

3-14-2011

Columbia Chronicle (03/14/2011)

Columbia College Chicago

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THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE



Bulls buckle down at United Center

Web-Exclusive Video

The official news source of Columbia College Chicago

March 14, 2011

Volume 46, Issue 23



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Brent Lewis THE CHRONICLE

A protester listens to the stories of undocumented immigrants in the U.S. during an immigration rally at Daley Plaza on March 10. If passed, a proposed state bill would eliminate sanctuary cities—areas that don't report the immigration status of residents—such as Chicago.

Immigrant status under fire

Controversial bill mirroring Arizona's SB 1070 introduced in Illinois General Assembly

by Darryl Holliday
Metro Editor

LEGISLATION CURRENTLY working its way through the Illinois General Assembly is heating up debate over the state's approach to immigration.

The Taxpayers Protection Act, introduced by Republican Representative

Randy Ramey Jr., 55th District, on Feb. 17, would compel law enforcement to determine the immigration status of individuals when any lawful stop, detention or arrest is made. It would also penalize employers who employ undocumented residents, immigrants not carrying a resident permit and individuals who willingly transport or shield the undocumented.

The act mirrors Arizona's new immigration law, which prompted mass protest from immigration activists last year.

According to Ramey, though, his bill has nothing to do with immigration but instead with its economic ties.

"The people in the state are illegal aliens, and they're reaping benefits and not paying into the system," Ramey said. "The people paying into the system are called taxpayers, and that's why it's called the Taxpayers Protection Act ... [The legislation] is exactly the same as Arizona's."

However, the bill is in strong contrast to

» SEE IMMIGRATION, PG. 38

Ethnic rates satisfy college

Minority numbers low, programs offered to engage, retain students

by Shardae Smith
Assistant Campus Editor

DIVERSE STUDENTS are currently in the minority when it comes to enrollment at Columbia, but the college's leadership believes the numbers are impressive for an arts college, which it said generally have lower ethnicity rates than Columbia.



Our number is really not that small; state schools would kill for 31 percent minority. That's insane. But it is my goal to [increase] that."

- Gemini Wadley

Minority students make up 31 percent of the college's total population—a 3 percent decrease from fall 2010—according to the spring 2011 At-A-Glance Report. The same effort used to recruit these students is also made to ensure students of different cultures are retained at the institution, according to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

Gemini Wadley, assistant director of Diversity Recruitment Initiatives for the Undergraduate Admissions Office, said his job is to advocate for the black, Hispanic, Asian and LGBTQ students who want to attend Columbia.

Wadley said Columbia brought in its most diverse class in the history of the

» SEE DIVERSITY, PG. 8

Pub crawls tell tales of past

Tavern crawls sponsored by Chicago History Museum look at past through bars

by Brianna Wellen
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

EMBEDDED IN the bar of Harrigan's, 2816 N. Halsted St., are 4,000 Irish pennies collected as a last memento from before the Euro became universal European currency. The name of the bar references a famous Irish limerick, connecting Chicago's Irish community back to its roots. The stories told by the tavern's workers

and patrons give a glimpse into little-known history hidden in the center of some of Chicago's most social venues.

For the fifth year in a row, Liz Garibay presented the Erin Go Beer pub crawl as part of the Chicago History Museum's History Pub Crawls on March 8. The monthly series explores the history, characters and neighborhoods surrounding Chicago tavern culture in an effort to bring people together to celebrate the past.

Garibay started collecting the history of

» SEE TAVERN, PG. 26



Brock Brake THE CHRONICLE

Harrigan's, 2816 N. Halsted St., was a destination on the "Erin Go Beer" pub crawl on March 8 because of its strong Irish background.

Health & Fitness » PG. 14

Go over the moon

Arts & Culture » PG. 22

'PostSecret' delivered to Loyola

Metro » PG. 37

Plug - in, pay up

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EDITOR'S NOTE

No excuse in 'She asked for it'



by Spencer Roush
Editor-in-Chief

IT'S NORMAL for college students to spend their free time bar hopping or clubbing, wearing clothes different from everyday attire. It's fun to get dressed up and go out, and sometimes the skirts are shorter, the necklines are lower and the jewelry is flashier. But donning a hot little dress, high heels and lipstick is sometimes considered an excuse for men to commit sex crimes against women for wearing said outfits—because they're "asking for it."

That sentiment is an ongoing problem facing many young college-age people, especially women.

It was echoed after a March 8 New York Times article displayed a one-sided story about an 11-year-old girl getting gang raped inside an abandoned trailer in Cleveland, Tex., by 18 males, ranging from middle school age to 27.

The New York Times only perpetuated this notion when the article's author, James McKinley Jr., included quotes from disapproving neighbors and others not willing to go on the record who placed blame on the girl and her mother with phrases like, "How could their young men been drawn into such an act?"

Residents said the event all but destroyed their small town community. However, no quotes were included speaking on the girl's behalf.

This made the included interviews even more despicable. Also in the controversial article, residents were quoted saying the

girl dressed older than she was and wore makeup as someone in her 20s would. That must mean it's OK to assault someone if it looks like he or she is of age. The girl apparently hung out with teenage boys at the playground.

The real kicker came when a woman who knows several of the suspects said, "These boys have to live with this for the rest of their lives." Yes, what a shame for them.

The temptation clearly was too much for them, and the maturely dressed victim wanted it anyway, right?

Because predators like this can't resist certain outfits or makeup, I guess people should start wearing old, oversized clothes and stop brushing their hair to avoid sexual harassment—otherwise they get what's coming to them.

While the author never directly expressed his opinion of the matter, who he decided to interview and the quotes he chose to include were clearly a poor journalistic choice.

In a male-dominated society, it's no surprise these repugnant sentiments continue to exist, treating women as objects to be manhandled whenever seen fit, and the feminists who stand up for women's rights are mentally off-kilter with a dangerous, power-hungry agenda.

Even though this vicious attack happened in a quiet Texas town to a young girl, women of all ages need to come together to completely nix the "she-was-asking-for-it" excuse.

We're in the 21st century, and it's time we start taking responsibility for actions and stop blaming fashion trends and makeup for people's lack of self control.

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NEWS FLASH

3/14/11

Conversation, Q-and-A, and book signing with Jennifer Egan

Jennifer Egan will read from her highly praised book "A Visit from the Goon Squad" and engage in conversation with Donna Seaman of Booklist and Chicago Public Radio. Come hear the author's work in her voice, and bring your copy of any of her books. She will be signing her work following the conversation and reading. The event will go from 6 – 8:30 p.m.

Harold Washington Library Center
400 S. State St.

3/16/11

"U-n-f-o-l-d. A Cultural Response to Climate Change"

"U-n-f-o-l-d. A Cultural Response to Climate Change" presents the work of 25 artists who participated in Cape Farewell expeditions to the Andes and the High Arctic. Each artist witnessed the dramatic and fragile environmental tipping points of climate change. The gallery is open 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

1104 Center
Glass Curtain Gallery
1104 S. Wabash Ave., 1st floor

3/18/11

"Reflections on Writing Process: A Reserach Exchange"

Steve May of Bath Spa University, will join Fiction Writing Department Chair Randy Albers to host the reading and discussion about the international exchange of ideas on the writing process. The discussion is from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

1104 Center
Film Row Cinema
1104 S. Wabah Ave., 8th floor

CAMPUS POLL

"What role should student government have in the college?"



Justin Chaney
freshman
film major

"Students should be a big part of what goes on because we are the school. [The student government] should be making decisions as high up as they can."



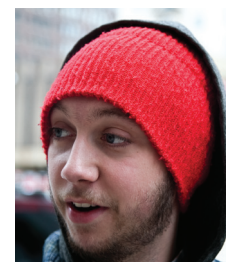
Lindsay Kummerer
junior
graphic design
major

"I think they should be working closer with the student body so we are more aware of their presence."



Jiayin Zheng
sophomore
fashion design
major

"They should be organizing opportunities for students and pulling different people from different majors together. They should also be communicating with the administration about problems with the school."



Brian Lorei
junior
music major

"I think they should be in direct contact with the faculty [who] are making big decisions."

For the Record 3/7/11

In the March 7 issue it was stated that Cheila Sopkarov wrote the Critical Encounters essay titled "Images can easily lead us astray." In fact it was written by Evan Braun, a sophomore journalism major.

Also, it was stated in our sex issue supplement that the film "Team America: World Police" was made in 1974, when in fact it was made in 2004. We apologize for these errors.



Campus



At first glance, offenses down

Method of reporting policy violations not as telling as other institutions'

by Sam Charles
Campus Editor

EVERY YEAR, colleges in the U.S. are required by law to circulate crime statistics deemed germane to their campus. Such numbers include on-campus assault, arson, manslaughter and drug and liquor law violations.

The two most common offenses in Columbia's annual reports from 2007 through 2009 were liquor and drug law violations. While the numbers appear to decrease, the method used to report those numbers may be misleading.

Columbia saw a 44 percent decrease in liquor law violations in student residence centers between January 2007 and December 2009, dropping from 672 reported incidents in 2007 to 378 in 2009. However, the number of drug offenses in student residence centers increased from 148 to 206 in 2007 to 2008 before falling from 2008 to 2009 to 187.

While Columbia's numbers show a decrease in violations, Ann Almasi, coordinator of Residence Life Adjudication, has noticed little difference in the number of adjudication meetings.

The meetings are held between a representative of the Residence Life Office and the student who violated the policy. The meeting addresses what happened that warranted the meeting and what the student must do as punishment for the violation.

"Our number of liquor law violations has stayed pretty much consistent," said Almasi. "If there's a fluctuation, I would have to attribute it to a fluctuation in the University Center. I would love to claim a huge drop, but they've stayed pretty consistent."

The violations reported to University Center security are counted with violations reported in Columbia's other residence centers by the Office of Residence Life and The Office of Safety and Security—regardless of whether or not a Columbia student was involved. While the whole number may have dropped, there is a similar number of Columbia violations throughout the report.

By comparison, drug and liquor law violations occurring on campus but outside student residence centers are rare. Between 2007 and 2009, there were two drug law violations on campus property reported to security. In the same time period, there were three liquor law violations on campus property other than a student residence center. All three instances were reported in 2008.

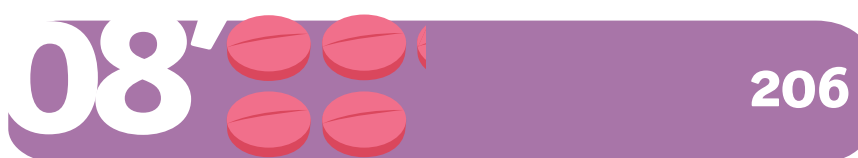
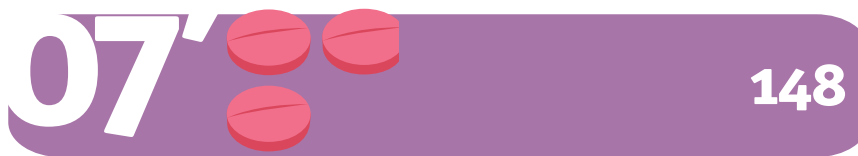
The decline of violations can be attributed to more awareness in students and their parents, said Robert Koverman, vice president of Campus Safety and Security.

"As a whole, our society has targeted alcoholism and underage drinking," Koverman said. "When we meet with incoming freshmen at orientation we really stress our alcohol policy as well as the law in Illinois in terms of underage drinking. We have really concentrated on awareness in terms of underage drinking and the

LIQUOR LAW VIOLATIONS = 100



DRUG LAW VIOLATIONS = 50



Ying Kau THE CHRONICLE

use of non-prescription drugs and how harmful [they] can be and how it can affect your career."

By comparison, the number of liquor law violations in DePaul University's Lincoln Park Campus residential facilities drasti-

cally increased between 2007 and 2009. In 2007, there were 231 liquor law violations. By 2009, the number increased to 574, according to DePaul's annual crime report.

» SEE VIOLATIONS, PG. 10

College to bid adieu to council

As faculty senate moves into place, staff, adjuncts unsure of new role

by Sharda Smith
Assistant Campus Editor

FULL-TIME FACULTY members want more say regarding Columbia issues and how to make the curriculum move more efficiently and productively. They hope the nascent faculty senate will start this process for them.

After 15 years meeting as College Council, Columbia's collective body of faculty, staff and administration who come together to discuss important issues will evolve into a faculty senate at the beginning of the fall 2011 semester. The senate will aim to provide advice and voice its opinion to President Warrick L. Carter and his administration on matters regarding academic policies and practices.

The idea of forming a body of shared governance would allow the faculty to have a unified voice and discuss policies related to academic excellence and other scholarly endeavors. This will force the college's current College Council to redefine its role without faculty.



Sara Mays THE CHRONICLE

The College Council will pass on some of its duties to the faculty senate, which hasn't formed yet. There are still questions about what the exact function of the senate will be.

According to Columbia College Faculty Organization President Tom Nawrocki, the idea was first proposed two years ago.

Nawrocki was put in charge of spearheading the faculty senate project.

In February, 83 percent of the college's full-time faculty voted on the faculty senate bylaws, with a 93 percent vote in favor of them. After the bylaws are reviewed by

Carter and Provost Steven Kapelke, the election process will begin for the faculty senate.

According to Nawrocki, College Council is the primary structure for shared governance at the college, but the senate will change that.

Discussions at the monthly council meetings have left members confused on what College Council's role will be once the

senate is formed.

"It was time to make some changes and adapt to the shifting demands of the college," Nawrocki said. "When College Council was formed, there were no schools in the college, there was only one dean."

Now that the college has the School of Fine and Performing Arts, the School of Media Arts and the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences, with a dean for each, in addition to growing enrollment, Nawrocki said it was time to establish a body to accommodate the change at Columbia.

The faculty senate will contain four standing committees: The Executive, Academic Affairs, Faculty Affairs and Financial Affairs.

Senate bylaws state it will embody the principles of shared governance and creative energy of its full-time faculty. The college's adjunct faculty members said they want to know if they will have senate representation.

Part-time faculty member John Stevenson said that's a question that hasn't been settled yet because the majority of the teachers are part-time faculty members.

"I think we definitely need to be part of

» SEE COUNCIL, PG. 10

Columbia welcomes writing wonders

College joined by number of authors to promote literature

by Amanda Murphy
Assistant Campus Editor

COLUMBIA HAS built its academics around immersing students in real-life experiences. That philosophy is once again illustrated by Story Week.

This is the 15th year the Fiction Writing Department has organized a plethora of opportunities for students and faculty to learn what it means to be a literary success.

The free festivities will begin on March 13 and last until March 18 with a literary lineup, including Scottish novelist Irvine Welsh, author of the cult-classic "Trainspotting." Other participants include Jennifer Egan, author of "A Visit from the Goon Squad," and Columbia professor Audrey Niffenegger, author of the critically-acclaimed book "The Time Traveler's Wife."

"Very few universities in the entire country have an event this impressive in terms of the wealth [of] talent from all [across] the country coming in," said Gina Frangello, adjunct faculty member in the Fiction Writing Department and frequent participant in the festival.

The goal of Story Week is to provide students with a variety of workshops, readings and speeches. There will be more than 25 participating writers as well as contributions from faculty and alumni.

The events will last all day, most beginning at 11 a.m. Writers will exhibit their



Courtesy COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

Clockwise from top right: Audrey Niffenegger, Irvine Welsh, Regina Taylor, Gina Frangello, John McNally and Jennifer Egan are six of the 25 writers participating in Story Week this year.

particular strengths in the workshops, Frangello said.

"[The festival] really helps the students realize what their options are as a literary writer but also how to get involved in the literary scene," she said.

According to Fiction Writing Department Chair Randall Albers, the festival has grown steadily since its start. The first Story Week lasted two days, and the college invited three contributing writers.

Frangello has participated in Story Week since 1997 and said she is impressed with the authors Columbia is bringing in this year. She will be in one of the week's most

popular events, Literary Rock & Roll, in which she, Welsh and another author will do readings and signings.

The event, which will be held at 6 p.m. on March 19 at the music venue Metro, 3730 N. Clark St., will also include short comedy with Stephanie Shaw and music spun by deejays Joe Shanahan, Welsh and Don De Grazia.

"I think all of the Chicago writers definitely illustrate you don't have to live in New York or come from a literary family or have connections," Frangello said. "If we stick together and stay true to what we believe in and what we're doing, then you

can get an audience for your work."

The week offers talks for several majors, including journalism, theater and film.

Golden Globe-winning actress Regina Taylor is a featured writer for the event and has made a successful career out of writing, directing and acting. She has been in a number of television shows and movies, including "Grey's Anatomy" and "Lean on Me."

"I will be [giving] a talk with students about my career, and I think that will give [students] some practical information about the business of writing [and] passion needed for moving forward in this career," Taylor said.

This is Taylor's first appearance at Story Week, and she will be leading a playwriting workshop on March 17. Students will perform scenes from her play "Magnolia," and she will work with the actors to direct the pieces.

Columbia expects approximately 4,000 students, faculty and members of the public to join in the events.

Albers said the festival expects many spectators from outside the college to take advantage of the opportunities presented by the festival.

"We have a lot of events that are interesting and informative for people working in a variety of disciplines," Albers said. "We regard it as one of Columbia's signature events, and it has become a festival that has gained notoriety [throughout] the years."

For a complete list of writers, check colum.edu/specialevents/story_week

amurphy@chroniclemail.com

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

Concert Hall Events

Monday March 14

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7:00 PM

Tuesday March 15

Meet the artist:
Christian "Crada" Kalla
12:00 PM
Pop Orchestra in Concert
7:00 PM

Wednesday March 16

Pop Rock Showcase in Concert
12:00 PM
Pop Rock Performance 1&2
in Concert 7:00 PM
David Bowlin Residency Concert
at the Sherwood 7:00 PM

Thursday March 17

R&B Ensemble in Concert
12:00 PM
Latin Jazz Ensemble in Concert
7:00 PM
Student Piano Recital
at the Sherwood 7:00 & 8:00 PM

Friday March 18

Jazz Gallery in the Lobby
12:00 PM
Nicole Neff Senior Recital
7:00 PM
David Bowlin Residency Concert at
the Sherwood 7:00 PM



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

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Columbia
COLLEGE CHICAGO

Tracking Chicago's psychedelic history

'60s and '70s historian, journalist shares knowledge through own obsession

by Sam Charles
Campus Editor

HOARDING, ACQUIRING or gathering—any of those terms could be applied to historian and journalist Steve Krakow and his endless mission to expand his collections.

Krakow, also known by his stage name "Plastic Crimewave," visited Columbia on March 9 at the Quincy Wong Center for Artistic Expression in the Wabash Campus Building to give insight into the not-solely-monetary value his collections have. The visit was part of the "Re: Collections" series on display at the Wabash Campus Building.

"There's a side of collecting you don't necessarily enjoy," Krakow said. "It's like a mania, maybe even a sickness. It's not just trying to fill in [a space], it's something you just naturally do."

His vinyl record collection, which was the primary focus of his talk, is one of his most extensive. He estimates that he has more than 7,000 vinyl LPs. Krakow said he saves all the receipts from his record purchases so he can claim them as deductible research materials on his income taxes.

"I'm not running out of [ideas]," Krakow

said. "I'll definitely be hunting for weird Chicago bands' [records] if I'm at a thrift store."

Krakow is an authority on 60s and 70s music and Chicago culture. He is a bi-monthly columnist for the Chicago Reader and updates his ongoing "Secret History of Chicago Music" project. His column is printed in conjunction with the airing of a radio show of the same name, in which he is also a featured guest. The project was featured at Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art in May 2010.



I guess I'm kind of a historian in my head, so I think "What is this person doing now?"

- Steve Krakow

Jessica Valerio, senior arts, entertainment and media management major and former Student Government Association president, introduced Krakow to the attendees. She described his work and collections as a blend between journalistic research and visual art.

"Attracted from a young age to comic books, The Byrds and MAD Magazine, he continues to delve deeper and deeper into 1960s psychedelia, cartooning and all things



Brock Brake THE CHRONICLE

Steve Krakow, aka "Plastic Crimewave," amassed several collections that now engulf his home. He estimates he has more than 30,000 comic books and 7,000 vinyl records.

vibrationally bizarre," Valerio said.

Throughout the discussion, Krakow showed photos of different collections in his home, including his comic book collection, which he estimates to include more than 30,000 issues.

Other objects of Krakow's desire include plush animals, action figures, music posters and Mr. T memorabilia.

Mr. T's persona and career sparked Krakow's interest in him. He referred to Mr. T as "a living cartoon."

"Assembling collections is a creative process that has engaged artists ... as a hobby [and] as a medium in its own right for many years now," said Marc Fischer, adjunct faculty member in the Art and Design Department, who helped organize the discussion. "Artists commonly explore forms and concepts through the construction of collections and archives."

Aside from his journalism career, Krakow

is the frontman for the acid-punk band The Plastic Crimewave Sound. He acquires much of his collection at thrift stores he visits while on tour with the band. He said while he may not have a lot of money when touring, he will sometimes use other memorabilia to barter.

Krakow has avoided the digital advances made since the '60s and '70s. He believes the analog music recorded on vinyl LPs, cassettes and 8-tracks is the way artists intended their music to be heard.

After his discussion and presentation, Krakow opened up the floor to take questions. When asked what drove him to reach out to artists more than other collectors normally do, he said it was a reflex.

"It always seemed natural," he said. "I guess I'm a historian in my head, so I think 'What is this person doing now?'"

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International art sends message of strength

Artists meet to discuss work, women's rights, status in modern day world

by Amanda Murphy
Assistant Campus Editor

THE EXHIBITION, "Off the Beaten Path: Violence, Women and Art," describes many aspects of what it means to be a woman in modern day America. The exhibit at the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St., displays a variety of artwork from 29 contemporary artists from 25 countries.

On March 8, Columbia sponsored a discussion with four of the featured artists—, three women and one man—about their art, gender issues and the relation between the two.

From installation artists to photographers, the artists at the panel discussion—Patricia Evans, Susan Plum, Jane Quick-to-See Smith and Hank Willis Thomas—represent a range of media while addressing violence against women and the rights of safety, security and justice.

"Art has the ability to make good on the democratic process by supporting equitable participation, engaging a population that represents the full breadth of our society," said Jane Saks, founding executive director of the Ellen Stone Belic Institute for the Study of Women and Gender in the Arts and Media. "It can be transformative, creating systemic change on many scales and can be one of the most radical ways to engage in democracy."



Sara Mays THE CHRONICLE

On March 8, Jane Quick-to-See Smith, one of the featured artists in "Off the Beaten Path," discussed how her art relates to the exhibition at the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St.

Evans is a Chicago-based documentary photographer who was beaten and sexually assaulted more than 20 years ago while running on the lakefront on a Saturday afternoon. Her work shown in the exhibition is an accumulation of police photographs of her face and photographs of the site where it occurred.

"[The photography project] was an effort to survive and find a way forward with my life and work," Evans said.

The work in the exhibit by installation and performance artist Plum is inspired by similar tribulations of women. Plum spent most of her life in Mexico, and some of her work in the exhibition was inspired

by women she met who have lost their daughters and other female relatives to kidnapping and sexual assault.



I think [the message] of the collective of the show should make people leave with a higher awareness of women."

- Jane Quick-to-See Smith

dealt with. Thomas is a conceptual photo artist who alters vintage and modern advertising to reveal the flaws portrayed in black society. The piece on display is a dress company's advertisement from the 1970s. When all of the text is removed, a very different social message is apparent, Thomas said.

The artists also gave their input on the exhibition's name, some of them agreeing it represents it well and others disagreeing with the controversial title.

"It's a fairly evocative title for an issue that is not always out in the open, in public and not on a visible path," Evans said.

The panelists discussed the reasons their work was chosen to be in the exhibition. Smith, who creates art dealing with the suppression of American Indians, spoke of how honored she feels to be part of this traveling exhibition carrying such a powerful and important message.

"I think [the message] of the collective of the show should make people leave with a higher awareness of women," Smith said.

