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Comcast, NBCU one step closer to media monopoly » PAGE 33

THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

The official news source of Columbia College Chicago January 31, 2011 Volume 46, Issue 17

www.ColumbiaChronicle.com

Circus Fitness
Web-Exclusive Video

Drawing the line on campus crime

Crime is prevalent at Columbia despite security office's reassurances

by Sam Charles
Assistant Campus Editor

COLUMBIA'S OFFICE of Campus Safety and Security only minimally adheres to the Jeanne Clery Act, a federal law that requires all higher education institutions participating in federal aid programs to disclose certain pieces of information regarding campus crime.

Between Aug. 29 and Dec. 31, 2010, there were 41 thefts on campus property reported to security, an average of one theft every three days. But none of the seven Campus Safety Alerts, also known as "timely notices," issued during that time frame pertained to theft. Columbia's Office of Safety and Security says it will issue a Campus Safety Alert when it deems an offense to be "a serious or continuing threat."

On Jan. 26, the Office of Safety and Security's Web page stated it "will provide current information for the latest posted campus alerts involving incidents such as: thefts on campus, suspicious individuals and other types of crime relevant to our campus."

However, once The Chronicle brought the discrepancy to the attention of the Office of Safety and Security, the language on the Web page was rewritten.

"[The Chronicle has] brought up something which we now notice we need to change," said Director of Campus Safety and Security Martha Meegan. "That language [on the Campus Safety and Security Web page] does not truly define the spirit of timely notice."

> "We don't want to saturate people with information [so much so] they begin to take notices for granted."
>
> -Robert Koverman

Meegan later added there is no provision in The Clery Act mandating thefts be given timely notices.

The alerts currently posted on the site relate to robbery, battery and sexual offenses.

The Clery Act—which was enacted in 1990 in memory of Jeanne Clery, a freshman at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania who was raped and murdered by another student in 1986—states an institution must issue a timely warning to "immediately notify the campus community upon the confirmation of a significant emergency or dangerous situation involving an immediate threat to the health or safety of students or staff occurring on the campus ... unless issuing a notification will compromise efforts to contain the emergency."

"If we were experiencing a rash of thefts to where there were patterns to them and we could identify suspects' descriptions ... we're going to put those descriptions out to people," said Associate Vice President of Safety and Security Robert Koverman.

One problem with issuing more alerts, Koverman added, is the possibility of the community becoming numb to their seriousness.

"The dilemma everyone has is reporting too much where people begin to think you're crying wolf," Koverman said. "We don't want to saturate people with information [so much so] they begin to take notices for granted."

At first, the community would be more responsive if more safety alerts were given, but eventually that feeling would wear off, agreed David McKirnan, an associate

» SEE CRIME, PG. 8

Zach Stemerick THE CHRONICLE

Number of incidents not reported in the Campus Safety Alerts between Aug. 29 and Dec. 31, 2010

FBI expansion of power hits home

With Patriot Act up for renewal, residents protest 'civil liberties' violations

by Darryl Holliday
Metro Editor

FEDERAL INVESTIGATIONS into U.S. residents' private lives are on the rise, both nationally and in the city of Chicago because of suspected terrorist links that many say are unfounded, and in effect, constitute violations of privacy and First Amendment rights.

Two forms of federal subpoenas, national security letters and grand jury subpoenas are increasingly used by the FBI to obtain personal records and private documents of U.S. residents.

"This is a civil liberties issue," said Jesse Sharkey, vice president of the Chicago Teachers Union. "We've all been subpoenaed."

Since the federal raids on the homes of 14 local anti-war activists in Minnesota and Chicago last Sept. 24, nine more Midwest activists have been subpoenaed to appear before a grand jury under suspicion of giving "material support" to "foreign terrorist organizations," expanding the total number of subpoenas to 23.

As previously reported in The Chronicle last Oct. 4, the definition of "material support" stems from the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996, which was enhanced under the USA Patriot Act and is said by many to infringe on the civil liberties of U.S. citizens by vaguely defining what constitutes material support to an organization.

They now potentially face prison time as

» SEE FBI, PG. 39

Brent Lewis THE CHRONICLE

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Monthly dedications meaningless

by Spencer Roush
Editor-in-Chief

DID YOU acknowledge January as National Bread Machine Baking Month or National Bath Safety Month? How about celebrating the strange people in your life on Jan. 10 for Peculiar People Day or perhaps Dress up Your Pet Day six days later?

If you didn't participate in these obscure events or know that a day dedicated to wrapping a tutu around your dog or tying a bonnet on your cat's head existed, you're not alone. It's the people who are aware and acknowledge these special days and months we need to worry about.

Anyone can declare a random day to appreciate or acknowledge something, such as kazoos and squirrels (yes, there are actually days for these), but to officially stamp the calendar with a national day or month, calling a congressman is in order. However, even lawmakers are at fault for adding offbeat commemorative dates, which desensitizes us for the more important ones.

The U.S. Senate and House spend a considerable amount of time proposing and voting on commemorative legislation. In 2009, President Barack Obama declared June as Great Outdoors Month and recently named January Stalking Awareness Month.

It's obvious June is a desirable month for outdoor projects and sports. We don't need anyone to tell us being outdoors in June is favorable.

In this issue, The Chronicle covers an event held by Lisa Madigan for Stalking Awareness Month, pointing out obvious problems with technology and even more palpable solutions.

Stalking is a problem, but U.S. citizens don't need a month to raise awareness about how wrong it is or how it manifests. If you're being stalked, you'll know and the police should be contacted immediately.

It's disheartening to know we voted officials in office to make these "big" decisions on our behalf. This means the war and ravaged economy are set aside so well-paid public officials can vote on commemorative days and months for various, and I'd argue, mostly unnecessary topics.

There are some dedicated and popular months celebrated regularly, such as October's National Breast Cancer Awareness Month and February's Black History Month. These are prime examples of passing commemorative legislature with the right intention.

Some national months are worth recognizing year-round and having a designated space on the calendar has its benefits. However, their important messages and efforts to raise awareness are trampled by random people naming a day for something as trivial as fruitcakes and lawmakers wasting time making June a month to be outdoors.

As February begins and Black History Month kicks off, know it's also shared with Canned Food Month, National Cherry Month, National Children's Dental Health Month, National Grapefruit Month and National Weddings Month, to name a few.

While some commemorative calendar dates are well-intentioned, the majority veered off course, and oatmeal and tea were given their own special month. This makes other declared national dates seem inconsequential and just plain annoying.

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NEWS FLASH

1/31/11

"The Sound of Failure"

This exhibit offers an understanding of what causes Broadway musicals to fail and how they inform the careers of those involved. It runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

South Campus Building
624 S. Michigan Ave.

2/1/11

"Midwinter: Embrace the Darkness"

Inspired by this time of year, the group exhibition "Midwinter: Embrace the Darkness" will highlight the work of artists who pull from darkness in the literal sense, and darkness in the sense of what is out of sight, unknown, unknowable or overlooked. It runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Glass Curtain Gallery
1104 Center
1104 S. Wabash Ave.

2/2/11

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

The Office of African-American Cultural Affairs, in conjunction with Student Health and support, will observe National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day early by offering free testing. Blacks are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS. While making up only 13 percent of the U.S. population, they account for more than 49 percent of AIDS cases. Testing is 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

1104 Center
1104 S. Wabash Ave., 8th Floor

CAMPUS POLL

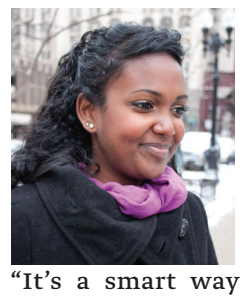
"What do you think of eTextbook use at Columbia?"

Aubrey Heck
senior
early childhood education major

"I think it is good because any chance to save on paper is positive."

Aaron Hopgood
freshman
arts, entertaiment and media management major

"I love eTextbooks because they're convenient. You can get them on the go. It's going to be the new textbooks."



Sarah Tesfai
freshman
journalism major

"It's a smart way to help the environment and books won't be wasted by constantly coming out with later editions."

Abe Zieleniec
sophomore
art and design major

"I think they're a great idea. It's a waste of paper to hand out hundreds of papers and textbooks."

Clarification

In the Jan. 24 issue it was stated that Columbia once occupied Roosevelt University's main building at 430 S. Michigan Ave. Columbia never used space in that building. Rather it had space in the Fine Arts Building West Annex at 421 S. Wabash Ave., now demolished, and the main Fine Arts Building located at 410 S. Michigan Ave.

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Campus

Prowling on rise, technology to blame

Attorney General Lisa Madigan speaks out about campus stalking

by Shardae Smith
Assistant Campus Editor

Ying Kau THE CHRONICLE

WHEN STUDENTS' Facebook updates are consistently posted, it can be an easy invitation to technology-based stalking. With GPS-enabled Twitter updates, a person's location is more than accessible for stalkers who want to take it to the next level.

Attorney General Lisa Madigan hosted an in-depth discussion at DePaul University's School of Law, 1 E. Jackson Blvd., on Jan. 21, called "Campus Safety and Cyber Dangers: Stalking on College Campuses in the Digital Age," for January's National Stalking Awareness Month, calling attention to stalking on college campuses and technology's role in these crimes.

Madigan said campus stalking is a growing problem and wants to provide tools for campus law enforcement on how to prevent the crime and enforce the law. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, 3.4 million people age 18 or older are victims of stalking each year.

"College campuses provide an ideal environment for stalkers because it is so easy to track a college student's movements," Madigan said at the forum. "Class schedules, meal plans, set practice times and study groups make for predictable daily routines. Add to that social networking sites, such as Facebook and Twitter, where personal information is easily accessible, and students can become prime stalking targets."

Madigan said 83 percent of stalking incidents are not reported to the police or campus law enforcement because victims don't think the incidents will be taken seriously.

"Even when victims know there is danger, it can be difficult for law enforcement to recognize, investigate, prosecute and convict stalkers," Madigan said in her address.

Tia Love, senior arts, entertainment and media management major, said she reported an incident to the Chicago Police Department in 2009 when she noticed an unidentified male following her on campus.

"The guy would hang around the University Center [of Chicago]," Love said. "I know it happens often, but a lot of people don't report it and are either too scared or don't think much of it."

Love said the man was arrested after she called the number on her police report after seeing him around the University Center again and encourages others dealing with similar situations to seek help, too. According to the National Cyber Security Alliance, more than one in four stalking victims reported some form of technology used in a stalking crime.

Robert Koverman, associate vice president of Campus Safety and Security, said since he's been employed at Columbia, he hasn't received any complaints of stalking. But with the growing use of social media, he's surprised there haven't been any reported.

Koverman said if a student thinks he or she is a victim of campus stalking, he or she should contact campus security, the

» SEE STALKING, PG. 8

Droppin' $cience pickin' up wins

College improv team comes out on top of major competition

by Amanda Murphy
Assistant Campus Editor

Tiela Halpin THE CHRONICLE

Droppin' $cience, Columbia's award-winning improv troupe, performs to a standing-room only crowd at Studio BE, 3110 N. Sheffield Ave. The troupe performs Thursdays at 10:30 p.m., and tickets are $5.

WITH THE motto "We make your tummies hurt," it's no surprise Droppin' $cience, Columbia's student comedy group, swept the finals of the Chicago Regional in the National College Improv Tournament.

The group of 10 Columbia students beat out 11 other teams, including last year's winner, Northwestern's Titanic Players, for the chance to compete at the February nationals in Chicago.

"It's extremely exciting because we've done this for about three or four years now, and each time we have never even placed," said Shannon Noll, team captain and senior theater major. "This is a huge opportunity for us."

The competition took place at ComedySportz Theatre, 929 W. Belmont Ave., on Jan. 22 and 23.

According to Ryan Barton, co-captain and junior film and video major, there were 96 teams in the regional competitions from around the country. Droppin' $cience made it to the top 10 out of 12 national finalists.

"It's bigger than the Chicago Improv Festival, which is very well known," said Barton, who is co-captain with Noll.

Droppin' $cience formed approximately five years ago. Barton, who joined during the group's second year, said the team has changed much since it started.

"When I came in as a freshman in [the group's] second year ... it was crazy and cluttered," Barton said. "Finally, last year, we got a little bit more grounded and became a really good team."

In addition to competitions, Barton said Droppin' $cience is able to do weekly shows at the comedy theater Studio BE, 3110 N. Sheffield Ave. The company they work with is PH Productions, which has a program that reaches out to college improv groups. The company provides teams like Droppin' $cience and DePaul University's Cosby Sweaters with coaches and the chance to perform on Thursdays at Studio BE's college night.

Kenny Metroff and Amy Couey are the two coaches PH Productions provides Droppin' $cience. Metroff said he is excited for the team's success.

"The fact that they were able to put everything together for two straight shows and impress the judges ... proves the progress they've made this year [and] over the time I have directed them," said Metroff, who has coached the team for the past two and a half years.

Metroff, who is also involved with Second City, said he is proud of how hard the team has worked throughout the year on stage.

According to Barton, the team makes a point to be as playful as possible. The team practices long-form improv, which puts an emphasis on being more free and lighthearted with the humor.

"We have crazy high energy and [because] we know each other so well, we just like to mess around on stage," Barton said.

» SEE IMPROV, PG. 8

Columbia's 'Taking Park City'

Alumni visit Sundance Film Festival, produce short documentary

by Shardae Smith
Assistant Campus Editor

THE LARGEST independent film festival in the United States always welcomes the film industry's bigwigs and top professionals, but this year it also introduced a few of Columbia's own.

The college's presence was fully apparent at this year's Sundance Film Festival as alumni, college trustees and staff mingled during a three-day span of events in Park City, Utah, Jan. 21 -24.

> These film festivals aren't necessarily about the films all the time. It's about the parties and networking as well. Getting your name out there is more important than making a statement about your film."
>
> -Tanya Savard

While at the festival, a 30-minute documentary titled "Taking Park City" was produced by Dimitri Moore, the college's facilities coordinator and alumnus, which captures two Columbia graduates and their journey at the festival.

Courtesy DIMITRI MOORE.

Columbia alumni Norman Franklin (left) and Tanya Savard (center) conversing with HBO Films President Len Amato (right), who is also a graduate of the college, at this year's Sundance Film Festival.

"We thought it would be great to encapsulate that presence Columbia has at Sundance and in film history," Moore said. "We thought it would be great to make it more of a human interest personal story."

Bruce Sheridan, chair of the Film and Video Department, chose practicum films created by Columbia alumni Norman Franklin and Tanya Savard to be viewed at the festival. The two were also chosen to be the short documentary's focus.

The film's focus will revolve around Franklin and Savard's first time networking within the professional film industry, which Moore said many want to get intobut few succeed.

"They're growing up and moving up to different levels," Moore said. "Everyone should have a passion [for something] they love doing and should do everything they can to elevate and escalate their career further."

Moore landed a deal with PBS station WTTW to air "Taking Park City" later in the year. The segment will also feature Franklin's film, "Beast" and Savard's film, "Marilyn's Dress."

"[Franklin and Savard] didn't know what to expect," Moore said. "We had to take the training wheels off [and] pull back and become flies on the wall as they went off and networked."

While at the festival, the two filmmakers met President of HBO Films Len Amato and "Avatar" cinematographer Mauro Fiore, both Columbia alumni.

Franklin and Savard said meeting the successful graduates was a great reward for them.

"At first we were a little apprehensive about how to go about [networking]," Savard said. "We weren't sure how to approach them, but after a while we got more comfortable with it. We made some pretty decent connections."

Savard said she's looking forward to attending the festival again next year to see films and get into more industry events.

"These film festivals aren't necessarily about the films all the time," she said. "It's about the parties and networking as well. Getting your name out there is more important than making a statement about your film."

Moore said many Columbia alumni stories aren't known, and he hopes the documentary will show how far Columbia has reached in the industry. He plans to submit the documentary into next year's Sundance Film Festival for screening.

"We want people to get something out of this that is personal to them," Moore said. "We all have to get out of our comfort zone when starting a career, and this is the story of two people [who] are doing that."

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The Music Center of Columbia College Chicago
1014 S. Michigan at 11th St.

Concert Hall Events

Tuesday February 1
Senior Convocation 12:00 PM

Student Concert Series 7:00 PM

Thursday February 3
Student Piano Recital at the Sherwood 7:30 PM

Friday February 4
Jazz Gallery in the Lobby 12:00 PM

Jazz Forum 2:00 PM

David Yonan Master Class For Strings at the Sherwood 2:00 PM

Athanasios Zervas in Concert at the Sherwood 7:00 PM

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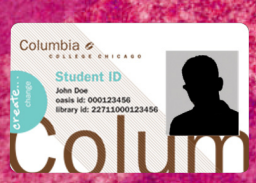

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Being green while saving green

College makes strides toward more nature-friendly year

by Amanda Murphy
Assistant Campus Editor

AT A constantly growing and evolving college, the process of moving offices can be costly, complicated and not exactly eco-friendly. The Columbia of 2011 has new and innovative ways to make this routine more environmentally responsible.

Replacing cardboard boxes with reusable plastic crates is one example of the new ways the college is adjusting. Although the change might seem small, overall it will make a difference.

According to Sarah McGing, facilities coordinator for both Building Services and Facilities and Operations, Columbia doesn't have large projects planned for the year but will continue to influence students through making small adjustments.

"We rolled it out at the beginning of the year," McGing said. "We've been using them for a month, and so far everyone is excited."

The crates are used when departments move to another location on campus. According to McGing, departments move frequently because the school renovates often. In the past, the Office of Facilities and Operations would order a bundle of 100 cardboard boxes per month.

"It's a way to minimize waste on campus," said John Wawrzaszek, recycling manager of Facilities and Operations.

The college was spending about $100 monthly on cardboard, according to McGing. Although the plastic crates were more expensive as a one-time purchase, Columbia will save in the future.

"This is saving storage space on campus, garbage space in dumpsters and money without purchasing the same cardboard boxes over and over," McGing said.

Departments were not always aware of how much cardboard was being used, McGing said. The boxes were utilized as storage as well, and taking up much of Columbia's basement and closet space. But according to McGing, the crates will make moving easier in other ways.

The crates will not only help make Columbia's pockets fuller and the closets less cluttered, but they also help the college keep track of what it is moving.

"There is no risk of losing anything because they're stackable," McGing said. "It's harder to lose one huge stack than it is to lose one box."

Another step the college is taking to help reduce its carbon footprint is the recent purchase of a van that runs partially on biofuel. Columbia utilizes the van to help it move art, books and departments around the campus. McGing said the van cost as much as one that would use regular fuel. However, Columbia will save at the pump.

"E-85 gas is cheaper than regular gas, and it actually lasts longer than regular gas," McGing said.

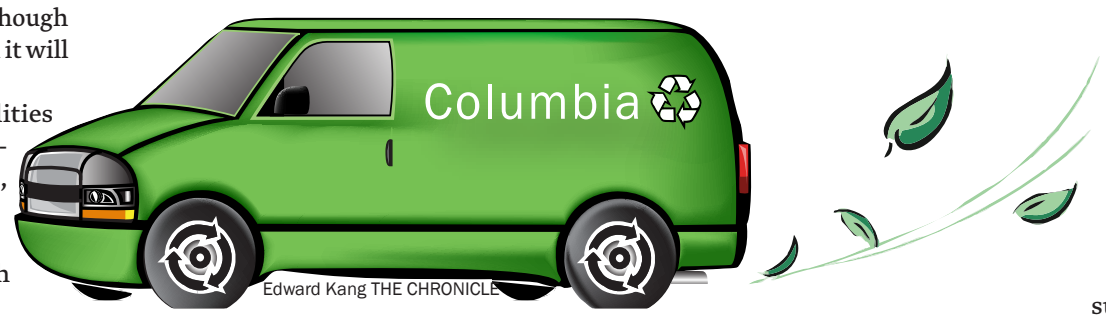
The previous van will also be recycled. According to McGing, the older vehicle was given to the Music Department, so faculty and students can travel to shows around the Chicagoland area.

Because the college does not have any large projects in the near future, Columbia is focusing on the smaller things, said Joseph Leamanczyk, project manager for Campus Environment.

According to Leamanczyk, the college is currently working on a sustainability plan. It will consist of guiding principles Columbia could use to continue to move forward and be more eco-friendly.

One of the projects uses a portion of the lot at 754 S. Wabash Ave., where Buddy Guy's Legends was located, as a place for students and staff to put their bikes.

"We're working on a new bike parking lot option to encourage the use of alternative transportation," Leamanczyk said. He also said the water coolers used by faculty and staff have been replaced with bottleless ones hooked up to the building's plumbing, eliminating the plastic.



Edward Kang THE CHRONICLE

> "This is saving storage space on campus, garbage space in dumpsters and money without purchasing the same cardboard boxes over and over."
>
> -Sarah McGing

"I think this ground-level integration of sustainability is much more impactful ... it gets the students thinking about how our carbon footprint—as an institution—is actually quite small," Leamanczyk said.

One of the college's main goals with pursuing sustainable energy is to have the influence it makes be carried with the students when they leave.

"I think of the people we're educating [who] can influence industries they're going into, so it's where we can have a huge impact," Leamanczyk said.

amurphy@chroniclemail.com

File Photo

Money, space among athletics' challenges

Department making progress, several issues need more attention

by Sam Charles
Assistant Campus Editor

COLUMBIA'S ATHLETIC Department was founded less than 10 years ago, and while sports have been integrated into the curriculum in various academic departments, the college's club sports continue to try to gain awareness, recognition and respect.

Athletes at the college face an array of challenges, predominantly with finances and logistics. The budget for the college's club teams combined is $8,000 per year, which all comes from student activity fees. However, there is a limit to how much of the budget each team is allotted.

Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind.—one of the colleges the Columbia Renegades baseball team faces during the season—has an annual athletics budget of $61 million.

Currently, there are six club teams at the college: co-ed volleyball, co-ed soccer, men's baseball, men's basketball, men's softball and men's lacrosse.

"[Columbia] will only cover up to 25 percent of teams' total budget," said Mark Brticevich, coordinator of Fitness and Recreation. "Most of the budget is expected to be raised by the team."

The budget is not solely meant for covering team expenses. It is also used to sponsor events that will aid the Athletic Department in raising awareness, such as displays

There can be a valuable lesson in raising funds, Brticevich added.

"Club sports is like running a business," he said. "That has more of a benefit than varsity because it gives [players] experiences that will blend well in the business world."

However, there are other ways to generate money that have not been tested, said Mackinley Salk, coach of the Renegades baseball team.

"Many people have seen what the jerseys and hats look like and say, 'I would buy one if they sold it in the bookstore,'" Salk said.

Though funding is a challenge, Salk added, players are by no means desperate for equipment, but they are provided the minimum compared to other institutions they face, he said.

In past years, the baseball team has held bake sales and car washes as ways to raise money, but this year they will be raffling off tickets for a Chicago Blackhawks home game. Salk expects the raffle to bring in more than $1,000.

Athletics and club sports have been on the upswing at Columbia in recent years thanks to new students, said Kevin Hartmann, vice president of Athletics.

"We find that each year the freshmen class is more and more energized," Hartmann said. "They're looking for more things to do on campus, and luckily they're finding us more [often] than they were before.

The Athletic Department will soon be moving to the basement of the Residence Center, 731 S. Plymouth Court, formerly occupied by the Spectacle Build Shop.

While the new area may be seen as a positive step, acquiring the space teams truly need is hard to come by, he said.

"It's going to be nice for holding yoga and self-defense classes and things like that, but we can't really hold basketball practice down there," Hartmann said.

As soon as the Spectacle Build Shop is ready to move, athletics will take over the space.

There are plans to repurpose the area, such as installing new flooring, and making it more athlete-friendly.

Currently, the Athletic Department rents the gymnasium at South Loop Elementary School, 1212 S. Plymouth Court. The gym is used to hold basketball and intramural sports practices.

"[The gym] barely works for what we need it to," Hartmann said. "We can't really run an athletics program out of an elementary school gym we only get [for] four hours a day, four days a week."

A more appropriate space would solve two problems at the same time, Hartmann said. It would give the athletes a more complete place to practice and play, and give athletics more visibility on campus.

"We're playing home games 40 minutes away," Hartmann said. "If Columbia students can't see their athletes play, no one is going to know we exist. We need to address one [issue], and hopefully that will address both of them."

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» CRIME

Continued from Front Page

professor of psychology at the University of Illinois at Chicago. However, he added more alerts could garner more attentiveness on campus.

"Change is often more salient to us than stability," McKirnan said. "If [the college] did report all the crime [it] knew of, it may be less striking, but [the community] might walk around with the notion that campuses are not all that safe. Potentially, [the college's] motivation is to disguise how many crimes actually occur ... to some extent, that's disingenuous."

> It is not uncommon for the Chicago Police Department to come on campus and make a judgment call as to whether or not an arrest will be made."
>
> -Martha Meegan

On Oct. 22 and Oct. 26, 2010, the Office of Safety and Security issued alerts warning the college community of students being robbed, one at the intersection of West Polk Street and South Plymouth Court, and the other in the 600 block of South Dearborn Street. Both incidents involved residents of Columbia's on-campus housing units.

However, two other robberies occurred in the area within that same week—one on Oct. 19 in the 500 block of South Clark Street, and the other in the 1100 block of South State Street. Neither incident prompted an alert, but under the law Columbia has no obligation to issue one because they did not occur on campus property and were not reported to campus security.

"We listen to the First District and the all-city police scanner, so if we pick up activity [relevant] to us ... we may investigate it further and put a notice out," Koverman said. "When it goes beyond Columbia, it really depends on the proximity."

The patrol boundaries for Columbia's security officers are from Clark Street on the west, the 218 S. Wabash Ave. Building on the north, Michigan Avenue on the east and 16th Street on the south.

Colleges must also keep records of all incidents reported to campus security in a daily incident report. The log must contain—besides incidents that occur within campus buildings—any crime that occurs adjacent to campus property. In Columbia's case, that includes areas such as sidewalks outside campus buildings.

Columbia posts an updated version of the incident report every month, but a more up to date report is available by request in the Office of Campus Safety and Security.

In Koverman's two years working for Columbia, he said he has never heard of a student coming to ask to see the daily crime log.

Along with a daily log and timely warnings, colleges must disclose crime statistics for the last three years so students, or potential students and their families, can judge the campus' safety.

In Columbia's annual crime statistics, there are several categories displaying an "N/A" instead of an actual number, one of them being drug law violations occurring within a student residence center that were reported to the Chicago Police Department.

There were 187 drug law violations and 378 liquor law violations reported to Columbia's Residence Life Office in 2009.

The difference between a drug law violation and an arrest depends on which party—whether it is Columbia's Residence Life Office or the CPD—administers some sort of reprimand.

"It is not uncommon for the Chicago Police Department to come on campus and make a judgment call as to whether or not an arrest will be made," Meegan said.

Koverman said the violations are administrative actions taken by Columbia.

