.m.
Hungry Brain
2319 W. Belmont Ave.
(708) 608-6054
FREE

Sushi and Saki 101
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Sushi Samba Rio
504 N. Wells St.
(312) 595-2300
$75; RSVP recommended; 21+

Heartland 101: Untraditional holiday entrees
Markethouse
611 N. Fairbanks Court
(312) 224-2200
FREE; RSVP required: AMacker@MarkethouseChicago.com

Thursday 12.16

Stunna
10 p.m.
Smart Bar
3730 N. Clark St.
(773) 549-0203
$5; 21+

Rotten Comedy
10 p.m.
Oakwood 83
1959 W. Montrose Ave.
(773) 327-2785
$5 suggested donation

Saturday 12.18

Becoming a Chef: Cognac
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Alliance Francaise de Chicago
810 N. Dearborn St.
(312) 337-1070
$85–$95

International Capoeira Angola Foundation: mixed level class for youth 18 and under
3 – 6 p.m.
Quilombo Cultural Center
1757 N. Kimball Ave.
(773) 227-8879
$95 per month; $75 five-week beginner session; $45 youth; RSVP and call for start date

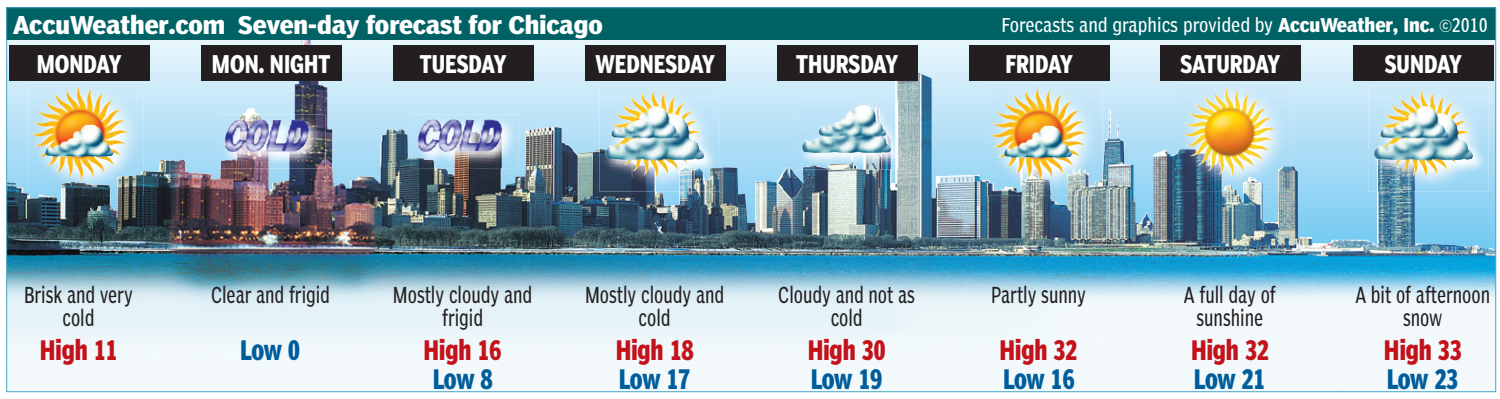
Sunday 12.19

Have Yourself a Very Whiskey Christmas
3 – 5 p.m.
Cooking Fools
1916 W. North Ave.
(773) 276-5565
$40; 21+

Joe Satriana
8 p.m.
The Chicago Theatre
175 N. State St.
(312) 462-6300;
Ticketmaster: (800) 745-3000
$35–$85

AccuWeather.com Seven-day forecast for Chicago

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2010



MONDAY	MON. NIGHT	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Brisk and very cold	Clear and frigid	Mostly cloudy and frigid	Mostly cloudy and cold	Cloudy and not as cold	Partly sunny	A full day of sunshine	A bit of afternoon snow
High 11	Low 0	High 16 Low 8	High 18 Low 17	High 30 Low 19	High 32 Low 16	High 32 Low 21	High 33 Low 23