The artists spoke of how one of the most unique attributes of the exhibition is the cultural diversity on display. The artists agreed the broad spectrum of gender issues helps create creating a stronger, more apparent message.

"One of the most interesting things is that it's going to different cultures and countries," Plum said. "It will be interesting to see how [the exhibition] grows and expands this awareness."

Sexual violence is not the only topic

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UR CHARGIN'
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» DIVERSITY

Continued from Front Page

college in fall 2009, which was more than 30 percent minority.

In the spring 2011 semester, black students make up 16 percent of the Columbia population with Hispanics accounting for 12 percent.

“Our number is really not that small,” Wadley said. “State schools would kill for 31 percent minority. That’s insane. But it is my goal to [increase] that.”

Sheila Carter, executive director of Multicultural Affairs at Columbia, said her department works with the Undergraduate Admissions Department to let potential students know there are supportive resources available for them once they reach the college.

She said there are specific programming opportunities for minority and LGBTQ students to involve themselves with.

“Many times minority students come to a predominately white campus, and they don’t have the same level of confidence,” Carter said. “I think that comes from many of them not having the opportunity to go to a high school that is diverse. For white students also, they get to a school and engage with students from different cultures and races. It’s a learning experience for everybody.”

Carter said students must be eager to understand other cultures—not solely their own—and it’s Columbia’s duty to prepare them to be successful global citizens once they leave college.

According to Laila Alchaar, coordinator of Asian-American Cultural Affairs for the Multicultural Affairs Office, student orga-

nizations such as One Tribe, which is a collection of representatives from each of the college’s student organizations, help bridge the gap between different cultures on the campus.

“One Tribe is a diversity council,” Alchaar said. “We work to create awareness around issues of social justice, diversity and multiculturalism and create a community opposed to having separate cultural organizations. [They] have a space where they can all work together.”

Alchaar said she thinks One Tribe creates a space for acceptance.

“I think it’s easy for a student to say, ‘I’m an African-American student, and I’m going to join the Black Student Union,’” Alchaar said. “But I think it’s a lot more effective for students to learn about others in a way that engages them.”

The programs offered by Multicultural Affairs aren’t specifically retention programs, but Alchaar said she thinks what is offered relates to the concept.



We have to work together as a college from the top down to continue to do the kinds of things we are doing. [Such as] providing scholarships, increasing academic support and increasing ways we can work together as faculty and staff to help engage the students inside and outside the classroom.”

- Sheila Carter

According to her, it takes college engagement and finding a home at Columbia

to retain students. She said she thinks every department within Student Affairs achieves that goal.

“We are here to give information to first-year students of color, who are first generation [college attendees], who need help filling out their financial aid forms, who need to know when to register for classes and about our life skills programs,” Alchaar said.

To retain minority students, it has to

be a college-wide effort, Carter said.

“We have to work together as a college from the top down to continue to do the kinds of things we are doing,” she said. “[Such as] providing scholarships, increasing academic support and increasing ways we can work together as faculty and staff to help engage the students inside and outside the classroom.”

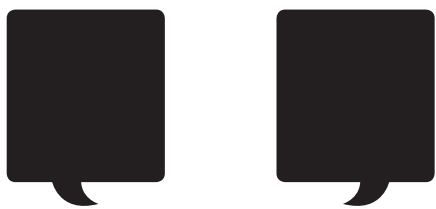
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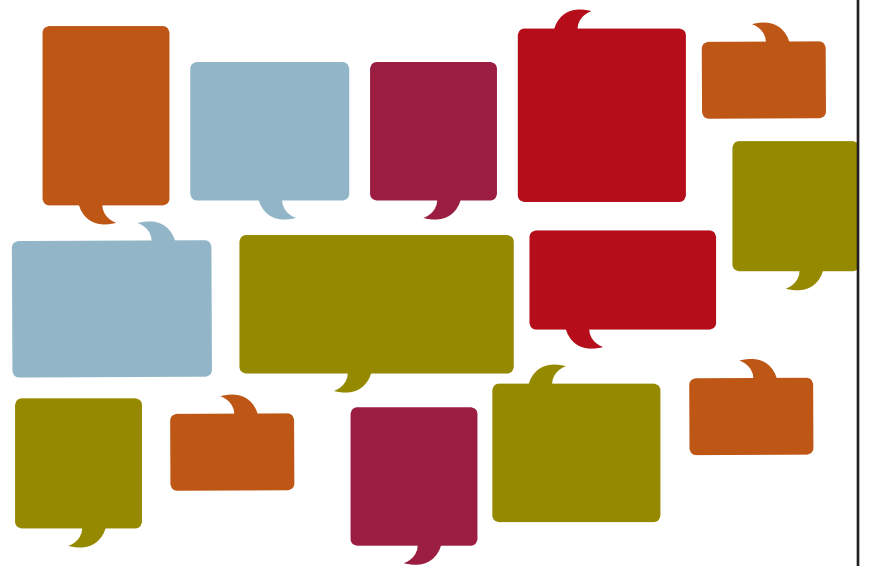
Brent Lewis THE CHRONICLE

Columbia’s minority student enrollment decreased by 3 percent for the spring 2011 semester, but the college’s staff said it’s still an impressive number for a private arts institution.

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Images of fathers gain a new poignancy

image + implication

CRITICAL ENCOUNTERS

by Daniel Prazer

Columbia College 2009 Alumnus

AS FAR as I can tell, I've seen nothing but father/son relationships for the past year and a half.

They appear in books, movies—even television shows—and I'm not much of a TV watcher.

And I know why. My relationship with my father, from the time I turned 12, went downhill. That's the age he was when he watched his dad keel over from a heart attack at the breakfast table. My grandfather, as my dad told it, was dead before he hit the floor.

He only told me this because around that time, he was yelling at my brother for not picking up a candy wrapper, and I stepped in between them. He told me to mind my own business. I grabbed him by the shirt and slammed him into the wall and said, "Why should I listen to you? You're nothing but a f***ing drunk." He had a few inches on me, the body of an all-American football player and wres-

tlar softened by middle age. But in that moment, I stood eye-to-eye with him; I had him back on his heels for once. He called me a loser.

The next day he tearfully apologized to me and admitted he was a drunk. He never uttered the word alcoholic as far as I know.

I'll skip a few years, a divorce, a few arrests for drunken driving, a distancing in our relationship to the point where we didn't talk for a few years. But the truth of the matter is he was a raging alcoholic—he started seriously drinking when he took a job sweeping at a bar when he was 15—and nobody knew the extent of it.

Of course I didn't know about this until after he shot himself in the side of the head on June 2, 2009.

That's when I started noticing fathers in nearly everything I read and saw. The image of Quoyle's fatherhood in Annie Proulx's "The Shipping News," the way he embraces his life with his daughter Bunny despite his wife's tragic abandonment, breaks my heart now, where it once inspired me. The distance between Frank Wheeler and his sons, treated simply as objects in the room, in Richard Yates's "Revolutionary Road" seems eerily prescient now. I ache for Ballinger, the father who learns, in the first lines of Richard Bausch's amazing short story "Aren't You Happy For Me?" that his daughter is pregnant and will marry one of her college professors—and a professor emeritus to boot—just

as Ballinger's marriage is crumbling. I could go through my bookshelves and DVD collection and list example after example.

In that one moment of despair that followed infinite others, when my dad squeezed the trigger of that .32, my view of life began to change. In the hours afterward, when my mom called to break the news, I remember thinking very specifically, "This is one of those phone calls that changes your life forever." Because the truth is this: I idolized my father when I was growing up. He was stoic and ever-steady, a salesman of firefighting equipment who would come home, peck Mom on the cheek and dive into the newspaper. Later, he'd play all-time quarterback so my little brother and I could run pass routes in the backyard. He coached youth-league soccer.

But he also came to my varsity tennis matches drunk. Alcoholics are great at hiding their addictions, and my dad certainly excelled in that field. I had no idea how damaged he was while I worshiped the ground on which he walked.

I know this, too: Fiction is a mirror of life. But I know—not just understand on an intellectual level but know it in my core now—that compact between reader and writer, director and viewer, is a two-way street, though one neither the writer nor director has any control over.

I'll be the last person to urge restraint upon writers; self-censorship makes for crap fiction on the page or on the screen, and happy families don't make good sto-

ries. Neither, though, do laziness or easy exits from plots. Every single example I mentioned does the hard thing and puts the audience through the wringer.

And as someone who's been through the wringer of life lately, I'm damn glad they did.

Daniel Prazer is an MFA graduate from Columbia's Fiction Writing Department.

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).

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Columbia
COLLEGE CHICAGO

Money talking money

Faculty, staff convocation discussed administration's decisions, Columbia's future

by Amanda Murphy
Assistant Campus Editor

IN THE past year, Columbia made strides toward a more promising financial position compared to that of the last several years.

Or so said Columbia President Warrick L. Carter at a faculty and staff convocation on March 11 about the college's recent financial status. He explained the reasons behind some of the unpopular decisions Columbia's administration made in recent months, such as staff cuts.

"We've had some challenges [during] the last two years, and it's not a surprise to anyone," Carter said. "But we've had some good things as well."

Carter emphasized that the college's current status is stable, and the administration is looking at all aspects to ensure Columbia is making the best financial and academic decisions.

An issue Carter addressed was the college's recent staff cuts of 23 employees. The adjustments Columbia is making, including letting staff go, will save the college \$6 million, he said.

"Those were extremely difficult decisions," Carter said. "We need to refocus and redesign some of our systems to make sure we are doing it the best way we can—as economically possible as we can—while still serving our students."

Another way the college will save money is through the purchase of the Johnson Publishing Building, according to Carter.

The new building will allow the college to house departments in the 218 S. Wabash

Ave. and 1112 S. Wabash Ave. buildings, which will save money by eliminating leased space.

The college's board of directors and administration have announced a campaign to raise \$100 million for the college. Carter revealed at the convocation that \$60 million has been raised so far, and he hopes Columbia will exceed the target.

"We have a board that understands the importance of giving to the institution, not only their time but their treasure," Carter said. "They are stepping up to the plate to support the college in the ways it should."

Carter said one of the main struggles Illinois colleges are dealing with is the lack of government funding through scholarships. Columbia is due \$6 million for last fall alone from the Illinois Monetary Award Program. In combination with the money the college was supposed to receive for the current semester, the state owes Columbia a total of \$11 million.

One way the college can create more revenue is by increasing student enrollment, Carter said. However, those numbers continue to drop. He said the enrollment is currently at 11,922 students, compared with 12,500 in 2008, the highest it has been. This resulted in a \$10 million loss for the college.

To compensate for raising tuition and lack of government aid, the Columbia board of directors is adding \$4 million to the scholarship fund, which will support 1,000 more students, according to Carter.

"It shows the board understood we need to do what we can do to help students as they are facing all of these trials and tribulations," Carter said.

amurphy@chroniclemail.com

» COUNCIL

Continued from PG. 3

the senate," Stevenson said.

Stevenson said he thinks the faculty senate will be a step forward for Columbia because the faculty's voice has been lacking in the decision-making process of the college.

The college's part-time faculty organization submitted a proposal to the bylaws committee advocating for this to happen, according to Stevenson.

Nawrocki said he agrees the faculty senate should include part-time representation, but it was too big of a decision for a bylaws committee to handle.

"Many of us recommend adjunct faculty members should be included in some way," Nawrocki said. "What I recommend is that the faculty senate elects an adjunct faculty member from each school to represent it, [but] it would be up to the senate and that's one of the first issues they will be taking up."

In regards to the College Council's future, Theater Department Chair John Green said it's currently in a transition phase.

Green said there will need to be a balance between the faculty senate and what's to become of the College Council, where important topics are addressed, but ensuring the council won't be doing the work of the senate.

"We won't be a College Council [anymore]," Green said. "We will dissolve and become another body. What we're doing for the moment is discussing the fact that there is a need for a forum in which students, staff, full-time and part-time faculty can discuss in detail issues that affect everybody across campus."

The College Council's next step is figuring out how this will come together by

the end of the current semester, according to Green.

"The creation of a faculty senate does not mean staff, student and administration issues aren't important," Green said. "They are extremely important, but we now need to find a way of making sure all these voices are heard and continue [in] the development of the institution."

ssmith@chroniclemail.com

» VIOLATIONS

Continued from PG. 3

However, the number of drug law violations in DePaul's Lincoln Park residential facilities decreased in 2009 after seeing a rise in 2008.

In DePaul's annual report, it makes a distinction in how many violations at the University Center of Chicago, 525 S. State St., violations involved students of the university. In fact, it records violations in the University Center separately from those occurring in its Lincoln Park residential facilities.

Few students violate the college's policies more than once, Almasi said. Most find their initial punishment reason enough to not violate the policies again. Punishments can include performing community service, mandatory attendance of an on-campus event and writing a reflective essay on it and a contract between roommates to establish more concrete rules.

Almasi said many violations are a result of bad communication between roommates.

"We have a lot of good options," Almasi said. "Columbia takes a very educational approach to giving out sanctions. The amount of people who violate the policy twice is really small."

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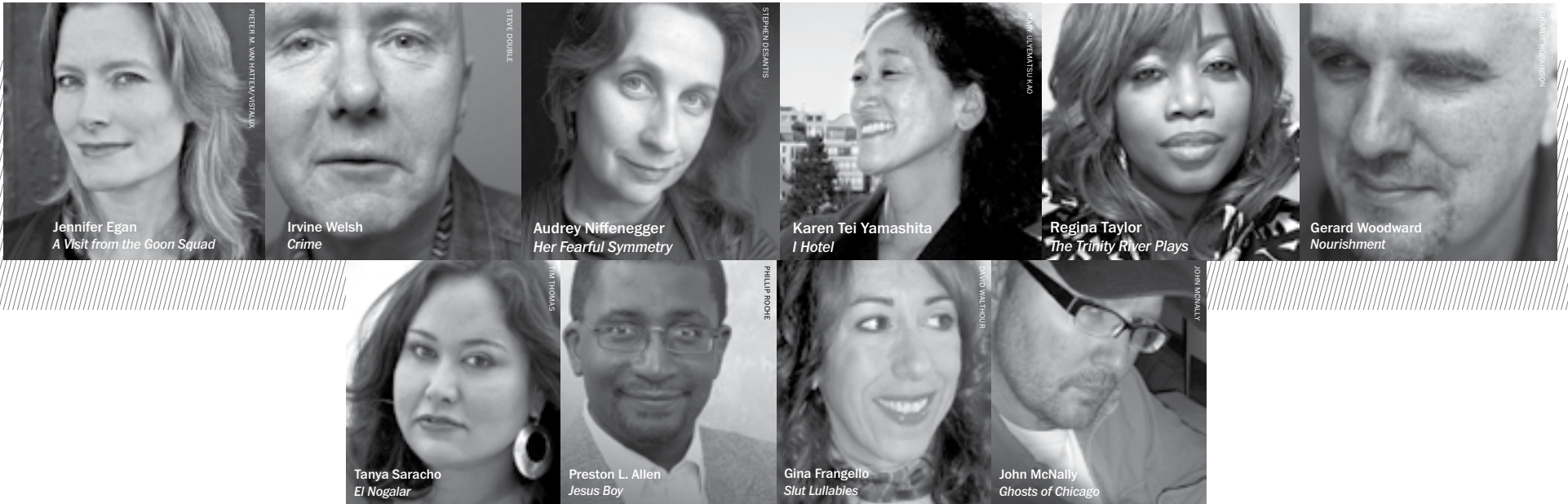
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2ND STORY

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Music: **DJ White Russian & Seeking Wonderland**
Host: **Megan Stielstra**

MONDAY, MARCH 14

11:00 AM | FILM ROW CINEMA

ADJUNCT FACULTY READING/OPEN MIC
Mort Castle, *All American Horror of the 21st Century: The First Decade*
Jeff Jacobson, *Wormfood*
James Sherman, *Beau Jest*
Host: **Mort Castle**
Brown bag conversation with host **Gary Johnson** follows

2:30 PM | HAROLD WASHINGTON LIBRARY

CONVERSATION/Q&A/SIGNING:
JENNIFER EGAN, *A Visit from the Goon Squad*
Host: **Joe Meno**

6:00 PM | HAROLD WASHINGTON LIBRARY

READING/CONVERSATION/SIGNING:
JENNIFER EGAN
Host: **Donna Seaman**, *Booklist/Chicago Public Radio*

9:30 PM | SHEFFIELD'S BEER GARDEN (Ages 21+)

GRAD READING/OPEN MIC
Geoff Hyatt, *Malagon Rising*
John McNally, *Ghosts of Chicago*
Host: **Chris DeGuire**

TUESDAY, MARCH 15

11:00 AM | FILM ROW CINEMA

UNDERGRAD READING/OPEN MIC
Hosts: **Greg Baldino** and the **Student Board**
Brown bag conversation with host **Sam Weller** follows

2:30 PM | FILM ROW CINEMA

FICTION WRITING FACULTY READING
Host: **Betty Shiflett**

6:00 PM | HAROLD WASHINGTON LIBRARY
READING/CONVERSATION/SIGNING
Audrey Niffenegger, *Her Fearful Symmetry*
Gerard Woodward, *Nourishment*
Karen Tei Yamashita, *I Hotel*
Host: **Alexis Pride**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16

11:00 AM | FILM ROW CINEMA

FROM PAGE TO STAGE SCENES FROM
STUDENT PLAYWRIGHTS
Hosts: **Lisa Schlesinger** and **Tom Mula**
Brown bag conversation with host **Lisa Schlesinger** follows

1:00 PM | FILM ROW CINEMA

CONVERSATION: KAREN TEI YAMASHITA, *I Hotel*
Host: **Alexis Pride**

2:30 PM | FILM ROW CINEMA

FUTURE OF PUBLISHING PANEL
Craig Jobson, Art & Design, Columbia College Chicago
Steve May, Bath Spa University
Joe Meno, *The Great Perhaps*
Donna Seaman, *Booklist/Chicago Public Radio*
Dan Sinker, *celstories.net*
Host: **Randall Albers**

6:00 PM | METRO (All Ages)

LITERARY ROCK & ROLL
Reading/Signing:
Irvine Welsh, *Crime*
Preston L. Allen, *Jesus Boy*
Gina Frangello, *Slut Lullabies*
Short Comedy: **Stephanie Shaw**
Spins: **DJ Dream Team**
(**Joe Shanahan, Irvine Welsh, Don De Grazia**)

THURSDAY, MARCH 17

10:00 AM | THEATER BUILDING | ROOM 404

PLAYWRITING WORKSHOP:
REGINA TAYLOR, *The Trinity River Plays*
Host: **John Green**

11:00 AM | HAROLD WASHINGTON LIBRARY

MAKE-READY: MANUSCRIPT TO BOOK
PUBLISHING PANEL WITH DONNA SEAMAN
Booklist Associate Editor and Chicago Public Radio book critic
Heidi Bell, freelance editor
Katie Dublinski, Graywolf Press Managing Editor
Scott Miller, VP, Trident Literary Agency
Johnny Temple, Akashic Books publisher
Sam Weller, *Listen to the Echoes: The Ray Bradbury Interviews*
Brown bag conversation with host **Sarah Dodson** follows

1:00 PM | HAROLD WASHINGTON LIBRARY

CONVERSATION WITH PLAYWRIGHTS:
REGINA TAYLOR, *The Trinity River Plays*
TANYA SARACHO, *El Nogalar*
Host: **Lisa Schlesinger**

2:30 PM | FILM ROW CINEMA

CONVERSATION: JOHNNY TEMPLE, Akashic Books
Publisher, and DAN (Fake Rahm) SINKER

4:00 PM | FILM ROW CINEMA

COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO
STORY AND THE ARTS PANEL
Rod Slemmons, Director, Museum of Contemporary Photography
Philip Hartigan, visual artist
Audrey Niffenegger, author, visual artist
Tony Triglio, poet
Darrell Jones, dancer
Bruce Sheridan, filmmaker
Host: **Patricia Ann McNair**

FRIDAY, MARCH 18

11:00 AM | FILM ROW CINEMA

REFLECTIONS ON WRITING PROCESS
A RESEARCH EXCHANGE
Readers: **Gerard Woodward**, Bath Spa University,
Shawn Shiflett, Columbia College Chicago, and others
Hosts: **Steve May**, Bath Spa University
and **Randall Albers**, Columbia College Chicago

6:00 - 8:00 PM (5:30 PM Doors) | LINCOLN HALL (All Ages)

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Columbia
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Health & Fitness



Nittany Lions upset Hawkeyes on the mat

Penn State claims first Big Ten wrestling championship against Iowa in Evanston

by **Nader Ihmoud**
Contributing Writer

THE UNIVERSITY of Iowa Hawkeyes entered the 2011 Big Ten Wrestling Championships with momentum. They completed the 2010-2011 regular season with a conference championship and were favored to win the tournament crown.

However, they ran into the Penn State University Nittany Lions, who upset them to win their first wrestling title in the school's history and their first conference wrestling championship.

The tournament was held at Welsh-Ryan Arena, 1501 Central St. in Evanston, Ill., on March 5 and 6. Penn State beat the Hawkeyes by one point.

The Nittany Lions needed a huge last leg, down 10 points before claiming a championship to build steam heading into the NCAA tournament.

"[Winning the Big Ten title] is good momentum going into Nationals," said Penn State Head Coach Cael Sanderson.

The 2011 NCAA Wrestling tournament will take place March 17-19 in Philadelphia, where the Nittany Lions will have a strong presence in their home state.

Penn State had five individual champions at the 133-149-157-174, and 184-pound weight classes. The Nittany Lions also swept the

individual awards with David Taylor, at 157 pounds, earning conference Wrestler of the Year and Freshman of the Year accolades.

Penn State 184-pounder Quentin Wright was named Outstanding Wrestler of the Championships, while Sanderson picked up Coach of the Year honors.

"It really sets the bar high, changes the whole program around," said Frank Molinaro, Penn State's 149-weight-class champion.

Iowa took an early lead in the tournament approaching the final round. They held the lead with 121 points and a 10-point advantage against Penn State.

The finals began with one of the most anticipated matches of the night with two of the nation's most highly-ranked 125-pounders facing off. Top ranked Matt McDonough of Iowa was pitted against Northwestern University's Brandon Precin. McDonough defeated Precin with a late takedown in the final period.

Penn State answered back with a win when 133-pounder Andrew Long defeated the University of Wisconsin's Tyler Graff.

With seconds in the final period ticking off, Graff was called for a technical violation for stalling, or avoiding his opponent, which tied the match and forced overtime. Long quickly got the takedown in overtime for a victory.

Penn State did not have another championship bout until the 149-pound weight class.

Penn State won four of the next five weight classes respectively. At the 149-



Sara Mays THE CHRONICLE

Penn State University won their first Big Ten Wrestling championship on March 6 at Welsh-Ryan Arena, 1501 Central in Evanston, Ill.

pound weight class, Molinaro defeated Michigan's Eric Grajales 3-0. Shortly after, teammate David Taylor delivered a win at the 157-pound weight class against Iowa's Derek St. John, completing an undefeated season.

Penn State's Ed Ruth then defeated Ohio State's Nick Heflin, 8-5, at the 184-pound weight class.

Wright, seeded eighth, converted two upsets in the tournament. In the quarter-

finals, he beat top-seed Travis Rutt of Wisconsin, and then defeated No. 2 seed Kevin Steinhaus of Minnesota in the finals. His victory gave Penn State the final lead of tournament.

"Personally, I think it was my [most important] match since I was the last one to score big points for the team," Wright said. "If I won, we had a chance to win as a team."

» SEE WRESTLING PG. 16

Improve problem solving, use your hands

Gestures can help with communication gap, mental development for children

by **Alexandra Kukulka**
Contributing Writer

WHEN CHILDREN tell adults how they brush their teeth, it's difficult for them to explain the task without gesturing.

The act of gesturing might seem like a common part of everyday conversation, but it's been proven to help the brain's train of thought when clarifying a situation.