"The Chicago police don't have violations," he said. "They're either arrested or it doesn't exist."

Being an urban campus presents a challenge, Meegan said.

"The unique thing about urban institutions [is] we don't have closed campuses," she said. "We report that which is on our block. It's more confusing in this type of environment."

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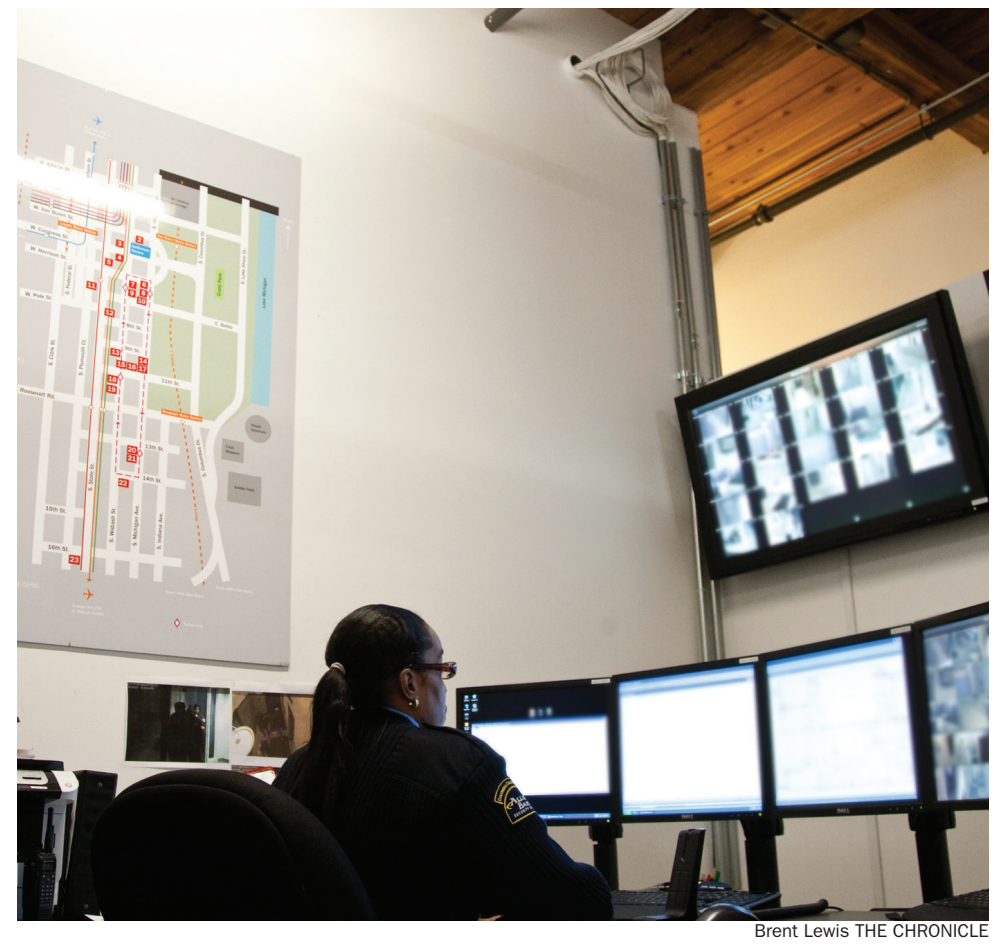

Brent Lewis THE CHRONICLE

A security guard at The Office of Safety and Security's Command Center monitors various security cameras.

» IMPROV

Continued from PG. 3

Member Harrison O'Neal, junior television major, said those are some of the reasons the team won the regional competition. The group tried to focus more on having fun than on their performance structure, and it ended up working, O'Neal said.

The team will continue to practice and work until the national competition on Feb. 26.

> I think we have grown over the past couple of years, and this is definitely our year. We are shining right now and it's going to be a lot of fun."
>
> -Harrison O'Neal

According to Barton, the battle between the final college improv teams will be held in Chicago, the home of improv. They will face competition from states across the country, including Georgia, Washington and Massachusetts.

The team had a large amount of supporters at the regional competition and hope to see even more for nationals, Metroff said.

O'Neal said he is ready for the upcoming competition and wants to show what Droppin' $cience can do.

"I think we have grown over the past couple of years, and this is definitely our year," he said. "We are shining right now, and it's going to be a lot of fun."

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» STALKING

Continued from PG. 3

dean of students or resident assistants if he or she lives in campus housing.

"Often times people aren't aware that what is happening on their social networks is a crime," Koverman said. "We need to be more involved in terms of educating our community and not just students. There are certain things that are unacceptable, and stalking is one of them."

Koverman said websites such as LikeALittle.com, which allows students to post anonymous flirts about other students around campus, concern him.

"[It] bothers me a lot of people will use that for anonymous flirting," Koverman said. "Once you're doing that, it can lead to physical confrontation if someone likes what someone says."

The NCSA said cyberstalking can include repeated e-mails or texts that make a victim fearful, and three in four stalking victims are stalked by someone he or she knows.

> Cyberstalking is an issue. People don't even realize it because they don't know what the other person's agenda is."
>
> -Robert Koverman

Koverman said text messaging can pose threats when people start texting innocently with a person they've met on the Internet and can lead to violent situations.

"Cyberstalking is an issue," he said. "People don't even realize it because they don't know what the other person's agenda is."

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CINEMA SLAPDOWN

ROUND 29

The Columbia Chronicle and the Film & Video Department presents
Black (a semester of Black and White and Red All Over*)

PRECIOUS

Based on the Novel "Push" by Sapphire, A film by Lee Daniels

Thursday, February 10, 2011 7pm
Film Row Cinema, 1104 S. Wabash, 8th Floor

Is *Precious* a purifying and atypical examination of a young black woman's life journey, or a patronizing and stereotypical study in miserabilism? Is this a true picture of what it means to be young, black and female in America today, or a reduction of that experience to the same old clichés that have defined the African American experience on film since *Birth of a Nation*? Are we seeing a damaged woman on the mend, or a traditional melodrama on crack?

Join us when we take on this Oprah-sized slice of modern American pie. Featuring F&V faculty member and Slapdown Superstar **Dan** ("makes my heart break!") **Rybicky** taking on Chicago Sun-Times' **Mary** ("makes my heart burn!") **Mitchell**. Referee'd by F&V faculty member and *Talk Cinema* host **Ron Falzone**.

Written by: Geoffrey Fletcher
Featuring: Gabourey Sidibe, Mo'Nique, Mariah Carey
(2009) Rated R, 109m

*** White = *The Reader* March 10, 2011**
Red All Over = *Antichrist* April 14, 2011

colum.edu/film

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School uniform evokes the values of a community

image + implication
CRITICAL ENCOUNTERS

by Paige Noelle Jeffrey
Freshman, cultural studies major

A GIRL'S Catholic school uniform: This garment can bring to mind a provocative Halloween costume, and any number of other erotic images, fetishes and fantasies. But to me it was a reality I had to wear every day for four years, and it is something that represents family, comfort, love, happiness and peace.

I went to a Catholic Dominican high school called Queen of Peace. I was given an excellent education, not only academically but religiously. The school was founded by the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, and because of this, every girl who attends the school is taught the Dominican values of truth, justice, compassion, partnership and community and is encouraged to live out these values in their daily lives. The uniform also represents these values.

Every Queen of Peace High School student has to wear a uniform. My particular uniform consisted of a green plaid skirt and a white polo shirt. Each grade level had its own skirt color. Some people may say these uniforms took away our individuality and segregated us. But to me, the color of a girl's skirt never really mattered—throughout all four years, I was friends with girls from all grade levels.

Wearing the uniform allowed us to bring out our individualities in other ways besides the way we dress: We showed who we are through our participation in class, in the leadership roles we took on during our after-school activities, some of which included student council, sports, various clubs and honor societies and, for me, plays and musicals. Wearing a uniform did not take away our individuality nor did it separate us by any means. Each and every girl was her own person, but we all came together as one Queen of Peace community, always ready and willing to help and support one another.

These simple articles of clothing greatly shaped my ideology and identity. The lessons I learned from Queen of Peace instilled in me the belief all people should be treated equally and fairly, and everyone deserves to be respected, loved and valued. It also showed me the importance of education and perseverance and the true meaning of sisterhood. Wearing that skirt signified me as a competent, confident, courageous woman of peace; that uniform was a sign I am a strong woman who will speak the truth, work for justice, feel compassion for others, collaborate in partnership and love and support the Queen of Peace community.

My uniform connected me to every other girl within my school; it represented that we were all sisters in peace. Whenever I look at my uniform now, I am reminded of my second home and of the "family" I made there. I notice the small holes in my skirt left behind from ribbons we wore throughout the year to support different causes: red ribbons to raise money for HIV/AIDS research and to stand up against drugs and violence, pink ribbons for breast cancer awareness, yellow ribbons to raise awareness about teen suicide and sometimes ribbons with various prints and designs on them just for fun.

I am brought back to all the days I spent in the choral room, singing and laughing with the girls in choir, to all the liturgies and retreats that were held in the chapel, to all the nights spent onstage and backstage, rehearsing and performing in the fall plays and spring musicals. I can feel the arms wrapped around me in hugs and I can feel the love, happiness and comfort of those moments. While seeing my uniform now can bring a tear to my eye, it mainly fills me with joy and thankfulness that I was able to have all of those wonderful opportunities and now have many, many amazing memories to look back on.

Whenever I see a blue-and-white checkered design, I am reminded of Dorothy's dress from "The Wizard of Oz," and I recall the quote, "There's no place like home." Likewise, whenever I see my high school uniform, I think to myself, "There's no place like Peace." I am proud to say I wore a uniform for four years in high school. Queen of Peace High School and the people I met there helped make me the person I am today, and I am proud to call myself a Woman of Peace.

chronicle@colum.edu

CRITICAL ENCOUNTERS
get involved

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.

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).

Critical Photo
of the week

ASSOCIATED PRESS

An Afghan immigrant mother and child take part in a protest in front of a riot police cordon in central Athens, Jan. 21, 2011. Immigrants from Palestine, Afghanistan and Iran protested outside the Greek Parliament to pressure the Greek government into granting them refugee status. Six Afghan immigrants who took part in the demonstration have been on a hunger strike for the past 23 days.

Questions of the **WEEK**

Look carefully at the image and describe what you see. What do you know to be true about this image? What details reveal that information? What assumptions might you have made?

Health& Fitness

Circus: the new workout

Aerial arts enters fitness world, not just for Barnum & Bailey anymore

by Katy Nielsen
Assistant Health & Fitness Editor

THEY BRAVE tightropes, swing upside down on the trapeze and twirl suspended by long chiffon fabric, but these are not circus performers; these are everyday people working out in aerial arts fitness classes—a new exercise trend that combines physical strength, flexibility and mental reasoning in a class environment.

With classes titled Aerial Conditioning and Technique and Aerial Fitness, people with normal day jobs are discovering working out doesn't necessarily mean hopping on a treadmill.

"Circus is definitely becoming a form of fitness," said Rachel Grandi, programs director at CircEsteem, 4730 N. Sheridan Rd. "It's never about winning a race, it's much more group minded."

People spin upside down on giant gym wheels at CircEsteem, working their abdominals, legs and upper bodies, but Grandi said it's not like going to the gym.

"In the moment, it doesn't feel like a workout," Grandi said. "But the next day you can't lift your arms."

Workout classes like Zumba and kickboxing teach people new skills while simultaneously giving them a workout. Aerial arts fitness classes take the same approach, according to aerial teachers.

"It's amazing on the very first day people are able to climb a rope," said Lauren Hirte, instructor and performer at the Actors Gymnasium, 927 Noyes St. in Evanston. "There [are] a lot of things you don't think you'll be able to do, and you'll say, 'Oh my god, I did that.'"

The Actor's Gymnasium opened 15 years ago as a place specifically designed for training actors. Now that circus arts have become part of popular culture, the Actor's Gym's focus has shifted to encompass a wider range of students, according to Sylvia Hernandez, artistic director and co-founder of the Actor's Gym.

"We realized these classes were good for everyone, not just actors," Hernandez said. "It's such a great, interesting workout and people come back because it's so fun. You're doing really physical work. You don't even [realize] how good it is for your body. As a workout, it's a new concept."

There are several gyms in Chicago that offer aerial fitness classes for children and adults including Aloft Loft, 2041 W. Carroll Ave.

"Anybody can do this, but it's not an activity that is intended for someone who has been sitting on the couch for years," said Mark VanThournout, a personal trainer at Aloft Loft whose fitness class Strength and Conditioning I incorporates silks, trapeze, handstands and other types of balancing

» SEE CIRCUS, PG. 15

Tiela Halpin THE CHRONICLE

Students hang from chiffon fabric during Silks II at the Aloft Loft, 2041 W. Carroll Ave. Classes at Aloft combine circus arts with fitness and include silks, trapeze, hula hoops, lyra and hand-balancing workouts.

Big East powerhouse

DePaul women's basketball off to best conference start in program history

by Etheria Modacure
Assistant Health & Fitness Editor

THE NCAA Women's Final Four will be held in Indianapolis, and one program looks to make the short trip from Chicago to the Conseco Fieldhouse. The DePaul University women's basketball team has been winning games with an aggressive playing style on both sides of the basketball court and may be one of the select four teams playing for a championship in April.

The Blue Demons are off to one their best starts in program history with an unbeaten streak in their first seven Big East games. This is the first time DePaul has done this since its induction into the conference in the 2005–2006 season.

DePaul is one of two teams to win its first seven conference games along with the University of Connecticut. With a 20-2 record through 22 games, this is the best start the Blue Demons have had since the 2003–2004 season when they began 21-2 and were in Conference USA. The Blue Demons also became the first women's team to reach 20 wins this season.

DePaul Head Coach Doug Bruno said this season's team has the chance to be special. The Blue Demons have one of the best scoring offenses in the Big East, averaging 78.4 points per game through Jan. 20, which is third in the conference.

For the Blue Demons to continue their hot streak against Connecticut, Syracuse University and Georgetown University, the Blue Demons will need to play with a focus on intangibles and sustaining momentum, according to Bruno.

"I love when this team plays with intelligence and energy," he said after the Blue Demons' 77-59 victory against Seton Hall University on Jan. 22.

The Blue Demons led that game by as many as 38 points, but Bruno was more concerned with how the team allowed the Pirates to play stronger in the second half.

While the Blue Demons have a top-notch scoring offense, when they face the likes of Connecticut, Syracuse, Marquette University and Georgetown, they will be up against teams ranked in the top half of the conference in scoring defense.

"If this team is going to be as good as people [say] they're going to be, there's a lot of fixing that still has to get done," Bruno said.

The Blue Demons, who were the 12th ranked team in the nation on Jan. 24, beat the then No. 2–ranked Stanford University handily on Dec. 16, 91-71.

Bruno placed an emphasis on rebounding and said he is concerned when his team gets outrebounded by its opponents.

For the season, the Blue Demons average 13.8 offensive rebounds, which is 10th in the Big East, and rank fifth with 26.4 defensive rebounds.

"I don't care who's on the other side of the uniform," Bruno said. "We expect to be

» SEE DEPAUL, PG. 15

UPCOMING EVENTS

2/1/11

Get fit for the new year

If you haven't made plans to get in shape, working out at the Fulton Fit House could be the perfect time to do so.

Fulton Fit House
821 W. Fulton Market
8 p.m.

2/4/11

Abbottsford (Canada) Heat vs. Chicago Wolves

The Wolves return from the American Hockey League All Star break with aspirations to improve their record in West division.

Allstate Arena
6920 N. Mannheim Road.
Rosemont, Ill. 7 p.m.

2/5/11

Peoria Rivermen vs. Chicago Wolves

This will be a back-to-back game for the Wolves at home against a West Division foe at the Allstate Arena.

Allstate Arena
6920 N. Mannheim Road.
Rosemont, Ill. 7 p.m.

STAYIN' SAVVY

Food label makeover

by Stephanie Saviola
Managing Editor

THE FOOD industry recently announced plans to release new nutrition labels for processed and packaged foods and beverages. The new labels, which are called Nutrition Keys, are part of an initiative by the industry to raise awareness and educate people about nutrition. However, the problem isn't in the placement or the number of labels on a box, but what the label and product actually contain.

The labels, which are supposed to appear on the front of packages, will display the food or beverage's calories, sodium, sugar and fat content. The industry will also include "healthy" nutritional benefits on the front of products to perhaps offset the awareness of how unhealthy the product is.

This may seem like a positive step, however it's not addressing the real problem. According to a 2010 New York Times article, Americans eat 31 percent more processed foods than fresh food. Processed foods contain too many additives, preservatives and basically junk.

Food items such as cereals claim to contain calcium or certain "essential" vitamins and minerals. Even though they do, those nutritional elements are often canceled out by the high levels of sodium, processed sugars and grains in them.

According to several articles, the Food and Drug Administration was not pleased with the food industry's choice to include the nutritional benefits along with the other elements on the front of packages.

Most packaged snacks, while they may be convenient and easy to grab on-the-go, list sugar or corn syrup as the second or third ingredient. Those ingredients should be much lower on the list or left out of the product all together.

People should also be more aware of how many servings are in a product. And many snack bags and bottled beverages contain more than one serving, yet companies market them like they are meant to be consumed in one sitting.

The industry expects to spend more than $50 million in advertising for the new labels. But the FDA and the food industry should look for ways to have actual nutritious packaged foods with less processing, sugar and sodium.

Many processed foods also contain statements such as "may contain traces of..." or "may be manufactured in a plant with..." How is it unknown what goes into a product? I understand those labels have to say that for allergy reasons and whatnot, but I would hope processing plants would have found a way to sort through and separate what ingredients are in products.

The standard nutrition list will remain on the back of the boxes and the labels are expected to start appearing on products within a month. And while the food industry deserves kudos for implementing the new labels, it should concentrate on finding ways to remove the unhealthy ingredients from packaged foods instead.

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Study finds breast augmentation linked to rare cancer

U.S. raises inquiries about overall safety of breast implants

by Andrew Zajac
MCT Newswire

THE FOOD and Drug Administration announced on Jan. 26 it has begun investigating the possible connection between breast implants and the increased risk of a rare form of cancer.

While the number of women who develop the disease is small, there is apparently no way to identify those likely to develop it, making it a source of potential concern to all women with implants.

The cancer—Anaplastic large cell lymphoma—develops in the breast tissue of about three out of 100 million women without implant nationwide.

Among women who do not have implants, FDA investigators say they have identified as many as 60 women who have developed ALCL worldwide, out of an estimated global population of 5 million to 10 million women with implants.

The FDA did not provide an incidence number for women with implants who developed the disease in the U.S. alone.

According to the agency, the number of known cases was too few to draw a conclusion implants were linked to the disease.

The FDA officials emphasized the evidence points to the fact that there is a relatively small risk and said women with implants don't need to do anything more than maintain vigilance.

The FDA advised women not to change their routine medical care, but said they should consult a physician if they notice swelling, pain or lumps around implants after post-surgical healing.

"Women who are not showing any symptoms or problems require only routine follow up," said William Maisel, chief scientist and a deputy director of FDA's medical device office. "[The] FDA is not recommending the routine removal of breast implants."

ALCL is a treatable cancer of the immune system and its occurrence in the breast does not have the same effects as breast cancer, Maisel said.

"I think there's reason to be concerned about this, but there shouldn't be reason for panic," said Phil Haeck, president of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons.

He also said signs of ALCL associated with implants "are pretty dramatic. There's a lot of swelling and pain. They won't miss it."

To better understand the development of ALCL, the plastic surgeons group has agreed to report all cases of ALCL to a national registry established by the FDA.

The FDA also will ask the two U.S. manufacturers of implants, Allergan Inc. and Mentor Worldwide, to update product labeling to include information about ALCL.

"We fully support FDA's efforts to gather additional data and study ALCL in patients with breast implants," Mentor said in a statement.

An Allergan spokeswoman said in a statement that when ALCL has occurred, "most of the patients have responded to a variety of treatments, including simple removal of the implant and surrounding scar capsule."

"A woman is more likely to be struck by lightning than get this condition," the statement said.

But the head of a leading women's health advocacy group said the risk, while small for individuals, is alarming.

"It raises a red flag about what other immune disease could be occurring that are not obvious," said Diana Zuckerman, president of the National Research Center for Women and Families.

Maisel said FDA will give a status report on the studies in the spring. FDA based its announcement on a review of scientific literature printed between 1997 and last May, which reported 34 cases of ALCL in women with breast implants and other information from international regulatory agencies, scientific experts and implant manufacturers.

The concern about ALCL applies to women with silicone and saline-filled implants and those who had the implants for cosmetic reasons and for breast reconstruction surgery.

chronicle@colum.edu

MCT Newswire

Dr. Anthony Youn shows a saline (salt water) breast implant, at left, and a silicone breast implant, at right, at The Hills Plastic Surgery & Laser Centre in Rochester Hills, Calif.

Horizon League blues for UIC, Loyola

Flames, Ramblers struggling in competitive Mid-major conference

by Etheria Modacure
Assistant Health & Fitness editor

Sara Mays THE CHRONICLE

Loyola Ramblers Head Coach Jim Whitesell (top left) and UIC Flames Head Coach Howard Moore (top right) haven't had much success in the Horizon League this season. The Horizon League could send at least three teams to the NCAA tournament and has strong teams in the conference with the exception of Loyola and UIC.

LAST SEASON, there was one team that ran away with the Horizon League Conference Championship, the Butler University Bulldogs. This season, however, there are four teams at the top of the conference vying for a shot to be crowned champion.

Wright State University, Butler, Valparaiso University and Cleveland State University top the Horizon League standings, while the Loyola University Ramblers and the University of Illinois at Chicago Flames remain at the bottom.

With the Horizon League Championship Tournament beginning on March 1, Wright State, Butler, Valparaiso and Cleveland State have the chance to prove to the selection committee why they belong in the NCAA tournament.

Loyola and UIC have time to turn their seasons around and make a strong push to win the conference championship. The winner of the Horizon League Conference Championship receives an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament.

Loyola and UIC have lost a combined 15 out of 19 conference games through Jan. 28. UIC hasn't won a conference game in their first nine contests. After Loyola started the season on a hot streak winning seven consecutive games, the team cooled off and has gone 6-8 through Jan. 28.

After losing three conference games, Loyola was able to notch a much-needed victory against in-city rival UIC on Jan. 22. The Ramblers defeated the Flames 68-59 at the Gentile Center, which gave them back-to-back victories in the Horizon League for the first time this season. Loyola defeated Youngstown State on Jan. 27 to keep their streak in conference play alive.

"We needed these two [wins]," said Geoff McCammon, senior guard for the Ramblers. "We started struggling around winter break. Losing is never good. We needed this positive lift."

He also said the Ramblers want to be playing their best heading into March when the Horizon League Championship Tournament begins.

"We can get better defensively every day in practice," McCammon said. "Helpside and on-the-ball defense. That's something we can definitely improve on as a team. I feel like the best teams play the best defense."

The Ramblers have played some of the top defensive teams in the country within the Horizon League and have lost to three of the top four teams in the conference this season.

Wright State and Cleveland State are the 20th and 21st respectively ranked defensive teams in the NCAA. Both teams are in the top four of the Horizon League standings and have notched six or more conference victories this season.

Cleveland State gives up an average of 60.3 points per game while Wright State yields 60.2 points. Cleveland State also ranks 32nd in the NCAA in field goal percentage defense in allowing opponents to shoot 39.5 percent from the field.

» **SEE HORIZON**, PG. 15

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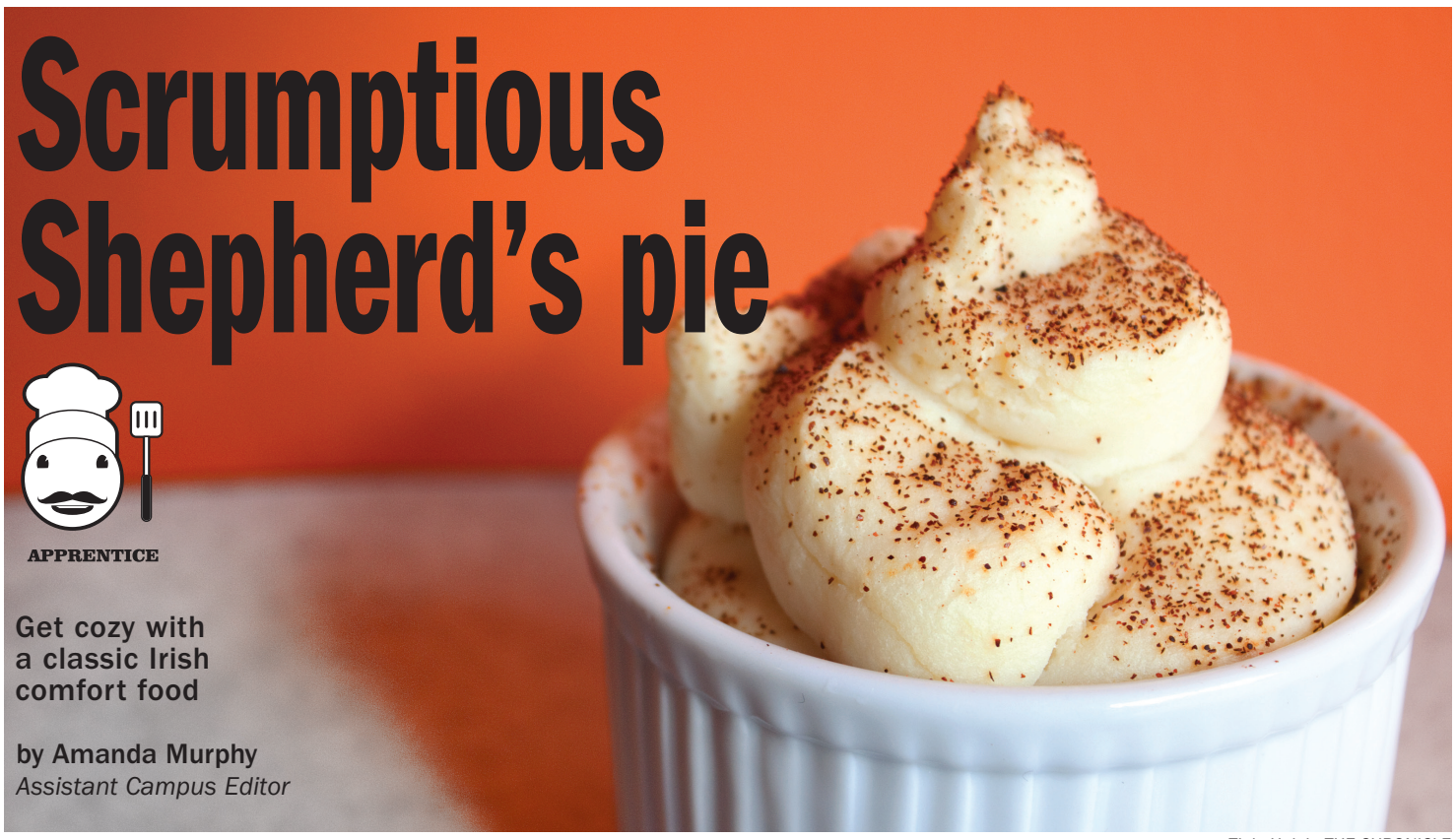

Tiela Halpin THE CHRONICLE

APPRENTICE

Get cozy with a classic Irish comfort food

by Amanda Murphy
Assistant Campus Editor

THE IRISH have a knack for creating meals that warm you up during the cold winter months. Foods from the Emerald Isle are hearty, wintry weather favorites because they know what to eat when it's cold and dreary outside. Shepherd's pie is a filling meal that gives protein, vitamins and minerals—all in one casserole. It's the perfect comfort food for someone looking for an easy-to-make and healthy-to-eat dish.

First, preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Next, fill a large pot with water to boil the potatoes. While the water begins to heat, peel the nine potatoes you plan to use. Yukon gold potatoes are the best for mashing because they have a buttery taste and smooth consistency. Cut the peeled potatoes in half and add them to the water. Let them cook for approximately 20 minutes or until they can easily be pierced with a fork.

Drain the potatoes and put them back into the pot. Add a tablespoon of butter and chicken broth and season lightly with salt, pepper and garlic powder. Mash the potatoes by hand or with an electric mixer. Once they are creamy and smooth, set them aside.

In a large pan, heat another tablespoon of butter or oil. Once the butter has lost most of its frothy consistency, add a half cup of onions. Cook the onions on medium heat until they are soft and clear. Stir in the beef, and with a spatula, continue to break it up until it has browned. Next, mix in half a bag of frozen peas, and cook for another seven minutes, tossing often.

In a 2-quart casserole dish or individual custard cups, add the beef and peas mixture. Add the mashed potatoes on top and smooth them with a spoon. You can add paprika, salt and pepper for a little extra flavor. Place the dish in the oven and bake for approximately 20 minutes.

Once the top is browned and slightly crispy, take it out and serve. Don't worry if you made more than you could eat. Shepherd's pie is easy to reheat the next day.

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INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound of ground beef
- 1/2 bag of frozen peas
- 2 tablespoons of butter or olive oil
- 9 Yukon gold potatoes
- 3/4 cup of chicken broth
- 1 teaspoon of salt
- 1 teaspoon of garlic powder
- 1 pinch of pepper
- 1 pinch of paprika (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees and boil one pot of water.
2. Peel the potatoes and cut in half.
3. Boil the potatoes for 20 minutes.
4. Drain the potatoes. Mix butter, chicken broth and seasonings.
6. Heat butter/oil and add onions.
4. Add ground beef and cook until brown.
5. Add peas and cook seven minutes.
6. Add meat and vegetables to a sauce pan or individual custard cups.
7. Smooth mashed potatoes on top.
8. Add a pinch salt, pepper and paprika to taste and bake for 20 minutes.
9. Serve and enjoy.

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Tiela Halpin THE CHRONICLE

A student holds a straddle during a Silks II, which helps students develop flexibility, strength and self-esteem at the Aloft Loft, 2041 W. Carroll Ave.

» CIRCUS

Continued from PG. 11

for an hour and a half, full-body workout.

VanThournout said seeing people accomplish challenging maneuvers and gain confidence is rewarding for him as a teacher. He and Hirte said progression in aerial arts takes time and practice, but students who are willing to put in the hours find it pays off.

"I like the classes because they are challenging both physically and mentally," said Mara Troup, an administrator who takes classes at Aloft. "It leaves you invigorated and coming back for more. It's a big adrenaline rush."

Some of Hirte's students have taken their classes to the next level and are now performing with the San Francisco School of Circus Arts. However, she said most of her students take classes for fun and not to become professional performers.

For some instructors who come from circus families, aerial exercise is now a way of life they share with their students.

Gloria Gaona performed all across the world with Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus throughout her life. She is a flying trapeze artist, instructor and hand-balancing expert and co-owner of the Flying Gaonas Gym.

"I was born into the circus. I believe I started at 5 years old and now I'm almost 46," Gaona said. "Trapeze works your whole body and it just keeps you really fit. It gives you more strength to do other sports. It improves your self-esteem and helps you overcome fear when you have to step out into the real world."

Aerial workshops are aimed at personal success, so most students are not looking to run away with the circus but want to experience something unusual and rewarding, Hernandez said.

"I think anyone who has the desire to learn it can learn it," Hernandez said. "We like to give everybody a sense of accomplishment. It's not about what your neighbor can do—it's just about what you can do."

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» DEPAUL

Continued from PG. 11

the rebounding winner, that's our job. It doesn't matter who we're playing against."

The Blue Demons' next two opponents are ranked one and two in the conference in defensive rebounding. Connecticut averages 29.7 per game, and Syracuse averages 28.6 per game. This could be troublesome for the Blue Demons when shots aren't falling for them.

With the Big East being loaded with quality forwards, DePaul boasts a combination of agility and shot-blocking at the forward position.

Senior forward Keisha Hampton leads the Blue Demons in points scored at 16 per game and averages 5.4 rebounds. Senior forward Felicia Chester averages 6.2 rebounds per game and sophomore forward Katherine Harry leads the team with 6.7 rebounds per game.

One of the better reserves DePaul has to provide a spark from the bench is junior forward/guard Taylor Pikes. She has been hailed as a possible Sixth Man of the Year candidate by Bruno.

Pikes averages 7.6 points per game but has scored in double figures in four of five games from Jan. 11–25.

She understands the importance of the Blue Demons staying aggressive through a game, acknowledging this after DePaul's victory against Seton Hall.

"My confidence is growing with every game," Pikes said. "It's a growing process. I've just got to take my shots when I'm open, if not, pass [the ball]."

Sophomore guard Anna Martin, third on the team in scoring with an average of 10.9 points per game, said the team will need to stay focused throughout a game. She mentioned Bruno always tells the team to look at each game like it's tied at zero during halftime.

"We can stay on each other and keep pushing each other," Pikes said.

Martin didn't give any excuse for the Blue Demons possibly getting tired during their stretch of playing three games within six days. She said practicing to remain aggressive on offense and defense and fighting through fatigue is something the team does routinely.

"That's what we practice for," Martin said. "What we work all preseason for is to play at that intensity."

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Tiela Halpin THE CHRONICLE

The DePaul Blue Demons became the first women's basketball team to notch 20 victories this season. They're off to a great start, winning their first seven Big East conference games.

» HORIZON

Continued from PG. 13

Brent Lewis THE CHRONICLE

The University of Illinois-Chicago lost nine consecutive games after upsetting the University of Illinois Fighting Illini at the United Center on Dec. 18, 2010. Flames players celebrate their win against Illinois who were ranked No. 12 in the country at the time.

The Horizon League isn't a conference that typically receives at-large bids to the NCAA tournament. It hasn't sent more than one team to the big dance since 2009 when Cleveland State and Butler made appearances.

In the last eight seasons, the Horizon League has fielded a team in the Sweet 16 of the tournament four times.

Loyola Head Coach Jim Whitesell said the conference is highly competitive and attributes the teams that have represented the Horizon League being successful in the NCAA tournament for the reason the competition remains that way.

Among 31 conferences, the Horizon League ranks eighth overall in winning percentage in the tournament.

"It has proven [its strength] in the NCAA tournament," Whitesell said. "It's done that year in and year out."

Whitesell said Loyola expects every game in the conference to be tough, and it will continue to battle for more victories in the Horizon League.

UIC on the other hand hasn't fared well in conference play. The Flames have lost their first eight games in the Horizon League.

First-year Flames Head Coach Howard Moore has been adamant about his team playing with better focus and intelligently, but the results haven't been too pleasing.

The Flames have lost six games by a combined 13 points and hasn't had a winning streak longer than two games.

After upsetting the University of Illinois at the United Center on Dec. 18, the Flames lost nine consecutive games and eight within the Horizon League.

"I think we always play hard," Moore said. "It's a matter of playing smart. When you're not taking care of the basketball, I think that's a lack of focus—a lack of understanding of what we need to do with that possession."

Moore emphasizes fundamentals during practice, but the team plays differently during a game. He will address this problem as the season progresses.

For Flames senior guard Robo Kreps, proclaiming that UIC could match up with anyone in the conference after defeating Illinois in December was overstating the case.

Kreps, who scored his 1,400th career point against Loyola on Jan. 22, didn't allow UIC's deflating season to prevent him from keeping an optimistic attitude about a season turnaround.

"We're struggling right now," he said. "We're going to turn it around though. No matter what, we're going to turn it around. We're going to be playing our basketball when [the] postseason comes."

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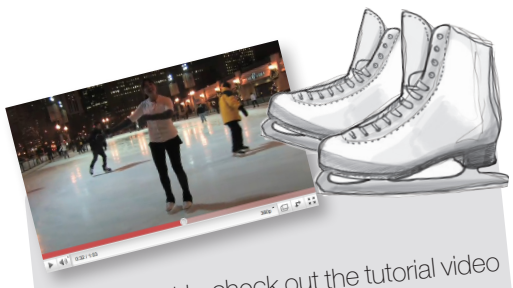


Don't forget to check out the tutorial video at **YouTube.com/TheColumbiaChronicle**

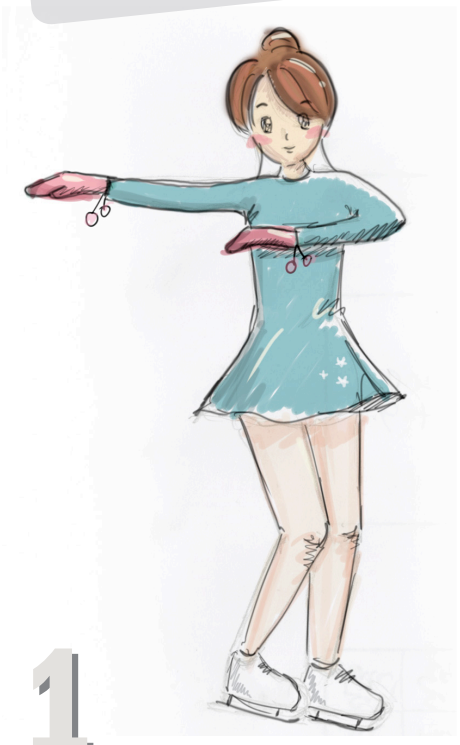
How to: Spin on ice skates

by Katy Nielsen
Assistant Health & Fitness Editor

JIM DRAHEIM, a Chicago skating teacher who has been coaching for 52 years, said anyone can learn how to spin on ice but it requires proper instruction and the right kind of skates. There are three basic types of ice skates: the figure skate, the hockey skate and the speed skate. To do a spin you will need figure skates.

"The figure skate gives you more maneuverability," Draheim said. "Its blade has a curve to it from heel to toe called a "rocker," or radius, which allows you to turn to spin and to jump."

A counter-clockwise two-foot spin is something that requires balance, control and patience but with a little effort and the willingness to feel dizzy at first, anyone can learn how to spin.



1

Start from a standstill with your skates facing forward and your knees slightly bent. "Keep your skates slightly pigeon-toed," Draheim said. This will allow you to push against the ice with your right foot. Hold your arms to the right side in front of your body. Apply pressure to the heel of the right foot and the ball of the left foot.

2

Bend your knees lower and in a circular motion, pump counter-clockwise with your right foot. "This means the right foot will be moving forward and the left foot will be moving backward," he said. "Rotate the shoulders and arms in the same direction as you're spinning." Your shoulders will control the momentum.

3

Keep your balance. Try to make one revolution without losing your footing. Be sure to keep your right foot in front of your left foot. "You will stop naturally," Draheim said. "You're not going to get much more than one revolution in the beginning."

4

Relax. Just let the spin happen. Draheim said don't try to focus on anything in particular. Unlike dancers, you do not want to spot. "You're going to be dizzy at first," he said. "Let the dizziness pass before you try anything else."

Ying Kau THE CHRONICLE

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SEE PAGE 22

Arts& Culture

Spudnik presses on

Chicago art community grows, continues mission in larger space

by Brianna Wellen
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

IN A typical shared art studio, painters set easels up where they like, sculptors section off areas to work with clay and artists squeeze into corners with sketchbooks and pencils. The setting is a little different for printmakers. Their equipment measures at least 2 feet wide for each machine. In Spudnik Press's current facilities, 1821 W. Hubbard St., artists find themselves bumping elbows during classes and playing a waiting game during open studio hours. For Spudnik members, though, cramped working conditions may no longer be an obstacle.

Recent collaborations and ongoing projects have brought attention and members to Spudnik Press. As the Chicago screen printing studio's community grows, so does its need for space. Through its Space Race program, promoting fundraising events and asking for support from members and key holders, Spudnik's goal is to move to a larger space by May.

Born as a studio space inside founder Angee Lennard's apartment approximately 3 1/2 years ago, Spudnik Press first moved into a commercial space 2 1/2 years ago. Since then, it has become a nonprofit organization and offers more screen-printing classes, a residency program and a key holders' program in a dedicated space it is currently outgrowing.

"The larger space will just allow more people to work at the same time, which isn't really exciting, but it is if you're one of those people working here now," Lennard said. "It will basically allow us to do what we already do better and more."

Along with accommodating more people, Lennard said the new space will allow for different printing experiences with new equipment recently acquired by Spudnik. An offset press with a few letterpresses have been in storage since the fall because there isn't room for them, Lennard said. Spudnik hopes to get more new machines through fundraising events, she added.

> "The larger space will just allow more people to work at the same time, which isn't really exciting, but it is if you're one of those people working here now."
>
> -Angee Lennard

As a nonprofit, Spudnik Press receives financial support through membership fees, key holder fees and donations. But the cost of moving exceeds what is currently being brought in. Small events, such as Art Documentation Day, which took place on Jan. 30, call upon artists to donate in exchange for resources to build their portfolio or improve their work. However, its largest event, which is on Feb. 26, takes the artists out of their element.

"Our big fundraiser is called Hashbrown, and it's going to be a chili cook off," Lennard said. "We invited 10 other Chicago print shops to come defend their honor through chili. It should be really fun and bring out a lot of printmakers."

While the ultimate goal is to move the studio to a larger space, these events also help build a larger community and awareness of Chicago printmakers who may not have otherwise been involved in public events, according to Tom Wilder, treasurer on the Spudnik board of directors and studio member.

Tiela Halpin THE CHRONICLE

First-time visitors to Spudnik Press, 1821 W. Hubbard St., Andrew Yeoman (left) and Sage Brown (right,) utilize weekly open print night Thursdays at 7 p.m.

As a businessman surrounded by artists, Wilder came across screen printing as something fun to do and has been a loyal Spudnik supporter for a year and a half.

"Not being the artsy one in the group I think I realize a lot of these people are really introverted. They just want to stick to themselves and have trouble getting out there and talking to people," Wilder said. "Some of the people [who] said yes [to participate in Hashbrown], I was shocked just from knowing them and how shy they are that they would even consider it."

A recent collaborative project also put Spudnik screen printers in the public eye in a way they're not used to. Colin Palombi, Spudnik member, created the 10 by 10 project in which artists chose musicians they want to create for. According to Palombi, working with bands often limits printmakers because they don't have the opportunity to choose who they work with.

"I was interested in having a situation where artists could approach someone they may not have known otherwise," Palombi said. "I knew Angee and Spudnik are always looking for ways to expand who they're working with."

Shows based on the 10 by 10 project were performed at the Whistler, 2421 N. Milwaukee Ave., and an exhibition at the Living Room Gallery, 1530 W. Superior St., will run through Feb. 19. Coinciding with the Space Race program's launch, the project exposed Spudnik's mission to an outside audience.

As the fundraising continues, Lennard has contemplated using Kickstarter.com to complete Spudnik's goal, offering things such as harmonica lessons to those who donate. Through every tactic tried, there will be an element that supports, educates or showcases artists and the surrounding community, Lennard said.

"I'm really excited we're able to tie in one of our mission statements as a nonprofit as we're raising funds," Lennard said.

Hashbrown will take place on Feb. 26 from 7 p.m. to midnight at Spudnik Press, 1821 W. Hubbard St., suite 308, and will cost $10. For more information on upcoming events or to donate to the Space Race fund, visit SpudnikPress.com.

Tiela Halpin THE CHRONICLE

Erick Juraeo takes advantage of Spudnik Press' open print night on Jan. 27. Spudnik Press is currently raising funds to move to a larger space.

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"A" To Zepeda

Social networking: Cupid or killer?

by Benita Zepeda
Managing Editor

AS EACH day goes by, it seems there are more ways to communicate, and technological advancements have reshaped the way humans function with one another. Whether it's in a romantic, friendly or business relationship, many people are losing touch with real life.

The Internet has even changed the way people date. Instead of meeting someone at a bar, coffee shop, book store or supermarket, people use online dating sites to meet their significant others. Websites such as Match.com claim "every year, hundreds of thousands of people find love."

OK, this is great, people have a new way to screen and meet a potential companion, but what about all the strain social networking adds to a romantic relationship? And as technology advances, these types of websites are available at any time with mobile devices.

Because of websites such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter, how many times do people tell stories about their significant other flirting with someone on Facebook? And forget about calling your relationship a real thing unless your status is "Facebook official."

Technology, while making it more accessible to meet someone and communicate at all times, makes it even more complex for relationships with traditional values to exist. For people to function and have healthy relationships in a society where interests move faster than the rate one can change a profile picture, perhaps relationships need to evolve as fast as our mediums of communication.

It's not impossible to maintain a healthy relationship, but these new ways of networking create more temptation and more ways to connect with someone your significant other might not like. For instance, what if your boyfriend chats up the pretty blonde he used to date or your girlfriend has a plethora of men messaging her every day? This is a medium controlled completely by you, unless you happen to give your password out. Therefore, you can message, get to know, make plans with, look at pictures of or create an emotional relationship with whomever you like with a click of a button.

When you're in a relationship, flirting with someone else is easy online but it is even easier to get caught. Sometimes it's harmless, but other times it can cross the line.

Lately, it seems like almost every fight or breakup is battled in the public eye via Facebook, revolving around something happening on a social networking website. Comments such as: "My girlfriend is talking to her ex-fiance," or "She's just some girl I knew from high school" are the catalysts to some blow-out fights.

But we can't blame these sites for ruining relationships. After all, people start them online. What we should look at is how we function as a culture. Should we continue to expect to have the same types of romantic relationships our parents and grandparents had? Probably not.

We should prepare ourselves by knowing the world is different and maybe stop heavily relying on social networking communication. And, as we socially interact differently, we need to change our relationship expectations because communication is the key for both.

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From athlete to action star

Actor uses physical training to enhance rising film career

by Rick Bently
MCT Newswire

ALTHOUGH JASON Statham was a world-class diver, he was ready to change careers when Guy Ritchie offered him an acting job in "Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels."

"What I was doing wasn't paying the bills," Statham said. "This career might have ended quickly. Who knew how many films I was going to do? But I knew it was a chance to do something else."

So far, the career has lasted 24 films with the 25th, "The Mechanic," in theaters now.

Statham plays a hit man who becomes the target of assassins, a role originated by Charles Bronson in 1972. The remake also stars Ben Foster and Donald Sutherland.

Those years as an athlete weren't wasted, as Statham sees a lot of similarities between his careers. Both require a large amount of preparation, concentration and sacrifice to reach success.

His physical background also comes in handy with all the stunt work he does. In "The Mechanic," Statham takes a high dive off a bridge, fights killers and even does a free fall down the side of a building.

"Coming down the side of the building was particularly fun because I go to do it with Ben Foster, a man who's pretty fearful of heights," Statham said. "Those kind of situations are full of adrenaline and very exciting to execute," "You always question if they're safe. There's no guarantee something can't go wrong. But, there's always a thrill to it."

The 38-year-old London native credits the stuntmen who help him train to perform so many of his own stunts. Much of the training is a mix of martial arts styles.

He has no specific workout regiment, but he knows when it's time to work and time to play.

There's almost a sadness to his voice when he talks about how staying in shape means he can't go to bars the night before big action scenes. The last thing he wants on those days is a hangover.

"If I get an opportunity to work across from someone like Ben Foster or Donald Sutherland, it just raises the game for sure," Statham said. "You just have an immediate confidence. There's nothing like it. You know you can't screw it up because they are so good."

His focus is making what he does—whether a stunt or delivery of dialogue—as authentic as possible.

The added challenge with "The Mechanic" was taking on a role that had been played by an action-film legend. Statham knows comparisons will be made.

"But, this is many, many years later and we are not trying to do the same thing," Statham said. "We are trying to do something that has a little bit of a modern spin on something that was done way back when."

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FILM REVIEW

‘Uncle Kent’ a less-than-stellar effort

Would-be raunchy sex comedy adds midlife crisis, premieres at Sundance

by Drew Hunt
Film Critic

‘Uncle Kent’
Starring: Kent Osborne
Director: Joe Swanberg
Run Time: 73 minutes

Rating:

Now playing at local theaters.

IMDB PRO

Jennifer Prediger (left) and Kent Osborne (right) star in “Uncle Kent,” a film directed by Joe Swanberg.

AS A mumblecore mainstay and micro-budget aficionado, Joe Swanberg is the kind of filmmaker seemingly tailor-made for iGeneration sensibilities. His filmography to date catalogs wayward 20-somethings via consumer-grade aesthetics.

Though outwardly unassuming, this method doesn’t always yield accessibility. Swanberg’s films suggest a fierce indifference toward theme and characterization, which in some instances feels refreshing but is quite often nothing more than lazy.

Such is the case with his latest film “Uncle Kent.” The titular character—played by Kent Osborne—is a 40-year-old unmarried animator living alone in Los Angeles. His closest companions appear to be his cat and his bong, and during the course of a week, we see his flailing attempt at connecting with a possibly bisexual woman named Kate—played by Jennifer Prediger—whom he met on Chatroulette and develops a pseudo-relationship with.

Arrested development aptly describes Kent’s current station in life: He claims to have no qualms with his perpetually adolescent existence, apparently preferring it to being tied down with a wife and family. But as the film progresses, we learn this isn’t exactly the case.

In the film, Swanberg proves to be dexterous in creating small moments of brilliance within scenes that seem to be about nothing whatsoever. The week Kent and Kate spend together unfolds much like it probably would in real life, with bright moments of humor nestled between stretches of boredom. But rather than using realism as an aesthetic mode, Swanberg seems to use it as a crutch to avoid responsibility on his characters’ behalf. Minimalism is one thing—complete indifference is another thing entirely. The characters in this film are merely there, and Swanberg simply asks us to accept it.

Throughout “Uncle Kent” are scenes that seem to act merely as placeholders for the moments Swanberg is more interested in portraying—such as an awkwardly hilarious sex scene that takes place after Kent and Kate respond to a Craigslist ad seeking a couple to share in a threesome. Up to that point, the pair had partaken in a series of awkwardly frank conversations about sex in which Kent’s floundering vulnerabilities were brought to the surface. When the two finally get together with their Craigslist hookup, his irresoluteness becomes cringe-worthy.

The Internet plays an interesting role in the film. In the past year, social networking has been addressed in films of varying seriousness and success. In “Uncle Kent,” the Web is the starting point of sexual expeditions and also the source of disillusion and longing. Kate’s departing words to Kent are simply, “Well ... write on my wall.” And toward the end of the film, Kent watches a YouTube clip of himself playing with his gleeful, toddler-aged nephew as his family watches and laughs along. The title of the video reads, “We love Uncle Kent!” In each instance, Kent is met with either cold indifference or feelings of unfulfilled potential.

It is in these small, simple moments that Swanberg elicits the kind of true-to-life moments he seeks. They exist freely on screen, bringing his thematic musings to life in ways that exemplify his position as a most idiosyncratic filmmaker. The other attempts, however, fall flat. The idle complacency of the majority of “Uncle Kent” makes for an end result that renders these moments as somewhat unaffecting. It has languid tone, meant to evoke authenticity, but instead leads to the kind of meandering all directors should attempt to avoid.

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Director phones in new movie

South Korean filmmaker uses different technology, opens new possibilities

by John M. Glionna
MCT Newswire

MCT Newswire

New technology on iPhones allows filmmakers like Park Chan-Wook to experiment.

PARK CHAN-WOOK likes the way blood looks through the camera lens of his iPhone—that rich texture and shock-effect red.

But Park's no techno-savvy killer. He's an award-winning South Korean filmmaker whose graphic horror-and-humor style has been likened to Quentin Tarantino's. His latest project is remarkable for its gore and camerawork that could prove a populist breakthrough in the highfalutin art of filmmaking.

Park's 30-minute fantasy film, "Paranmanjang" ("Night Fishing"), which had its theatrical premiere in Seoul on Jan. 27, was shot entirely with the latest version of Apple Inc.'s iconic smartphone, the iPhone 4.

For years, new technology such as digital cameras and off-the-shelf editing software has been turning filmmaking into a cheaper and easier venture. But few high-profile commercial directors have embraced mass-market hardware, gravitating instead toward bells and whistles like 3-D and other costly special effects.

But Park rolled the everyman's dice. And he liked what he saw.

With the stodgy traditional cameras that often block a director from the actors replaced by the palm-sized mobile phone, Park said his eyes were opened to new possibilities in moviemaking.

"Everything seemed more alive, more real," he said. "There was a certain coarseness, like making a documentary."

With his goatee and slicked-back Michael Douglas-like mane of black hair, Park, 47, has a reputation for risk-taking in celluloid style and substance. His films employ lush cinematography to portray such disturbing images as petrified children, dentistry by hammer and underwater surgery on an Achilles tendon.

Among his nation's most acclaimed filmmakers, Park first achieved fame in 2000 with "Joint Security Area," telling the tale of the Korean peninsula divided by war. Four years later, he won the Grand Prix at the Cannes Film Festival for "Old Boy," the second installment of his so-called revenge trilogy and now a Korean cult classic. In 2009, his movie "Thirst" won the Jury Prize at Cannes.

Always on the hunt for new challenges, Park found a big one in the iPhone. The idea arose last fall as he and his brother (and fellow director) Park Chan-Kyong were set to begin filming a fantasy about a middle-aged fisherman who one day hauls a woman out of the water's depths.

That's when South Korea's exclusive iPhone distributor offered to finance the $130,000 project if the pair agreed to use the device to make a theater-quality film.

Park's initial plan was straightforward: He would use an average iPhone for the job but add a series of more sophisticated lenses for the scope and close-ups he sought.

"I wanted to use it just like I would any other camera," he said.

But the five days of on-location shooting brought instant surprises. First off, the tiny smartphone looked oddly out of place attached to the huge dolly used to maneuver traditional cameras.

The device also introduced a new sense of freedom.

"The actors said using something almost invisible meant they didn't feel overwhelmed like they would by a regular camera," Park said. "And for once, they said they could actually see the director."