Based on a recent study published by Psychological Science, hand gestures help people communicate their thoughts when solving a problem or clarifying tasks.

According to the study, titled "Gesture Changes Thought by Grounding It in Action," gesturing while explaining a task may help with problem solving and children's mental development.

"We are trying to argue that gesture is really changing the way [people] are thinking," said Susan Goldin-Meadow, the study's lead researcher and psychology professor at the University of Chicago. "We were interested in the relationship between gesture and action. We are trying to figure out whether [gestures] get some of the benefits as an action or whether [gestures are] something quite different from that."

Volunteers were asked to solve the Tower of Hanoi, a puzzle comprised of three pegs. Pieces are moved from peg to peg in a specific weight order. Heavier pieces are placed on the bottom and cannot be stacked on top



STOCK PHOTO

of lighter ones. The weight of the pieces is light, so participants were able to move the pieces with one hand.

It was conducted in two parts: In the first part, participants were asked to explain how they solved the puzzle and then complete it again. In the second part, they had to perform the task twice before explaining how they solved it.

Also in the first part of the study, participants were asked to explain how they solved the puzzle after the first time it was completed. They all used their hands when talking to researchers.

Goldin-Meadow said it was almost impossible for volunteers to explain the game to others without using one-handed gestures.

"What mattered was which gestures they produced, one-handed versus two-handed gestures," Goldin-Meadow said.

According to the study, it took volunteers who use one-handed gestures 12.9 seconds

longer to communicate to researchers how they completed the puzzle compared to people who used two-handed gestures.

Gesturing ties people's thoughts to their actions, and the actions help communicate what words cannot express, said Sian Beilock, associate professor of psychology at the U of C.

During a second Tower of Hanoi game, the disks were secretly made heavier, making it harder to move the pieces in the specified weight order. This time, volunteers had to use two hands to move the disks.

The people who used one-handed gestures after the first game to explain how they solved it had trouble solving the puzzle with heavier pieces because the weight changed, which made the game harder and made their previous method to solve the puzzle incorrect.

Changing the weight of the pieces caused volunteers to gesture more to explain them-

selves, which is why the second part of the study was conducted—to prove gesturing is crucial when explaining how to solve a problem, Goldin-Meadow said.

In the second part of the study, volunteers were asked to play the game twice, the second time with the weight change, before talking to researchers. They were asked to describe what they did after playing.

"If [explaining the task] really depends on gesturing then if we take [gesturing in between both games] away, the whole effect should go away," Goldin-Meadow said. "So we took gesturing away, and the whole effect [of being able to explain a task effectively] went away."

Goldin-Meadow and Beilock are working with children to help them understand abstract concepts in mathematics, physics and chemistry by using their hands.

"[Gesturing] helps communication, thinking and problem solving. [Hand motions] help solve simple math problems," said David Uttal, professor of psychology at Northwestern University in the Psychology and Education Department.

Children use gestures to show they understand that there are two sides to a problem before they are able to explain it, Uttal said.

Based on the study, gesturing may help figure out how to work out a dilemma when it may not be noticed.

"It could be that gestures really have an effect on the way you think, no matter what you're doing," Goldin-Meadow said.

STAYIN' SAVVY

Sponsors frozen over hockey hit



by Stephanie Saviola
Managing Editor

has coached for as long as I can remember.

One aspect of the sport often misconstrued is the level of contact hitting and fighting. Most people who don't understand hockey typically watch it for the fighting. Hitting and checking are part of the game, but unlike other contact sports such as football, hockey is different because the ice is solid as opposed to Astroturf, and the boards around the rink create an unforgiving barrier that can be extremely dangerous for players, especially if they are hit from behind.

However, after a March 8 NHL game between the Boston Bruins and Montreal Canadiens, which left a player with a concussion and fractured vertebrae, some sponsors as well as the NHL commissioner, Gary Bettman are reconsidering some of the league's rules and regulations.

Most people who watched the game and witnessed the hit from Bruin's player Zdeno Chara on Max Pacioretty of the Canadiens seem divided on the issue. Some argue the hit was fairly clean while others say it was intentional. Pacioretty may not be able to play for the remainder of the season but hopefully he recovers and is able to

GROWING UP in a hockey family from Buffalo, N.Y., I was destined to become a fan and learn to appreciate the game. It was unavoidable. My two brothers have played all their life, my mother is a super fan and my father

has coached for as long as I can remember.

One aspect of the sport often misconstrued is the level of contact hitting and fighting. Most people who don't understand hockey typically watch it for the fighting. Hitting and checking are part of the game, but unlike other contact sports such as football, hockey is different because the ice is solid as opposed to Astroturf, and the boards around the rink create an unforgiving barrier that can be extremely dangerous for players, especially if they are hit from behind.

However, after a March 8 NHL game between the Boston Bruins and Montreal Canadiens, which left a player with a concussion and fractured vertebrae, some sponsors as well as the NHL commissioner, Gary Bettman are reconsidering some of the league's rules and regulations.

Most people who watched the game and witnessed the hit from Bruin's player Zdeno Chara on Max Pacioretty of the Canadiens seem divided on the issue. Some argue the hit was fairly clean while others say it was intentional. Pacioretty may not be able to play for the remainder of the season but hopefully he recovers and is able to

come back soon. The league should however, look into individual cases and assess them differently rather than rewriting the rule book.

A major advertiser, Air Canada, which sponsors the league's six Canadian teams, is threatening to pull its sponsorship stating, "Unless the NHL takes immediate action with serious suspension to the players in question to curtail these life-threatening injuries, Air Canada will withdraw its sponsorship of hockey."

And while the play is fueling a frenzy of critics calling for the league to crack down on "violent" hits, they are blowing the incident out of proportion. Every time a player suffers a severe injury, a sport can't change game rules that have been in place for decades.

Furthermore, some are upset that Chara was not suspended or fined for the hit after the game. The hit is definitely questionable and maybe should have come with a game suspension or two, but to ask the league to make revisions on guidelines is a bit of overkill. Fighting and checking is a part of hockey and the chances of a fight or hit ending in serious injuries are minimal.

Intentional hits such as checking from behind or hits to the head should carry heavy fines and game suspensions, and they often do. In fact, in October the league added a rule about illegal hits to the head, implementing a five-minute major penalty and an automatic game misconduct.

It is foolish for Air Canada to ask the NHL to change rules and to even question the league's "integrity" of the game. Additionally, I would like to point out that I am in no way, shape or form a fan of the Bruins, Canadiens or the Blackhawks.

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Parkinson's in mice

Japanese researchers find new drug to treat disease symptoms

by The Yomiuri Shimbun
MCT Newswire



STOCK PHOTO

A DRUG used to treat Parkinson's disease improved the short-term memory function of mice with Alzheimer's disease, a finding that could lead to new treatments for the degenerative brain disease, according to Japanese researchers.

The drug, Apomorphine, is sold in Europe, the U.S. and other countries but has not been approved in Japan. It can cause severe nausea and vomiting.

A Kyushu University research group injected the drug once a week five times into mice genetically engineered to develop Alzheimer's disease, according to the researchers.

The drug reduced the levels of amyloid beta—a brain protein that lowers the

function of neuron cells—in the mice. In a swimming test, the mice reached their goal about six or seven seconds faster than before they had received the drug, indicating their memory function had improved.

"[The results] will lead to the development of a new treatment for Alzheimer's disease," said associate professor Yasumasa Oyagi, who led the research group.

The group will conduct a clinical test on human patients and plans to develop a new drug with less serious or no side effects.

The group's findings were announced in the electronic edition of *Annals of Neurology*, a U.S. medical journal.

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Personal Trainer

Breathing bad stuff

These are the most potentially harmful air pollutants for people who exercise outdoors in urban areas, according to a review of current research:

Carbon monoxide from vehicle exhaust and many kinds of burning is detrimental to athletic performance because it interferes with body's use of oxygen

Nitrogen oxides from vehicle exhaust and coal burning is of concern to human health, but outdoor levels are generally low

Ozone from vehicle exhaust poses a potentially serious risk to people who exercise

It impairs breathing and may lower athletic performance; harmful effects may occur at low pollution levels, but more research is needed

Particulate matter, or fine particles in exhaust, is causing concern; tests for blood lead levels in people who exercise indicates that particulates may increase exposure to toxic chemicals

Volatile organic compounds include unburned motor fuel and evaporated chemicals; research on the risk to people who exercise is still inconclusive

© 2011 MCT

Source: British Journal of Sports Medicine

Graphic: Paul Trap

UPCOMING EVENTS

3/14/11

Chicago Blackhawks vs. San Jose Sharks

The Pacific Division-leading Sharks and former Blackhawk Antti Niemi visit the United Center. The Blackhawks had their eight-game winning streak snapped on March 8 against the Florida Panthers.

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

3/15/11

Washington Wizards vs. Chicago Bulls

MVP candidate Derrick Rose squares off against Wizards point guard John Wall in a battle of Eastern Conference teams. The Bulls have been stellar at home this season.

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

3/17/11

New Jersey Nets vs. Chicago Bulls

Newly acquired point guard Deron Williams and the Nets visit the United Center. The Bulls lost to the Nets in December on the road.

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

Our Moon

*Story by Katy Nielsen
Design by Jonathan Allen*

IT CONTROLS THE TIDES, regulates the seasons and has guided civilizations at night for thousands of years, yet few people know about this neighboring stellar object, how it formed and what will become of it. Its importance to the evolution of species and the development of earth might be fundamental to understanding humanity's existence.

"The moon is very much part of our culture," said Anthony F. Aveni, professor of astronomy and anthropology at Colgate University in Hamilton, NY. "It's unfortunate we've lost contact with how much the moon is part of our daily lives and history. Now we just cast it aside."

The first mission to the moon was the Soviet Union's unmanned Luna 2, which launched on Sept. 12, 1959 and landed on the moon Sept. 14. The U.S. responded with its Apollo 11 mission on July 20, 1969, which was the first manned mission to travel to the moon.

Since then, there have been six manned missions, but another mission with humans onboard is not planned for the near future because of high costs. However, scientists continue to study the moon. A recent discovery of metal in the moon's water-filled craters is generating buzz among scientists and sparking renewed interest in it.

“

Eclipses won't be visible millions of years in the future, so we live at a very special time.”

- Larry Ciupik

The moon's future: spiraling away

Right now, the moon's average distance from Earth is 384,403 kilometers, but that number increases every year. The moon is drifting away, and the Earth's rotation is decreasing, which creates longer days.

"The moon's getting farther away from us, about four centimeters a year," said R. J. Rand professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of New Mexico. "What's impressive is we can measure the distance easily with radar. We bounce a radar signal from a telescope off the moon and measure how long the radar takes to come back."

According to Douglas Hamilton, professor of Astronomy at University of Maryland, the earth and moon system will stabilize billions of years from now.

"At that time, the moon won't appear to move in our sky the way it does now, and the tides won't travel across the oceans the way they do now," Rand said.

When that happens, one side of the Earth will face toward the moon, the same way one side of the moon faces the Earth now. This is called tidal locking, which has already happened to Pluto and its moon, Charon.

Tidal locking will happen billions of years from now, at which point the sun will play a significant role in what happens to the Earth next.

"The sun will slowly cause energy of the moon's orbit to leak away, and the moon will come back and crash into the Earth," Hamilton said. "But not to worry, by the time it happens the sun will already have exploded. The sun blows out into a red giant in five billion years."

Lunar creation

Billions of years ago, an unknown planet the size of Mars collided with Earth, an event that lasted as long as 10 or 15 minutes. Scientists refer to the impact as a glancing blow, which means the object skimmed Earth without obliterating it.

The remaining particles—those not vaporized after the impact—coalesced because of Earth's gravitational pull and created one large mass, our moon.

"It was a huge impact," said Larry Ciupik, senior astronomer at Adler Planetarium, 1300 S. Lake Shore Drive. "If you don't have a glancing blow, you don't form anything but a single body. The Earth would have eventually absorbed the whole thing."

The unknown planet that collided with Earth contained a large concentration of metal elements including gold and nickel, which led scientists to believe the collision caused an increase in Earth's metal content.

Life without the moon

The moon functions as a season regulator, tide controller and overall stability enforcer for the planet, according to Ciupik. Without it, we may never have evolved into human beings, he said.

"The Earth's weather would be very different because the moon keeps us kind of stable at about a 23 and a half degree tilt.

If the tilt varies a lot, over time, you get ice ages," Ciupik said. "Vast climate changes would have occurred a lot more. That would have been a big problem for life."

Leap Seconds

Every couple of years, the National Bureau of Standards adds one second to the world clock. These seconds are referred to as leap seconds. This is happening because the Earth's orbit is gradually slowing down because of the friction between the Earth and moon.

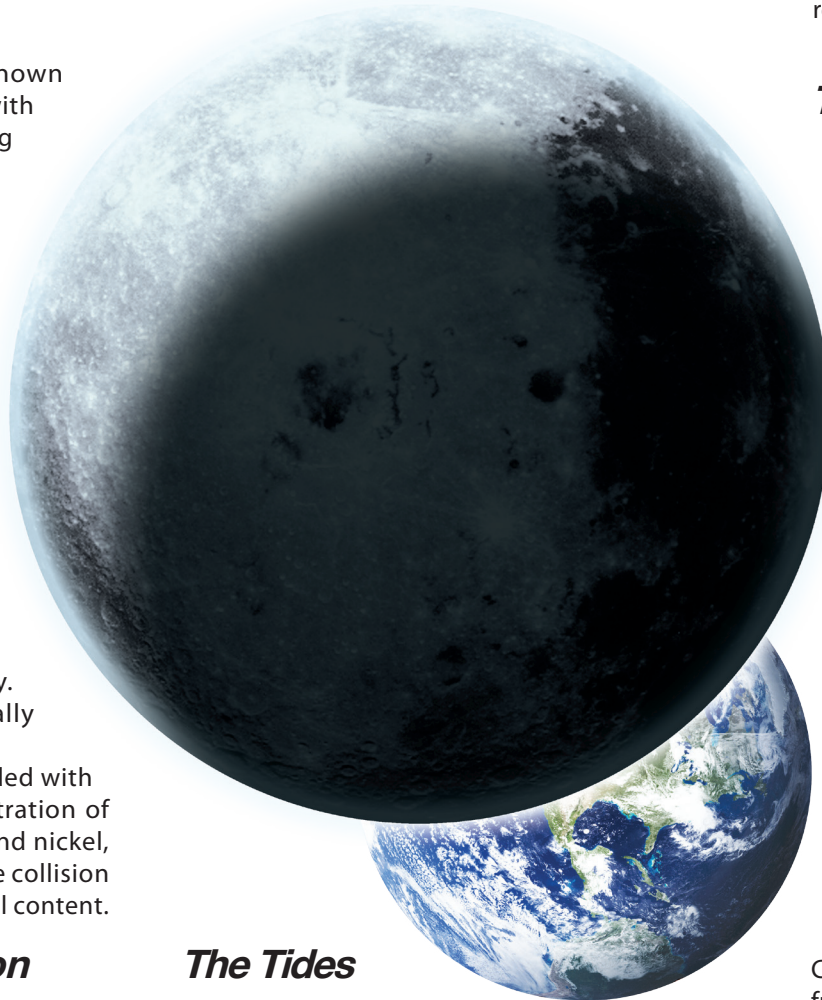
Throughout history, the moon has functioned as a calendar for civilizations. It is a time keeper in ways similar to the sun.

"The moon is part of our calendar," Ciupik said. "It also is affecting the length of the day. Eventually it will have more of an effect on us than it does now. We're talking a long time, millions of years."

The ancient Gauls had a calendar based on lunar months, aligned with a solar year, according to Michael Dietler, professor in the Department of Anthropology at University of Chicago.

"Archaeologists know the moon served as a temporal ordering marker," Dietler said.

The fact that the moon is altering the speed at which the Earth orbits will play a greater role in the distant future, but for now, leap seconds will continue to compensate for the shift.



The Tides

The existence of the human species might be related to the constant movement of the oceans. Tides are created by friction between the Earth and the moon. Together, the objects pull on each other and cause the oceans to move.

"Our high tides all come from the gravity of the moon," Hamilton said. "The sloshing of the oceans has interesting implications for life in tide pools and inter-tidal regions. It is possible life began in these environments."

Moon quakes

Like the Earth, the moon experiences quakes that shake its surface. Scientists refer to these as moon quakes, and they tend to occur when the moon gets close to the Earth on its elliptical orbit.

"Unlike the Earth, the moon is a dead world that cooled off long ago, so there are no plate tectonics, there are no volcanoes," Hamilton said. "There are only two things that lead to moon quakes: One is if something hits the moon, like a meteor, and the second is when the moon is distorted by the Earth's gravity."

When astronauts landed on the moon, they left seismometers to monitor surface activity.

"We've measured quite a few quakes, and we've actually used them to learn about the interior of the moon," Rand said.

The seismic waves travel into the interior of the moon, teaching scientists about density changes in the moon's core. That information relates to the moon's composition and tells researchers its past.

The vanishing eclipse

According to Ciupik, we live at a time when eclipses are visible to us, but millions of years ago they weren't. Back then, the moon was much closer to the Earth, so the sun could not block it out. Eventually, the moon will be too small to block the sun out.

"Eclipses won't be visible millions of years in the future," Ciupik said. "So we live at a very special time."

Right now, the moon and sun create an illusion in our sky. They appear to be the same size, and this allows the solar and lunar eclipses to take place.

Water on the moon

If water is separated into hydrogen and oxygen it can be used to breathe and drink. This is especially significant if humans build a lunar station.

"We thought it was totally dry for a long time," Ciupik said. "But water can be used as rocket fuel. Think about hydrogen and oxygen separated and that's rocket fuel."

The moon has one-sixth the gravitational force as the Earth. Working in zero gravity is difficult for astronauts because they have no force to push against, Ciupik said.

In a Feb. 12 article published by NASA, titled "Waiter, there's metal in my moon water," author Bill Steigerwald presented a discovery that the moon's water, located in its craters, contains magnesium, mercury, calcium and silver.

Scientists continue to learn more about the moon, and how, despite being a dead planet, it shares many of Earth's characteristics.

Without an atmosphere

The moon does not have an atmosphere, which means there is nothing to protect a person from space debris. Unmanned probes are the way of the future because they are cheaper and less risky, according to Rand.

"Particles come down at 25,000 miles per hour, so even a grain of sand, if it hits you, is not good," Ciupik said.

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Sox pitching rotation finally coming together

Peavy could start in April, Floyd, Danks, Jackson, Buehrle add depth for team

by Etheria Modacure
Assistant Health & Fitness Editor

THE CHICAGO White Sox's four-year odyssey to find a deep starting rotation looks to have come to fruition. After trading for pitchers John Danks and Gavin Floyd in 2006 and acquiring pitchers Jake Peavy and Edwin Jackson in trading deadline deals, the team put together a rotation that could compete against some of the best hitters in the American League Central in 2011.

With subpar performances on the mound from Mark Buehrle and Floyd last season, the Sox will need both pitchers to provide depth to a rotation on paper not lacking any. Other than the Minnesota Twins, no other teams in the division have more than three starters with postseason experience on their staff.

While the team enjoys warm weather and light workloads in games at spring training in Glendale, Ariz., the players know getting enough work in now will be beneficial throughout the season.

"I sure as heck don't want to have a bad April or May," Floyd said when asked about his lackadaisical performances at the start of the season. "I'm going out there, trying to do my best and continue to do the same thing. You just continue to do the same thing and hope that things change and have a good six months rather than have a couple of low months."

Floyd had his best season with the Sox in 2008 when he posted 17 wins and 8 losses with a 3.84 earned run average, which was a career low for him. He was unable to escape the months of April and May with a winning record in the past two seasons.

Last season, Floyd went 2-5 in the opening months of the season with a 6.45 ERA. He was able to find his groove in late June, finishing the season 8-3 and lowering his ERA to 4.08.

"I'm just trying my best to refine everything and every year, you get better and better," Floyd said.

The pitcher who had the best season in the rotation in 2010 was Danks, who posted career-highs in wins, 15; strikeouts, 162; and innings pitched, 213. Danks said he has been working on his mechanics in spring training and would like to limit free passes he's given the opposition so far.

Through 5.1 innings pitched during the spring Danks walked five batters. He said after his outing against the Colorado Rockies on March 8, pitching coach Don Cooper told him base on balls won't be tolerated.

"Maybe a little overthrowing, [but] it's early still," Danks said. "It's definitely something we're going to work on before [my] next start. I'm not worried about getting where I need to be before long."

Danks said his recent slump with walks is part of the progression period for spring training to help him get ready for the season.

Jackson, who pitched for the Detroit

Tigers in 2009, worked on throwing more strikes during spring training. The former Diamondback had no problem with strikeouts last season, surpassing 180 punchouts but yielding 78 walks.

"The main thing is to get out there and throw strikes," Jackson said. "Get out there and get back into the groove of things, and if I get strikeouts, so be it. I'm just trying to get outs and make it through spring healthy."

The 29-year-old pitcher said high-pitch counts have always been a concern for him, and he is working on limiting his workload.

"Obviously, in today's game, there are a lot of pitchers on a pitch count, [there's] a lot of money invested in players," Jackson said. "It's for [the best] of the player's health to go out and try to punch strikes as early as possible."

Before spring began, one pitcher looked to be left off the opening day roster but has made improvements to get ready in April—Jake Peavy. The former San Diego Padre made his first spring training start on March 4 against the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim.

Peavy pitched two innings of shutout baseball with two strikeouts, six retired batters and no walks in his first spring start. He said he did what he expected to do and was able to get major league hitters out, which he wanted to accomplish.

"We've been very fortunate and blessed not to have any setbacks," Peavy said, referring to his rehabilitation from a torn latissimus dorsi muscle. "That's something we hope continues. But at the same time, if there's anything abnormal, we're likely to back off than push anything simply because of what has happened."

The 2007 Cy Young Award winner said he was told he was going to miss a year of game action, but he was able to have the right mindset for a speedy recovery. Peavy said the team set a conservative schedule in the event of any setbacks.

"There certainly can be some doubts in your mind as to what the future holds," Peavy said. "At the same time being an athlete, being a competitor and someone who prides himself on being mentally tough and strong, you've just get it in your mind that 'I'm going to come back from this, and I don't care what's has to happen or what I have to do.'"

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Associated Press



MCT Newswire

The Chicago White Sox have a pitching staff to compete against the top hitters in the American League Central division this season. Edwin Jackson (above) was acquired on July 31, 2010 and went 3-2 for the team.



Sara Mays THE CHRONICLE

Five teams were ranked in the top 20 of the NCAA Associated Press wrestling polls this season in the Big Ten. The University of Iowa was the top-ranked school in the conference in 2010-2011.

» WRESTLING

Continued from PG. 12

Later, Wright praised teammate Cameron Wade, who took 5th in the heavy weight division. He said Wade's win solidified the teams' victory because he won by a major decision and gave the team its winning points.

Wade defeated Minnesota's Ben Apland by the major decision—eight points or more. One mat down from the action, Iowa's Blake Rasing became the Hawkeye's second individual champion.

Wisconsin and Michigan were the two schools to have individual champions, excluding Iowa and Penn State. Wisconsin's Andrew Howe won his second Big Ten Championship at the 165-pound weight

class, defeating Ohio State's Colt Sponseller. Howe's teammate Trevor Brandvoid also won his respected 197-pound weight class, beating Iowa's Luke Lofthouse in the finals.

Michigan's lone champion came at the 141-pound weight class, when Kellen Russel defeated Minnesota's Michael Thorn 8-4.

Penn State dethroned Iowa, which won the previous three Big Ten Championships, but Penn State wrestlers said they understand with Nationals coming up on March 17 winning will take a lot of preparation.

"It feels good, but you [have] to respect [Iowa] for being up there all the time, so it's more of we got you this weekend, in two weeks its another story," Wright said. "We will enjoy it today, but we will go back to training tomorrow."

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Player	wins	losses	ERA	SO	AVG
John Danks	15	11	3.72	162	237
Mark Buehrle	13	13	4.28	99	295
Gavin Floyd	10	13	4.08	151	274
Edwin Jackson	10	12	4.47	181	265
Jake Peavy	7	6	4.63	93	242

(2010 stats) Jonathan Allen THE CHRONICLE

How To: Fill out your NCAA Tournament bracket



by Etheria Modacure
Assistant Health & Fitness Editor

SELECTION SUNDAY has finished and you have been given a copy of the 2011 NCAA tournament bracket, but there's one problem: You don't know how to successfully pick a winner. One look at a bracket may be confusing for someone who didn't follow college basketball all season. Don't worry; here are some tips to help you win your office pool or a bet between friends.



MCT Newswire

1



Associated Press

Pick all four No. 1 seeds for the first round. Since the NCAA tournament expanded to 64 teams in 1985, No. 1 seeds are 104-0 against No. 16 seeds. This will be your safest bet in the tournament because you can't go wrong picking The Ohio State University, Pittsburgh University, University of Kansas and Duke University to get past the opposition.

2



Associated Press

Be wary of the No. 5 vs. No. 12 and No. 7 vs. No. 10 match-ups. This is where most of the upsets happen in the NCAA tournament, and it's where you can make or break your bracket. Last season, three No. 10 seeds made it to the second round, (St. Mary's University, University of Missouri and Georgia Tech University), while Cornell University was the only No. 12 seed to advance. St. Mary's advanced to the Sweet 16 as a No. 10 seed last season. Also, having a No. 5 seed may help your bracket immensely, similar to Butler University reaching the championship game last season.

3



MCT Newswire

No. 1 seeds aren't created equally. You've looked at your bracket, and the easiest thing you could do is put all four No. 1 seeds in the Sweet 16, Elite 8 and Final Four. Unfortunately, life doesn't typically work how we want it to and neither does the tournament. Last season, one No. 1 seed made it to the Final Four, which was Duke, and it ultimately won the national championship. Pay attention to the No. 4 and No. 5 seeds in the Sweet 16 because they're the most dangerous. Michigan State University and Butler made it to the Final Four last season as No. 5 seeds.

4



Associated Press

Pick the hottest team in the country. This could help you determine a national champion. If you paid any attention to conference tournaments, you would notice North Carolina University, Ohio State, Kansas and Pittsburgh as the hottest teams in college basketball. It's all about sustaining momentum in the tournament, and the hottest team coming into the tournament usually wins.

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Watch www.colum.edu/SummerInFlorence for further announcements about informational meetings throughout the spring semester. For further information please contact the International Programs office at aipoffice@colum.edu or at 312.369.7726.

Chocolate chip banana bread



APPRENTICE



Enjoy a sweet, savory treat as dessert or snack

by Molly Keith
Copy Editor

Tiela Halpin THE CHRONICLE

CHOCOLATE CHIP banana bread serves as a delectable complement to a chilly home-work-filled Sunday afternoon. Take a break from the books to prepare this simple and savory snack.

You will need 1 cup of sugar, an egg, 1 1/2 cups of butter, 1 cup of mashed bananas, 3 tablespoons of milk, 2 cups of flour, 1 teaspoon of baking powder, 1/2 teaspoon of baking soda, 1 cup of chocolate chips and 1/2 cup of finely chopped nuts. You will also need a 9-by-5-by-3-inch baking pan, a large

spoon and a mixing bowl. For best results, make sure the bananas are extremely ripe.

First, preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Mix the sugar, egg and butter until fluffy with a spoon or hand mixer. Set the bowl aside. Mash the bananas and measure 3 tablespoons of whole milk and combine them; set aside.

Sift the flour, baking powder and baking soda together.

Alternate adding the dry ingredients and the banana mixture into the creamed

butter mixture, stirring until the batter is moist. Make sure the mixture becomes moist. Afterward, stir in the chocolate chips and 1/2 cup of finely chopped nuts. Grease the baking pan and allow bread to bake for 1 hour. After the bread is baked, let it cool for 10 minutes and serve it.

If you are the coffee-loving type, a cup of black coffee will complement the chocolate chip banana bread's sweetness.

mkeith@chroniclemail.com

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 cup mashed, ripe bananas
- 3 tablespoons milk
- 2 cup sifted flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 cup chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup finely chopped nuts

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees
2. Cream sugar, egg and butter
3. Combine mashed bananas and milk
4. Sift flour with baking powder and baking soda
5. Alternate adding dry ingredients and banana mixture into creamed butter mixture, stirring until batter is moist
6. Stir in chocolate chips and nuts
7. Grease baking pan and bake for 1 hour
8. Let cool for 10 minutes

KEY



NOVICE

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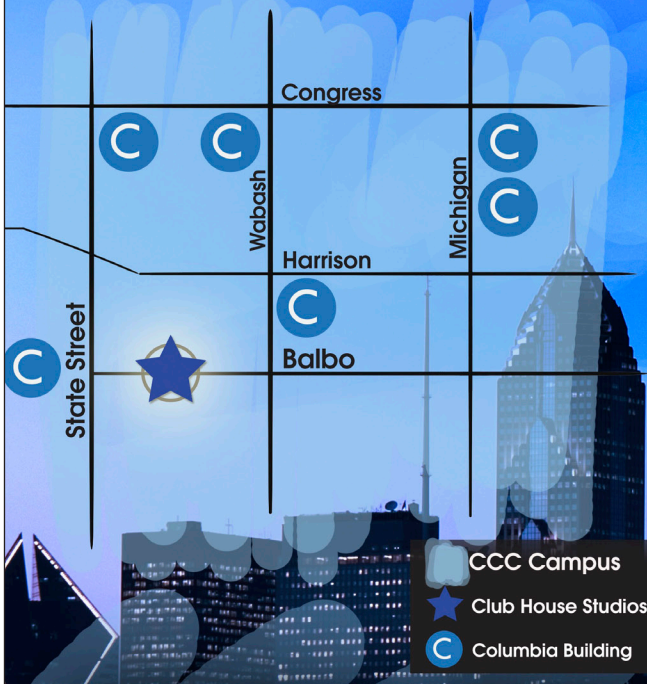
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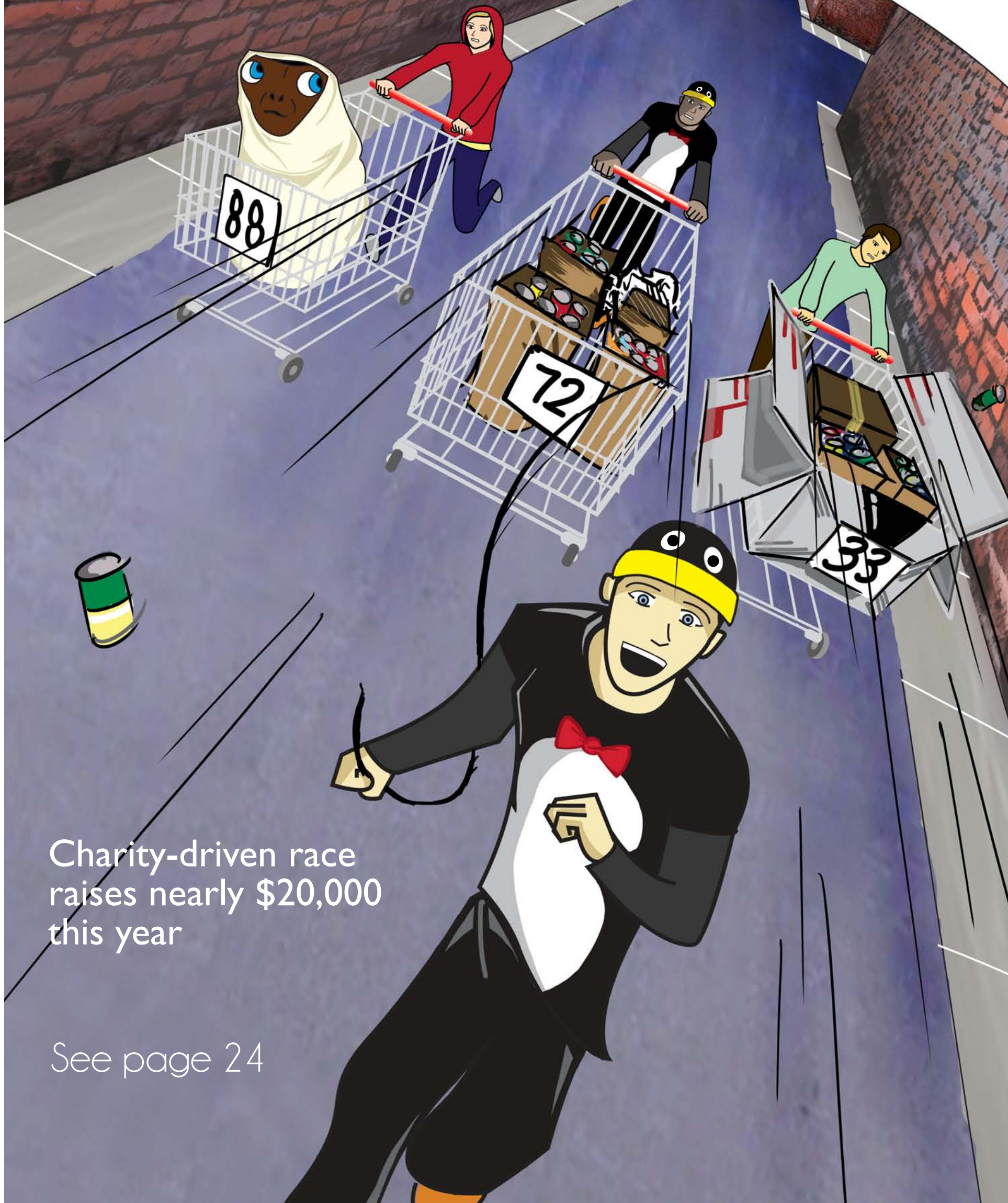
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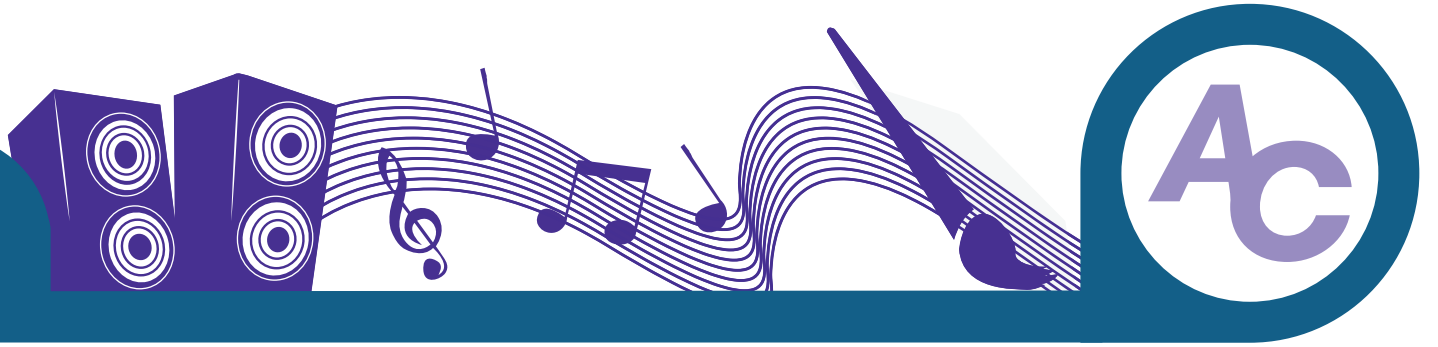
CHIDITAROD 2011



Charity-driven race
raises nearly \$20,000
this year

See page 24

Arts & Culture



Simon Pegg and Nick Frost meet 'Paul'

Newest film from popular pair was years in making

by Drew Hunt
Film Critic

AFTER THE widespread acclaim of their previous films "Shaun of the Dead" and "Hot Fuzz," British actors Simon Pegg and Nick Frost return to theaters with "Paul," a sci-fi road comedy directed by Greg Mottola. The Chronicle had a chance to sit down with the long-time friends to talk about working with a CGI alien, biting Sigourney Weaver and the differences between British and American-style humor.

The Chronicle: You guys have worked together in the past, but this is the first time you've written a film together. Where did the idea for "Paul" come from?

Simon Pegg: This idea came about when we were making "Shaun of the Dead," and it just never went away. It was a kernel of an idea we had in the garden, while shooting the record-throwing sequence, because we wanted to work somewhere it didn't rain [laughs]. We spit-balled the idea like it was a joke. It was like, "We'll shoot it in America, that'll be great. We'll play two British tourists, and that'll be easy because we can stay British. And there's an alien involved because it's the desert." That was literally the pitch, and it just never went away.

Nick Frost: Our next film pitch should be "A mummy and a werewolf in Barbados" [laughs].

The Chronicle: How did your partnership form in the first place? Have you been friends for a while?

SP: It was 18 or so years ago [when we met]. My girlfriend was working at the same restaurant Nick was, and I think everyone at the restaurant was in awe of his comedic talent.

NF: And also my waiter skills.

SP: You could spin a tray better than anyone. But my girlfriend was saying, "Oh, maybe you should try standup. My boyfriend's a standup [comedian]." And



IMDB

Director Greg Mottola's "Paul" stars Simon Pegg and an alien named Paul, voiced by Seth Rogen. Pegg and Nick Frost, who also stars in the film, have written and acted in films such as "Shaun of the Dead" and "Hot Fuzz."

she hooked us up. We met at a party. I took him out to his first gigs, and then we just started hanging out.

The Chronicle: So, fast forward to this film. How did you shoot the scenes with Paul, considering he was added in later? He's in nearly every scene, so I imagine it was pretty difficult.

SP: It was an incredibly complex process. We had to figure it all out along the way. [We needed] a very physical presence in a CG character, who has an improvisational kind of feel and a conversational speech pattern with us. So we started with Seth [Rogen] in the studio in LA. Then we filmed him on video for motion capture. So when we were on set, we had an idea of how Seth was going to play him. But there was an animatronic puppet. We also used a small actor in a green suit, as well as a child actor in a green suit and probably something else.

NF: A man holding a gray ball! There were [Light-Emitting Diode] lights as well. We'd use those for eye lines. I think we were quite keen on making sure—and I know it sounds like an obvious thing to say—but we wanted to make sure Paul was good.

Because you could write the best script in the world, but if in Paul's first scene he looks absolutely awful, people are savvy enough to think, "No ..." People just assume he's a character in the film, which is what you want. We wanted people to forget he was CG and believe him as a character.

The Chronicle: "Paul" boasts quite the ensemble cast. Who was the most interesting to work with?

NF: Having Sigourney [Weaver] on the set the first day was like, "She's the queen!" You would see her scenes coming up in the schedule, and you would show up to work and ask, "Is she here?" She's an amazing actress. She goes out of her way to make sure she knows everyone, and she interacts with the crew and you think, "That's exactly why you are where you are." I got to bite her in the re-shoots we did, and I sort of didn't want to commit, but she was like "No, bite me!" And I was like, "Well, all right" [laughs].

The Chronicle: Part of the movie is set at Comic-Con. Do you identify with the comic book crowd?

SP: It's always infused our work. We've spent a lot of time at Comic-Con [throughout] the years and that was good for us because we had to see [our characters] in their element at the beginning of the film. We wanted to see them somewhere they fit in and where they felt confident before we ripped them out of there and put them in the middle of this crazy adventure. We're very much the kind of people who go to Comic-Con, though we're slightly more functional than Graeme and Clive. They're a little co-dependent.

NF: We have other friends apart from each other. We have one other friend [laughs].

The Chronicle: A lot of your work to date is very rooted in genre, a lot like comic books. What is it about genre cinema that intrigues you?

SP: We always feel like you should write what you know. We were big zombie fans when we wrote "Shaun of the Dead." We grew up watching these kinds of films. These are the films we want to make because they're the films we want to see.

NF: From a personal point of view, I'm not even sure I think of it like that. We didn't sit down and think, "What genre are we [going to] do?" It's a case of what Simon said, writing what you know. There's a certain security in that, and truth that can come from it.

SP: I think the key to "Shaun of the Dead" is it is a spoof, but it's a spoof of romantic comedy. It's not a spoof of zombie films. It's all done very seriously. All the [parody] elements in that film are aimed at romantic comedy. We had a crack at the Richard Curtis kind of lovely warm rom-com—which we both love.

NF: I've been in one!

The Chronicle: Does it ever surprise you that your films are so popular in America? People seem to think American and British styles of humor don't mix.

NF: Everyone finds a fat man falling through a fence funny no matter where you live. But there are cultural specifics [that] change. Where [Americans] would say Don Rickles, we would say Bill Forsythe.

SP: I think "Shaun of the Dead" is funny to Americans because it is British. It's an English take on an American trope. "Shaun of the Dead" is us taking something very American and putting it in a British context, and it allows American viewers a way of readdressing those things they feel very familiar with. Same with "Hot Fuzz." We've all seen that kind of movie a million times but not set in a small village in Gloucester. I think we all have the same sense of humor, "Paul" opens nationwide on March 18. Check local listings for showtimes.



IMDB

(From left) Simon Pegg, Sigourney Weaver and Nick Frost star in "Paul."

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"A" To Zepeda

Lofty aspirations inspired by media



by Benita Zepeda
Managing Editor

IN A society bombarded with hundreds of messages and advertisements each day, it's important for people to recognize what their opinions are and stick to them. Think about it: How many commercials are on television for beauty products, anti-aging creams and celebrity tabloids that proudly display people who had work done who needed it? Perhaps we aspire to aspects of life we cannot attain.

The British television show "How Television Ruined Your Life," narrated by comedian Charlie Brooker, uses satire, video clips and pop culture commentary dripping with cynicism and sarcasm to illustrate how the media are a major reason for all things bad in our world.

First of all, one must not forget the medium he used to convey his anti-television sentiment is delivered on just that—television. Yet, despite the hypocrisy, he does bring up some valid, thought-provoking points.

It's possible society crafted a sense of unattainable aspirations and ideals because of the media. Reality television and the ridiculousness of many celebrities, like Heidi Montag or Paris Hilton, directly feed into our perception of life, whether we like to admit it or not.

Not everyone is going to have a three-car garage with a six-figure annual income, most won't have custom-built houses by a swanky architectural god that creates a live-in work of art. Most won't have famous rapper friends or make it rain in the club—although, I do know one person who literally did that and

seriously regretted it the next day.

Of course all of that seems like common sense, but these are messages drilled into our brains, forcing many of us to subconsciously—or consciously—think this is the life we hope to have some day. Many TV shows depict beautiful people living in unrealistic homes while engaging in extravagant leisure activities well outside their financial means. For instance, the character Carrie Bradshaw on "Sex in the City" could afford to live in Manhattan and buy expensive shoes while struggling to make it in the journalism industry.

Or what about all the brats on shows such as "My Super Sweet 16?" These teenagers are getting \$100,000 cars, staging auditions for people to earn an invitation to their party and spending thousands upon thousands of dollars on choreographed dance numbers, deejays, firework shows and cakes. What happened to inviting people to your house for a bite of cake and video games?

So many of these images and advertisements create a false sense of poverty or lack of sophistication if you're not clubbing three nights a week or spending \$150 on dinner every night. People need to realize extravagant lifestyles aren't realistic even though we are constantly surrounded by the idea of it.

Not everything we see on television is true, and we need to keep in mind what we want for ourselves in life. Sure, you can always want the money, cars and big houses, but finding a comfortable and fulfilling life should be our goal. Leave the glitzy lifestyles and fictitious ridiculous aspirations on TV where they belong.

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Louisiana won 'Battle: Los Angeles'

Tax credits helped other LA steal movie from Hollywood

by Richard Verrier
MCT Newswire

IN THE upcoming movie "Battle: Los Angeles," LA represents the last stand for humankind in a fight against aliens.

The action-packed film, however, was mostly shot in the other LA: Louisiana.

Having Baton Rouge and Shreveport stand in for Santa Monica, Calif., and LA might seem as preposterous as aliens attacking the city.

But several factors drew filmmakers to the Bayou State, chief among them a generous film tax credit.

"Obviously, the tax incentives were huge," said Jonathan Liebesman, who directed the \$75 million film from Columbia Pictures, which shot 13 weeks in Louisiana in late 2009 and received a tax credit of nearly \$15 million. The movie, which stars Aaron Eckhart and Michelle Rodriguez, premieres on March 11.

Louisiana offers a film tax credit of up to 35 percent of production costs, whereas California's program provides a maximum credit of 25 percent and excludes movies with budgets above \$75 million. Louisiana officials also offered something LA officials couldn't: shutting down a freeway overpass for 30 days to stage a massive explosion and gun battles.

"The kind of movie we were making, we really needed to be able to shoot in locations that would have been impossible to shoot in LA," producer Neal Moritz said. "I could

never have shut down the 405 or the 10 for weeks like we did in Louisiana."

"Battle: Los Angeles" is the latest and perhaps the most embarrassing example of how LA has been losing feature production to the more than 40 states that offer more attractive film tax credits and rebates. While on-location filming activity in LA County climbed 8 percent last year, it was down 62 percent from its peak in 1996, according to FilmLA Inc.

Louisiana was one of the first to adopt generous film tax credits in 2002 and remains the busiest hub for production outside LA and New York. Last year, \$674 million was spent in the state to make about 100 commercials, TV shows and movies.

"We're in a fortunate situation because we're one of the oldest and most stable tax credit programs in the nation," said Christopher Stelly, who heads the state film office.

"With a crew of about 200 people and 3,000 extras, the film contributed about \$46.5 million in spending to the state," Stelly said.

Ninety percent of the film was shot in Louisiana's capital, Baton Rouge, and Shreveport in the northwest part of the state. Using green-screen technology and computer-generated effects, scenes filmed in Louisiana were combined with digital aerial photos of LA's Southland to create the illusion that all of the action was taking place in LA. The crew also placed palm trees where needed to look more like Southern California.

"We felt we could conceal a lot of locations and get away with it," Liebesman said.

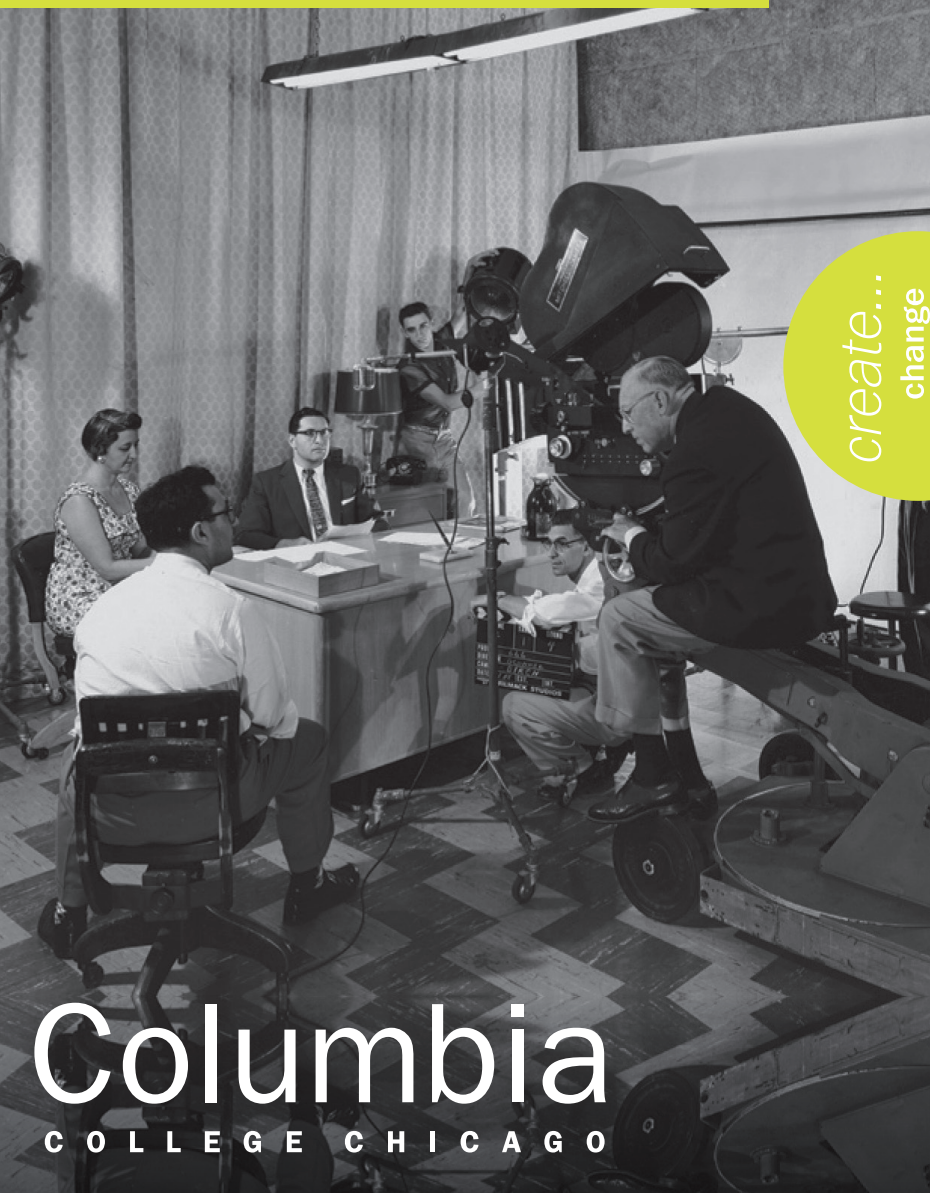
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BY R. CONRAD WINKE AND HEIDI MARSHALL
FOREWORD BY WARRICK L. CARTER, PH.D.