The iPhone also influenced camera angles. Park, usually meticulous with a normal single camera, was more freewheeling, employing as many as eight iPhones at once.

"We encouraged others to use their iPhones during a shoot, people like the associate director, producer and the actors' manager," Park said.

In the end, they had hours of extra footage. They compiled that, and some impromptu shots were used in the final version.

Although his project used professional cameramen who were able to add sophisticated lenses to the iPhone, Park quickly came to what he considers a profound realization: With this device, anyone can make a professional quality movie.

"People are familiar with the iPhone," he said. "Many are obsessed with it. This is another way to use it."

He hopes the smartphone will encourage the general public to play filmmaker.

"Find a location, you don't even need sophisticated lighting—just go out and make movies," Park said. "These days, if you can afford to feed yourself, you can afford to make a film."

Through such Internet sites as YouTube, the results can be promoted by word of mouth.

"The time is gone when you can only see films in theaters," Park said. "It's absolutely passed."

Park is looking for an international distributor for "Paranmanjang," which has already received positive reviews locally. He may use the device again for certain scenes or an entire low-budget project.

"But the technology changes so fast," he said. "Who knows what's going to be available next year?"

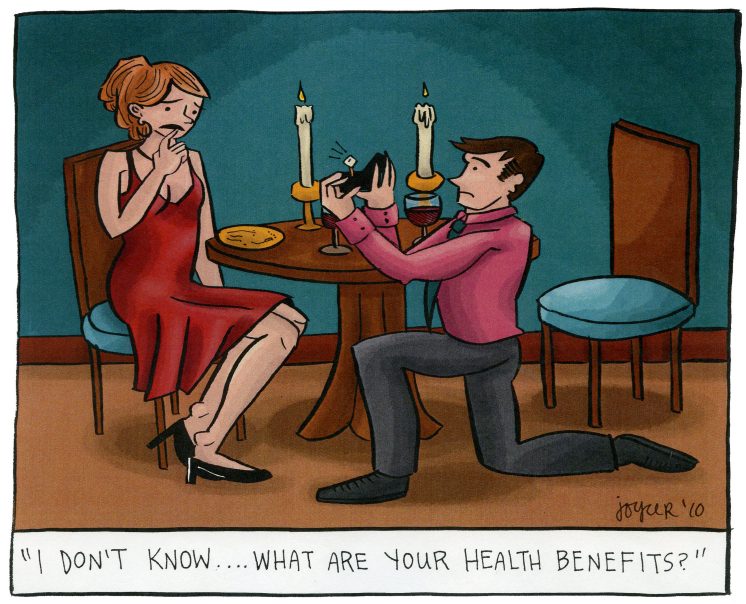
chronicle@colum.edu

The School of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Announces

The 2011 Paula F. Pfeffer

POLITICAL CARTOON CONTEST

create... change



Above: last year's winning entry by Joyce Rice in the single panel category.
Hers was among seven other winners.

1st Prize: $550

2nd Prize: $450

3rd Prize: $350

Honorable Mention: $250

The eight winning cartoons will be selected by a jury, which will include faculty from various departments. Winners will be displayed on a trophy, and honored at a reception on Tuesday, April 12th, in the CCC Library.

Submitted cartoons must be drawn or printed on 8.5x11 white paper. Please include your full name, address, phone number, student ID number, and email address on the back of the entry.

DEADLINE: MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2011

SEND YOUR SUBMISSIONS:
Political Cartoon Contest
C/O OSCAR VALDEZ
Department of Humanities, History, and Social Sciences
624 S. Michigan Ave.
10th floor, Suite 1000

Sponsored by the Department of Humanities, History and Social Sciences, in collaboration with the *Columbia Chronicle* and the Departments of Journalism, Art + Design, and Film & Video

FARE

INNOVATIVE GAME SHOW QUIZZES THE WINDY CITY

STORY BY MINA BLOOM
DESIGN BY JONATHAN ALLEN

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GAME

UMBER of cars zip past one another before a yellow cab eches to a halt next to the young lady who hailed it e seconds earlier on a Chicago street corner. Looking forward lorning coffee and dreading a long workday, she climbs in the exhausted, shoes untied and hair mussed.

as she plants herself on the seat and mouth to give the driver her destina- game show music erupts and bright k, illuminating a newer than average cab blonde-haired, blue-eyed cab driver turns l exclaims, "You're on Cash Cab!" Bewil- woman refuses to believe she unknow- d a mobile game show.

ntestants would be like, 'Shut up!' And this is really the Cash Cab,' and they'd you're lying,' over and over again," said sh Cab Chicago" Beth Melewski.

ns out, the taxi trivia TV show has caused ople on the go to forfeit their morning NYC as the Discovery Channel's hugely me show "Cash Cab" was filmed in New x seasons. It went on to win six Emmys, ows like "Jeopardy." But in early Decem- go became the new destination for the ot, shiny yellow cab with a host whose ation is to reward everyday people with correct trivia answers. The former host of rsion, comedian Ben Bailey, was replaced nd City e.t.c. writer and cast member Times Square with the Magnificent hick New York accents with Midwestern ns. Now production has wrapped and the e to debut on Feb. 14.

he executive producers and director

t's really the only game show where any unsus- pecting person can end up winning money on a game show."

-TOM COHEN

Cab Chicago," Tom Cohen, openly and ically attests to the fact that Chicagoans

are smart in Chicago, which is crucial ow because it's not easy," Cohen said. ally judge people on how you think ing to do, but I'm constantly surprised ll people do."

's first season, with more than 50,000 in its database left over from the past s, was a success because of Chicago's and vibrant cab culture, according

smiss the amount of backlash the show ed in regards to whether those smart s were indeed randomly selected on the ld be doing its fans a disservice.

r, those who have worked on the show do claim the element of surprise is completely genuine.

"We love to talk about 'Cash Cab' as the only TV show on television that has such a large pool of contestants," said Cohen, who has worked on over 400 TV shows and specifically on "Cash Cab" since its creation in 2005. "Pretty much anybody walking around the streets of New York or Chicago is eligible to play and might end up on the air. It's really the only game show where any unsuspecting person can end up winning money on a game show."

But when Time Out Chicago editor Jake Malooley spotted the Cash Cab in Wicker Park on Dec. 3, he asked to play, was quickly denied and told to keep a look out for the cab around town. Discouraged, Malooley blogged about what happened and implied that there must be some sort of audition process.

In response to Malooley's incident, Cohen said, "You can't just walk up and get in. It defeats the purpose of the surprise. We try to drive around the city and pick people up. A large part of the show is that element of surprise so to be able to play you have to hail the cab. It also opens up a whole thing where people might try to find where we've just dropped people off and get in. It doesn't have the same magic moment."

Melewski said people frequently recognized the cab and begged to participate. They were denied, however, because --agreeing with Cohen--there was no element of surprise, she said.

"A lot of people know about the show already so it was a really good position to be in because if they got in the cab they were really excited," Melewski said.

Her custom ride meets all the specifications of an ordinary yellow cab but has camera decks and lights. It's been spotted in areas with high cab densities, such as the Loop, Lincoln Park and River North. Melewski, who just learned she will return to Second City e.t.c. to work on "The Absolute Best Friggin' Time of Your Life" show, said earning her cab driving license to become the host was the hardest thing she's ever had to do.

"That's always one of the things the contestants ask: 'Are you a real cabbie?'" Melewski said. "It was definitely harder than any ACT or SAT or anything I had to do for college."

But the fact that she didn't receive any special treatment speaks to the realness of the show, Melewski added.

Kevin McCaffrey, writer for "Cash Cab Chicago" and "The Late Show with David Letterman," "The Smoking Gun Presents" and "Silent Library," to name a few, points to anecdotal evidence in regards to whether the show is staged.

"As writers, we're not privy to a whole lot of stuff besides writing the questions and then going away," McCaffrey joked. "But I at least overheard production people talking about how it was a slower day driving around Chicago. Like, people weren't looking for cabs. So I don't know why people would be talking about that otherwise."

McCaffrey said his job as a writer wasn't easy because the show has been around for six years.

"Basically you're responsible for writing 20 new questions a day," McCaffrey said. "The show's been around for a while—enough that when I got there there were 50,000 questions in the database. You'll just think of [a] seemingly specific [question] and then you'll look it up [in the database] and eight people will have written about it in 2006 or something like that."

Unable to share the most obscure question he's written because of a contractual agreement with the network, McCaffrey said if he or one of his

"A lot of people know about the show already so it was a really good position to be in because if they got in the cab they were really excited."

- BETH MELEWSKI

four fellow writers got at least two questions out of 20 approved, it was considered a productive day. An example of a question is as follows: In Cajun cuisine, what crustaceans are playfully referred to as "mudbugs?" A) Crawfish B) Crabs C) Shrimp D) Lobster.

In order to write trivia for "Cash Cab," McCaffrey said he forces himself to be more curious.

"Usually if you're walking around and you're asking yourself, 'Oh why is that that way? Or why is that like this?,' instead of being like, 'I don't care. I'll just go home and play video games,' I'd be like, 'OK, well let's find out why that is,'" McCaffrey said. "And why things are the way they are is a big part of the mission statement of what Discovery [Channel] is."

McCaffrey also admits anyone can find an obscure fact and write a really difficult question, but writing a question people might know that's still original and interesting in some way, or "an easy question" as he puts it, is exceedingly difficult.

"I've had to catch myself in bar situations trying not to sound like a cartoon science teacher: like, 'Little did you know,'" McCaffrey said in a goofy, pseudo-intellectual voice.

"Cash Cab Chicago" will premiere on Feb. 14 at 6:30 p.m. on the Discovery Channel.

hbloom@chroniclemail.com

BOOK REVIEW

Calls for revolution fall limp

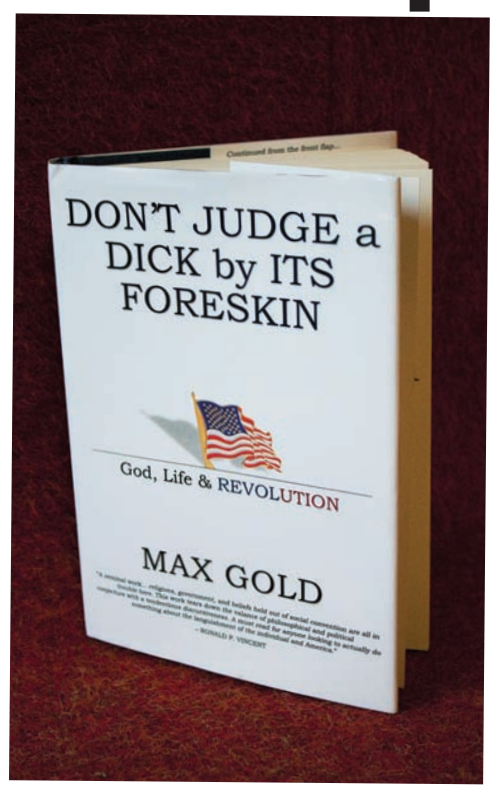
'Don't Judge a Dick' as offensive as title suggests but fails to inspire

by Matt Watson
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

'Don't Judge a Dick by Its Foreskin'
Author: Max Gold
Pages: 208

Rating:

Now at local bookstores.



Tiela Halpin THE CHRONICLE

WHAT DO you get when you combine the political views of Glenn Beck, the offensive tone of Lewis Black and a stoned teenager? The answer: Max Gold's first foray into detailing his strong opinions on all matters of the world.

Everyone knows religion and politics are two subjects to never bring up at family gatherings and friendly outings. Gold's book boldly goes there on both accounts and in a "What are you going to do about it?" manner.

> "If we knew that aliens existed and were watching us closely, we would probably get our s*** together and evolve faster in every area of our existence."
>
> -Max Gold

Judging this book by its cover and title is OK. It's shocking, entertaining and gets the reader's attention but shouldn't be taken too seriously.

"Don't Judge a Dick by Its Foreskin" is divided into two acts: the first consisting of social issues and the second about government. The book is broken down into one to three page chapters, or "talking points," that consist of the author's opinion on a given subject.

The first act is an easy read. Gold's writing style about society and its many shortcomings is comical and frank.

He makes some interesting points and raises valid questions but often comes off sounding like a college student trying to be philosophical after taking his second bong hit.

"The fact is that the behavior of something changes once it realizes it is being observed," Gold said of aliens watching earth. "People act differently when kids, cops, friends, family—you name it—are around. If we knew that aliens existed and were watching us closely, we would probably get our s*** together and evolve faster in every area of our existence."

Gold takes the discussion to the next level on issues such as Jesus, the differences between men and women and mental illness. He doesn't offer apologies. In a politically correct society where many people constantly censor themselves, it's refreshing to hear someone who doesn't worry about what other people think. This is the book's best quality, and such an open-minded discussion could be used more in our society. His voice deserves respect for its honesty.

After the humorous Act I, the second part completely U- turns and loses its lighthearted feel. This section is basically a manifesto: a call to action for a (most likely) peaceful revolution against our government.

The libertarian in Gold is revealed here, hidden earlier under the joking guise of a nonconformist. Much like Beck, Gold uses a holier-than-thou tone when reciting the Constitution, listing the government's grievances against its citizens and misinterpreting information. It isn't that the information is flat out wrong but complicated issues are grossly oversimplified.

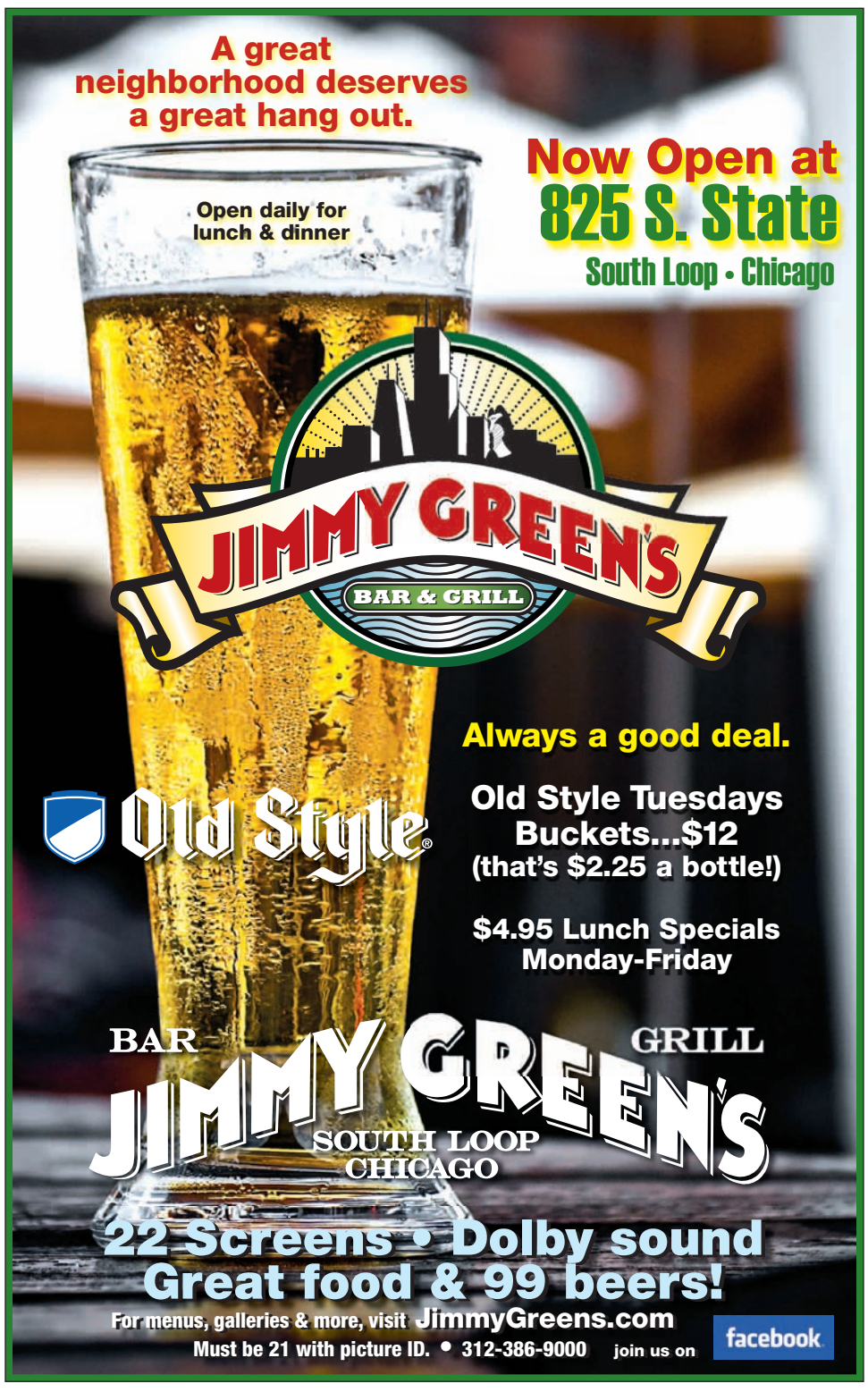
For example, Gold states, "How can genocide occur if the ethnic minorities targeted for slaughter owned guns?" A convincing statement, until you actually think about it. Would the Jews in 1930s Germany have been saved if they had opened fire on Gestapo guards sent to evict them from their homes?

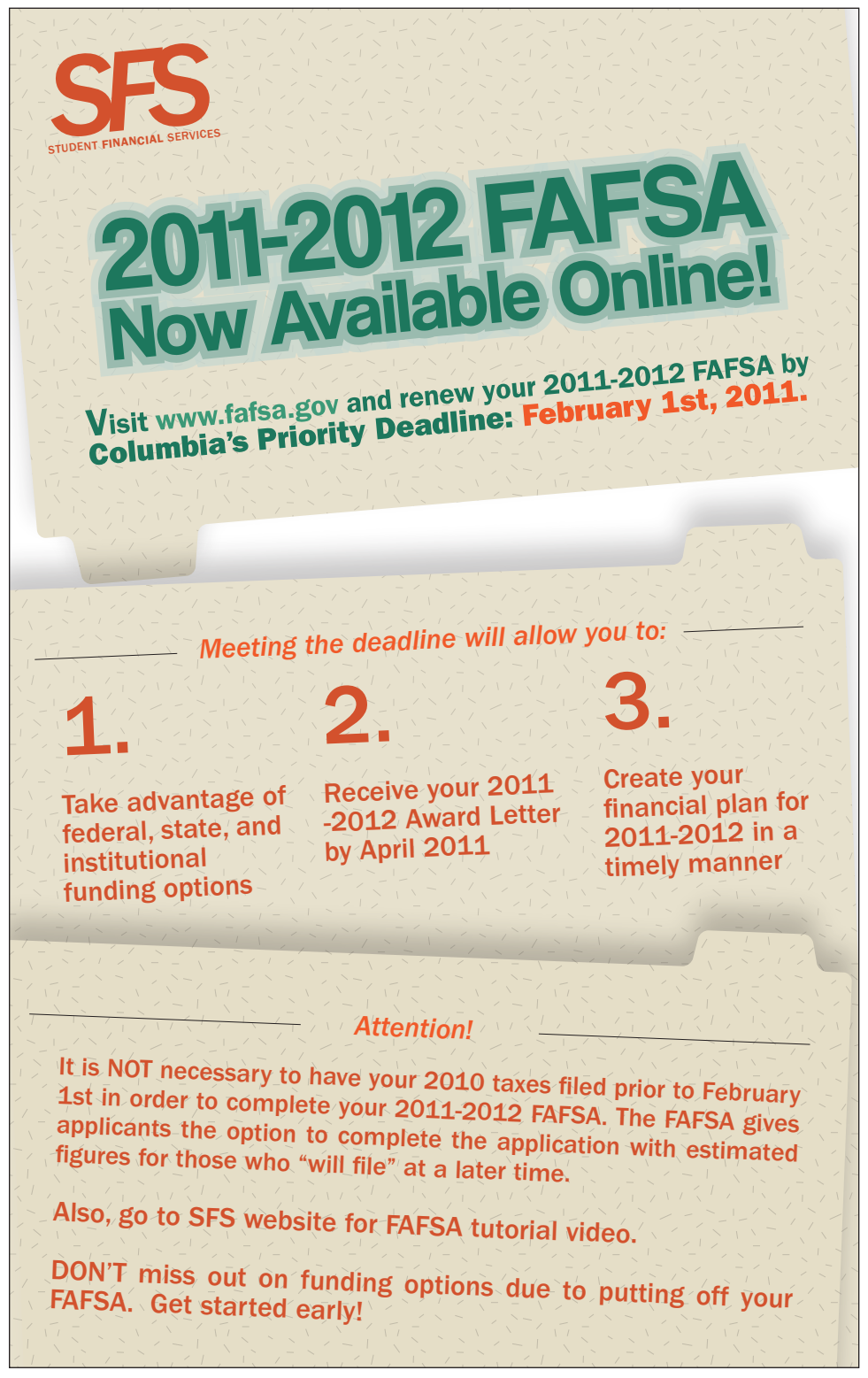
In the first section, much of what Gold covers in his rant makes sense. The scope of the situation is blatantly overstated though. The cocky, in-your-face style he writes in should automatically make any reader wary of blindly believing his over-the-top views. It's like getting beaten to death with an American flag.

Gold has it easy speaking from the outside—literally. He was born in Canada and has dual citizenship, so if he doesn't like it here he can always go back. His book reads like any Tea Party campaign speech, but offers nothing new to the discussion.

If you're easily offended and can't handle harsh language, steer clear of this book. For those with some fortitude though, "Don't Judge a Dick" provides some very entertaining word-vomit. It's nothing that hasn't been said already, but nowadays what is?

mwatson@chroniclemail.com





STAFF PLAYLIST

JACKSON THOMAS, COPY CHIEF

BRUNO MARS // GRENADE
NICKI MINAJ // RIGHT THRU ME
RIHANNA FEAT. DRAKE // WHAT'S MY NAME?
RIHANNA // S&M

AMBER MEADE, COPY EDITOR

BILL WITHERS // USE ME
DJ DANGER MOUSE // WHAT MORE CAN I SAY?
SAM COOKE // I WISH YOU LOVE
THE CLASH // JIMMY JAZZ

SHARDAE SMITH, ASSISTANT CAMPUS EDITOR

WIZ KHALIFA // UP
CHRIS BROWN FT. BUSTA RHYMES & LIL WAYNE // LOOK AT ME NOW
DIRTY MONEY FT. WIZ KHALIFA // I KNOW
WIZ KHALIFA // PAPER PLANES

BRIANNA WELLEN, ASSISTANT ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

BELLE & SEBASTIAN // STAY LOOSE
THE KINKS // LOLA
PIXIES // LA LA LOVE YOU
DAVID BOWIE // YOUNG AMERICANS

music downloads

Week ending Jan. 25, 2011

#1 Album

The King Is Dead
The Decemberists

Top tracks

( ) Last week's ranking in top five

United States

Grenade • Bruno Mars	(2)	1
Hey Baby • Pitbull		2
Firework • Kate Perry	(3)	3
Coming Home • Diddy - Dirty Money		4
Hold It Against Me • Britney Spears	(1)	5

21
Adele

United Kingdom

We R Who We R • Ke$ha		1
Grenade • Bruno Mars	(1)	2
Rolling In the Deep • Adele	(2)	3
Coming Home • Diddy - Dirty Money		4
Blind Faith • Chase & Status		5

The 100 Most Essential Pieces of Classical Music

Spain

The Time • Black Eyed Peas	(2)	1
Barbra Streisand • Duck Sauce	(4)	2
Only Girl (In the World) • Rihanna	(3)	3
Who's That Chick? • David Guetta & Rihanna		4
Loca • Shakira	(5)	5

Source: iTunes

© 2011 MCT

CHICAGO AUDIOFILE

Courtesy THE CATHY SANTONIES

From left: Radio Santoni (bass, lead vocals), Mojo Santoni (guitar), Chip (drums) and Jane Danger (guitar) have performed together as The Cathy Santonies for the past six months.

Santonies take own direction

by Brianna Wellen
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

PUNK ROCK female band The Cathy Santonies have worked to prove they can play as well as the men—if not better—by bringing the riot grrrl sounds of underground culture to the forefront. Radio Santoni, on bass and lead vocals, and guitarist Mojo Santoni started as garage band singer/songwriters and hit their stride in the past year and a half when guitarist Jane Danger and drummer Chip completed their outfit.

After playing shows around Chicago, the group took a three-month hiatus from the live circuit to write and record their first full-length album. The Chronicle caught up with the band to talk about their musical themes, being females in the industry and playing with Weezer frontman Rivers Cuomo.

The Chronicle: Where did the name The Cathy Santonies come from?

Mojo Santoni: She was a character on "Full House;" she was D.J.'s nemesis. She was a pretty small character they just talk about. You never really see her. They're just always like, "Cathy Santoni's having a party, and you're not invited," "Cathy Santoni's got boobs" or something like that. She was kind of an a-hole, but we're not a-holes.

The Chronicle: What has working on your first full-length album been like?

Jane Danger: It's been really great. For a while there, we were in a dry spell with our songwriting. We didn't have a lot of new songs going on. Having jobs and playing live shows doesn't lend a lot of time for creation. We had ideas, but we didn't have the time to get together and actively work on them. We took the last three months off from playing shows this winter and hunkered down in our secretive lair. We've been working on more and more new songs.

The Chronicle: What themes are across the album so far?

Radio Santoni: I think the record itself will be called "21st Century Girl." It's sort of about being true to yourself, finding out who you really are and everyone being honest with themselves.

JD: We want to be an encouraging band and think in those ways, kind of lead by example and give people, not faith or hope, but confidence they can work their direction like we're trying to do.

The Chronicle: Do you feel a responsibility to represent female musicians in Chicago?

RS: I kind of do because I know there are stereotypes that [females] can't play rock music or be loud. In the meantime, I don't want to constantly be worrying about it.

JD: There's always that bias not just in music but in general. Like, [women aren't] allowed to be a certain way or say certain things. I think in Chicago it's great to be able to voice that and have the freedom to do so, but there's always that opposition. It's not totally conscious in everything we do but it's unavoidable. We show up at a show and the sound guys will treat us in a different way or even at certain music retail stores they'll say, "Oh, are these guitar strings for your boyfriend?" They don't really treat you as a peer. It's kind of difficult, but you've got to ignore it because you want to do what you want to do.

The Chronicle: Do you think playing with Rivers Cuomo on "Sound Opinions" on NPR got your name out there?

MS: I actually thought [we] would get more of a response than we did. It was a lot of fun. Rivers Cuomo was super nice. We definitely made a lot of Weezer songs our own. We worked really hard on it, and it turned out really well. But the response really wasn't as big as I thought it would be.

JD: It would've been great to have people say, "Oh wow, look at these superstars!" But Rivers ... treated us nicely. It was great to have that opportunity, but it wasn't like now we're super famous.