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Courtesy SARAH TASSONI

"PostSecret: Confessions on Life, Death and God" is on exhibit at Loyola University from Feb. 24 to April 9.

"PostSecret" comes to Loyola

Exhibit's display of religious confessions in line with university's Jesuit mission

by Matt Watson
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

A SMALL series of postcards lines the wall, weaving up and down behind a clear plastic casing. Spectators lean close to the cards and squint to read the words printed across the colorful backdrops. A picture of a uniformed soldier tipping his hat covers one with a banner of cursive text reading, "I'm scared my husband won't come home because I don't believe in God."

"PostSecret: Confessions on Life, Death and God" opened at Loyola University's Ralph Arnold Fine Arts Annex, 1131 W. Sheri-

dan Road, on Feb. 24, and runs through April 9. Founder and curator Frank Warren began "PostSecret" in 2004 as an online community arts project. He gave self-addressed postcards to strangers on the streets of Washington, D.C., and asked them to write down a secret and send it back. Warren had two requirements: The secret needed to be true, and it needed to be something the person never told anyone else before. All the postcards were anonymous.

The show is open to Loyola students free of charge throughout the week and the general public on Saturdays between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. for \$5.

James Dunford, student box office manager at Loyola, said "Confessions on Life, Death and God" tied in well with Loyola's Jesuit mission, which expands knowledge

in the service of humanity through learning, justice and faith.

"We're very much open to a discussion of faith and spirituality," Dunford said. "And the more voices that come to this discussion, the more truthful and rewarding it is."

More than 270 postcards line the gallery's walls and illustrate confessions by people who lost their faith, others who have found God and some who feared his wrath.

"It's a broad continuum of opinions and voices about religion we think is important to both sides of the conversation," Dunford said. "It's more about a person's individual faith, conception of religion and spirituality than just a monolithic label or identification."

According to Jennie Martin, director of programming for Loyola's Fine Arts Department, "PostSecret" became a cult phenomenon soon after it began. Warren posted cards he got back on his blog every Sunday starting in 2005. Since then, he has received more than 500,000 postcards. People now send them in from around the nation.

Warren authored five best-selling books on "PostSecret," and the postcards were used in exhibits across the U.S. "Confessions on Life, Death and God" is a subset of the "PostSecret" collection because of the high volume of postcards Warren received about spiritual matters.

Martin said the university recently opened the Ralph Arnold Annex and wanted to show the space off with an exciting exhibit.

"We thought it would be something the students could really relate to," she said.

According to Nicole Ferentz, fine art director at Loyola, the Feb. 24 opening reception attracted several hundred attendees.

"[The opening] was completely quiet because everyone was reading the postcards," Martinsaid. "I've been to gallery openings where people are having side conversations, but this was silent."

Ferentz said because of the show's high attendance, everyone must RSVP on Loyola's website and sign up for a half-hour time slot to see the show. This prevents excessive crowds and provides enough time to read all the postcards.

Some postcards are covered in bright colors and cartoon drawings confessing comical things like, "I'm starting rabbinical school and I love bacon!" Others are darker, with one stating, "It's hard to believe God is in control when bad things keep happening."

"Confessions on Life, Death and God" is like nothing Loyola has shown, Martin said, noting the university usually exhibits professional artists who expect their work to be in galleries.

"This is a collection of people who probably never intended for their [work] to be shown and who don't consider themselves artists," she said. "It's not even about the art; it's about the truth and finding the beauty in that truth opposed to creating work because you're an artist."

For more information and to RSVP to the show, visit Blogs.LUC.edu/ArtsAlive

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Florence Price reborn

Local composer's work found after more than 70 years

by Vanessa Morton
Contributing Writer

SUZANNE FLANDREAU unexpectedly stumbled upon two original music manuscripts by the late African-American symphonic composer Florence Price more than 10 years ago. The orchestral score "Piano Concerto in One Movement"—last performed in the 1930s—was believed to be missing for many years.

It wasn't until Feb. 17 that the two pieces found a contemporary audience. Columbia's Center for Black Music Research's event at Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph St., called "Black Prism: Concert Works by African-American Composers" featured her work. Included in the program was Price's first symphony, "Symphony in E Minor," along with the world premiere of a new adaptation of her piano concerto. Both compositions will be recorded on a CD by CBMR this month.

"The performance was historically significant because the piano concerto hadn't been heard in [more than] 70 years," said Horace Maxile, associate director of research at the CBMR.

Price grew up in a family where education and the arts were valued, which led to her enrollment at the New England Conservatory of Music. There, she studied music theory and composition, contributing to her historical importance, according to Maxile. He said most black musicians during that time were performers.

According to Maxile, Price's desire to compose instead of sing was unique as was her prolific output.

Before Price left for Chicago in 1927, she taught music at many different schools in Little Rock, Ark. After her move spurred by racial issues, including lynching, she gained international fame as a composer.

Flandreau, head librarian and archivist at the CBMR, said Chicago opened up great opportunities for Price. She continued to study at schools like the Chicago Musical College, the American Conservatory and University of Chicago.

In the '30s and '40s, the Chicago Renaissance provided black musicians and composers an opportunity to perform their music.

According to Flandreau, Price's music could be heard regularly in local black churches.

Despite a growing local reputation, Price didn't get her big break until 1932, when she won first prize in the Rodman Wanamaker Music Composition Contest for her "Symphony in E Minor."

This led to the symphony being performed in Chicago during the summer of 1933 at the World's Fair Century of Progress Exhibition—also broadcast on the radio—which brought her music national recognition.

Price's critically acclaimed

composition was the first symphony composed by a black woman to be played by a major American orchestra.

"I picture her after that being this quiet and authoritative presence not only in black or classical music but in general," Flandreau said. "At that point, a woman couldn't even play in symphony orchestras."

Price is thought to have composed more than 200 original music pieces before her death in 1953. It wasn't easy for Price to get her music published and recorded, resulting in many of her works being undocumented and lost.

Flandreau explained that at the time, it was unlikely for any black

musician to have the opportunity to record his or her music. She said Price had more recordings than most black composers, but it was relatively little. Looking back, Flandreau said she can't believe how lucky she was to unearth a piece of missing history, recalling it as

"a heart attack moment."

"One day a padded envelope came in, so I opened it. Inside were two Florence Price manuscripts," she said. "My jaw dropped because it was totally unexpected."

The piano concerto reconstruction began more than a year ago



Tiela Halpin THE CHRONICLE

when the CBMR signed a recording contract with Albany Records to do a CD series called "Recorded Music of the African Diaspora."

"[Last year], we finally decided on a recording series and thought about doing a Florence Price recording because 'Symphony in E Minor' had never been recorded," Flandreau said.

According to deputy director of the CBMR, Morris Phibbs, it was important to the CBMR to reconstruct the priceless find. He said the CBMR plans to start recording in March and the project will take about six months to finish. The CD will be available for purchase.

"These works simply need to get out there because it's important that what she did doesn't get lost," Phibbs said. "It deserves to be heard and not forgotten."

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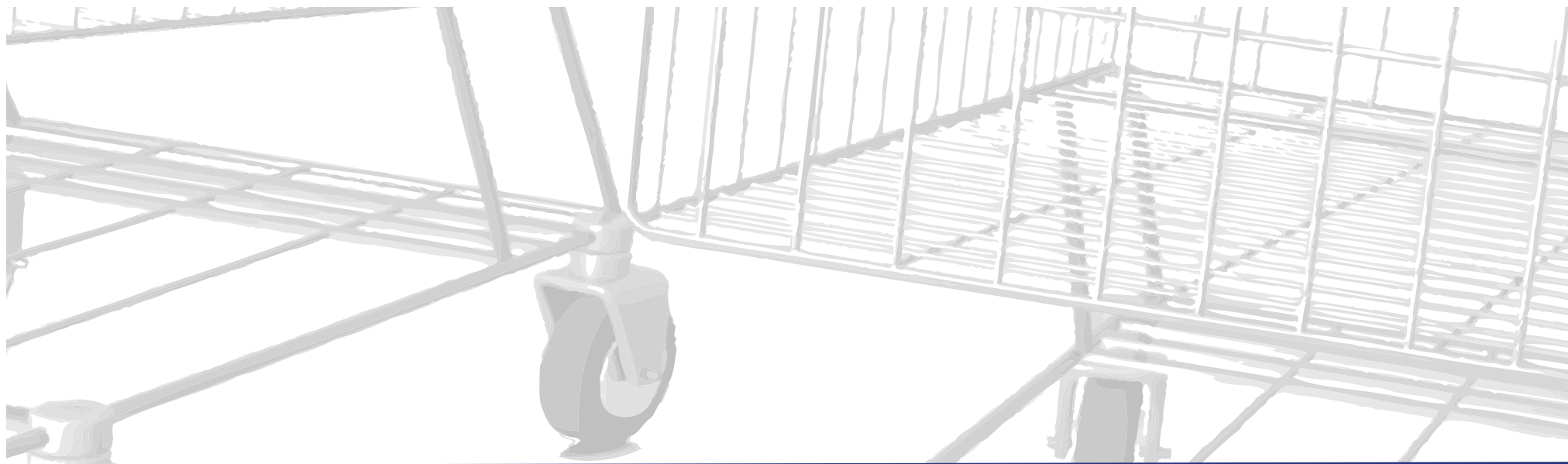
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SUPERMARKET CARTS SWEEP CITY



Courtesy REEMA ABUGHEIDA

Story by Mina Bloom
Design by Edward Kang

Chicago's urban cart race more dedicated to charity than other

For Team Action-squad, constructing a 6-1/2-by-7-foot-tall stagecoach to sit atop its shopping cart seemed appropriate. Despite slush and unforgiving weather on March 5, the stagecoach made its way across the city's West Side alongside costume-clad Chicagoans. Held annually for the past six years, the charity-driven, large-scale event, known as Chiditarod, is part shopping cart race, part pub crawl and part street theater, according to Chiditarod co-organizer Diane Back.

This year, Team Action-squad donned old Western garb, treated its stagecoach as a float and walked the entirety of the race. Having participated in the long-distance shopping cart race for the past six years, the squad decided to focus all of its attention on raising money for Chiditarod's charity of choice in 2011 by implementing an online donation site first introduced in 2010.

Chiditarod is modeled after The Iditarod, a long-distance race in Alaska where five dogs pull sleds, which always takes place on the second weekend in March.

The Chicago version borrowed the idea from New York's Iditarod, which began in 2003. Cities such as Portland, Ore.; San Francisco; Vancouver, British Columbia; and Ann Arbor, Mich. hosted Iditarods before Chicago, though Los Angeles and Boston followed in the Windy City's footsteps.

Aggressively raising money to directly benefit Chiditarod's charity of choice, The Chicago Anti-Hunger Federation, 4345 W. Division St., was a new facet in 2011.

Chicago's Iditarod has grown exponentially and is one of the Iditarods around the country to boast a solid charitable mission. Those in Portland, Ore., and New York's, for example, have more to do with the race and the costumes than anything else. Most notably, the event raised approximately \$2,500 for Chicago Anti-Hunger Federation in 2010, whereas the event on March 5 raised nearly \$20,000.

"This was the first year we've blown it out of the water," Back said. "We didn't just do a food drive, we also tacked on the opportunity for teams to do fundraising directly for the Chicago Anti-Hunger Federation themselves."

Traditionally, five members comprise each team, and the object of the event is to win any one of the many categories, such as "Best in Show," "Best Sabotage" or

"Best Finish" with its carts, speed or all of them. Back said. "But Chiditarod's website suggests teams must collect 42 pounds of cans along the way with their carts. But they must also have a 'dawg' pull the cart and one person, the driver, behind the cart to begin the race at 19th St. and finish at the Elston St. and 1375 W. Lake St., stop along the way from

Though entirely different from other grocery stores like Whole Foods, and other events such as Phyllis' Muscular Dystrophy Division St., host for the event donate materials and

This year, 155 teams participated, compared to 100 in the first year at 25 participants last year, though the program called FirstGiving in 2011.

Back said. "But Chiditarod's website suggests teams must collect 42 pounds of cans along the way with their carts. But they must also have a 'dawg' pull the cart and one person, the driver, behind the cart to begin the race at 19th St. and finish at the Elston St. and 1375 W. Lake St., stop along the way from

Notably, a Steamers held a fundraiser at the Elston St., on March 2 as a team to do so in the

Approximately 60 members of Chicago Style Cider Derailers member food organized the event at a freelance scenic art 1650 N. Halsted St.



Courtesy ADONIS SAN JUAN



Courtesy ANDREW CROWE



Courtesy JUSTIN GOH

ore her cities

innovative costumes, well-constructed of the above. First and foremost, a team ends of canned food to donate. As Chidiests, teams can have friends meet them way, or they can stuff the cans in their must finish the race with the minimum or awards. Four art with ropes “musher,” runs steer. All crews 000 W. Hubbard Bottom Lounge, pping at 11 bars noon – 5 p.m. sponsor free, Trader Joes and checkpoint bars ic Inn, 1800 W.

od collections, promote the event and prizes.

ams registered and 146 teams participo last year’s 113 participants and its participants. The organizers upped the gh, by introducing an online donation Giving, which provided an opportunity money independently online by sending and friends. GiveForward.org replaced

rg] can be used for medical causes,” Chicago Anti-Hunger Federation has a tax er, and by introducing the site, it became win the award of top fundraiser.”

unk-themed group named Team Derailr at Full Moon Tavern, 1847 W. Roscoe a prelude to the race. It was the one e history of Chicago’s event.

0 people attended the silent auction Crafters’ goods from Etsy.com. Team and Etsy.com seller Melissa Ruther auction. During the day she works as tist for Steppenwolf Theatre Company, and Looking Glass Theatre Company,

821 N. Michigan Ave. Her Chiditarod team comprises her Steppenwolf co-workers. Rutherford, 27, participated in Chiditarod for the past three years, but this is the first year her team won the top fundraiser award.

Team Action-squad earned many of the titles throughout the past six years, including top fundraiser in 2010 as a result of the donation website, she said. By establishing itself as a team everyone looked up to, it also inspired Team Derailers to heighten the sense of competition.

“Last year, [Action-squad] raised \$1,400, and that was well above any other team,” Rutherford said. “Once they saw they had some competition this year, [they were]



This was the first year we’ve blown it out of the water. We didn’t just do a food drive, we also tacked on the opportunity for teams to do fundraising directly for the Chicago Anti-Hunger Federation themselves.”

—Diane Back

provoked to try to raise more [money]. I don’t think either of us would have raised as much money were it not for the competition.”

Team Derailers snagged the top fundraiser award with \$5,024, and Team Action-squad placed second with \$4,133. Both teams are considered “art carts,” or carts with elaborate construction because of Team Derailers’ steam engine and Team Action-squad’s stagecoach. Not all teams put together their costumes months in advance. In fact, the majority of people who participate reuse Halloween costumes.

The ability to stop at however many checkpoint bars they like was a helpful new rule this year for art carts, Rutherford added. In the past, every team was required to visit at least five designated bars.

“When you’re an art cart you have a heavier, more ornate cart, and it’s a little hard to make it in time,” Rutherford said. “They wanted us to be at the finish line by 4:50 p.m., but we just walk the race. It can be hard on those sidewalks to try and get your cart around.”

Despite this accommodation, tying chains around carts or throwing marbles on the street are common forms of sabotage at Chiditarod, which is acceptable and rewarded at the final awards ceremony. Art carts are usually spared,

however, because they clearly aim to make a statement rather than win the race, Back said.

Mark Vanderhoff, 32, of Team Action-squad, said his team welcomed competition in regard to fundraising.

“[Team Derailers] came out of nowhere, we really pushed each other and we were neck and neck throughout the whole thing,” said Vanderhoff, who works in sales and marketing for the National Public Radio and Public Broadcast Service networks. “There was some friendly smack talk, but it was all for charity. So we were happy someone else was in the ballpark.”

Having participated since the event’s birth, Vanderhoff attributes winning \$4,133 to building a support system throughout six years.

“Our friends, family and co-workers have either seen our pictures, heard us talk about it or have come seen it first hand by now,” Vanderhoff said.

Not knowing what to expect the first year, he gathered his friends to participate. Vanderhoff said he and his friends threw costumes together and had no idea they’d participate year after year. Now, his team made a pact to not begin

designing its cart until after New Year’s because “otherwise we’d torture ourselves all year-round,” as Vanderhoff put it.

The team’s stagecoach took two months to construct this year, but Team Action-squad prides itself on performing a skit at the bar, which usually takes place after the race is completed.

“That’s something we try to do well at, the skit portion,” Vanderhoff said.

One of his team members sang “The Gambler,” and Vanderhoff, who was dressed as a horse acting as the “musher,” played the banjo. Last year, many teams participated in karaoke.

Dan Gibbons, executive director at Chicago Anti-Hunger Federation, said two trucks worth of nonperishables were delivered to his office, and one more truck is expected. Though he can’t provide an exact figure for donated goods, he predicts they will have collected 20,000 pounds or 10 tons of food.

“It’s been a great way to get involved with community that’s visible to the public that’s ironic, humorous and fun,” Back said. “But it also does something really great.”

» TAVERN

Continued from Front Page

Chicago taverns 10 years ago. She wanted to provide an informational resource on local bars that differed from a review and delved into the history surrounding them. So she created the website TalesTavernsandTowns.com to post her findings.

Five years ago, she was hired as the public programs manager at the Chicago History Museum and decided to bring her work to life through group tours.

“Ever since then it’s been the most popular event we’ve offered at the museum,” Garibay said. “This is a fun tour because it allows us to go see the city and interact with people in the city. I consider taverns [to be] their own characters and you get to interact with these particular characters [who] have all this information to tell you, past and present.”

Each month a different theme is chosen, sometimes timed to holidays, other times as an excuse to visit interesting bars. Garibay runs the event entirely on her own and has a single criterion when arranging the tours: Never visit the same bar twice. She wants to keep things fresh, creating a unique social gathering each month.

Anthony Romeo first heard of the crawl when a co-worker attended the first St. Patrick’s Day event five years ago. Curious, he came along and ended up having a great time with his co-worker’s parents. Since then, he’s brought his wife and other friends on the tour every month.

“It’s a fun intergenerational event,” Romeo said. “It focuses your conversations around something a little more productive than hating work, and you get to experi-

ence through the eyes of Liz or the historic footprint of where you are [and] through your friends’ experiences with it.”

The perspective doesn’t always stop with those directly involved in the tour. Romeo recalled a visit to Trinity, 2721 N. Halsted St., when they stopped outside the nearby fire station to hear the tale of the three retired firefighters who opened the bar as one of the city’s first non-smoking bars.



People remember the stuff you teach them because they’re having a good time.”

- Liz Garibay

As Garibay relayed the history, a firefighter came out of the station to listen in, adding witty asides about his experiences at the bar, Romeo said.

“I wouldn’t normally get to talk to a firefighter about what he thinks about the bar across the street, but here I got to have this experience,” he said. “I think it sort of takes people a little outside of their comfort zone, yet it has that social lubricant where everybody’s had a couple of beers, so it’s OK.”

Many times the tours’ focus digresses from Chicago history and starts educating the crowd on brewing techniques, which is a subject John Thomas, another regular tour attendee, has learned a lot about through attending the pub crawls.

One of his favorite events was the water tour. The participants took a boat down the Chicago River to Lake Michigan, with local brewers on board sharing their techniques.

Thomas said he and his wife never miss an opportunity to attend one of the crawls.

“We have two more scheduled already for this year; they pop-up on the website and we book them right away,” Thomas said. “It’s something you wouldn’t find in a history book. I think you almost have to experience [it].”

The experience is what Garibay hopes will make the lessons stick. She acknowledges many people are afraid of history, and the idea of sitting in a classroom reading from a textbook turns a lot of people away from learning. Through the History Pub

Crawl, Garibay aims to dispel this notion.

“I think now that we’re older, we kind of have more of a curiosity about history, but you still want it presented in a different way,” Garibay said. “People are naturally social beings so the fact that they get to go out and meet new people on a tour or spend time with their friends and have a drink and learn, provides a really different environment. People remember the stuff you teach them because they’re having a good time.”

bwellen@chroniclemail.com



Brock Brake THE CHRONICLE

The Erin Go Beer pub crawl is one of the themes repeated annually in celebration of St. Patrick’s Day. This year’s event is focused on bars like Trinity, 2721 N. Halsted St., to explore Chicago’s Irish history.

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CHICAGO AUDIOFILE



Courtesy MARTIAL NJEMOUN

Columbia freshman and rapper Martial Njemoun, also known as Pmartt, has developed a large online following.

Pmartt collaborates with T-Pain

by Lisa Schulz
 Contributing Writer

foreign country. You don't have to know how to speak the language to express yourself.

MARTIAL NJEMOUN, or Pmartt, performing "Just Wanna Know You" at last semester's Little Mouth Open Mic Night, may be history, but as a hip-hop/pop artist, entrepreneur and Columbia freshman, he's only beginning.

Pmartt's ReverbNation online fan base is 40,000 and growing, after he placed on MySpace's Top 100 R&B Artists and ReverbNation's Top 20. He's worked with artists ranging from Columbia students to T-Pain. Pmartt, who takes pride in his African roots, is currently focused on performing and releasing new music, including his single, "Moving On," featuring Columbia student and R&B singer Brianna Nun.

The Chronicle sat down with Pmartt to discuss his historical challenges, on-stage performance and formula for success.

The Chronicle: When did you start rapping?

Pmartt: I started rapping in sixth grade. It's kind of funny because I've only been in the U.S. for eight years now. When I first got here, I wasn't able to speak English, so I had to get tutored. I saw my friends on a playground, and they were rapping. I just loved it, but I couldn't really speak. So I would surround them all the time and just [kept] trying ... [to rap with them] until one day, I learned how to speak like I do now.

The Chronicle: What's the story behind your name?

P: As different as it may sound, it describes me exactly. The whole financial struggle, the whole background. I'm originally from Africa, born and raised. "P" stands for my middle name, and "martt" for Martial. It describes the cultural difference in me that I'm trying to connect with different cultures here in the U.S. to create one culture: hip-hop.

The Chronicle: Did you have any other musical inspirations when you came to the U.S.?