MS: The biggest effect I saw from that was we really learned how to play together a little better. We spent all of our free time working on those songs. It really helped us out as musicians and as songwriters to figure out somebody else's songs.

The Cathy Santonies will play at the Whistler, 2421 N. Milwaukee Ave., on Feb. 17 at 9:30 p.m. For updates on the album release, visit CathySantonies.com. To hear a sample of the band's music, visit ColumbiaChronicle.com.

bwellen@chroniclemail.com

Photos by **Brock Brake**
Layout by **Edward Kang**

LUCHA MANIA

Loud techno music jolts the crowd to life as luchadors appear, wearing bright colored spandex and capes. They climb the ropes into the ring, ready to begin the typical hero versus villain performance.

Luchamania takes over Logan Square's Congress Theater, 2135 N. Milwaukee Ave., every couple of months to perform this dramatic Spanish-speaking wrestling saga.

Everyone knows the fighting is fake, but they come for the entertainment. It's the special effects, drama and, most importantly, the humor that draws crowds.

Workshops put artists at home

Gallery teaches skills, helps students network for post-graduation

by Matt Watson
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

Courtesy ANDI CRIST

Maura Walsh led the bookmaking class on Jan. 22, the first in a series of seven workshops.

SMOKE FROM half-a-dozen cigarettes gathers in the air, giving Autotelic Gallery, 2959 N. Springfield Ave., the hazy feel of an old tavern. A group of artists and novices huddle around Maura Walsh, the workshop's instructor, listen intently as she explains how to thread strings through the spines of books.

This was the scene on Jan. 22 when bookmaking kicked off a series of seven workshops at Autotelic that will cover different art forms, ranging from knitting to physical comedy. Andi Crist, 22, who co-owns Autotelic with her friend Evan Carrison, 28, said the goal of these workshops is to continue networking after college.

"Once everyone graduates, we're going to lose those networking opportunities, and I want to keep that fresh," Crist said. "So I think that will be a really strong base behind this place."

Crist and Carrison started Autotelic in fall 2010. Their first big event was an exhibition in November 2010. The gallery has also hosted a clothing swap and exhibits local artwork during the day.

Walsh, 24, said the workshop idea came from her friends asking her how to make books.

"Everyone wanted to learn, and we went from there," she said. "People volunteered to teach other forms of art, and it turned into this project."

The gallery's mission is to be a place where artists can come together in a casual and professional environment to share art and learn from one other, Crist said.

"We want to keep the learning experience going, where people are comfortable enough to come out and hang out with other artists and musicians [who] are also working in the field," Crist said. "It's a spring board for jumping into the professional art world."

Nick Ernst, Columbia fine arts major who will teach a two-part printmaking workshop on Feb. 27 and March 6, said networking is the key to being a successful artist.

"Networking is pretty much everything when it comes to art," Ernst said. "If you can't network, you can't get your art out into the public for others to see."

The event started with Walsh demonstrating how to cut and fold paper, line up the pages and cut holes in the center for binding. Walsh finished by showing how to wax the string and properly weave it through the holes to hold the book together. The last step, putting together the front and back covers, gave everyone a chance to be creative. Anything from old maps to magazine pages were cut to create the covers.

Not everyone who attends a workshops is an artist. Dave Russo, 23, a financial analyst for Bank of America, heard about the project from a friend.

"I like to joke around that it was probably the hardest thing I've ever done in my entire life," Russo said about creating his book. "But to be honest, the directions were really stated well. Even for a layman—just as myself—it worked out pretty successfully."

A guest artist will teach each workshop on his or her specialty. The next six will be held on alternating Sundays until April 23, culminating in an exhibition Autotelic calls the "Happy Springtime Funshow." This will give everyone who participated in the workshops the opportunity to showcase, sell or donate his or her work to the gallery.

Starting a new gallery from scratch had its obstacles, and Crist said it is another area where networking helps.

"My friend Jim, who I used to play in a band with, is also a Web designer" she said. "He gave us a huge discount on setting up a website."

Autotelic also has a kickstarter.com profile, which is an online donation site for creative projects.

Many of the teachers involved with Autotelic met at Columbia, and Crist said the gallery will be a great way to keep in touch after graduation.

"I want to know all these people when they get crazy famous, and I want them to know me, too," Crist said. "I just love all the people getting to come in here. It sounds cheesy, but I really like learning from them. I want to reap the benefits from knowing these talented people."

mwatson@chroniclemail.com

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THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

*No purchase necessary. Void where prohibited or restricted by law. Limit one admit-two pass per person. Employees of the Columbia Chronicle, Columbia Pictures and their immediate families are not eligible to win. Please refer to screening passes for any other restrictions. This film has been rated PG-13 for frequent crude and sexual content, partial nudity, brief drug references and language.

IN THEATERS FEBRUARY 11

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THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

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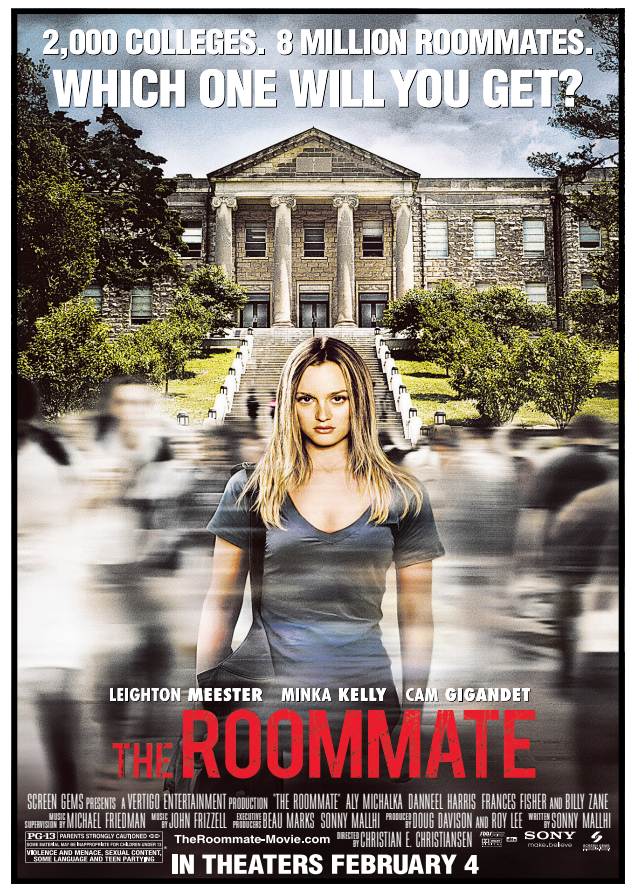

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IN THEATERS FEBRUARY 4

Courtesy MCT Newswire

Actor Jim Broadbent frequently works with Mike Leigh and his improvised scripts as he did in "Another Year."

'Another Year,' another improvised Leigh script

Director's creative style keeps his standby actors on their toes

by Moira Macdonald
MCT Newswire

MOST MOVIE characters begin on the page of a script—but not the one played by British actor Jim Broadbent in Mike Leigh's "Another Year." As with all Leigh's films, the characters are created through many months of improvisation, before a word is ever typed.

"It's a painstaking, meticulous process," Broadbent said in an interview at the Toronto International Film Festival in September 2010. He noted Leigh's methods have changed very little in the 30 years he has been working with the director, which began with the stage play "Goose Pimples." For a work based in historical fact, such as the 1999 Leigh film "Topsy-Turvy" (about the legendary musical team of Gilbert and Sullivan), "the process of finding the script was exactly the same as it always was."

In "Another Year," Broadbent plays a contented and happily married geologist named Jerry, living in contemporary London. The actor began by searching through memories of the many people he's met to create dozens of brief character sketches. These were presented to Leigh, who chose three that most interested him. Broadbent then began crafting a character who was "an amalgam of those three real people"—though ultimately, he said, the final character bore little resemblance to the three seed characters.

Working with Leigh, he built up a back story for Jerry: his family history, where he was brought up, where he went to school.

"When your character would meet other characters who are in the story, you start collaborating together and building up the shared back story," Broadbent explained. "Eventually, you bring that all up to the present day, and at a suitable time you start improvising with the other actors, parts of their lives, their shared lives, developing a shared history together. Eventually you get so you can all improvise together, and from those improvisations a very precise script is distilled."

Though the script does eventually get written down—"for the purposes of the technical department"—the actors never consult it.

And yet, by the time the cameras roll, there's no improvisation at all—by then, the script is set in stone. The entire process, Broadbent said, takes about six months—and while he thoroughly enjoys it, he admits afterward "it's very nice to go to something where there's a script!"

A ubiquitous character actor whose thoughtful portrayals pop up in multiple films every year, Broadbent began his career on the stage but decided "about 20 years ago" to focus his work on the screen, choosing projects that range from low-budget indies to British television films to vast studio blockbusters. At the time of our Toronto interview, he had one more day of shooting left on "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part II," in which he reprises his role as Professor Horace Slughorn, and he said it's a happy job to do.

"The kids are all great," he noted of the franchise's young stars Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson and Rupert Grint. "They're all very well-grounded and balanced and talented and serious ...The producers made sure to look after them very well."

Looking back on favorite roles, Broadbent singled out the writer John Bayley in "Iris," for which he won an Academy Award; "Moulin Rouge" and its "larger than life" characters; and the title role in the TV movie "Longford," directed by Tom Hooper (currently the toast of Hollywood for directing "The King's Speech"). He also mentioned a special fondness for W.S. Gilbert in "Topsy-Turvy." The Leigh process was tweaked only a bit for this film, set in the 1880s during the making of "The Mikado." The actors would know, while improvising, where the scene was supposed to end up, and were careful to make sure the dialogue and grammar of the period were as accurate as they could make it.

Next up for Broadbent is the role of Denis Thatcher, opposite Meryl Streep as the former prime minister of England, in "The Iron Lady." Beyond that, he's waiting for the next great script to catch his eye—or nonscript, in the case of Leigh's eventual next film.

"I choose quite carefully," he said of his projects. "A high proportion of the scripts that come my way are interesting. Maybe those are just the ones that reach me!"

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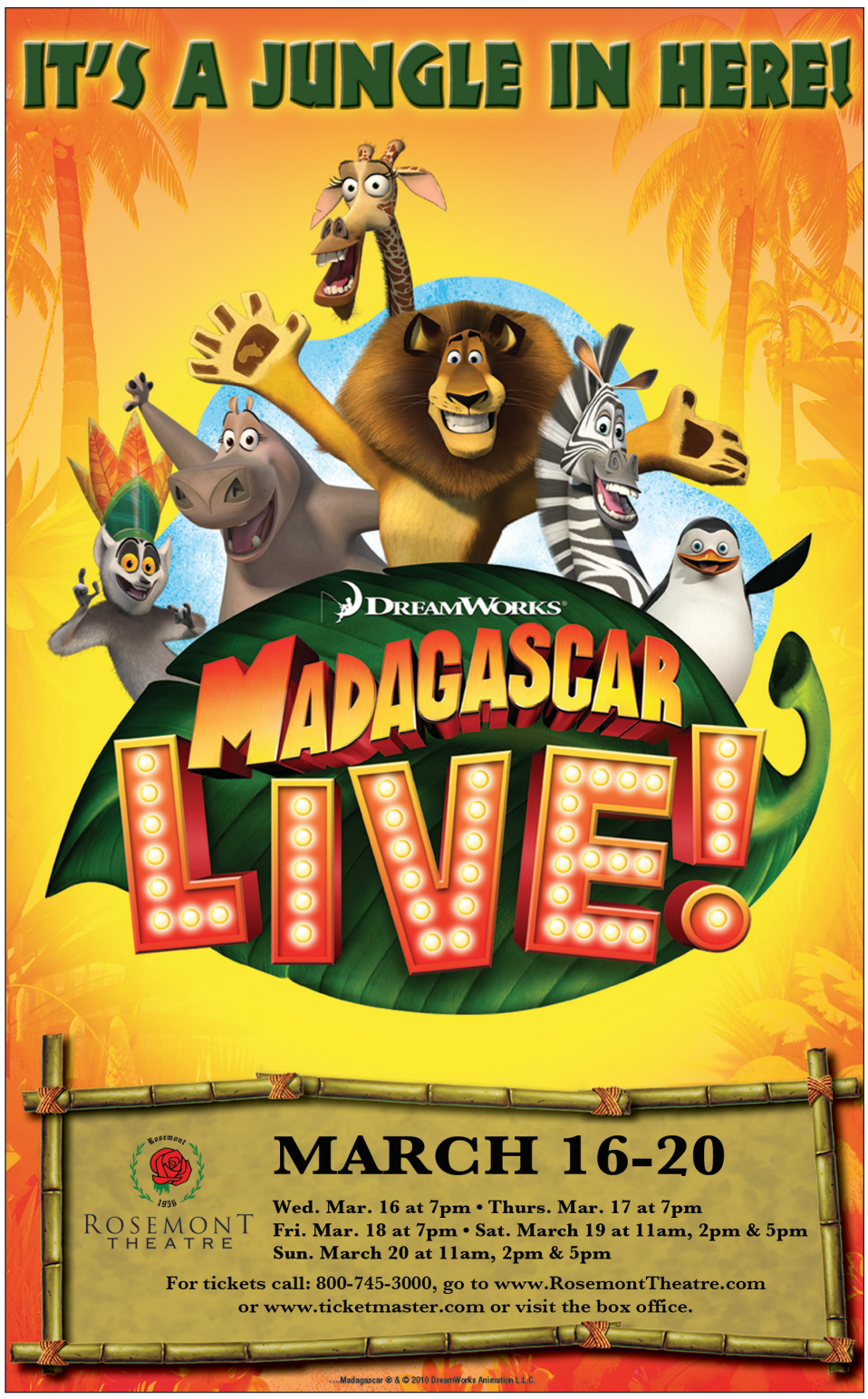


TOP 5

Mina Bloom /Arts & Culture Editor

Reasons why "The Bachelorette" is superior to "The Bachelor"

A lot of nerdy, socially awkward men: I'm very into a bunch of weird nerds in suits professing their undying love to a decently attractive woman they don't know.

Lack of emotionally needy women: Every time the current bachelor Brad talks to a girl, a different chick cries and talks about her insecurities. These women have too many feelings and it's annoying.

Brad is a robot: Am I the only one who literally finds everything he says insincere? Like, yes, of course it's "The Bachelor" and the show is built on the common misguided premise that love can be found randomly on reality TV, but come on, Brad! I want to hear some inflection in your voice when you say you care about someone. I want to see your eyes twinkle. Can't the producers shine some light in your eye or something? Why are you so damn unconvincing?

"I want to guard and protect your heart": One of the guys on last year's "The Bachelorette," or "Lette" as I like to call it, told Allie he wanted to guard and protect her heart over and over again. Needless to say he did not receive a rose that week, but who cares? I sure didn't.

Tattoos to prove devotion: Are you ladies even there for Brad? Or are you only interested in being on TV? I won't trust your intentions until you get a tattoo of a bow and arrow with Brad's name in it.

Brianna Wellen / Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

Best things James Franco has ever done

"General Hospital": Few movie stars, if any, would revert back to soap operas after generally hitting it big as James Franco did. Once I realized his character was an evil artist named Franco, I took it for what it was: a mockery of soaps that allowed me to see Franco every day at 1 p.m.

Dress in drag: With hair slicked back, pouty lips and blue eye shadow galore, Franco graced the cover of Candy magazine's fall 2010 issue. Since his role in "Milk," rumors of his sexuality have run rampant. With this cover, he proved rumors only encourage him.

His nomination for "Pineapple Express": In a surprising turn, the Hollywood Foreign Press deemed James's performance as Saul Silver one of the best in 2008. In my eyes, he was just playing some version of himself. During the ceremony, I could tell the smirk on his face said, "Fooled them again! They think I'm amazing!" And he is.

Have a perfect face: It's true. In a New York Times article from October 2008, his face ran through a machine that would scientifically alter features to make them as attractive as possible. His face went unscathed. It's just science: Franco's face is perfect.

"Three's Company": He was in an art installation at Sundance based on "Three's Company," in which he has recreated the famed living room and gallivants about handing out Suzanne Somers-style blonde wigs.

Matt Watson / Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

Reasons not to friend your mom on Facebook

The news feed: Most moms have about five Facebook friends, so you will be all who shows up on her news feed. I went away to school so my mom couldn't constantly monitor my business. Telling mom you can't talk on the phone because you're doing homework fails when she sees the pictures of you doing a keg stand.

Significant other: All moms want their son to meet the perfect woman. Dating was different back in the day though. In every picture you have your arm around a girl, she will assume this is your new "main squeeze" and ask you when you're bringing her home to meet the family.

Videos: These are great to post on friends' walls. It's not cool though, when your drunken roommate opens your laptop, sees you're logged in and posts a graphic video on your mom's wall as a "funny joke" (true story).

Statuses: College kids love to post statuses about their weekend, how drunk they got, etc. There's nothing worse than having your mom write on yours that you should be careful because alcoholism runs in the family for the whole world to see.

Etiquette: Moms are still learning how social media works. The difference between writing on a wall and sending a message is foreign to them. It's a little embarrassing when my mom posts on my wall telling me she bought me some more Gas-X.

tweets of the Week

@Kanyewest

NO ALCOHOL BEFORE TATTOOS

Jan. 26

@lenadunham

This cab driver told me eating breakfast is very unhealthy, as is drinking tea. "Your organs need only water." Then he smoked a cigarette.

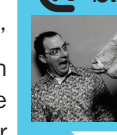
Jan. 24

@IamKellyFierce

Jeggings = hot. Pajama jeans = not. Did I really need to spell that out? MOM.

Jan. 27

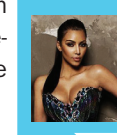
@bluthquotes



Buster, what are you doing with mother's rape horn?

Jan. 28

@Kimkardashian



Rise and grind! Gym time!!!

Jan. 27

Follow the Columbia Chronicle at Twitter.com/CCChronicle

check me out

Stefanie Melone, senior marketing communication major

"I care about how cold it's going to be."

Boots: Guess, $100; Bag: Van Maur, gift

Marcus Marquez, sophomore, arts entertainment media management major

"I try to stand out a little when I get dressed."

Shoes: E-space, $130; Coat: Zara, $220; Scarf, $18

HOT & COLD

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

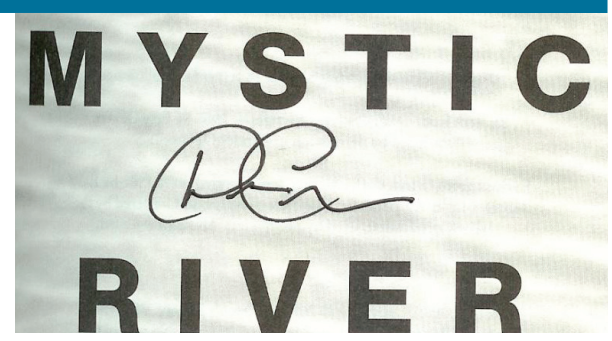
PRINT

SPORTS ILLUSTRATED "A REAL JIMMER DANDY"

In the Jan. 31 issue of Sports Illustrated, there's a story about Jimmer Fredette, the leading scorer in college basketball playing for the Brigham Young University Cougars in Utah. Just because BYU isn't in an elite conference like the Big Ten, Big East or Pac-10, doesn't mean the Cougars can't make a run to the Final Four this season. —*E.Modacure*

"G-SPOT" BY NOIRE

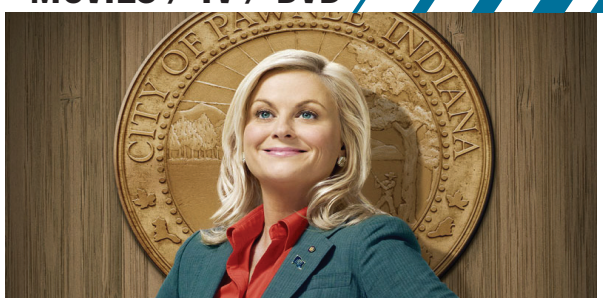
While getting back to my roots and indulging in urban-erotic tales during my free time, I stumbled across Noire's "G-Spot." It's a tale about a young lost girl who wants nothing but to protect her mentally ill brother and can only do so with the help from a man 30 years her senior. I could have done without some of the beatings and sodomy, but it was a good book with a wonderful ending. I even cried. —*S. Smith*



"MYSTIC RIVER" BY DENNIS LEHANE

Childhood friends Jimmy Marcus, Sean Devine and Dave Boyle are reunited after the murder of Jimmy's daughter. Sean—now a cop—is one of the lead detectives in the case. Dave is questioned, and Jimmy has reason to believe Dave is responsible for his daughter's death. I envy Dennis Lehane's ability to keep you on your toes, clenching your fists in frustration and crying like a big baby all at once.—*A. Meade*

MOVIES / TV / DVD



"PARKS AND RECREATION"

After a hiatus that seemed to drag on forever, Amy Poehler and Aziz Ansari are back in my life every week! While I was mad at the show for being gone for so long, it more than made it up to me with a hilarious return and the addition of Rob Lowe and Adam Scott to the already stellar cast. Two episodes in, I am back in love with Pawnee and can't wait to see what happens next!—*B. Wellen*

"SHAMELESS"

Adapted from the UK version, this TV show follows the Gallaghers, a dysfunctional Chicago family struggling to make ends meet. William H. Macy stars as the drunken single dad. I am in love with "Shameless." It doesn't overwhelm you with angst, has a wonderful amount of comedy and reminds you what true family is.—*A. Meade*

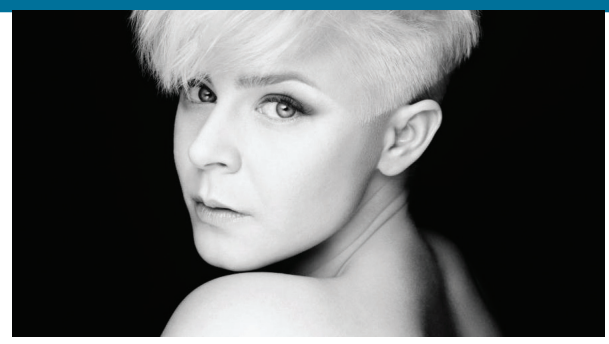
BRITISH "SKINS"

The British "Skins" has become a favorite television show of mine. The show has everything that couldn't be captured on American cable: sex, drugs, nonstop swearing and almost shocking accuracy in its portrayal of teen life. The characters are reckless and constantly falling into things far beyond their maturity level. It's a smart look into adolescent life and definitely worth a watch.—*A. Murphy*

MUSIC

'90S MUSIC

This one is a tough call. Some of my favorite songs and albums came out of this decade: "In the Aeroplane Over the Sea," "The Bends," among others. But for every great Neutral Milk Hotel and Radiohead album there was an equally awful Backstreet Boys or Mariah Carey album to match. —*S. Charles*



ROBYN

If you haven't heard of Robyn yet, take heed now. You may remember her 1993 senseless smash "Show Me Love." Well, she's back. Her 2010 album "Body Talk"—a combination of three previous EPs from this year — is incredible. Emotional singles "Dancing on My Own" and "Indestructible" anchor the album with ear-piercing synth that will leave you stunned. Look out world, Robyn is the sound of 2011.—*Z. Stemerick*

DEADMAU5

Deadmau5 concerts are full of "Jersey Shore"-esque men and women who are too trashed out of their mind to even listen to the music. It's just an excuse for them to take E and vomit in a limo. The music is average, but is now so mainstream that any true lover of progressive or electro music gets sick of hearing about this "Deadmau-five" guy. These people also think Britney Spears' new single is real dubstep.—*M. Watson*

RANDOM

LEG WARMERS

When it's cold outside and you want to wear something warm, but you don't want to sacrifice style, leg warmers are your best bet. I wear them all the time—probably too often—but I don't care because I love them. They come in all colors and patterns, but if you stick to black and gray you can't go wrong. They add flair to every outfit and can be worn hundreds of ways.—*K. Nielsen*

RCA DIGITAL RECORDERS

This fairly inexpensive recorder produces decent sound quality for the price, but don't plan on trying to transfer any of your audio to a computer. It stores all data in .voc files, which is incompatible with nearly every program out there. If you aren't a technical whiz kid, this recorder will cause more stress than anything else. There are plenty of devices for the same price that offer easy transfer to both Macs and PCs. Consumer, be warned. —*H. McGraw*

CHIPOTLE'S CHICKEN BURRITO BOWLS

Believe it or not, I have been called a "Chipotle crack head" before on many occasions. But that's only because the chicken burrito bowls are so orgasmic. I have one at least once or twice a week. It doesn't matter if I'm in the office or at my apartment, there's a Chipotle on almost every corner. If I were stranded on a deserted island, give me one burrito bowl and I'm set!—*J. Thomas*

Commentary

Editorials

Security reports need transparency

THE JEANNE Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act outlines required procedures for the gathering and reporting of crime statistics on college campuses. While Columbia's actions have technically been in accordance with the federal law, many aspects of the security alert system could be greatly improved to better serve the Columbia community.

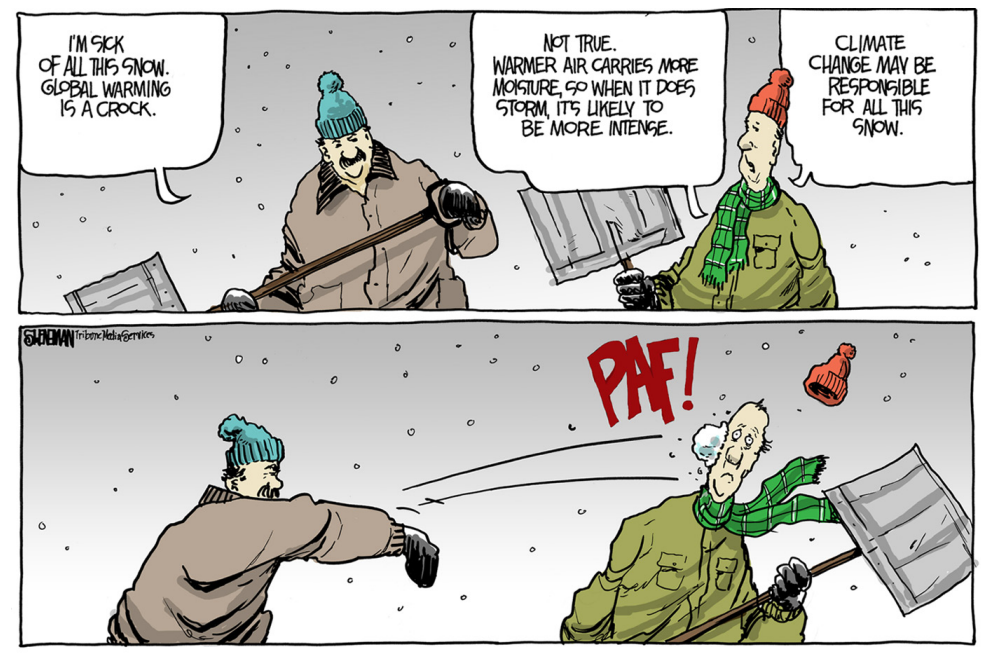
The Clery Act requires colleges and universities to send out timely warnings about reported crimes on campus or in the surrounding area that pose an ongoing threat to students and faculty. While Columbia's Office of Campus Safety and Security does send out such security alerts, the online list shows many incidents reported between Aug. 30 and Dec. 31, 2010—including 42 thefts, 14 suspicious person reports, six burglaries and one case of battery—for which no alerts or notices were sent out. The college isn't obligated to send out alerts if a reported crime didn't involve a student or occur on campus, but these incidents can continue to affect students and staff, and we have a right to know about them.

The act also requires schools to keep an up-to-date log of all reported crimes publicly available. Columbia posts a monthly list of reported incidents online, but the daily Crime Log and Fire Log—a list of reported incidents updated on a daily basis—is only available upon request at the Office of Campus Safety and Security.

While the college isn't actively hiding information from the Columbia community, many improvements in communication can be made to give faculty, students and their families a clearer picture of what life on an urban campus looks like. Crime is part of life in any urban setting, and downplaying the number of reported incidents by not sending out alerts is a misrepresentation of the campus and a disservice to current and potential students.

However, simply sending out more notifications isn't necessarily the answer, because that could lead to an oversaturation of information, and alerts should never be seen as a nuisance to be ignored. Rather, Columbia should make its reporting of crime statistics more open and transparent and make information easily available. The college should post the daily Crime Log online and explain discrepancies between crimes reported and which alerts were sent out. Furthermore, the Office of Campus Safety and Security should do more to educate the public about how and where people can access the most recent and relevant security information available.

See the front page for more information on Columbia's adherence to the Clery Act.



MCT NEWSWIRE

Roll back free rides for seniors

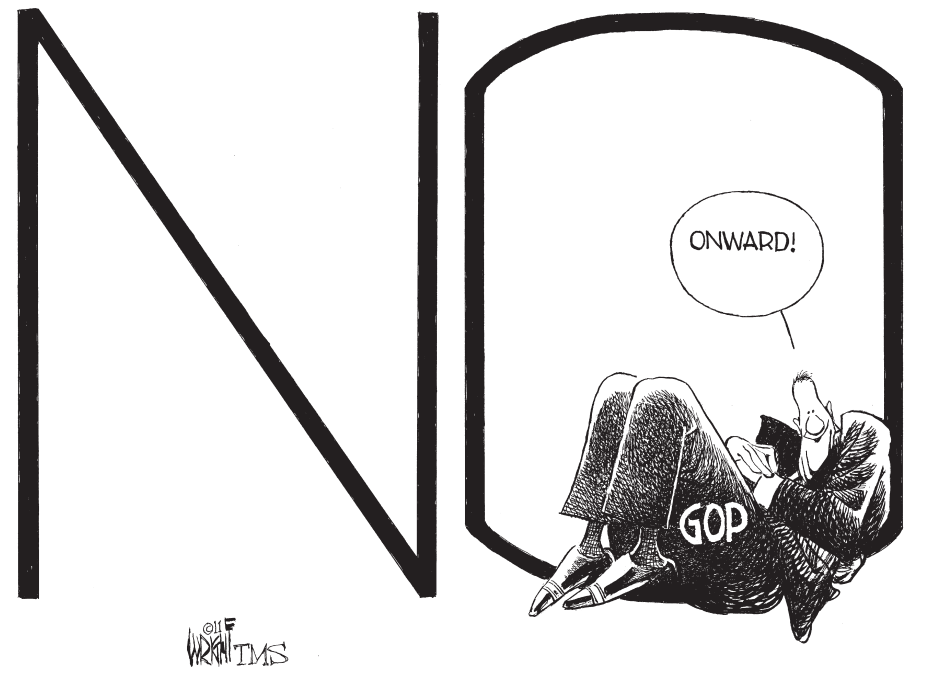
SENIORS IN Illinois have enjoyed free rides on public transit since former Gov. Rod Blagojevich implemented the program in 2008, but those days may be numbered. The Illinois General Assembly recently passed a bill that would roll the program back so only those who qualify for the state's Circuit Breaker program—low-income seniors and people with disabilities—would be eligible for the free-ride passes. All other seniors would continue to receive a 50 percent discount on all public transportation fares, and anybody currently with a free-ride pass would be able to continue using it until it expires.

Even though it might be a politically unpopular decision, Gov. Pat Quinn should sign the bill to end the Free Rides for Seniors Program. The program has been widely abused and taken advantage of, mostly by non-seniors. There were even reports of people riding for free with passes taken from seniors who had died.

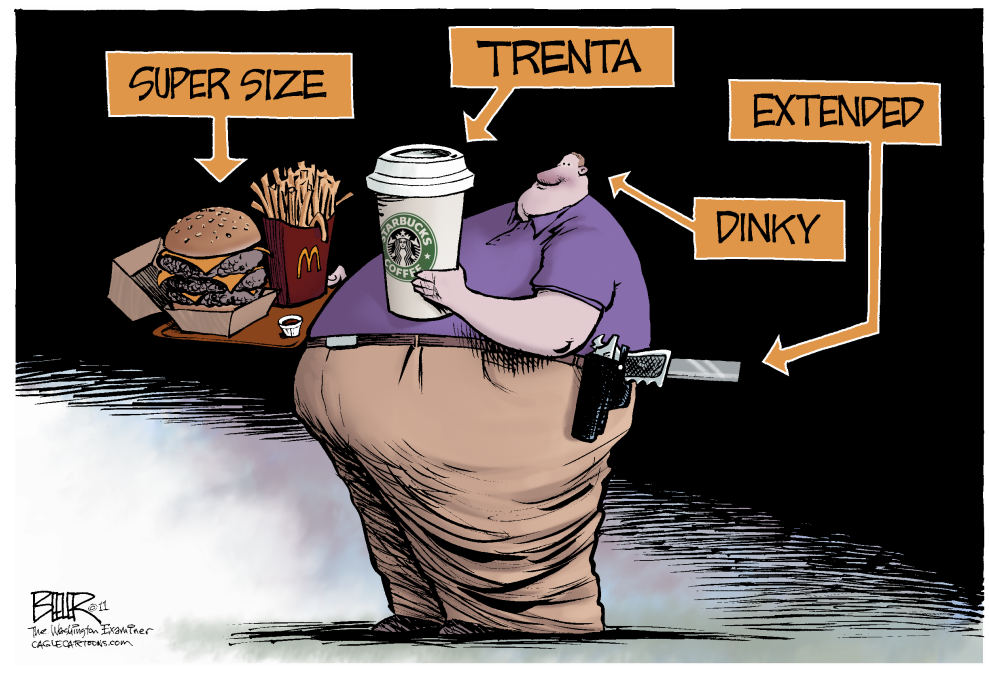
Furthermore, the state isn't spending its own funds by mandating free rides for seniors but instead spends the money of the Regional Transportation Authority. The RTA—which comprises Metra, Pace and the Chicago Transit Authority—is in deep financial trouble. In light of recent service cuts, layoffs and fare hikes, the RTA can't afford to give free rides out to anybody who doesn't absolutely need them. The new program would continue to take into consideration low-income seniors and people with disabilities.

While some seniors will undoubtedly be hurt by the change and a call to deprive them of free rides might seem cold-hearted, it is the most logical thing to do in this economy. Giving away free rides will do nothing to solve the RTA's financial troubles.

On the other hand, State Representative Roger Eddy has estimated the RTA could save between $37 and $90 million a year under the new plan. That money could be spent by a cash-strapped CTA on programs that would better serve the entire population of Chicago, rather than just a small subset of it. The CTA should consider using the funds to reinstitute bus or train services that had to be cut for budgetary reasons, extend train and bus services to underserviced areas of the city and improve or repair current train stations and bus stops.



MCT NEWSWIRE



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

Comcast-NBCU merger bad news for future media

"No company should be as large or powerful as the FCC and the Justice Department's Antitrust Division are allowing this Comcast-NBCU entity to be."

by Luke Wilusz
Commentary Editor

ON JAN. 18, the Federal Communications Commission and the United States Justice Department gave their blessings to a deal that could change the face of media as we know it.

The agencies approved a merger between cable and Internet giant Comcast Corp. and entertainment juggernaut NBC Universal Inc., which will create the largest single corporate media entity in the world.

The new company will own all of Comcast's properties, including the company's cable and high-speed Internet distribution infrastructure; cable networks such as E!, G4, Style and Comcast SportsNet; and sports franchises and businesses such as Philadelphia's Flyers NHL franchise, 76ers NBA team, and the city's Wachovia Center Sports Arena. It will also own all of NBC Universal's properties, including the NBC television network; 234 NBC affiliate stations; the Spanish-language Telemundo network; cable networks USA, CNBC, MSNBC and Bravo; an ownership stake in online video website Hulu; and Universal Pictures film studios and all related theme parks and resorts.

As part of the FCC's approval, Comcast made a number of voluntary agreements that it would increase local news coverage, expand children's programming, offer broadband service to low-income communities at lower monthly rates and provide broadband service to schools and libraries, according to the FCC press release.

The FCC also included a number of conditions in the deal that would theoretically keep this new media colossus from stifling competition by requiring it to make its content and distribution services available to other media production companies at fair prices.

However, none of these good-faith gestures does a single thing to change the fact that the U.S. government has agreed to put far too much power into one company's hands.

It will own a ludicrous amount of entertainment and news programming on TV and online and the physical methods of distributing that content. Despite the FCC's stipulations, the Comcast-NBCU joint company could exercise some of its newfound power to hurt competitors and eventually charge higher prices to consumers. After all, cable companies and Internet providers have never been known for prioritizing the needs of their competitors and customers.

The new company could, for example, make efforts to stifle Netflix, which has been an increasingly large source of competition to traditional film and television providers. The company could do this by either denying Netflix its video content or refusing to provide it with the bandwidth necessary for its users to continue streaming videos.

FCC Commissioner Michael J. Copps was the lone dissenter in the 4-1 vote to approve the deal. Copps pointed out the deal would hurt the state of journalism in the United States more than help it, despite Comcast's commitment to increase local news programming.

As fewer massive corporations control more of the news media, the possibility for independent voices to be heard diminishes, and many acts of wrongdoing among large corporations are never made public. These companies are also frequently responsible for many of the budget cuts and staff layoffs that make it more difficult for news organizations to do their jobs. Comcast's commitment to increase the amount of local news programming will do nothing to improve the quality of said coverage. Copps' requests the new company allocate more of its resources for news operations were largely ignored.

No company should be as large or powerful as the FCC and the Justice Department's Antitrust Division are allowing this Comcast-NBCU entity to be. When a corporation owns this much content and the means to distribute it, there is no way any business competitors could keep it in check.

Its competitors will become more dependent on this media giant's content and network infrastructure, while it won't need anything from them. When the system of supply and demand is out of balance that badly, it doesn't take long for the top dog to gain a monopolistic stranglehold against entire industries.

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ROAMIN' NUMERALS

26 Percentage of unemployed Americans who reported they are either falling behind on bills or facing more serious financial difficulties, such as bankruptcy or foreclosure, according to a Jan. 25 Gallup Poll. Similar financial distress was reported by 21 percent of underemployed Americans and 8 percent of Americans who were neither unemployed nor underemployed.

150 Thousands of dollars spent by mayoral hopeful Rahm Emanuel on a campaign ad during the Bears-Packers game on Jan. 23, according to a Jan. 20 ChicagoTribune.com article. The ad cost $5,000 per second and clocked in at 30 seconds.

27 Percentage of adults who said they were at least somewhat likely to buy an electric car within the next 10 years, according to a Jan. 25 Rasmussen Report. Of those, 11 percent said it was very likely, while 64 percent said it was not likely they would purchase an electric car in the next decade.

70 Percentage of Americans who said they think it is at least somewhat likely for gas prices to rise above $4 per gallon by July 1, according to a Jan. 20 Rasmussen Report. Forty percent said they thought it was very likely, while 24 percent said it was either not very likely or not likely at all.

Schools need to re-evaluate pros, cons of BMI testing

"Weight is a personal, private issue that concerns families and doctors, not teachers."

by Katy Nielsen
Assistant Health & Fitness Editor

THE MEASUREMENT of students' body mass index continues to be used in schools across the country, despite evidence it may be an outdated system. Recently, BMI was used as one of six tests at Hawthorne Elementary School in Elmhurst, Ill., to determine the overall physical fitness grade on students' progress reports. The data are typically collected anonymously, but this is clearly not always the case.

The Elmhurst school stopped the practice after parents met with school officials on Jan. 18 to express their concerns about using the data for student grades. There are schools across the United States that continue to grade students based on their height and weight scores. Despite the fact that obesity is on the rise in America—and all across the world—the issue should not be addressed in a school environment.

"The purpose of BMI surveillance in schools is to identify the percentages of students in the population who are obese, overweight, normal weight and underweight," according to an article in the journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The index does not take different body compositions into account. Muscle weighs more than fat, so someone who is more muscular and not overweight could register as overweight on a height and weight chart. The most commonly used alternative to the BMI system is body fat percentage, which rates body weight according to how much is composed of fat versus lean tissue, but this is not a universally used test.

Height and weight screenings in schools, especially if they are tied to grades, could significantly contribute to the pressure children already feel to look a certain way. This might worsen stigmas surrounding obese children, increase body image issues and lead to eating disorders. Parents might respond inappropriately to BMI reports by placing their child on a restrictive diet without seeking medical advice, for example.

One argument for using BMI screenings in school is obese students do not have an accurate perception of their body weight; therefore, the screenings point them to concrete statistics, which are supposed to help address their weight problem.

According to studies, BMI testing in schools is ineffectual in preventing obesity. The number of obese children keeps rising, but taking these measurements is not going to fix the problem.

A 2004 study titled "The Association Between Weight Perception and BMI Among High School Students," found of 2,032 high school students, 26 percent of overweight students considered themselves underweight and another 20 percent thought of themselves as "about the right weight."

Obese youth have inaccurate body-image perception. However, there is insufficient proof that once students know their true status, they actually make any significant changes, such as eating healthier and exercising. Publicly taking people's weight or grading students based on it would only add to their psychological problems.

If schools decide to continue with BMI measurement programs, the AAP recommends school officials consider whether the program's anticipated benefits, like preventing obesity and correcting weight misperception, offset expected costs such as psychosocial problems, including eating disorders.

To minimize those negative consequences, the AAP explained, schools should not launch the program unless they have "established a safe and supportive environment for students of all body sizes, are implementing comprehensive strategies to address obesity and have put in place safeguards that address the concerns raised about such programs."

My problem with this recommendation is school officials cannot know they have created a safe and supportive environment for students. Many young people feel insecure, especially about their bodies. Regardless of what a school tries to do to curb anxiety junior high and high school students feel, that negativity will persist. It is perpetuated by students' peer groups, what kids see on television, their own insecurities about their bodies and so forth.

Schools are not to blame for obesity in children, though. Weight is a personal, private issue that concerns families and doctors, not teachers. Until further research about its impact is done, BMI testing in schools needs to be stopped and definitely removed from the grading system.

knielsen@chroniclemail.com

MCA STAGE 2010/11

THEATER DANCE MUSIC REMIXED

$10 Student Tickets
Limited quantity available

Every house has a door

Let us think of these things always.
Let us speak of them never.
Wednesday–Sunday, February 9–13

Co-commissioned by the MCA

A collaboration between artists from Chicago (former codirectors of Goat Island) and Zagreb, Croatia. This dance-theater experiment builds a common body of language while exploring ideals of utopia and revolt.

Limited stage seating. Buy tickets early.

Symposium
Reconstructing Utopia: Cinema, Performance, and Ex-Yugoslavia
February 12, 1–4 pm, Free
Reservations advised.

Be part of this lively critical discussion by codirector Lin Hixson with Carol Becker (Columbia University), Branislav Jakovljevic (Stanford), and artist Justin Cabrillos.

Generous support for the 2010–11 season of MCA Stage is provided by Elizabeth A. Liebman, David Herro and Jay Franke, and Susan and Lew Manilow.

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Let us think ... is a National Performance Network (NPN) Creation Fund Project co-commissioned by P.S. 122 with the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Fusebox Festival, and NPN. Support is also provided from the NPN Forth Fund.

Support for this performance is generously provided by the Trust for Mutual Understanding.

Metro

Brock Brake THE CHRONICLE

The Harrison Red Line station, 605 S. State St., opened in 1943. The station is south of the proposed Red and Purple Line plans for modernization.

Blue days for city transit lines

Proposed plan to reconstruct nearly 100-year-old system up for community debate

by Kristen Franzen
Assistant Metro Editor

AFTER NEARLY a century of service, the northern portions of the Red and Purple lines have outlived their predictable useful service life, according to the Chicago Transit Authority.

The CTA proposes to make improvements on both lines, which together provide an average of 128,000 rail trips per weekday to neighborhoods along the north lake shore.

The Red and Purple lines were constructed from 1900 to 1922 and, according to the CTA, carry more than 19 percent of all CTA passengers on weekdays and 23 percent on weekends.

"A lot of the infrastructure is very old," said Michael Connelly, manager of Program Development at CTA. "They really need to be replaced."

The proposed plan will take approximately eight years to complete, according to the CTA.

> "We went back over the past year ... and we came back with alternatives."
>
> -Michael Connely

The CTA and Federal Transit Administration have worked with the National Environmental Policy Act, which requires federal agencies to incorporate environmental values into their decision-making process.

During the last year, the CTA has been preparing a Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement for the modernization of both lines, which is an extensive outline of general issues and overall impact of the CTA.

A yearlong CTA study provided community feedback leading to six options. These range from a no action alternative, which means keeping the system as is, to basic structural maintenance that would provide enough service for the next 20 years, to taking various elevated lines from both Red and Purple lines and turning them into a subway.

» SEE TRANSIT, PG. 38

New fleet joins Yellow Cab Chicago

New taxis use compressed natural gas, may one day replace traditional cabs

by Kristen Franzen
Assistant Metro Editor

A NEW way to get around Chicago's city streets is in the works. In March, one of the city's largest taxi companies will begin using cleaner fuel and potentially provide a greener environment.

The federal government has approved the new Ford Transit Connect taxi as a fleet to join Yellow Cab Chicago. The vehicles will be delivered in March 2011 to Taxi Medallion Management.

The company purchased a dozen Ford Transit Connect taxis that will run on clean-burning, compressed natural gas instead of petroleum to reach the company's goal of reducing emissions by 25 percent.

Transit Connects are slowly expected to replace many of the traditional Crown Victorias that currently serve the Chicagoland area, according to a press release from Ford Media.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, compressed natural gas is less expensive and burns cleaner than gasoline, resulting in 30 to 40 percent less greenhouse gas emissions.

"We are adding vehicles with more fuel-efficient gasoline engines, as well as vehicles with alternative-fuel sources, to find a vehicle that best suits our customers, our drivers, the city at large and the environment," said Michael Levine, CEO

» SEE TAXI, PG. 40

Cutting Chicago's City Council down to size

Number of aldermen could be unnecessary, reduction might save city money

by Heather McGraw
Assistant Metro Editor

WITH THE elections nearing, possible ways to save the city money have emerged, which includes slashing the price tag of keeping 50 aldermen in the City Council.

A report released on Dec. 10 by the Better Government Association suggested reducing the number of aldermen by half could save the city roughly $2.7 million in salary payouts and another $4.4 million for the three staff members per aldermen.

"When you think about cutting levels of government and cutting pieces of government you have to think about whether or not those pieces of government are actually providing services that are necessary to its citizens," said Emily Miller, policy and government affairs coordinator of the BGA.

Miller said when it comes to the things like garbage pickup and snow removal, there are certain areas of the ward structure that may not be working as efficiently as possible.

"At some point, people are not getting the services they need," Miller said. "I don't know what that magic number [of aldermen] is, but I know there's nothing about the number 50."

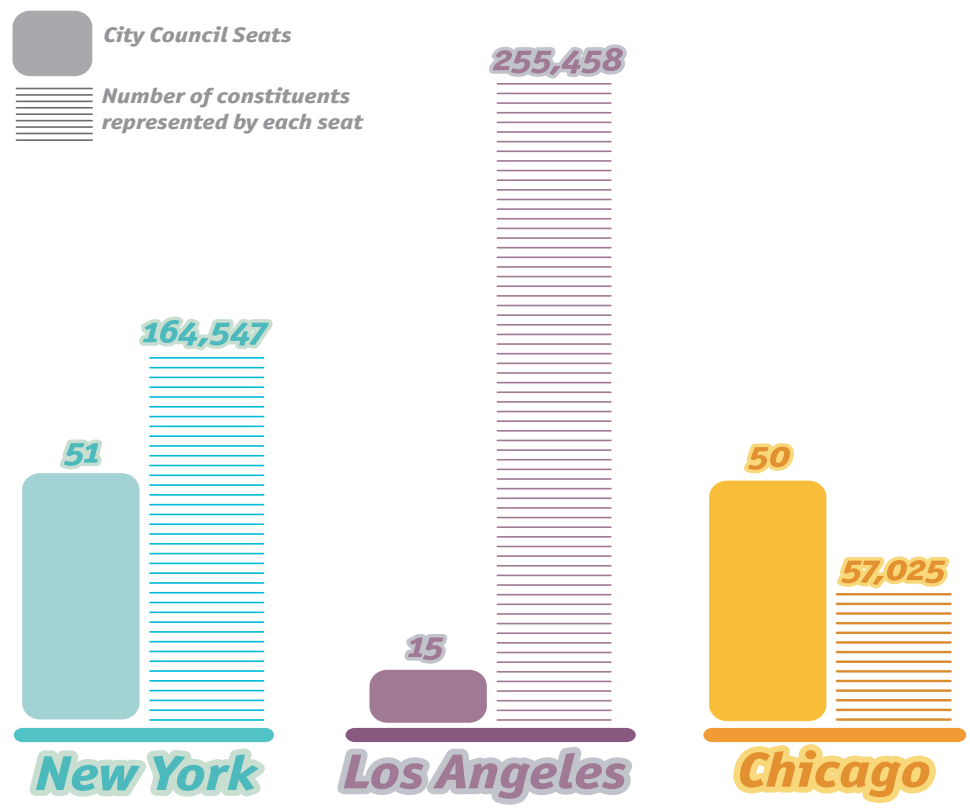
According to her, past studies have suggested reducing the number of aldermen in Chicago to 25 or 17 may make more sense and save the city money.

The report compares the average number of constituents per alderman in Chicago to the numbers in New York and L.A., which both have a much higher ratio.

While Chicago's 50 aldermen represent an average of 57,025 constituents, New York's 51 aldermen represent an average of 164,547 constituents and L.A.'s 15 aldermen represent an average of 255,458 constituents.

Alderman Bob Fioretti (2nd Ward) thinks this is an unrealistic comparison,

» SEE NUMBERS, PG. 38



Ying Kau THE CHRONICLE

ELECTION RUNDOWN

Courtesy SUSANA A. MENDOZA

Susana A. Mendoza was elected to the 92nd Illinois General Assembly in 2001.

Brent Lewis THE CHRONICLE

Patricia Horton was elected Commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District in 2006.

by Heather McGraw
Assistant Metro Editor

CHICAGO CITY Clerk Miguel del Valle is leaving office after four years to run for mayor, which leaves the position open to new candidates with new ideas.

The two candidates vying for the job are Illinois State Representative Susana Mendoza and Commissioner Patricia Horton of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District.

The city clerk is essentially the record keeper for the city of Chicago, according to Kristine Williams, spokeswoman for the city clerk's office. The clerk is responsible for maintaining and housing anything introduced or passed through City Council and selling vehicle stickers and parking permits.

"One thing Clerk del Valle did during his four years was post everything from 1981 on the website to increase transparency," Williams said.

According to her, the new clerk will need a progressive and open mind.

"The office always needs somebody who is a visionary, who isn't afraid to modernize and reform and look for new ways of doing things," she said.

The Chronicle: What is your plan for vehicle stickers?

Patricia Horton: We could reduce that sticker down to about $20–$25. It would encourage those people who register their vehicle outside the municipalities ... to purchase a sticker here in Chicago, therefore, we can have everybody registered here.

Susana A. Mendoza: One of the proposals I had was to allow for advertising on the back of the vehicle city stickers ... [we could] allow for corporate advertising, of course with reasonable limitations and parameters, but we could potentially raise $15 million in new revenue.

The Chronicle: What is your plan for parking permits?

PH: I propose we make three more permits. One for the medical district, either the hospitals or the caregivers ... another for small businesses because the small businesses as we know are the movers and shakers of the city of Chicago [and] of this economy. They need to deal with the business of their customers [who] live in these permit parking areas ... and [one for] the service providers.

SM: One of the things I need to do, assuming we win, is to sit down with the aldermen and go over what their concerns are regarding residential parking. There's a lot of work that needs to be done with it, and I'm looking forward to hearing everybody's ideas.

The Chronicle: How large is your staff and what is your campaign budget?

PH: I don't have a paid staff in place. I work like grass roots. I have money coming in on a continuous basis. I'm counting off the top of my head, but we're maybe at about $20,000 or something. I have commitments of about $200,000 or more.

SM: We only have four paid staffers. Everybody else we have in is in a volunteer capacity. We have about $250,000 on hand, and then we have about $400,000 in outstanding pledges.

The Chronicle: What do you think voters need to know about the Office of city clerk?

PH: I think the voters need to know the city clerk office is their office, and it's an office where they need to be treated with respect. They need to know what's going on and that it has an open door policy so they can understand and know and be educated on the ordinances put forth.

SM: It's an office created by the state Legislature to be fully independent of the mayor's office and serve as a checks and balances to the mayor's office. That is something we have not seen in [more than] 20 years. I'm very excited about the opportunity to run as a choice for voters in this next election as a candidate who has made a decision to not seek the endorsement or the financial support of any of the mayoral candidates.

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Mayoral candidates try to steer debate

by Rick Pearson, Kristen Mack and David Heinzmann
MCT Newswire

Associated Press

Chicago mayoral candidates prepare for the start of a debate at WGN-TV in Chicago on Jan, 27, 2011.

THE FIRST live televised debate of Chicago's mayoral race, on Jan. 27, focused on ethics and taxes as candidates pitched themselves as the best option to satisfy voters who have grown weary of corruption scandals and paying more for city government.

Although the exchange came two hours after the Illinois Supreme Court kept Rahm Emanuel on the ballot Thursday, it was as if the controversy regarding his residency never happened.

The weeks-long legal drama wasn't much more than a speed bump during the hour long exchange presented by the Chicago Tribune and the City Club of Chicago and broadcast on WGN-TV.

"I do think what's facing the city is a real debate, not about my residency but about what the residents of the city of Chicago care about, which is the challenges on our schools and making sure they are strong, the streets are safe and our economic finances are ones we can attract the businesses," Emanuel said at the debate.