P: Akon because he's [also] an African native. Looking at his success, I felt that if he can do it, I can do it, too. I want to show other people you can be from a

The Chronicle: How do you create your music?

P: I write my music. My computer is broken, so I'm lucky to have a best friend who produces music, Taylor Robinson [from] Royalty Productions. Every day we make beats. He just lets me bring them home, and I write to those original exclusive beats. That's a blessing because a lot of artists these days don't have original beats.

The Chronicle: How did you manage to collaborate with T-Pain?

P: It was this competition off of his album, "Three Ringz," where if you won, you could probably get a spot in the album. I entered that competition, recorded the song, put it online and it got a lot of hits.

The Chronicle: How did "Just Wanna Know You" become so popular throughout your high school when it was released?

P: Marketing online. [I would] wake up at like seven or eight in the morning, get on the computer and promote myself. People got tired of seeing me online, but it got to the point where people realized [I'm] actually pushing [my]self. They started respecting my music, and that's when I started getting more listeners through Facebook, Twitter and MySpace.

The Chronicle: Did you notice an increase of friends when you made MySpace's Top 100?

P: Oh yeah, it was crazy. I'm also on the Top 20 on ReverbNation currently in the whole Chicago region. I receive a lot of love online. It just shows that the marketing strategy is working. That's why I created a company, Socratics Entertainment, so I can help other people get where I am. Even though I'm not successful yet, I'm at a point where I'm seeing progress.

Pmartt will be performing on April 1 at the University of Chicago, 1212 E. 59th St. Tickets can be purchased by going to ReverbNation.com/Pmartt.

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United States

<i>On the Floor</i> • Jennifer Lopez	(5)	1
<i>Born This Way</i> • Lady GaGa	(1)	2
<i>Till the World Ends</i> • Britney Spears		3
<i>S&M</i> • Rihanna	(3)	4
<i>Blow</i> • Ke\$ha	(4)	5

United Kingdom

<i>Someone Like You</i> • Adele	(1)	1
<i>Price Tag</i> • Jessie J	(2)	2
<i>S&M</i> • Rihanna	(3)	3
<i>Born This Way</i> • Lady GaGa		4
<i>Rolling in the Deep</i> • Adele	(5)	5

Spain

<i>On the Floor</i> • Jennifer Lopez	(1)	1
<i>Till the World Ends</i> • Britney Spears		2
<i>Born This Way</i> • Lady GaGa	(5)	3
<i>Tonight (I'm Lovin' You)</i> • Enrique Iglesias	(4)	4
<i>Mr. Saxobeat</i> • Alexandra Stan		5

Source: iTunes

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European stories on local silver screen

Countries unite as city venue displays international films

by Brianna Wellen
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

CHICAGO BOASTS a diverse cultural landscape, with certain neighborhoods representing slices of life from foreign countries, giving locals a taste of the world beyond the U.S. In addition, a gathering of foreign consulates ensures their cultures are represented in the city, expanding the scope of each country through the arts.

The European Union countries joined together to present the European Union Film Festival at the Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State St., which started on March 4 and runs through March 31. This year's festival is the largest ever, responding to an increasing interest in foreign films in Chicago and strengthening the bonds among the countries involved.

The festival began on a trial basis 14 years ago, according to the film center's director of programming, Barbara Scharres. It has continued to grow ever since. For the last few festivals, the final film count remained steadily in the 50s. This year, more than 60 films from different European nations were represented.

Past festivals established a following, something Scharres attributes to the rise in success. People have explored these foreign worlds and want to see more creative expression from other countries to feed their cultural curiosity, she said.



The Hungarian film "Bibliothèque Pascal" opened the festival on March 4 to honor the country currently holding the presidency in the European Union. Representatives from the Hungarian consulate hosted the evening.

"It starts to be a self-perpetuating thing when people look forward to this as a special spring event in their cultural calendar," Scharres said. "They are exposed to some very exciting films that would not have come to Chicago otherwise."

Spain's selection for this year's festival is Álex de la Iglesia's "The Last Circus (Balada Triste De Trompeta)." Iglesia made an appearance at the festival a few years ago, and through his visit, earned loyal American fans, according to Teresa Hernando, culture program coordinator for Instituto Cervantes, 31 W. Ohio St.

Hernando said because more people are familiar with Iglesia, she expects a larger turnout to the film. Though, according to Hernando, the festival isn't solely about the movies.

"It's really important for the European community to organize events together," Hernando said. "We do the European jazz festival, we do the film festival and we're planning to do other events in the near future."

Silvio Marchetti, director of the Italian Cultural Institute of Chicago, agreed it's important to represent Europe in the U.S. through cultural events such as the film festival. The collection of films represents the growing presence of Chicago's European culture and similarities between countries.

"Presenting this European festival is just another reason to show Europe is also strengthening its bond within itself," Marchetti said. "We have to build a European togetherness and an awareness of a cultural

assimilation that, even though we all speak different languages, we all relate as a family when it comes to culture, values and sense of what is right and what is wrong."

According to Marchetti, Italy has more films represented this year than it has in the past, with "Purple Sea (Viola Di Mare)" as one of his favorites.

The controversial Italian film is a lesbian love story focusing on the emancipation of Sicilian women. Because the oppression that characterized women's lives historically was not confined to Italy alone, Marchetti said the film is a chance to connect all countries.

The festival explores what's going on in the world and anyone who has an interest beyond the U.S. cultivates an interest in films from other nations, Scharres said. The Gene Siskel Film Center will continue supporting this event to expand Chicagoans' view of the cinematic world, she added.

"In the United States, because our film industry is large, we don't have as many opportunities to enjoy films from other countries," Scharres said. "It's really important that an organization like the film center be able to bring these films because they're just as exciting, entertaining and thought-provoking as the best of American cinema."

The European Union Film Festival runs through March 31 at the Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State St. For information on pricing and a complete schedule of films, visit SiskelFilmCenter.org.

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FILM REVIEW

Talking alien as annoying as it sounds

'Shaun of the Dead' stars reunite for blundering sci-fi comedy

by Drew Hunt
Film Critic

AFTER FINDING success with a pair of teen-oriented comedies, director Greg Mottola returns to theaters with "Paul." Though the film features a similarly crude comedic tone as his previous efforts, this latest go-around signifies new ground for Mottola, who leaves the coming-of-age domestication of "Superbad" and "Adventureland" for the realm of science fiction.

Along for the ride are Nick Frost and Simon Pegg, a pair of popular British actors who also co-wrote the film. They star as Clive and Graeme, two comic book connoisseurs who have come stateside for the annual Comic-Con Convention. Along the way, they encounter a runaway alien named Paul—voiced by Seth Rogen. Paul is a boorish yet loveable scamp who enlists the duo to help him find his way home while evading pursuing secret agents. Zaniness, of course, ensues.

While "Paul" does have its occasional bright spots, there isn't an original idea to be found in the entire film. As a director, Mottola waits for the moments in which he can cram in another "Star Trek" or Nintendo reference, allowing enough time for Frost and Pegg to essentially wink at the audience and say, "See what we did there? Isn't this awesome?"

It isn't awesome.

'Paul'

Starring: Nick Frost, Simon Pegg, Jane Lynch, Seth Rogen, Sigourney Weaver
Director: Greg Mottola
Run Time: 104 minutes

Rating: 

"Paul" opens on March 18 and will play in theatres nationwide.

Frost and Pegg are nerds. But until now, their nerdiness was delightfully coy. Nerd culture as a whole has followed a similar path; Now it is crassly commercial. Those who fit the moniker were often mocked for their lifestyle, but then one day, for whatever reason, video games became incredibly popular, and comic book movies made millions.

The sea change was abrupt, but nerds around the world rejoiced as their peripheral lifestyle became mainstream—and more significantly, marketable.

Nerds have become the single-most predictable demographic in the history of consumerism, and "Paul" is another product in an assembly line of cheap entertainment made to satiate the easily amused.

Frost and Pegg's previous films—the zombie flick "Shaun of the Dead" and the action romp "Hot Fuzz"—may have been mindless on the surface, but their deconstructive approach to genre was fascinating to analyze and thrilling to watch, despite their obtuse premises.

Where those efforts stand on their own as legitimate films that simultaneously pay loving homage to their particular genre,



IMDB

Seth Rogen voices an alien named Paul in the film "Paul," a sci-fi comedy directed by Greg Mottola.

"Paul" feels more like an extension of the Internet message boards, where so many of today's "film buffs" are fans embarking on "Star Wars" quote fests.

The moments when "Paul" strains for profundity are even worse. Religious practices are constantly called into question with the film's numerous references to Darwinism, but any theoretical musing by Mottola feels about as thoughtful as the boundless dick jokes that fill the script. He even goes so far as to depict Paul as a kind of Christ figure: Paul has the ability to save the lives of others with his extraterrestrial

powers, despite the risk it puts on his life. Audible groans abound.

There are moments when the film is at least halfway watchable. "Paul" features a cavalcade of some of Hollywood's funniest comedic actors, including Jane Lynch and Bill Hader and Kristen Wiig from "Saturday Night Live." "Paul" is ultimately bogged down by its lazy and uninspired premise. There's only so much a foul-mouthed pop culture-savvy alien can do before it all becomes tiresome.

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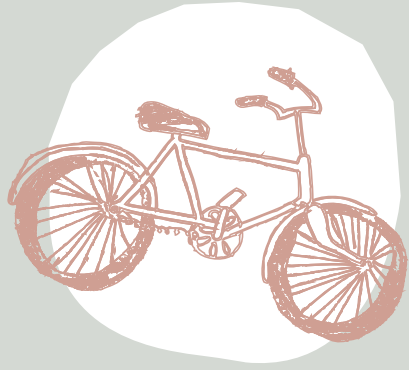
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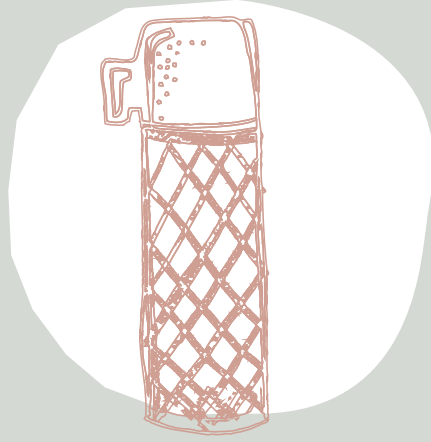
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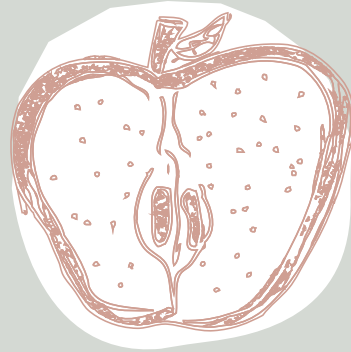
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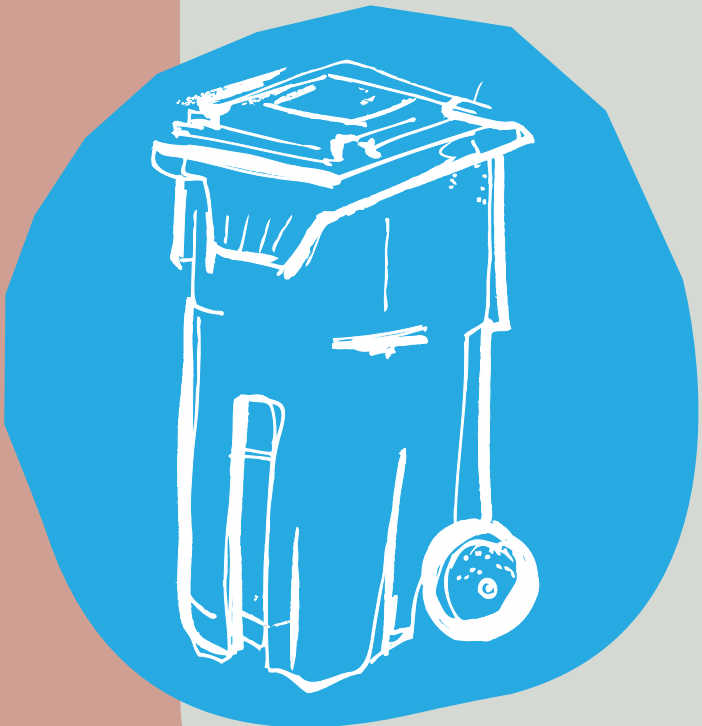
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TOP 5



Mina Bloom / Arts & Culture Editor

Reasons why "Diablo 2" rules

Mindless clicking: This game requires little to no skill. To kill zombies, demons and beasts, all you have to do is click on them a lot. I bet if you asked your friend to click on the mouse at the same time as you, you'd be extremely successful. Not that I've tried it or anything.

Graphics: It has similar qualities to "World of Warcraft," but its graphics are kind of hilarious. Little white streaky pixels indicate it's raining.

"Circa 2000": Personally, I remember playing this computer game at age 10 in my friend's basement. Now when I play it at 22, it's a nostalgic experience. This is something "World of Warcraft" does not provide.

The Barbarian is hot: He's totally ripped! You might have to squint because the graphics are so great, but you'll notice his head is shaved aside from his ponytail. Technically speaking, he's a good character to play if you desire brute force, but he doesn't do anything cool at all. One of his better moves is "bash." It's a "powerful blow that increases damage," but really, he just hits someone so they fall over.

Cultural relevance: One of the chicks in town is named Kaysha and totally resembles Ke\$ha. One of the gargantuan beasts looks exactly like Muzzy from those foreign language cartoons I watched in seventh grade. A coincidence? I think not!



Brianna Wellen / Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

Things inexperienced riders should know before taking the el

The doors will eat you: No, these doors do not work like an elevator. If you stick your arm in between them, it will not stop. You will just end up with an arm stuck outside the train, and as long as you are not seriously injured, I will laugh at you.

All attractive businessmen are taken: If they're not already married, then I've called dibs. Lay off my future husband.

The train moves: I know it may seem like a shock at first, but the train will be going forward. Quickly. If you are not in a seat, tightly holding onto to a rail or standing in a wide stance, you will go flying backward. Even the burliest of guys do backward somersaults down the aisle if they're not prepared.

Morning commutes are quiet time: At any other time of day people die to hear your life story, but this is not the time. Everyone on the train is preparing for a long day, and people will try to drown you out with their iPod. It would be more peaceful if you could just not speak at all.

Your stop is not the only stop: I know it may not seem like it, but in the summer there are stops between Jackson and Addison on the Red Line. You, in all your Cubs gear, will be hanging by the door and congesting the aisle while those of us who live somewhere in the middle struggle to elbow through the oblivious crowd. How about you just drive to Wrigley Field next time?



Matt Watson / Assistant Arts & Culture Editor
Reasons attending an urban college rocks

Public transportation: I don't know how people from the 'burbs get drunk. Every time I go out, I'm thankful there's a 24/7 Red Line not too far from Lincoln Park or Wrigleyville bars. With gas prices lately, I'm glad I get free transportation.

Tons of other schools: If you go to University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign or Northern Illinois University, you can only hang out with people from your school. In the city, there are about six major schools within a few miles of one another. It makes for a more exciting mix.

You're in freakin' Chicago: Instead of living in the middle of a cornfield, I'm living in the Windy City. There are world-class restaurants, theaters, museums and architecture all around me. I live blocks from the famous Second City. Plus, there are beaches all along Chicago's east side. Do you have that, U of I? Screw Unofficial.

I can stay during the summer: Summers in Chicago totally make up for the winters. With beaches, bike paths and parks lining the lakefront, there is no reason to stay inside. Who would want to live in Champaign, Ill., during the summer? I guess you could watch the corn grow.

The ambience: Chicago has a vibrancy few other places can boast. I still strain my neck looking up when I walk around the Loop, and I've lived here for three years. Also, a constant stream of events like Taste of Chicago, the St. Patrick's Day Parade and many others keep the excitement going.

tweets of the Week

@sn00ki



If my Poof could talk I feel it would be a bad ass bitch.

March 7

@ChrisCrocker



It has officially been one year since going vegetarian! Since then I have kept off 32 pounds & I feel SO much healthier!

March 8

@StephenAtHome



Scott Walker took down the unions! Wisconsin's budget problem is fixed! Now on to the part of the deficit caused by gay marriage."

March 10

@Danny_DeVito



@teritheberry Trollfoot loves you, but can never let anyone else take his picture but the Troll, it is written.

March 10

@CharlieSheen



#fastball; the LAPD were AWESOME. Absolute pros! they can protect and serve this Warlock anytime!!! c

March 11

Follow the Columbia Chronicle at twitter.com/CCChronicle

check me out

Christian Ronero, freshman illustration major

"I was inspired by '24' and I like his look."

Pants: H&M, \$30; Shirt: Armani, \$80; Shoes: Aldo, \$60



Caitlin Antuma, sophomore arts, entertainment and media management major

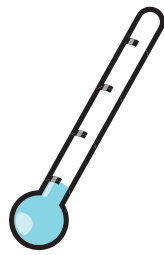
"I want to be classic and thrifty."

Shoes: Salvation Army, \$3; Coat: Macy's, \$41; Dress: Macy's, \$20

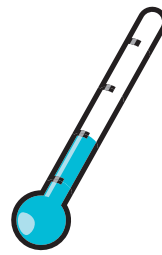


Tiela Halpin THE CHRONICLE

HOT & COLD



Nothin'



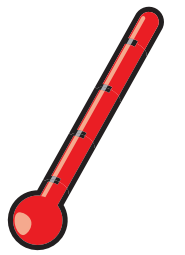
Could be worse...



Not bad, not bad



I'm feelin' this



HOT HOT HOT

PRINT



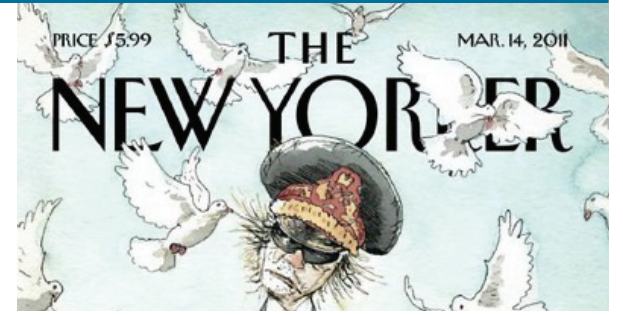
"TWITTER WAS ACT ONE"

While "The Social Network" was about Facebook, this Vanity Fair article looks at one of the tech geniuses behind Twitter in a similar fashion. Jack Dorsey went through the ups and downs of being an Internet mogul, a familiar story in this day and age, and came out better for it. It was nice to see his genuine spirit unbroken by the Twitter sensation. The story ended with his knowing there are only bigger and better things to come.—*B. Wellen*



"OUR DUMB WORLD" BY THE ONION

I was in Borders last week trying to find some treasures before the store went out of business when I stumbled on "Our Dumb World." It's completely immature, crass and most of all brilliantly funny. The best headline might have been "Special Olympics T-ball tee pitches perfect game."—*S. Charles*



"BACKBONE" BY DAVID FOSTER WALLACE

This short fiction in The New Yorker is a fascinating tale of a little boy who contorts himself into pretzel-like shapes so he can touch his lips to every part of his body. He starts off simple but gets overconfident and seriously injures his spine. The story cleverly weaves between the young boy and historic contortionists. While it moves somewhat slowly, "Backbone" is a good read and worth the time.—*M. Watson*



MOVIES / TV / DVD



"PORTLANDIA"

I came upon this delight last weekend with some friends and found it to be one of the funniest shows I have seen in a long time. It's a sketch-comedy show starring Fred Armisen of "Saturday Night Live" and Sleater-Kinney's Carrie Brownstein. Its use of brainy and bizarre humor is charming and refreshing, and who doesn't love making fun of hipsters?—*A. Murphy*



ACADEMY AWARDS

When the 83rd Annual Academy Awards aired on Feb. 27, I was without television, so I had to record the show and watch it later. This year's show was the worst I had ever seen. Yes, James Franco is beautiful, but why was he asked to host the Oscars? And yes, Anne Hathaway is classy, but is she at the level to host such a prestigious awards show? I was disappointed with some of the awards (why didn't "The Social Network" win Best Film?), but then again, that happens every year.—*M. Keith*

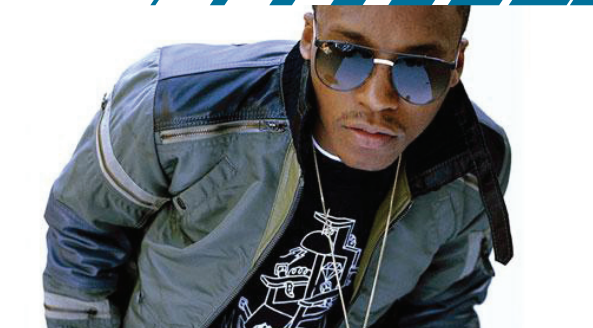


"CLARISSA EXPLAINS IT ALL"

TeenNick decided to start playing '90s shows again, which means the return of Melissa Joan Hart at her finest. You may think it's extreme for me to say this show changed my life but it did. My parents left the decision of my little sister's middle name in my young hands, and though my suggestion was misconstrued as "Carissa" instead of "Clarissa," it's a testament to my love for the show. No doubt both of us will be enjoying the '90s throwback together when it hits TeenNick's airwaves.—*B. Wellen*

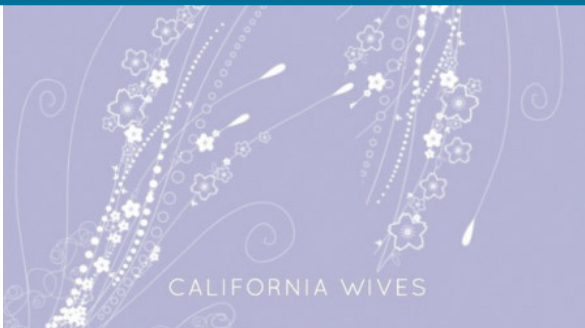


MUSIC



DAMN YOU, ATLANTIC RECORDS

Thank you for limiting Lupe Fiasco from making a solid album and forcing him to make two more before his contract is up. With your efforts, you have made an intelligent and provocative artist sound like he is a guest star on his album. I would've loved if this album were actually written by the artist.—*E. Modacure*



CALIFORNIA WIVES: "AFFAIR"

The newest project from the local indie group California Wives is a great way to get to know the band even if it isn't their first album. The five songs are all well-written, and there is great balance among the bandmates. But because the material is so good, five songs don't feel like enough.—*S. Charles*



CRYSTAL CASTLES: "CRYSTAL CASTLES II"

This album is amazing. The sound of "Crystal Castles II" makes me want to dance every time I hear it. Listening to this album in the car driving down Lake Shore Drive at night is one of my all-time favorite things to do. They upped the ante since their last self-titled album, keeping their unique sound but taking it to another level.—*M. Watson*

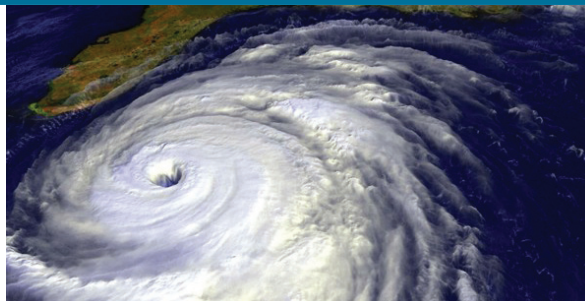


RANDOM



FRESH BATHROOM STALLS

Being the first in a bathroom stall after it has been cleaned is a glorious thing. Being able to sit on a seat you know has just been sanitized makes it way more enjoyable, and who doesn't love the fun colors the water turns from the toilet bowl cleaner? Really, what better feeling is there than peeling a fresh roll of toilet paper and making that first clean tear?—*H. McGraw*



TSUNAMIS

The recent massive earthquake that hit Japan triggered a tsunami that slammed into Hawaii and parts of California. This is not OK. The weather is getting out of control. I'm tired of hearing about tsunamis and earthquakes destroying lives. People clearly aren't ready to move away from the coastlines of our world, so the only thing to do is to stage a massive revolt against bad weather—specifically tsunamis. Please, give the world a break. Relax, tsunamis.—*K. Nielsen*



NATHAN FILLION

Super hero, crime-solving novelist and space cowboy are just a few of the roles he has so aptly portrayed. Making his name as swoon-worthy Captain Malcolm Reynolds in the long ago canceled "Firefly," Fillion has gone on to do great things. An avid tweeter and all-around charmer, Fillion can next be seen, or heard, as the voice of Hal Jordan and his alter ego the Green Lantern in the animated "Green Lantern: Emerald Knights" on June 7. Shiny!—*T. Halpin*



Commentary



Editorials

Northwestern critics miss the point

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY human sexuality professor John Michael Bailey came under fire in recent weeks for an after-class demonstration he held on Feb. 21. The optional demonstration involved a naked woman onstage being brought to orgasm multiple times by a mechanical sex toy. Approximately 120 students attended—all legal adults who were warned of the demonstration's explicit nature and consented to be there. The risqué demonstration was followed by a lengthy lecture and Q-and-A session between the students and a guest speaker.