With the legal cloud regarding the mayoral ballot lifted by the courts, former U.S. Sen. Carol Moseley Braun was the aggressor. Though she had loudly questioned the legality of Emanuel's residency, Braun said during the debate that as a lawyer she accepted the state Supreme Court's judgment.

Instead, Braun used the debate to criticize Emanuel, a former top Clinton White House strategist and President Barack Obama's former chief of staff, and Daley administration troubleshooter Gery Chico for having gone "from one government appointment to another" that helped them to profit as private citizens.

"There's a difference to public service when it is for the benefit of the public versus public service when it inures to the benefit of your own private pocketbook," said Braun, who was awarded an ambassadorship to New Zealand by President Bill Clinton following her re-election loss for the Senate.

"Quite frankly that is a bright line distinction in this race—how you see public service, whether it's something to profit from personally, for yourself and your friends and your family, or whether or not it's something you hold in trust to the public as a whole," she said.

Chico, who also did stints as head of the Chicago Board of Education, the Chicago Park District and the City Colleges of Chicago, said each time he was asked to serve, "I stepped up, and never has there been a suggestion I did everything but pursue the public interest in each of those jobs."

Chico, Braun and City Clerk Miguel del Valle each sought to shake voter confidence in the front-runner as they try to position themselves to keep Emanuel from getting the 50 percent-plus-one on Feb. 22 that would end the contest and eliminate the need for an April 5 runoff among the top two vote-getters.

Emanuel had established himself as the clear front-runner in a Tribune/WGN poll conducted Jan. 15—19 that showed him with the support of 44 percent of city voters, compared with 21 percent for Braun, 16 percent for Chico and 7 percent for del Valle. An additional 9 percent of voters were undecided.

The debate was moderated by Bruce Dold, the Tribune's editorial page editor, and Micah Materre, a WGN News anchor and reporter. Two candidates, Patricia Van Pelt Watkins and William "Dock" Walls, were not invited to the debate, said Tribune Editor Gerould Kern.

"We believe the debate format that includes the leading candidates is more conducive to a substantive discussion of the issues confronting the city," Kern said in a statement.

In two Tribune polls, Walls was at 2 percent and Van Pelt Watkins was at 1 percent.

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CANDIDATE UPDATE

• In a unanimous decision, the Illinois Supreme Court ruled, on Jan. 27, that Rahm Emanuel had met residency requirements. The former White House chief of staff will stay on the mayoral ballot, according to CNN.com. "I am happy," Emanuel said. "We now have a conclusion so the voters can make a decision of who will be mayor."

• After returning a $25,000 donation from taxicab mogul Symon Garber on New Year's Eve, Gery Chico will now give back another $20,000 in donations from four of Garber's business partners. According to SunTimes.com, Garber is a client of Marcus Nunes—a partner at Chico's law firm and the treasurer of his campaign fund. Garber faces $9 million in fines for using salvaged vehicles as taxis.

• According to ChicagoTribune.com, Carol Moseley Braun spent some time in Washington, D.C., in an attempt to raise donations for her campaign. The candidate attended a fundraising luncheon hosted by the National Organization for Women. She also attended a later fundraiser hosted by the Congressional Black Caucus.

• City Clerk Miguel del Valle has been endorsed by Hispanic commissioners on the Cook County Board, according to Suntimes.com. "If we're looking for integrity, if we're looking for independence and accountability ... Miguel del Valle is the best choice," said Commissioner Jesus "Chuy" Garcia.

• Patricia Van Pelt Watkins was one of two candidates excluded from the mayoral debate, according to ProgressIllinois.com. In response to her exclusion, the Van Pelt Watkins campaign held a protest outside the Tribune Tower hours before the debate was scheduled to begin. "My exclusion from the debate is very unfortunate, and the real victims in this situation are the voters," Van Pelt Watkins said in a press release.

CPS offers free breakfast program for all students

Eating in the morning provides nutritional, psychological benefits for schoolchildren

by Joel Hood and Monica Eng
MCT Newswire

CHICAGO'S SCHOOL board adopted a sweeping new program to offer free breakfasts in the classrooms for Chicago Public Schools' 410,000 students on Jan. 26, expanding a federally funded initiative aimed at giving kids from low-income families a healthier start to their day.

> "For the first time in our district's history, we have the opportunity to ensure that every child at least has breakfast."
> - Mary Richardson-Lowry

STOCK PHOTO

Breakfast in the classroom is now offered to 299 elementary schools for students in Chicago.

In selling the program to the board, officials promoted the nutritional and psychological benefits of a breakfast with classmates, crediting it with improving "intellectual, emotional, social and physical development while at school."

Breakfast in the classroom is already offered in 199 district schools, representing nearly 21 million meals of cereal, milk, fruit and scrambled eggs.

Beginning next month, officials will roll out breakfasts to an additional 299 elementary schools, the majority of which have at least 80 percent of their students qualifying for free or reduced-price lunch. Proponents argue providing breakfast for these students may prove to be as critical to a student's learning as meals now offered in the afternoon.

"For the first time in our district's history, we have the opportunity to ensure every child at least has breakfast," Board President Mary Richardson-Lowry told the hundreds who packed the public meeting on Jan. 26.

But its approval wasn't without controversy. In little more than 48 hours, more than 1,100 parents representing 21 CPS schools signed a petition opposing breakfast during class time, concerned the 10 to 15 minutes the meals occupy at the beginning of the school day would disrupt learning.

"Instructional time is important to us," said Sarah Putrim, who has three children at Blaine Elementary School in Lakeview, where 25 percent of students qualify for free and reduced-price meals. "And the federal and state standards that have been imposed on our school leave very little wiggle room for extra things."

Putrim calculated all those 15-minute breakfasts add up to 10 lost school days a year, a deficit that would put CPS students—who already have one of the shortest school days in the country—further behind their peers.

Sandra Hamilton, another Blaine parent who helped organize the signature drive, said she worries that the CPS breakfasts will be loaded with sugar and other unhealthy additives that compromise what some students get at home.

"We fully support breakfast in the classroom for schools that need it, and we think it's marvelous there, but we think it's not right for our school," Hamilton said.

Individual students will be allowed to opt out of the breakfast program, but Putrim, Hamilton and others asked the board to allow entire schools to opt out, a change that did not win board support.

"We understand you have 1,100 signatures, but we have 410,000 students we need to consider," Richardson-Lowry said.

Another critical issue is financing for the $41 million program. School meals chief Louise Esaian said it potentially could bring an additional $8.9 million in revenue to help offset the program's increased expenses. But the district cannot say for sure what the additional expenses might be or how much additional money might be paid to the district's food service provider, Chartwells Thompson, for breakfast service district wide. Chartwells' existing contract exceeds $50 million annually.

"It's a great program," said board member Tariq Butt, a licensed physician. "Hunger is a very real thing and it's a public health risk if you come to school without a breakfast."

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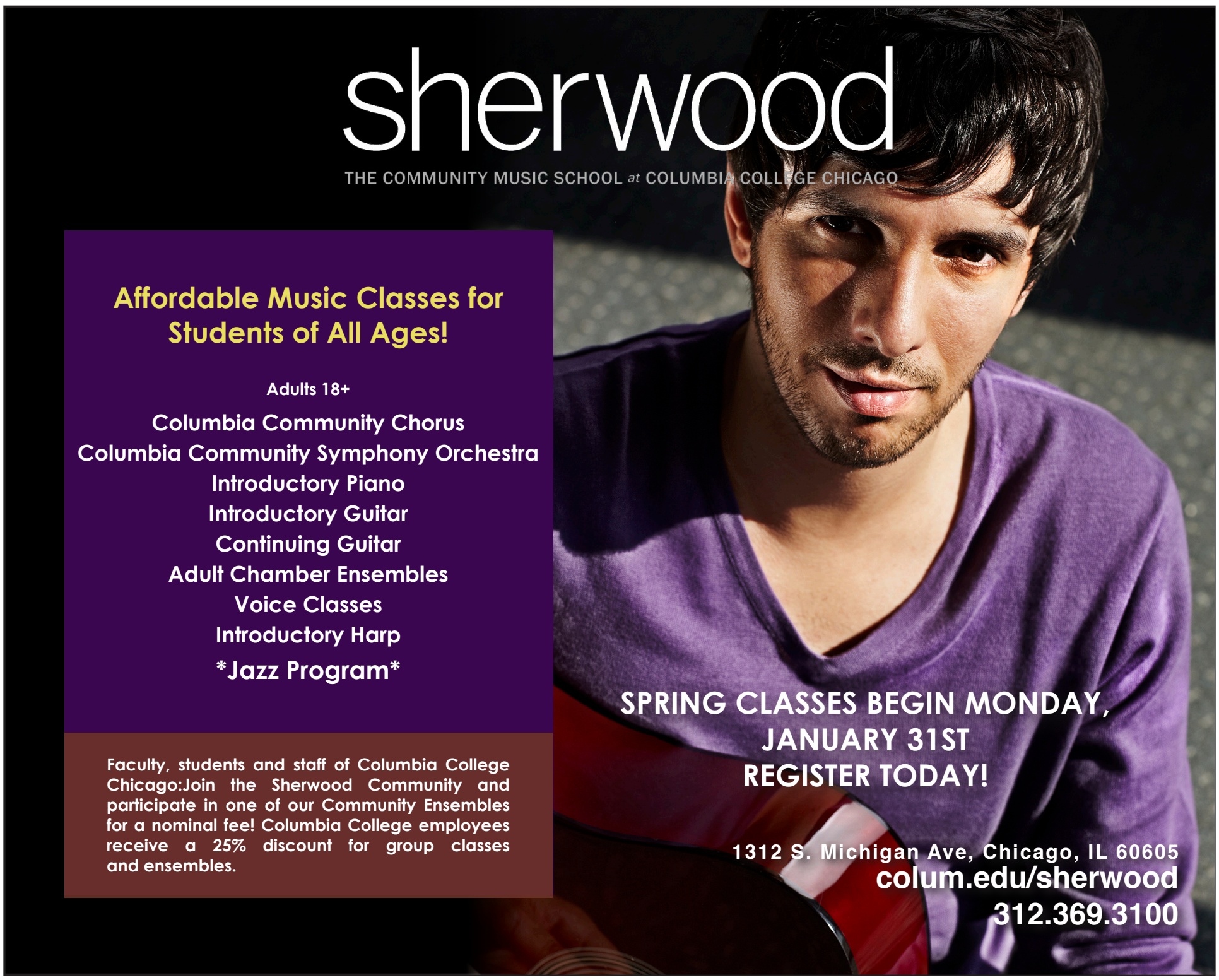

» TRANSIT

Continued from PG. 35

"This is all preliminary," said Catherine Hosinski, media representative at the CTA. "There are six options that were developed based on the community feedback we received at a meeting we held in 2009."

The other options consider combining stations. According to the CTA, there is a possibility of closing the Jarvis, Thorndale and Lawrence stations on the Red Line and the South Boulevard and Foster stations on the Purple Line.

"We are beginning the environmental process, and it's not strictly environmental in the sense of air quality—it's noise, congestion and impact on people who live in the neighborhoods," Connelly said.

According to the CTA, an estimated $4 billion would address the three most expensive proposals that would fully repair all accessibility concerns.

Currently, six of the 21 stations north of Belmont are handicap accessible. Hosinski said to provide accessibility for both lines, funding needs to be identified.

> "This is all preliminary."
>
> -Catherine Hosinski

The $2.9 billion and $2.4 billion plans, according to the CTA, include improvement but would tackle only some accessibility concerns.

The cheapest plan is called the "No Action Alternative." According to the CTA, it would maintain the "status quo" and make minimum repairs that would keep both lines functional.

"People told us what they wanted, such as safer environments and better lighting," Connelly said. "We went back over the past year and did bridge engineering studies and we came back with alternatives."

A community meeting was held in the 49th Ward at New Field Primary School, 1707 W. Morse Ave., on Jan. 26. James Snyder, a community member who attended the meeting, said he thinks some of the repair options for the station awnings are irrelevant.

"They need to expand protection for the passengers," Snyder said. "It's a wasteful expense to expand the awnings; it's engineering stupidity."

Although no final decisions have been made, the CTA is prepping alternative options to get the community talking.

Connelly said the goal for this proposed plan is to make all of the stations accessible.

"The process for this project is to move forward as a community," he said.

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» NUMBERS

Continued from PG. 35

according to Tom Gradel, Fioretti's spokesman.

"We're not able to make that comparison because we don't know exactly what the responsibilities are of the aldermen in New York and L.A.," Gradel said.

He said it's important for constituents to understand the aldermen's function in Chicago.

"Our aldermen are not just legislators; they are actually an entry point and an on-button for their wards," Gradel said.

Gradel said Fioretti opposes reducing the number of aldermen because he doesn't believe it would save money.

Chicago set the number of aldermen at 50 in 1923, with one alderman per ward. Before that, there were 35 wards with two aldermen per ward, putting the total number of aldermen at 70.

"The emphasis is on the fact it's historically set and changing it would cause all kinds of problems," Gradel said.

He also said because aldermen have established relationships with the citizens and organizations they currently represent, adding another group of constituents would likely mean unequal treatment of the two groups.

"Politically it's not a smart thing to do," Gradel said.

Dick Simpson, professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago and former city alderman, thinks the focus should be put on the number of committees instead.

The City Council currently has 19 committees, such as the Committee on Aviation, the Committee on Health and the Committee on Committees, Rules and Ethics. Each committee has authority regarding any matters or departments that fall under its specific jurisdiction.

"I think the City Council is probably at the right size, but there are too many City Council committees and those ought to be cut from 19 to 9 or 10," Simpson said. "Money ought to be saved that way."

He believes the aldermen are part of the problem, but a possible solution may be in the election of better candidates.

"The City Council has been a rubber-stamp, and it doesn't work well," Simpson said. "The problem isn't with the number of aldermen but how the aldermen behave."

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FILE PHOTO

A reduction in aldermen could save the city money, accoding to the Better Government Association.

» FBI

Continued from Front Page

a result.

"My understanding of a grand jury is that it's one of the most undemocratic institutions the government has and the government uses it to intimidate activists and get them to speak out about each other," said Tom Burke, a Chicago labor activist and one of the first group of activists subpoenaed.

A protest was held on Jan. 25 in front of the Dirksen Federal Building, 219 S. Dearborn St., in which an estimated 250 people demanded that the FBI end unwarranted investigations.

"We fear the government may be seeking to use the recent Supreme Court decision Holder v. Humanitarian Law Project to attack activity protected by fundamental rights of freedom of association, speech and inquiry," said Maureen Murphy, one of the nine newly subpoenaed activists. "We will not allow our solidarity to be construed as 'material support for terrorism.'"

More than 250 organizations have endorsed a petition in support of those targeted by the FBI subpoenas.

Endorsements include the Chicago Teachers Union, several Service Employee International Union locals, Columbia College art activists, as well as the Palestine Solidarity Group-Chicago.

Though no charges against the activists have yet been filed by the FBI, the agency's investigative persistence has raised questions of a broader ramping up of power that could be used to stifle political dissent.

FBI spokesman Randall Samborn declined to comment on any aspect of the pending subpoenas.

As the USA Patriot Act comes up for renewal in Congress in the coming months, public discussion is beginning to emerge despite a lack of news coverage.

On Jan. 5, Representative Mike Rogers, R-Mich., introduced a bill that would add another year to the 2001 legislation, which provides for the use of national security letters and greatly eased restrictions on law enforcement agencies' ability to search and monitor the communications of U.S. residents in the wake of 9/11.

According to James Carafano, policy expert at the conservative Heritage Foundation, the need for a Patriot Act renewal is clear.

"It's a valuable tool for combating terrorists [and] it's not a threat to our civil liberties," Carafano said. "So any debate you see about the Patriot Act is really people playing politics with the issue."

But 10 years after the act's initial passing, the debate over its use continues.

"I think the rhetoric surrounding the Patriot Act didn't match up to what the reality is," said Ed Yohnka, director of communications and public policy for the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois. "We were told we needed to put up with all these expanded powers and intrusions because they were needed to investigate terrorism. The truth is this expansion of authority has really been about broader kinds of issues and often about people who don't have any link to terrorism whatsoever."

In recent years, the use of national security letters—a form of subpoena used by the FBI to demand information from individuals or organizations—has risen. This is despite a 2008 report from the U.S. Department of Justice, which concluded that the FBI had abused its investigative powers by issuing inadequately documented national security letters from 2003 to 2006.

National security letters require no warrant, probable cause or judicial oversight and contain a gag order that prevents the recipient from revealing to anyone that the letter was issued. The gag order was recently ruled unconstitutional and has been modified to allow recipients the right to speak to legal counsel regarding the letters.

Despite this ruling, national security letters remain a frequently used tool of the FBI. According to the ACLU, approximately 50,000 letters are issued every year and can demand information from individuals two or three times removed from the actual suspect.

"I think the concern is, put broadly, that these are essentially blank checks for law enforcement to gather information about individuals without any real link to any sort of criminal or illicit activity, which is really at the heart of what national security letters are supposed to be about," Yohnka said. "One of the things we hope for is there will be some attention given to this issue and [that] we'll see more oversight."

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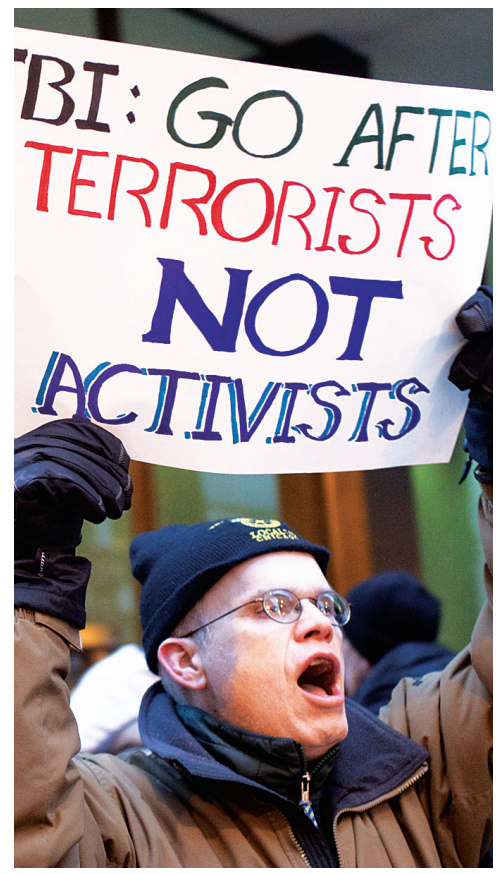

Brent Lewis THE CHRONICLE

More than 250 supporters protested the expansion of FBI investigative powers in front of the Dirksen Federal Building on Jan. 25, the day on which some of the nine newly subpoenaed activists were scheduled to appear before a grand jury. The number of Midwest subpoenas now stands at 23.

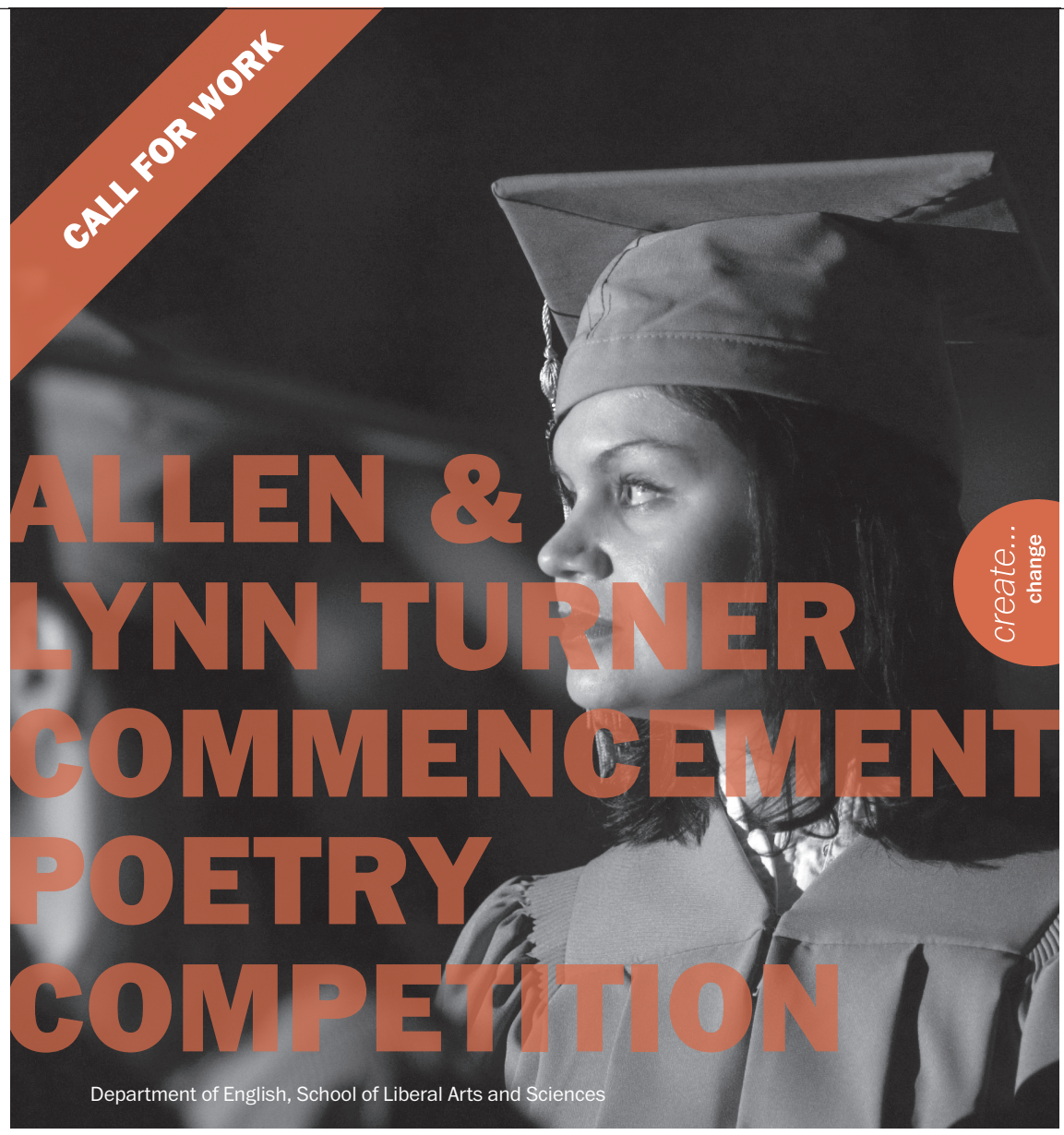

PHOTO: ROBERT KUSEL ('78)

We invite you to enter the Allen & Lynn Turner Commencement Poetry Competition. The winning poem will appear in the commencement program and will be read by the poet during the 2011 commencement ceremonies.

THE WINNING POET WILL BE AWARDED $1000.

Please submit up to three poems (typed on 8.5" x 11" white paper), and attach one cover sheet with the title of your poem(s), as well as your name, major, phone number, address, Oasis I.D., and email address. (Your name must not appear on the poem(s) you submit.)

Mail all materials to:
Commencement Poetry Competition
Department of English
School of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Columbia College Chicago
600 S. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60605

You can also hand-deliver your submission to:
Nicole Wilson
Department of English
33 E. Congress Suite 300

This contest is open to all graduating students, both undergraduate and graduate.

Deadline: March 1, 2011

Columbia
COLLEGE CHICAGO

colum.edu/commencement

» TAXI

Continued from PG. 35

of Taxi Medallion Management, in a press release by Ford Media.

Along with compressed natural gas, Transit Connects are available with an additional package that includes an engine compatible with liquefied propane gas.

> “The automotive industry is starting to see the demand for environmentally friendly vehicles.”
>
> -Jeff Feldman

Courtesy FORD MEDIA GROUP

New Ford Transit Connects utilize Yellow Cab Chicago’s logo and color. The new taxis will arrive in Chicago in March.

For the conversion to work efficiently, Ford is providing specific instructions for the adjustment to be completed without voiding the engine’s warranty.

“Compressed natural gas and propane offer more than sufficient power for vehicles because they are high-energy fuels,” said Rob Stevens, chief engineer for Transit Connect, in a press release by Ford Media. “Another natural benefit for these fuels is they provide an overall lower emission of greenhouse gases compared to gasoline.”

Compressed natural gas and liquefied propane gas benefit the atmosphere and lower expenses for taxi service, according to Jeff Feldman, president of Taxi Medallion Management.

“I believe it’s the next best thing,” he said. “The automotive industry is starting to see the demand for more environmentally friendly vehicles.”

Ford Motor Company is working with Taxi Medallion Management to service taxi operators better. According to Taxi Medallion Management, the Ford Transit Connect Taxi is expected to meet high demands of taxicab services in Chicago. For this to happen, Transit Connects provide an EPA-estimated 21 miles per gallon and 26 miles per gallon highway compared with traditional taxis with an estimated 15 miles per gallon.

“Being environmentally friendly is one of the many positive features the Transit Connect offers,” said Ford Truck and Commercial Public Relations Manager Anne Marie Gattari. “It’s fuel efficient and easy to get around in tight places.”

Since its first appearance in Boston in December 2010, Transit Connect has spurred interest across the country.

“We hope the trend continues—that’s the goal for Transit Connect Taxi,” Gattari said. “We hope cities across the country adopt it, and we hope taxi operators use it in their fleet.” Feldman said its ability to convert makes the taxi attractive.

Gerald Koss, fleet marketing manager for Ford Motors, said in a press release Transit Connects have proved themselves with their remarkable versatility for commercial fleet.

“The Transit Connect Taxi, combined with the capability for compressed natural gas and liquefied propane gas conversion, further demonstrates its flexibility,” he said.

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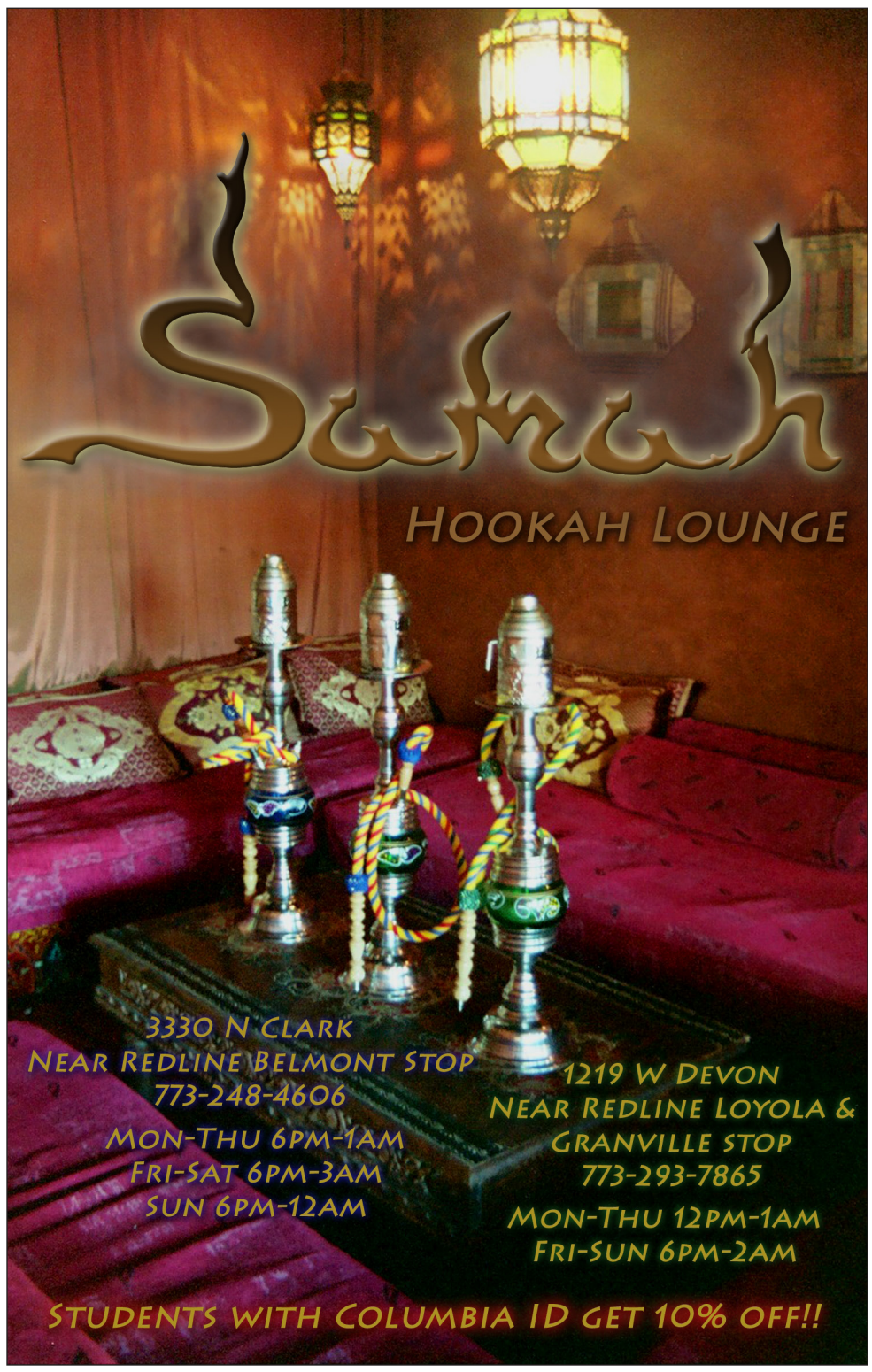

FEATURED PHOTO

Brent Lewis THE CHRONICLE

Angelique Orr leads a protest march in front of the Tribune Tower, 435 N. Michigan Ave., in support of Chicago mayoral candidate Patricia Watkins. Watkins was not allowed to take part in the WGN televised mayoral debate. Although not successful in her attempt to gain access to the debate, Watkins was able to get on WGN Radio to defend her case.

IN OTHER NEWS

Melancholy baba

Eating food containing trans fats and saturated fats could contribute to depression, according to ChicagoTribune.com. Researchers in Spain followed 12,059 people for six years analyzing their lifestyles. Scientists found people who ate the most trans fats, which are commonly found in dessert and fried foods, had a 48 percent increased risk of depression. Individuals who ate polyunsaturated fats—a healthier type of fat usually found in olive oil—had a lower risk of depression.

No vacancies

The City Council will consider a proposal to allow owners of vacant buildings to be jailed for up to six months if building violations cause somebody to get hurt or killed, according to ChicagoTribune.com. Under the plan, a building owner can also be jailed if the property is found to be in violation of any code. The changes come in response to the recent deaths of two firefighters when a roof collapsed. Currently, city building codes allow building owners to be fined up to $1,000 for violations.

Unemployment rate falling

The unemployment rate in the Chicago metropolitan area fell to 8.6 percent in December from 8.9 percent in November and dropped throughout the year, the Illinois Department of Employment and Security said, according to SunTimes.com. The unemployment rate fell in every metropolitan area for the fourth month straight. The state's highest unemployment rate is in the Rockford, Ill. area at 13.7 percent. The lowest rates remain in the Bloomington-Normal, Ill. area at 7.1 percent.

Six-day streak

A 49-year-old man was found beaten to death on Jan. 24 in Morgan Park. This marked the area's first homicide this year. According to ChicagoNow.com, there was a six-day span between homicides in Chicago, the last being a 24-year-old man who was shot to death on Jan. 18 in West Pullman. The city's last six-day span without a homicide was from Dec. 20–26, according to RedEye data. There have been 19 homicides recorded for the month of January. In January 2010, 20 homicides were logged.

OFF THE BLOTTER

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

1 Bear down

According to police reports, officers responded to a battery in progress at Jimmy Greens, 825 S. State St., on Jan. 23. Witnesses told police a verbal argument started in the bathroom between three men over a Jay Cutler Bears jersey. All three individuals told police they started pushing and punching one another. The officer was unable to determine who the offender was.

2 Party crasher

On Jan. 23, according to police reports, witnesses told officers a verbal altercation started between a victim and an unknown suspect at Mei's Kitchen, 1108 S. Michigan Ave. When the victim approached the suspect's party in a threatening manner, the suspect smashed a drinking glass against the victim's head, causing injury. The offender and his party then fled on foot.

3 Theft loss and beyond

A female victim told officers on Jan. 25 that someone had removed her wallet from her purse without her knowledge. The wallet contained three debit cards, a driver's license, a Social Security card and $200 in cash, according to police reports. The theft took place at 1233 S. Wabash Ave. Police discovered the offender later made a purchase of $21 at a Bed Bath & Beyond.

4 Do-good driver

A cab driver told officers on Jan. 25 that a male entered his cab at the Roosevelt Red Line station, 1167 S. State St., tucking a purse under his jacket. The unknown suspect then asked the driver to hold on while he ran into the store to buy cigarettes. As the passenger got out of the cab, the driver drove away and brought the purse to the police station.

Games

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21 – April 20) Withdrawn friends or lovers will now seek your guidance. Family events and planned celebrations may be a key concern. Provide a calming influence, if possible. Before next week, loved ones may overreact to social disagreements or minor complaints. Wednesday through Sunday accents powerful glimpses of future events and sudden flashes of wisdom. Areas affected may involve family finances, romance and long-term home planning. Stay open to bold changes. All is well.

TAURUS (April 21– May 20) Wisdom and sudden glimpses of the future may be a subtle theme this week. Respond quickly to repeated comments or requests from friends. Long-term relationships now need to evolve. Clearly state your needs, boundaries and social expectations. All is well. After Thursday many Taureans will begin a brief but intense phase of business expansion and quick financial opportunity. A past friend or colleague may soon provide valuable contacts. Don't hesitate to take action: It's time.

GEMINI (May 21 – June 21) During the next few days a forgotten friend or past lover may reappear. Outdated emotional obligations need to fade. Use this time to distance yourself from unproductive relationships. Loved ones in the present deserve your undivided loyalty and attention. Thursday through Sunday highlights important family discussions. Home schedules, daily routines and timed payments may be key concerns. Don't hesitate to offer dramatic solutions: Your leadership will prove invaluable.

CANCER (June 22 – July 22) Business relationships may be unpredictable this week: Expect colleagues and officials to be both mentally and emotionally scattered. Unreliable ideas will soon be replaced by a solid team effort. Be patient and watch for fellow workers to suggest a creative new start. Wednesday through Sunday romantic relationships and long-term friendships begin a seven week phase of deepening intimacy and newfound trust. Express your ideas: This is the right time to reveal private thoughts.

LEO (July 23 – Aug. 22) Physical and emotional vitality may need to be replenished during the next few days. Some Leos are now subtly preparing for an intense wave of social creativity and romantic change. Long-term promises and family commitments are accented. Stay balanced. After midweek new workplace suggestions are highly favorable: Expect colleagues or new employees to offer an unique perspective to an ongoing problem. Revised goals may be needed. Remain dedicated.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) Rare business or financial information may arrive during the next few days. Some Virgos will soon ask key officials for special favors or expanding job titles. Expect progress to be slow but positive. Remain dedicated to small victories and watch for key improvements. Later this week a family member or trusted friend may discuss private social events or intimate relationships. Offer heartfelt advice: This week is a strong time for thoughtful change and new emotional beginnings.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 – Oct. 23) Before midweek expect romantic invitations or social overtures to quickly become passionate. Someone close may wish to greatly increase the commitments of a new relationship. Remain cautious, however, and respond honestly to ongoing emotional pressure for the next 10 weeks. Your pace and expectations need to be respected. Later this week a recently withdrawn colleague may reveal an unusual proposal. Shared duties and new job titles may be involved. Stay focused.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 – Nov. 22) Loved ones may be unusually temperamental this week. Key issues may involve lost dignity in the workplace or intense career competition between friends. No serious or lasting effects will arise. Do, however, offer genuine and continuing emotional support. After Thursday pay close attention to minor comments from a trusted friend or lover. Planetary alignments indicate long-term relationships will now begin seven weeks of new communications. Stay open: Much is changing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 – Dec. 21) Business training, educational projects and improved workplace skills will now provide concrete results. This is a strong time to begin school programs, share career information or ask authority figures for special consideration. Don't be shy. Your abilities have been ignored for far too long. After midweek many Sagittarius natives will encounter an unexpected series of social flirtations or romantic invitations. Be receptive but take your time: Caution and careful decisions are needed.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 – Jan. 20) Close relatives this week may ask for final answers or key money decisions. Pay special attention to outstanding debts, long-term payments or shared property commitments. During the next five days a new attitude toward family budgets or long-term security is needed. Not to worry, however: Planetary alignments indicate steady improvement throughout March. After Friday controversial flirtation may be unnerving. Tensions will be high. Stay calm and avoid quick emotional risks.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 – Feb. 19) A close friend this week may question your emotional wisdom or romantic advice. Fast social changes or a new love interest will soon create controversy. Be receptive to friendly observations but don't reveal vital information. Privacy is now important to romantic success. After midweek workplace relationships may also be affected. If so, watch for older colleagues or managers to redefine projects or reassign duties. Remain patient: Complex revisions will soon be announced.

PISCES (Feb. 20 – March 20) During the next few days legs, feet or lower bones may be more sensitive than usual. For many Pisceans dietary changes and gentle exercise will provide positive gains. This is an excellent time to introduce social creativity, new group activities and improved health routines into your life. After Thursday ask loved ones for detailed business advice concerning recent job disputes or daily power struggles. Workplace disagreements will now benefit from new ideas or quick suggestions.

SUDOKU Level 4

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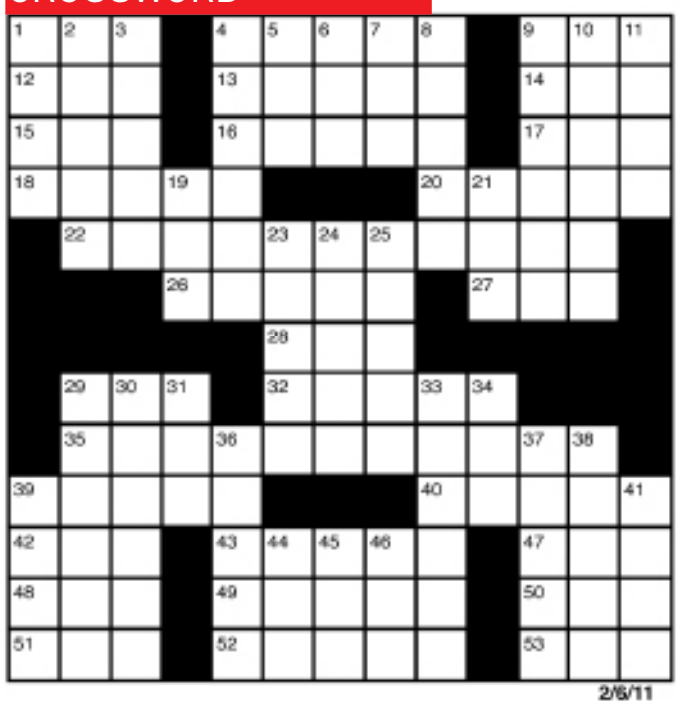
				6				

Puzzle by websudoku.com

CROSSWORD



2/6/11

ACROSS
1 "60 Minutes" network
4 "Everybody __ Raymond"
9 "Sister __"; Whoopi Goldberg movie
12 "The Cat in the __"
13 Make laws
14 Actress __ West
15 Ending for meteor or social
16 Spanish man's title
17 __ Thurman
18 Julia Child and Emeril Lagasse
20 Places of refuge
22 Star of "Grey's Anatomy"
26 Last name for Ryan and Tatum
27 Football six-pointers, for short
28 "El __"; classic film for Charlton Heston
29 Role for Ted Danson on "Cheers"
32 "Lois & __: The New Adventures of Superman"
35 Ricardo Chavira's role on "Desperate Housewives"
39 Van Peebles or Cuomo
40 "__ Gets In Your Eyes"
42 Spanish gold
43 "CSI: __"
47 "__ of Practice"
48 "The __ & Stimpy Show"
49 "One Day at __"
50 "Snakes __ Plane"; Samuel L. Jackson/Julianna Margulies film
51 Sullivan and Begley
52 Appoints
53 Approves, for short

DOWN
1 Stylish
2 Wash
3 "__ Magnolias"; Olympia Dukakis movie
4 Diminish
5 "__ Tree Hill"
6 Jean-Claude __ Damme
7 Prefix for system or sphere
8 Late U.S. Senator __ Thurmond
9 Entertained
10 Small roles for big stars
11 Namesakes of actress Leoni
19 Polly Holliday's role on "Alice"
21 Likely
23 Colorful candy wafer
24 Buckets
25 As __ the hills
29 Frightened
30 Burr and Spelling
31 Noninvasive diagnostic test, familiarly
33 O'Donnell and others
34 NOP forerunners
36 Willy __; lead character in "Death of a Salesman"
37 100 x 100
38 Black-and-white animal with an odor
39 "The __ the merrier"
41 Greek letters
44 Give __ go; try
45 Purpose
46 Bovary or Butterfly: abbr.

Solution to Last Week's Puzzle

2/6/11

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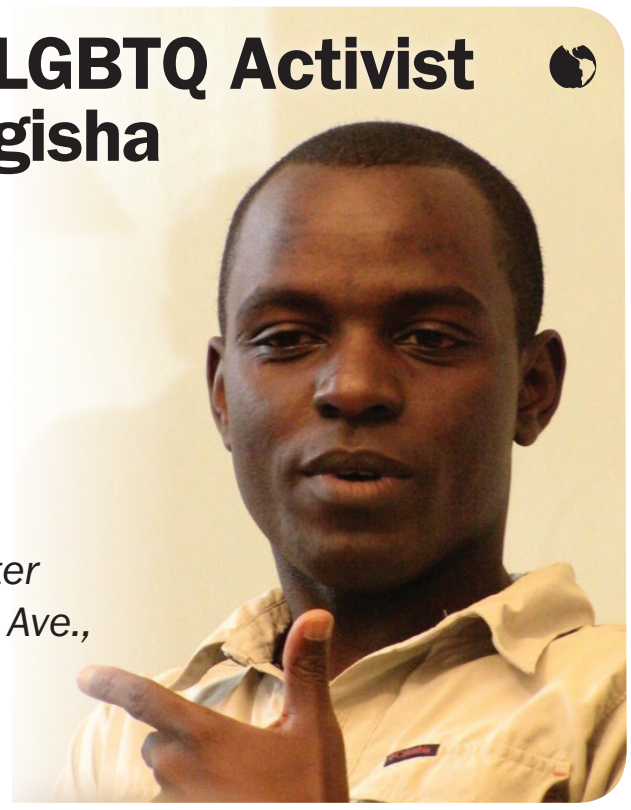
Stay In

Ugandan LGBTQ Activist Frank Mugisha



1.31.11
6 – 8 p.m.
Ferguson Hall, Alexandroff Center
600 S. Michigan Ave., 1st floor
(312) 369-8845
FREE

Frank Mugisha, chairman of Sexual Minorities Uganda, and Jane M. Saks, executive director of the Ellen Stone Belic Institute, present and discuss Uganda addressing LGBTQ human rights in relationship to international movements and SMUG. Mugisha will discuss the group's efforts to raise awareness of the challenges LGBTQ individuals and human rights activists face in Uganda and the African continent.

Joe Goode performance group
2.3.11
8 – 10 p.m.
Dance Center
1306 S. Michigan Ave.
mhill@colum.edu
$26

The Joe Goode Performance Group is known for experimental performances of dance, theater, music and spoken word. In its Chicago premiere, the group will perform "Wonderboy," a collaboration with puppet designer Basil Twist and with music by Carla Kihlstedt and Matthias Bossi.

The Great Columbia Casting Call
2.4.11
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Stage Two
618 S. Michigan Ave. Building 2nd floor
(312) 369-7281
FREE

Student directors, actors, photographers, composers, models and voice talent can connect with one another for work and experience. Pre-register with the Portfolio Center at Colum.edu/Portfolio.

Monday 1.31

Student Programming Board Meeting
5 – 6 p.m.
916 S. Wabash Ave. Building, 4th floor
spb@colum.edu
FREE

Tuesday 2.1

Tips on Tuesdays life skills workshop: scholarships
Noon – 1 p.m.
Office of Multicultural Affairs
Multipurpose Studio
618 S. Michigan Ave. Building, 4th floor
aaca@colum.edu
FREE

Opera in Cinema Screening of "The Abduction from the Seraglio"
7 – 11 p.m.
Film Row Cinema, 1104 Center
1104 S. Wabash Ave., 8th floor
(312) 369-6709
FREE

Wednesday 2.2

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
1104 Center
1104 S. Wabash Ave., 8th floor
(312) 369-7569
FREE

Thursday 2.3

Curator Talk: Justin Witte
2 – 3 p.m.
Glass Curtain Gallery, 1104 Center
1104 S. Wabash Ave., 1st floor
(312) 369-8177
FREE

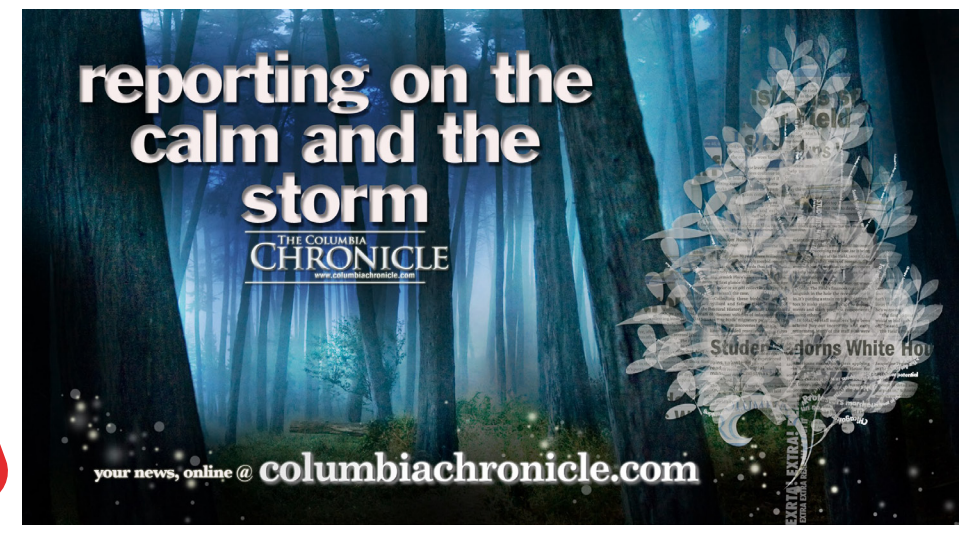
"Fear into Fire: Reclaiming Black Male Identity Through the Art of Tattooing" opening reception
5 – 8 p.m.
The Arcade
618 S. Michigan Ave. Building, 2nd floor
(312) 369-6643
FREE

Friday 2.4

David Yonan master class for strings
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
2 – 4 p.m.
Sherwood Conservatory of Music
1312 S. Michigan Ave.
(312) 369-6179
FREE

Athanasios Zervas in concert
7:30 – 9 p.m.
Sherwood Conservatory of Music
1312 S. Michigan Ave.
(312) 369-6179
FREE

fitness/health · music · columbia
a+d · radio · iam
marketing · film · theater
tv · cultural · Dance



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

Get Out

The 3 Penny Was Here: A Lincoln Hall movie night – "The Big Lebowski" and "Kingpin"

7 p.m. 2.1.11 // DePaul University
Lincoln Hall
2424 N. Lincoln Ave.

The monthly screening series, a tribute to the 3 Penny Cinema—which occupied Lincoln Hall's location for decades—celebrates its one-year anniversary with screenings of "The Big Lebowski" and "Kingpin." Specials include $3 White Russians, $3 potato skins and $3 for two tacos.

(773) 525-2501
FREE; must be 21 to drink

RUI: Reading Under the Influence

7 – 9 p.m. 2.2.11 //
Sheffield's
3258 N. Sheffield Ave.

Reading Under the Influence features readings of published writers, original selections from regular performers and guest readers. Includes drink specials, trivia and giveaways.

(773) 281-4989
$3; 21+

Monday 1.31

"You, Me, Them, Everybody"
9 p.m.
Hungry Brain
2319 W. Belmont Ave.
(773) 935-2118
FREE; 21+

Chinese New Year at Sunda
5 – 11 p.m.
Sunda
110 W. Illinois St.
(312) 644-0500
$40

"RuPaul's Drag Race" viewing party
8 p.m.
Kit Kat Lounge & Supper Club
3700 N. Halsted St.
(773) 525-1111
FREE; 21+

Thursday 2.3

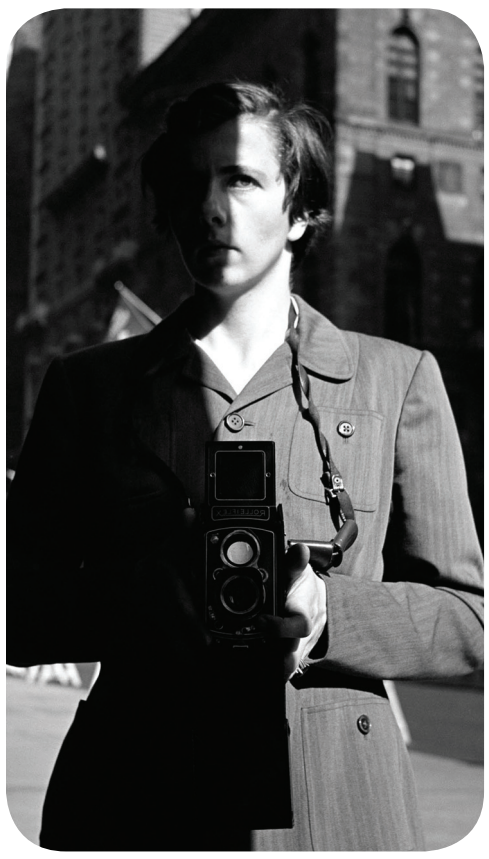
Ommegang Bang
7 – 10 p.m.
Sully's House Tap Room and Grill
1501 N. Dayton St.
(773) 244-1234
$5 drafts; 21+

Friday 2.4

Maxim Chicago party
10 p.m. – 4 a.m.
Spybar
646 N. Franklin St.
(312) 337-2191
FREE; 21+

"The Interview Show"
6:30 – 8 p.m.
Hideout
1354 W. Wabansia Ave.
(773) 227-4433
$5

"Finding Vivian Maier: Chicago Street Photographer"



8 a.m. – 7 p.m. 1.31.11 // Chicago Cultural Center 78 E. Washington St.

The exhibition showcases works by the late street photographer Vivian Maier, who secretly chronicled life in Chicago's Loop and surrounding districts from the 1950s through the 1970s. Her collection of more than 100,000 negatives wasn't discovered until shortly before her death.

Tuesday 2.1

Chicago Forward: Healthy Chicago?
6 – 8 p.m.
Murphy Auditorium
50 E. Erie St.
(312) 222-3348
$10; includes reception with food and drinks

Nerds at Heart's Love Fest
7 – 10 p.m.
Hidden Shamrock
2723 N. Halsted St.
(312) 265-6085
$20–$25

Wednesday 2.2

National Tater Tot Day: tot pizza
4 p.m. – 2 a.m.
Fedora Lounge
712 N. Clark St.
(312) 624-9008
Prices vary

"The Encyclopedia Show: Punctuation"
7:30 p.m.
Adventure Stage Chicago at Vittum Theater
1012 N. Noble St.
(773) 342-4141
$8; $5 for students with valid ID

Saturday 2.5

"Cake Chicago: February Is So Very…"
9 p.m. – midnight
Red Line Tap
7006 N. Glenwood Ave.
(773) 274-5463
$5; 21+

Prine: A Tribune Concert
5 and 7:30 p.m.
The Viaduct Theater
3111 N. Western Ave.
$25; $20 for students with valid ID

Sunday 2.6

Super, Super Bowl party
4 – 11 p.m.
O'Donovan's
2100 W. Irving Park Road
(773) 478-2100
Prices vary for food and drinks; 21+

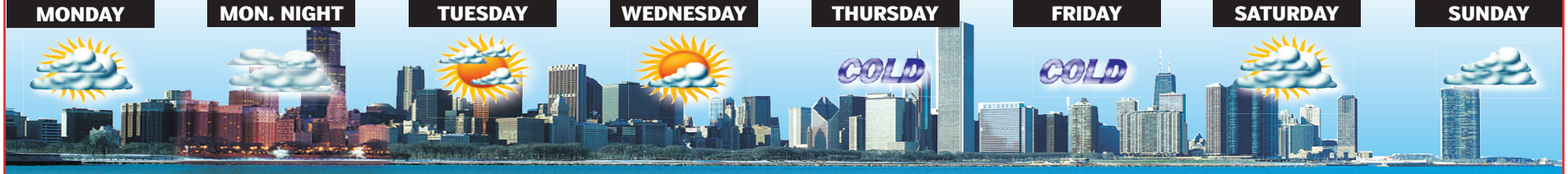
Super Bowl XLV brunch
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Girl & the Goat
809 W. Randolph St.
(312) 492-6262
Prices vary; reservations recommended

music television art games theater lecture food night-life reading

FORECAST

AccuWeather.com Seven-day forecast for Chicago

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2011



MONDAY	MON. NIGHT	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Snow or flurries possible	Cloudy and cold	Cold with periods of sun	Partly sunny and breezy	Partly sunny and frigid	Snow or flurries possible	Mostly cloudy	A bit of afternoon snow
High 25	Low 15	High 22 Low 11	High 19 Low 2	High 15 Low 3	High 16 Low 15	High 26 Low 18	High 31 Low 16