Opponents were quick to cry out that the demonstration was inappropriate, offensive or wrong, but as Bailey pointed out in a statement on March 5, they provided no legitimate reasons to back up their criticism. Rather, it appears his most vocal critics are outraged merely for the sake of outrage. Northwestern administrators stood by Bailey when the news first broke, but they soon changed their tone and said they were "troubled" by the situation after it drew national media attention.

However, many people continue to overlook how the students who attended the demonstration reacted to it. Most considered it to be a positive, enlightening and educational experience that expanded on topics the class had discussed earlier that day, such as various

arousal techniques and certain scientifically controversial aspects of the female orgasm. Most of Bailey's criticism came from outside the university—namely from pundits, parents and alumni who said they thought the demonstration "crossed the line"—without mentioning how Bailey's students thought it was a valuable educational experience that helped them understand the professor's points more clearly than a lecture would have.

It is the responsibility of an academic institution to teach students the value of curiosity, free inquiry and question traditional values. It's not a college's role to act as a surrogate parent or ensure students adhere to any specific set of moral principles, no matter how many outraged parents insist otherwise. Legitimate academic inquiry should not be stifled because some people are offended by it.

Colleges should encourage professors and students to push the boundaries of academic inquiry. They shouldn't bow to popular pressure at the first sign of controversy. Taboos and social norms shift throughout time. They always have. It's the job of academic institutions to examine and analyze these cultural shifts and encourage students to question the world around them. Any action that hinders such efforts is counterproductive to the goals of higher education.

West Loop Walmart not a bad idea

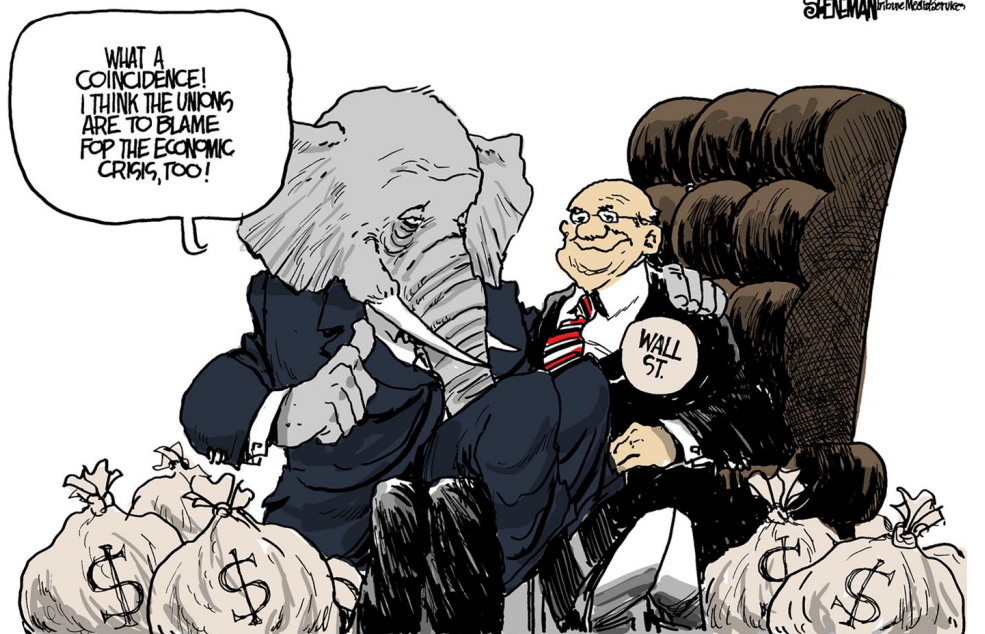
WAL-MART STORES Inc. announced plans to open a West Loop store, and the debate regarding it has erupted with all of the typical anti-Walmart arguments. Critics say the chain retailer will hurt local businesses, and the company's unpopular employment practices will hurt the community. But much of the criticism against this latest store has more to do with the Walmart name—the stigmas attached to the brand—than any substantial arguments against the West Loop store.

The retail giant can sometimes kick off development and attract new businesses to areas where its stores have opened, according to a January 2010 study by Mari Gallagher Research and Consulting Group.

The new location will take up the ground floor of the Presidential Towers apartment complex, 555 W. Madison St. It will be a smaller "Neighborhood Market"-styled store rather than a full-sized traditional Walmart, so many arguments people typically use against big box retailers don't apply. The Neighborhood Market will provide fresh groceries at affordable prices in an area where there is a demand for such a store, filling the space once occupied by Presidential Market. It will essentially be a neighborhood grocery store that happens to be owned and operated by Wal-Mart Stores Inc.

Ultimately, it seems like the new West Loop Walmart will do more good than harm. However, if Wal-Mart Stores Inc. wants to continue its expansion in Chicago, the corporation needs to take a few critical steps to make stores more appealing to residents. The most significant change should be the way Walmart treats its employees, especially because the job-creating power of the stores is a major talking point for proponents. The company is notorious for its anti-union policies, low wages and poor benefits. While it's true that low-paying jobs are better than no jobs at all, improvements on all three fronts would make Chicagoans more accepting of Walmart stores in their neighborhoods.

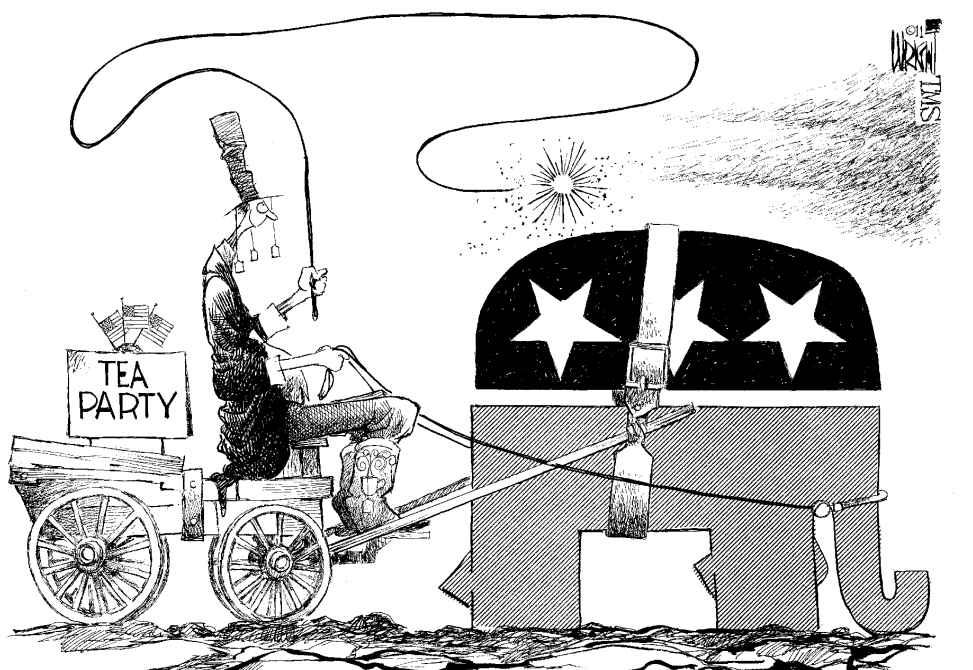
Furthermore, if the company wants to provide affordable groceries in underserved areas, it should look into opening similar Neighborhood Markets in actual food deserts. While the West Loop may have plenty of demand for cheaper groceries, many parts of the city do not have access to things like fresh produce at all. If Walmart could give Chicagoans a legitimate reason to support it—rather than just alter its image and public relations strategy—everyone could benefit from it, and the company would run into fewer problems every time a new location was proposed.



MCT Newswire



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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

Stop feeding Charlie Sheen's ego, fueling his meltdown



"Sheen is growing more delusional by the day, and we think it's hilarious."

by Luke Wilusz
Commentary Editor

CHARLIE SHEEN captured the American public's attention during the past few weeks with one of the most dramatic and public celebrity meltdowns in history, making Mel Gibson and Gary Busey look like amateurs. Sheen's history of drug use, erratic behavior and domestic violence allegations were often overlooked by executives because of the success of the TV sitcom "Two and a Half Men."

However, CBS decided to halt the show's production for the remainder of the current season—and later fired Sheen altogether—after the actor repeatedly attacked series creator Chuck Lorre in a number of interviews on Feb. 24, calling him a "clown," "charlatan"

and a "stupid, stupid little man," among other things. Sheen's downward spiral didn't stop there. In a whirlwind of televised interviews and intense media attention, Sheen went on record uttering some of the most absurd phrases to ever escape a celebrity's mouth.

He told NBC's "Today Show" he had "tiger blood" and "Adonis DNA." He said he cured himself of drug addiction with "the power of [his] mind." He continues to refer to himself as a warlock in the majority of his tweets and public comments. With each interview and each statement, Sheen seems increasingly out of touch with reality.

Thanks to the Internet, the world is enjoying every ridiculous second of Sheen's implosion. Each new absurdity is delivered to us as it spews forth from his mind. The Web exploded with countless images plastered with Sheen quotes, including, naturally, hundreds of adorable photos of cats. People have replaced the captions from New Yorker cartoons with deranged Sheen quotes. His Twitter feed gained 100,000 followers within an hour of its creation before Sheen wrote a single tweet. He broke a world record when he gained more than 1 million followers in a mere 24 hours.

Sheen first made headlines with his shock-

ing comments. But as he continues to careen off the deep end, it's hard to justify all the coverage he's been receiving. Sure, all of the things he says are so bizarre they become pretty amusing, but people seem to overlook the fact that they've been using a man with severe mental and emotional problems as an entertainment source.

The American public and media are, bluntly put, exploiting a mentally ill individual. Rants that should be telling us Sheen needs serious help are turned into cheap jokes, higher TV ratings, increased page views and higher advertisement revenue. He is exhibiting symptoms common to manic-depressives and drug addicts. Sheen is growing more delusional by the day, and we think it's hilarious.

DeadSpin.com obtained Sheen's cell phone number and posted it online for the world to see. Jezebel.com Editor-in-Chief Jessica Coen called him, failed to identify herself as a journalist and played phone tag with him before ultimately failing to have a conversation with him. Because it's hilarious to mess with unstable people, right?

All the attention Sheen is getting only seems to encourage him. He doesn't have to face the fact that he has a problem because that problem has turned him into more of

a superstar than his acting ever did. We are fueling his delusions and making them worse.

Sheen has a history of unstable, violent outbursts against women in his life. He has pleaded guilty in domestic abuse cases twice, all while insisting every allegation brought against him was a lie. Sheen "accidentally" shot a girlfriend in 1990. He was arrested for beating several girlfriends and ex-wives throughout the years. He was jailed on Christmas Day 2009 for allegedly strangling, threatening to kill and holding a knife to the throat of his wife at the time.

Sheen is obviously a disturbed person, and this is nothing new. He's needed help for a while, and if he hasn't gotten it by now, all the attention his antics are earning him certainly isn't going to make him start.

That's not to say we should necessarily feel sorry for Sheen. He was a wealthy, successful actor who had every opportunity to lead a stable life. If he squanders all of that away, that's his deal. But we, as a society, should reconsider how funny his breakdown really is. Once you look past Sheen's bizarre verbal diarrhea and inflated ego, the whole situation is actually rather depressing.

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ROAMIN' NUMERALS

Percentage of U.S. voters who said they think gas prices will rise above \$5 before July 1, according to a March 3 Rasmussen Report. Twenty-one percent said they thought it was very likely, while 35 percent disagreed and said it was not likely.

58

3 Millions of dollars the Richard M. Daley administration agreed to pay to Michael Pleasance's family, according to a March 4 SunTimes.com article. Pleasance was unarmed when he was fatally shot in the face by Chicago police officer Alvin Weems. The event was captured on video by Chicago Transit Authority surveillance cameras.

Dollars Wisconsin Senate Democrats can be fined for each day they spend out of state, according to a March 2 HuffingtonPost.com article. 100 Republican senators passed a resolution declaring any senator absent from legislative sessions without leave for two or more days is subject to the fine.

Thousands of Mazda6 cars recalled by the Japanese manufacturer, after spider webs were found in the cars' vents, according to a March 4 SunTimes.com article. Mazda representatives said pressure caused by clogged vents connected to the vehicles' fuel tanks could lead to cracks, fuel leakage and fires.

65

Conservatives need to define what they consider rich



"If Republicans honestly cared about deficits, they could have done something when Ronald Reagan or George W. Bush was president."

by Matt Watson
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

REPUBLICANS SCORED victories across the U.S. in November 2010 running on a platform of fiscal conservatism and vowing to cut deficits at the state and national level. Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker has gained national attention in recent weeks for his proposal to do away with public employee unions. Governors in Ohio and Michigan look to him for inspiration.

If Republicans honestly cared about deficits, they could have done something when Ronald Reagan or George W. Bush was president. Instead, they spent billions like it was going out of style. Going after teachers but letting wealthy bankers off the hook proves this newfound passion against debt is more of a political move than an economic one.

When the Bush tax cuts were set to expire

on Jan. 1, Republicans were whipped into a frenzy to ensure they continue for people making over \$250,000 a year. Although the Congressional Budget Office estimated allowing these cuts on the wealthy to continue would add \$75 billion to the deficit over the next two years, the GOP argued that with the economy still sour, people needed all the money they could get. Plus, they asked, is a quarter of a million dollars all that much money?

"Two hundred and fifty thousand dollars is not rich," FOX News contributor Tracy Byrnes said in October 2010. "For a family of four sending kids to college, it actually is close to poverty."

According to the National Education Association, the average Wisconsin teacher makes \$50,000 a year, plus medical benefits. If Byrnes' logic is correct, then teachers must be begging for food on the streets. Obviously Republicans and their Fox News public relations arm need a reality check.

For every angle of the argument, conservatives fall into the hypocrisy trap. In 2009, when the Obama administration wanted to cap the salaries of Wall Street CEOs whose companies had received Troubled Asset Relief Program funds, Republicans cried foul and said doing so would drive talent away from the field.

If teachers' salaries are lowered and bar-

gaining rights are taken away, wouldn't that drive talented people away from teaching? Is banking more important than educating America's youth? Our students need to be competitive in the ever-shrinking global economy, and that won't happen by cutting education budgets.

When there was debate regarding taking away the bonuses of investment bankers from companies that received TARP funds, conservatives blasted the idea, saying the contracts signed were already in place. Teachers also sign contracts guaranteeing their salary and benefits, but Republicans seem to feel this is different. After all, said Fox News' Megyn Kelly, investment bankers work really hard, and teachers only work nine months a year.

There is no doubt that something must be done about states' deficits. Out of control spending will compromise our economic vitality. However, Walker's plan to decimate teachers unions' right to bargain collectively for wages and benefits is a step too far.

"In these tough economic times, we've all got to be in it together," Walker said in a news conference Feb. 18. So how are the wealthy sacrificing? If their taxes had been raised from 36% to 39% when the cuts were supposed to expire, maybe they couldn't have taken that extra vacation, or perhaps passed up on buying the Lamborghini

they've had their eyes on. Cutting from a 5-digit salary is the difference between being able to pay the mortgage or fix a broken car.

Generally, people go into the field of education because they have a passion for it and want to make a positive imprint on the next generation. I haven't heard of many teachers who do it for the money. Shouldn't we show them a little extra reward by holding them to equal standards as the bankers who destroyed the global economy?

It is true public employees should share in the sacrifice the public sector has had to make in recent years. States cannot afford to continue giving teachers raises when the state's tax base has eroded. This is why the teachers unions in Wisconsin have agreed to wage and benefit cuts. That wasn't enough for the new governor, though.

If these are the Republican's values, so be it. That isn't what they're selling, though. Their campaign ads portray them as the people's party that stands for personal freedom and liberty. Translation: the party of big business and the wealthy. America needs to wake up and see through the smokescreen. These Tea Party governors aren't concerned about deficits; they're looking out for their own kind.

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Courtesy BARRY BRECHEISEN

The Uptown Theater, 4816 N. Broadway, closed in 1981. Long-held ideas for renovation of the classic building were recently reignited.

Old tune for a new Uptown

Turning neighborhood into city's premiere music district strong possibility

by Heather McGraw
Assistant Metro Editor

AN IDEA that originated in the 1970s is gaining traction with Mayor-elect Rahm Emanuel and others giving the Uptown neighborhood a new face and title as the city's primary music district.

In an interview on WXRT-FM on March 2, Emanuel briefly mentioned turning Uptown into a music district similar to the theater district of the downtown area.

Many advocates for the project believe it will kick start revitalization for the neighborhood by causing economic growth and development.

"We're very excited Mayor-elect Emanuel

wants to take a stronger look, from the city side, at devoting more resources to the area and taking a more planned approach," said Alyssa Berman-Cutler, president and CEO of Uptown United, an economic development community organization for the neighborhood.

Cutler said enhancing the thriving retail,



[The venues] tell so many stories that when you walk into [one], it really educates more than just entertains."

- Alex Jorge

commercial and restaurant district that already exists in the area is important to the organization.

"Ideally, we would play a large role in creating more of a cohesive plan for growing the entertainment district as we have throughout our work here," she said.

In a 2000 study conducted by the Urban Land Institute, based in Washington, D.C., the group found an important element of the revitalization of the neighborhood was the renovation of Uptown Theater.

The historic theater received Chicago Landmark status in 1991 but had already been closed for 10 years. In 2008, the theater was purchased by JAM Productions, a live entertainment promotion group based in Chicago. JAM co-owner Jerry Mickelson said the company didn't buy the theater to let it sit there and waste away.

"We're not in this to play around," Mickelson said. "We're in it to renovate that

» SEE UPTOWN, PG. 38

Quinn's death penalty ban outrages families

Effect of commuted sentences reflected in victims' stories

by Gerry Smith, Stacy St. Clair
and Dahleen Glanton
MCT Newswire

TOM NICARICO thought his family's long, emotional wait for justice had finally ended in November 2009 when jurors condemned Brian Dugan to death for the rape and murder of his young daughter.

But Gov. Pat Quinn's March 9 decision to ban the death penalty in Illinois and commute the sentences of Dugan and 14 other death row inmates to life without parole left Nicarico outraged.

"It's not just the murder of my daughter," he said by telephone from his home in South Carolina. "He murdered two other people's daughters and attacked others. This man earned it, and he's not the only one on death row who earned it."

Nicarico's anger was echoed by many victims' families after they learned of the governor's decision to clear Illinois' death row for the second time in less than a decade.

Karen Bond, 63, whose son, Jerry Weber, was killed by Edward Tenney in 1992, also was upset.

"I was really looking forward to sitting in the front row while they executed this guy," Bond said. "Now the taxpayers of Illinois have to pay his room and board."

The death penalty ban comes about 11 years after then Gov. George Ryan declared a moratorium on executions, citing a Tribune investigative series that exposed how bias, error and incompetence undermined many of the state's nearly 300 capital cases.

Nearly three years later, days before leaving office in January 2003, Ryan pardoned four death row inmates and commuted the

» SEE BAN, PG. 41

Green cars of the future may be costly

Electric vehicle owners save money on fuel, but may pay more to utility companies

by Heather McGraw
Assistant Metro Editor

RESIDENTS TIRED of rising gas prices might have an easier time transitioning to electric vehicles now that the Illinois Commerce Commission is on board and trying to make sure Illinois stays a step ahead of the game in planning for electric vehicles and charging stations.

At a policy meeting concerning plug-in electric vehicles in Chicago, members of the ICC agreed many questions about the future of green transportation remain unanswered.

The Plug-in Electric Vehicle Initiative was started in September 2010 by the ICC in an attempt to plan for the first wave of Chi-

cago's electric vehicle owners. According to a December 2010 report by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, there are already 12,000 PEV owners in Illinois.

Commissioners are questioning how the city would handle the increased demand for electricity that will come from a higher number of at-home charging stations where consumers would plug in their vehicles.

After initial assessments by electricity providers on Dec. 15, the ICC began working with utility officials and stakeholders to better understand the overall effect of PEVs and how they could help educate consumers on electricity use.

"The objective of this initiative is to establish a statewide forum to discuss proactively how the ICC can ensure our state will be prepared for the inevitable deployment

» SEE DRIVE, PG. 38



Tiela Halpin THE CHRONICLE

Members of two panels met with the Illinois Commerce Commission on March 9 to discuss concerns over the commission's Plug-in Electric Vehicle Initiative that started in September.

» IMMIGRATION

Continued from Front Page

laws that have been in place in Chicago for the last 25 years, which state that city officials are not mandated to inquire about or report immigration status—largely contributing to the city’s reputation as a “sanctuary city” for immigrants, and accounting, in part, for the large number of immigrants present within its borders. The legislation would prohibit sanctuary cities in Illinois.

“[The bill] is based on this canard that undocumented immigrants are costing Illinois taxpayers inordinate amounts of money—so the solution is to get rid of all the undocumented immigrants,” said Fred Tsao, policy director of the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights. “This approach completely ignores the economic contributions undocumented immigrants make to our economy.”

According to Tsao, undocumented immigrants pay taxes in the form of sales, property and income taxes. They also create general revenue through consumer spending and high rates of local business ownership.

“To leave out the economic productivity they generate is completely shortsighted,” Tsao said.

The bill was moved to the General Assembly’s Executive Committee on Feb. 23, where it currently awaits a ruling before potentially moving to the Illinois House of Representatives. However, the deadline for moving the bill out of the committee—which contains four members of the Latino caucus—is March 17. After that day, it will be significantly more difficult to move the act forward.



Brent Lewis THE CHRONICLE

Activists, including Chicago’s Immigrant Youth Justice League, held an event outside of Daley Plaza, 118 N. Clark St., on March 10 to call for awareness of immigrant rights in Chicago.

If successfully passed out of the committee, Ramey is confident he would have enough support to pass it out of the House.

“The problem is that the speaker [Rep. Michael J. Madigan] has decided it’s not legislation he wants to talk about,” said Ramey, also noting that he will continue to push for similar acts, as he has for the past four years.

Estimating that undocumented immigrants cost the state \$4.5 billion through tax dollars paid to health care, prisons and education on their behalf, Ramey argues that his proposal is a means to alleviate the approximately \$13 billion deficit the

state faces.

The biggest concern is that such legislation would exacerbate problems between law enforcement and immigrant communities, according to Tsao, making it more likely undocumented immigrants will avoid collaboration with police by not reporting crimes and refusing to serve as witnesses in trials because of fears of deportation.

“It boils down to four words: Illinois is not Arizona,” Tsao said. “This legislation is so antithetical to the spirit that this state has had toward welcoming immigrants and to the prevailing political climate.”

A state bill, HJR0119, which condemned the enactment of Arizona’s SB 1070 legislation last year, seems to support this claim. The bill made it to the Senate floor after passing in the House, where it remains stalled indefinitely.

After the protest of the Taxpayers Act on the part of immigrant rights activists, many Chicago organizations hope they outnumber pro forces regarding the bill.

“I’m not going to say it will never pass, but it’s our hope that it will not go through, and it’s our intention to stop it,” Tsao said.

dholiday@chroniclemail.com

» UPTOWN

Continued from PG. 37

theater and bring it back to life.”

According to Mickelson, renovating the theater will be a \$70 million project, but that won’t stop JAM from getting it done.

Mickelson said reopening the theater would mean huge economic development for the Uptown neighborhood.

“It’s clearly going to help revitalize that part of town,” he said.

Brian Hudnut, chairman of the ULI advisory services panel that published the 2000 report, said the ULI recognized the potential of the area then, and the group continues to think its recommendations are valid.

Hudnut said the ULI was concerned about deterioration and suggested doing anything possible to prevent it, especially on the Uptown Theater.

“It’s an architectural gem,” Hudnut said. “It seemed to us like a venue very much worth saving.”

The area has always been somewhat of an entertainment district, but bringing life back to it is crucial for live music and culture in general, according to Alex Jorge, special events coordinator for the Aragon Ballroom, 1106 W. Lawrence Ave., another music venue in the Uptown neighborhood.

“[Uptown] getting the attention it deserves is really refreshing,” Jorge said. “Especially [because] a lot of theaters in this area are really underappreciated, including the Uptown Theater.”

The architecture and history of venues like the Aragon, Uptown and the Green Mill, 4802 N. Broadway—a famous jazz venue and known hangout of infamous Chicagoan Al Capone—provide a different aesthetic and feeling than seeing a performance at a place like the United Center, according to Jorge.

“[The venues] tell so many stories that when you walk into [one], it really educates more than just entertains,” he said.

Although reopening Uptown Theater would mean direct competition for the Aragon, Jorge said from a cultural and artistic standpoint renovation to a neighbor-

hood like Uptown should be supported by everyone, especially considering the area’s historical significance.

“If our neighbors can succeed and thrive, then the area itself can come back to life

the way it once did in the ’20s and ’30s,” Jorge said. “Then the whole city would be a better place.”

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Tiela Halpin THE CHRONICLE

The Aragon Ballroom, 1106 W. Lawrence Ave., is one of the venues proponents say makes the Uptown neighborhood the right choice for a Chicago music district.

» DRIVE

Continued from PG. 37

of this green mode of transportation,” said Commissioner Erin M. O’Connell-Diaz, chair of the initiative, at a March 9 meeting.

Two panels answered questions concerning the economic and environmental impact of PEVs and potential procedures and regulations for vehicle charging stations.

The first panel—composed of representatives from four electric companies and a member of the ICC staff—was asked how an influx of charging stations would affect the electric grid.

Panel members said large numbers of PEV owners plugging their cars in at the same time—when they get home from work around 5 p.m. might not be easily

handled by utility providers and could cause a higher rate for consumers. One solution different members gave to this issue might be allowing PEV owners to pay a real-time pricing rate, encouraging them to plug in at off-peak hours, like 2 a.m.

The panel also discussed how PEV charging stations in California are free from most governmental regulations because they are not classified as public utilities, something panel members thought would be ideal in Illinois.

“This is sometimes difficult for us to say in the Midwest, [but] I think the California folks have this one right,” said Scott Wiseman, vice president of regulatory affairs at Ameren Illinois, one of the state’s utility providers.

Representatives from environmental advocacy groups like Environmental Law and Policy Center and the National Resour-

ces Defense Council sat on the second panel along with representatives from the Citizens Utility Board and the city of Chicago.

The second panel’s discussion focused on how to implement a growth of electric vehicles and who would have authority regarding creating regulations.

“These are new challenges for everyone,” said Chris Thomas, policy director for the Citizens Utility Board, a nonprofit nonpartisan organization representing the interests of residential utility customers. “The questions you’re asking are the right questions. I think you can’t expect to answer all of them up front.”

Sharon Hillman, representing Illinois Competitive Energy Association, told commissioners that Chicago already has nearly 100 PEV charging stations in place. Jonathan Goldman, from I-GO Car Sharing service, said they plan to add 36 PEVs to their

program and roll out the same number of charging stations in 18 different locations around Chicago and suburban areas.

A higher number of PEVs and charging stations means the city will have to deal with regulating the price to charge the vehicles and parking at various charging locations where PEV owners may try to stay parked longer than necessary to get a charge, according to Mike McMahan, vice president of smart grid and technology at Commonwealth Edison Co.

O’Connell-Diaz said she thought the Secretary of State’s office would be a good entity to handle some of these challenges, but there were many unknowns.

“What we’re doing is we’re selling the future that our country has to move to,” she said.

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» **BAN**

Continued from PG. 37

death sentences of more than 160 prisoners to life in prison.

Far fewer inmates were affected by Quinn's decision. Not all relatives of their victims were upset, and at least one family was divided.

Five years ago at the age of 9, Quincy Newburn urged a jury to give the death sentence to Dion Banks, who was convicted of killing his mother in 2001 during a carjacking while Quincy and his brother, who were 4 and 5 at the time, watched from the back seat.

"I've already forgiven him for what he did, but I want to see justice in action," said Quincy, who is now 14.

Quincy's father, Tyrone Newburn Sr., 53, once felt the same way but has since changed his mind—though not because he has forgiven Banks.

"Just putting them to death would be too easy for the offender, so I figure it would be more of a punishment to let them rot in jail for the rest of their lives," said the elder Newburn, a maintenance worker for Chicago Public Schools.

Quinn's decision meant Andrew Urdiales has now been cleared from death row twice. A former Marine who claims he killed eight women in two states, Urdiales was first sentenced to death in 2002 before Ryan commuted his punishment to life in prison. Then he was put back on death row in 2004 after a Livingston County jury found him guilty of shooting and stabbing a young mother from Indiana.

Urdiales' sister, Cynthia, burst into tears when told Quinn had commuted her brother's sentence to life in prison. His

family and attorneys had hoped his life would be spared on the grounds that he is mentally ill, a defense that appellate courts had rejected.

"I'm shocked," Runge said. "We hoped for this for a long time, but I didn't think it would happen. I'm amazed and thankful."

Richard Runge, whose son, Paul, was on death row for the 1997 rape and murder of a mother and her 10-year-old daughter, was "elated" his son's life would be spared.

"He is still my son," he said. "I still love him. The good Lord will decide what Paul's fate will be."

But such feelings were not shared by Rachel Williams, who still has bullet fragments in her skull from the night in 1996 when Daniel Ramsey shot her in the head, killed her 12-year-old sister, raped and killed her best friend and wounded two toddlers.

Williams was so determined to see her former boyfriend receive the death penalty she relived the gruesome details of the shooting before a jury twice—the second time after the Illinois Supreme Court ordered a new trial. On March 9, Williams said she was reliving that night all over again, knowing Ramsey's life would be spared while her sister's was not.

"Nobody knows what it's like to hear your sister say, 'Don't shoot me,'" said Williams, 32, of Peoria, Ill. "Why should he be able to sit there in prison until he turns over and dies? It's not fair."

Dugan was sentenced to death for the 1983 rape and murder of Jeanine Nicarico, a 10-year-old Naperville girl. Dugan had been serving two life sentences for two other rape/murder cases, but his death sentence brought a major chapter of a long-running, controversial case to a close. Rolando Cruz and Alejandro Hernandez—two of three men originally charged with the girl's



Associated Press

Pam Bosley is seen here standing inside St. Sabina Catholic Church, 1210 W. 78th Place., with a photograph of her son, Terrell, who was gunned down in 2006. Bosley said no one is in custody for her son's death, but whoever killed him does not deserve to live.

murder—served years on death row before they were cleared.

Dugan's attorney, Steven Greenberg, said the legacy of the Nicarico case will be the deep flaws those wrongful prosecutions exposed in Illinois' criminal justice system.

"The fact that ... Dugan will spend the rest of his life in jail is inconsequential," Greenberg said. "Had we killed ... Cruz, that would have been the moral wrong."

But Roger Schnorr, whose sister, Donna, 27, of Geneva, Ill., was abducted, raped and murdered by Dugan in 1984, called Quinn's decision "quite aggravating." Schnorr said he met with Quinn for two hours a few

weeks ago—along with prosecutors and other victims' relatives—and said the governor seemed "quite uninformed."

Nicarico said his family was never consulted while the governor was mulling his decision. Nicarico said Quinn had given Illinois' most heinous criminals the ultimate gift.

"There are 15 guys who are celebrating in prison today," Nicarico said. "And all of them took a life, at least one, and some took more than one. What Quinn did is ... [give] them their lives back."

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Bulls rock Chicago



PBR comes to United Center, entertains crowd

by Etheria Modacure
Assistant Health & Fitness Editor

SITTING IN the bullpen, a rider and a bull anticipate the moment the gate opens. With adrenaline pumping and the crowd roaring, the rider gets ready for another fierce eight-second battle with a bull.

This is the norm for professional bull riders, who participate every weekend in what is dubbed the toughest sport on Earth. Professional Bull Riders Inc. made its annual stop in Chicago at the home of the Bulls and Blackhawks, the United Center, 1901 W. Madison Ave., for the Chicago Invitational on March 5 and 6.

The Chicago Invitational is one of 28 events PBR holds annually, culminating in the World Finals in Las Vegas.

"You've got to take it one bull at a time," said bull rider Shane Proctor. "They always bring the best bulls to these Built Ford Tough series. You

want to do your best in front of the Chicago crowd."

PBR has been in existence since 1992 and has become one of the biggest revenue-generating sports in the country. It started when 20 rodeo bull riders decided to invest \$1,000 each to found a company devoted to attracting a broader audience.

More than 40 riders competed in the Chicago Invitational, with the winner, Robson Palermo, receiving \$36,016 in earnings throughout the weekend.

To compete in an event, each rider is randomly paired with a bull and assigned to ride in one of six sections. When a rider and bull are together, the rider is judged on his or her success with the bull for eight seconds.

"It takes a lot of dedication, desire [and] practice," said bull rider Chance Roberts, of Jewett, Ill.

Roberts finished 13th in the Chicago Invitational.

From "Closet Gangster" to "Montana-Canvas.com", each bull was born to buck the rider with tremendous



Photos by Brock Brake and Ting Shen
Design by Zach Stermerick



strength and agility. Unlike bull competitions in other countries, U.S. competitive bulls don't have sharp horns—preventing serious injury to riders.

A rope is tied around the bull's flank in front of its hips. This helps the bull buck its hind legs in an attempt to dislodge the rope, and allows the rider to have a less-erratic performance.

Roberts said when he is inside the bullpen, he doesn't think about getting injured because the action of riding supersedes any fears or doubts.

"It's always an adrenaline rush, and it keeps you busy doing it," Roberts said. "You get to travel a lot, and you get to ride the best bulls in the world."

For the championship round of the Chicago Invitational, the top 10 riders of the competition chose the bulls they would ride in the finals. Brian Canter, who finished fourth in the finals, needed three bulls to complete the championship round.

Canter rode Loaded Gun and finished with an average score of 84.25 and \$1,200 in purse earnings.

"When you pick a bull, you've

got the best in the top 10 round," Canter said. "That's the best of the best. You're not going to get on a bad bull."

While riders perform on a bull, they are jerked from left to right, thrown over the top or lifted over the animal's back. After an intense ride, Canter said he doesn't have immense pain the next day but soreness is as prevalent as the danger when it comes to bull riding.

"I'm not really hurting in the morning," Canter said. "I get sore sometimes in my hips, but that's really about it."

For kids who look up to bull riders for inspiration, Canter said there is no better sport for them to turn to. He explained that riding is a way of life for most of the athletes, and he wouldn't choose any other form of competition.

"This is what I do, and this is what I've grown up around" Canter said. "This is every little kid's dream, and they look up to us. The fans are great, and you can't beat it."

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“ This is every little kid's dream, and they look up to us.”

- Brian Canter



Blagojevich attorneys cite federal budget woes

Defense team asks for sentencing on single conviction, not retrial

by Annie Sweeney and Ryan Haggerty
MCT Newswire

ROD BLAGOJEVICH'S legal team sought to have the corruption charges against the former governor thrown out because his publicly funded attorneys have not been paid for months, but veteran lawyers scoffed at the likely success of the strategy.

The motion—the latest in a series of early morning filings that have garnered widespread media attention—was put down as an attempt to sway public favor by one of the lawyers.

After the former governor depleted his campaign funds to pay for his defense in the initial trial, Blagojevich was found eligible for attorneys paid with taxpayer money.

But in its motion which was filed electronically at about 5:15 a.m. on March 9, the defense complained it hadn't been paid in nine months, and as a result could not be ready for next month's retrial. Blagojevich's lawyers blamed the current budgetary crisis confronting the federal government for the delay in payment.

The motion went on to call the April 20 retrial an "irresponsible use of taxpayer funds"—echoing an argument Blagojevich's lawyers made in the minutes after the jury verdict in the first trial.

They asked for U.S. District Judge James Zagel to throw out the remaining charges



Brock Brake THE CHRONICLE

Attorneys for former Gov. Rod Blagojevich asked U.S. District Judge James Zagel in a March 9 electronically filed motion to sentence him on the single conviction of lying to the FBI and throw out all other charges.

against Blagojevich and sentence him on the one count for which he was convicted.

"It's unusual [and] it's not supported by the law," said Patrick J. Cotter, former federal prosecutor of the motion. "I don't think it has any chance whatsoever of being granted by the judge."

The funding problem cited by Blagojevich's legal team is a legitimate problem, attorneys said, but it's not grounds to dismiss criminal charges against a defendant.

"To argue he shouldn't be retried because the federal government is facing a budget crisis is absurd," said former federal prosecutor Jeffrey Cramer, who dubbed it a "novel

pseudo-legal argument."

Last summer, a jury convicted Blagojevich on one count of lying to the FBI but deadlocked on the remaining 23 counts. Prosecutors quickly announced they would retry the former governor, including on charges he tried to sell a U.S. Senate seat to the highest bidder.

Citing its money woes, the defense said in its motion that it is unprepared for the retrial. Blagojevich's right to a fair trial is at stake, his lawyers contended.

"Should this motion be granted...the court could immediately conduct a sentencing hearing on Blagojevich's conviction from

the first trial," the defense said. "There would be no further cost to taxpayers."

Publicly funded federal defense attorneys are paid after submitting vouchers detailing their work, but payments were suspended nationwide last month and again this month because of potential funding shortfalls, said Michael Dobbins, clerk of the U.S. District Court in Chicago.

However, checks were issued on March 9 to Blagojevich's lawyers and other publicly funded federal defense attorneys across the country whose vouchers were processed before this month's deadline, Dobbins said.

He did not know the total amount paid to Blagojevich's legal team, but he said Blagojevich's lawyers, Sheldon Sorosky and Aaron Goldstein, bill \$125 an hour. Paralegals are billed at \$75 an hour.

Other attorneys who work in the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse said the slowdown of funding raised by Blagojevich's lawyers has been a legitimate problem.

"You still have to pay the office rent and the staff," said attorney Nishay Sanan, who is representing an indigent client in a court-appointed case.

Some found Blagojevich's fear of wasting tax dollars "ironic," given the secretly recorded tapes of him discussing alleged deals that make up a key part of the prosecution's case and were played during the first trial.

"Concern for the taxpayers? I must have been out that day," said Cramer, head of the Chicago office of Kroll Investigations.

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Brent Lewis THE CHRONICLE

Christian Robinson, a student at Oak Park and River Forest High School, 201 N. Scoville Ave., Oak Park, Ill., performs at the individual finals of "Louder Than a Bomb," March 9, at the Victory Gardens Theater, 2433 N. Lincoln Ave. The spoken-word event is presented in venues throughout the Chicagoland area and includes students from across Chicago and Northwest Indiana.

IN OTHER NEWS

Snow for profit

According to TheWrigleyBlog.com, the Chicago Cubs plan to use snow left from the city's February blizzard to make some extra money. Cubs personnel will sell the snow at four different pricing levels. For \$25, fans can bring their 12-ounce container to fill with the souvenir snow. For \$50, fans move to the Silver level and get their snow in an authentic extra-small Cubs souvenir helmet. Fans willing to pay \$1,000 will take home their purchase in the same souvenir Cubs helmet, but also get to have a snowball fight with long-time Cubs supporter and fan favorite, Ronnie Woo Woo Wickers.

Invisible rash

Children from Daniel Cameron Elementary School in Humboldt Park were taken to hospitals on March 9 after complaining of skin irritations, according to ChicagoTribune.com. Prior to standardized testing, the school was holding a rally where students were spraying one another with whipping cream, but officials do not believe this was the cause of the irritations. Principal Stephan Harden said it is likely the incident was largely psychological. The complaints started after two students uttered remarks about being itchy. A total of 31 fifth- and sixth-graders were treated.

Social media tsunami

According to WashingtonPost.com, a Wikipedia page created just hours after an earthquake and tsunami hit Japan on March 11 was updated 500 times within the first 12 hours. Google has also created a people finder containing about 6,100 records and a map marking possible shelters. YouTube immediately started grouping citizen videos of the disasters. Ushahidi, a non-profit software company based in Kenya, created a database to connect individuals offering help with those in need. Mashable, a New York-based news website, reported more than 1,200 tweets per minute.

Ban up and smoke

Two bills are currently working their way through the Illinois General Assembly that could bring smoking back to bars and casinos, according to NBCChicago.com. The proposals were approved by a House committee on March 9. Many bars and casinos cited a loss in revenue since the 2008 ban. One of the bills would give local liquor control commissions the power to issue smoking licenses to bars and other adult-oriented establishments that make 10 percent or less of their revenue from food sales. The other would allow smoking in closed-off, ventilated rooms in licensed casinos.

OFF THE BLOTTER



Compiled by Chronicle staff with information provided by the Chicago Police Department. Map created by Jonathan Allen THE CHRONICLE.

1 Must love books

According to police reports on March 10, officers received a call of a suspect held at the Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State St. A security guard told officers the suspect had tripped the alarm upon exiting. Security guards recovered two books worth \$62.90 before detaining the suspect until officers arrived on the scene and took him into custody.

2 Three men, 4G

An Apple store employee told police that while she was sitting on a Red Line train at the Harrison station, 600 S. State St., three men got up from their seats and walked toward her. The first two passed the victim, and the third snatched her iPhone 4G worth \$699. The suspects ran up the stairs and headed south. The victim gave chase but lost them at ground level.

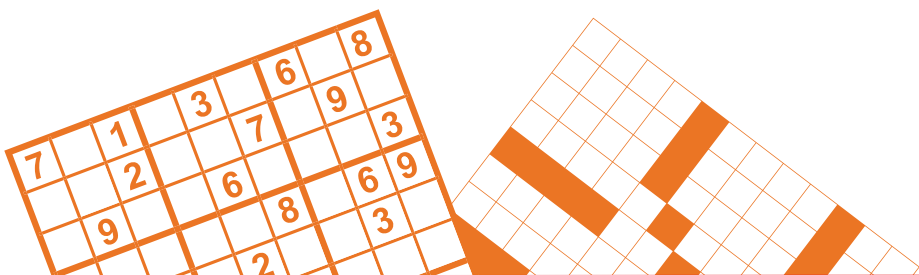
3 On-call

Officers assigned to vice in the Hyatt Regency Chicago hotel area, 151 E. Wacker Drive, contacted a prostitute from an advertisement on BackPage.com on March 9. An officer arrived at the hotel and was let into a room. According to police reports, the suspect agreed to have sex with the officer twice for \$500, repeated the agreement and produced a condom—she was then placed under arrest.

4 Chipped tooth

A student said he was at the Red Line Harrison station's Polk Street entrance, 31 W. Polk St., on March 11, when two suspects approached him. One put him in a choke-hold while, the second asked, "Where's your money?" The suspects went through his pockets, according to police reports, then threw him to the ground. The victim sustained a chipped tooth and small lacerations to his face.

Games



HOROSCOPES



ARIES (March 21–April 20) Monday through Wednesday, authority figures may ask for solid decisions. Detailed documents, timed contracts or legal permissions may be involved. Expect no hidden agendas here. For many Aries natives, almost eight months of unreliable business promises will soon end. After midweek, a complex romantic invitation may temporarily cause workplace or family tensions. Loyalty, canceled plans or revised time schedules may be a key source of concern. Offer encouragement.



TAURUS (April 21–May 20) Unexpected social delays or moody moments between loved ones may now be bothersome. Remain cheerfully distant and avoid asking direct questions. Before next week, romantic partners and close friends will require added privacy. Complex relationships will soon evolve toward harmony: Watch for valuable progress. Wednesday through Saturday, ongoing property disputes will be quickly resolved. Stay open and expect key officials to offer new long-term agreements.



GEMINI (May 21–June 21) Repeated patterns and old love affairs are accented this week. Monday through Thursday, expect complex memories or messages from the past to captivate your attention. Yesterday's choices will soon be proven accurate. Remain dedicated to current romantic and social obligations. Late this week, a friend or relative may present an unusual business or financial partnership. New proposals will eventually work in your favor. Remain cautious, however, and watch for last-minute options.



CANCER (June 22–July 22) Social gatherings will this week provide delightful distraction. New friendships, quick job proposals and promising romantic introductions will now work to your advantage. Use this time to expand your emotional and financial resources. All is well. Later this week, some Cancerians will be asked to clarify or resolve the past financial mistakes of a colleague or trusted work partner. Remain quietly diplomatic, but respond quickly: Your emotional insight and sensitivity will be greatly appreciated.



LEO (July 22–Aug. 22) Outdated documents will now cause unnecessary financial delays. Refuse to postpone small or annoying duties. During the next eight days, long-trusted contracts may need to be redefined. Remain determined and ask key officials for detailed paperwork and new legal documents. After Thursday, a friend or relative may feel unusually affected by past memories or recent social events. Press loved ones for short-term social promises. Planned events will require confirmation.



VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22) Key business decisions from approximately three months ago may now require clarification. Authority figures or younger relatives will soon expect detailed records or written proof. Others may be temporarily unsure of their choices. Take none of it personally. This week, workplace attitudes will improve and vital projects will be redefined. Later this week, an old friend or past lover may reveal complex or unexpected opinions. Go slow: Powerful emotions are involved.



LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 23) Authority figures may provide misinformation or poor instructions during the next few days. If so, remain silently productive and rely on your instincts. Hidden power struggles or private disagreements will trigger workplace tensions. Stay calm. After Thursday, new romantic overtures may be vague or disjointed. Wait for clear invitations before taking risks. At present, potential friends or lovers will need extra time to resolve past obligations. Ask for reliable promises.



SCORPIO (Oct. 24–Nov. 22) A close friend may this week challenge the ideas of loved ones or ask for detailed romantic advice. Before midweek, complicated social promises and emotionally draining obligations may derail group plans. Reserve judgment but encourage healthy expression. In the coming weeks, new information and revised opinions will arrive. Later this week, an unresolved financial mistake may require a quick decision. If so, remain dedicated to your original goals and all will be well.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23–Dec. 21) Family obligations may soon be temporarily complex or draining. After Tuesday, loved ones may challenge your opinions or request extra private time. Don't be unnerved. Before next week, recent disappointments may need to be examined and resolved. Thursday through Sunday accents minor disputes and last-minute social changes. Friends or relatives may experience a powerful wave of divided priorities. Offer support and wait for clarity: Strong emotions are highlighted.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 20) Friends and relatives may now question their romantic judgment. Not to worry: Confused priorities or social doubt will not be permanent. After Wednesday, expect loved ones to enjoy calming moments and renewed confidence. In the coming weeks, past memories and emotional triangles will fade. Use this time to let loved ones know your feelings and expectations. Later this weekend, dreams and family intuitions will be vivid. Watch for valuable clues.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 21–Feb. 19) Loved ones may be introspective this week. Be patient and watch for sudden outbursts. At present, deep thought will be followed with probing romantic questions or fast explanations. In the coming weeks, long-term relationships will expand to include revised daily obligations, new roles or controversial home expectations. Listen closely for valuable clues. After Thursday, plan unique romantic encounters and private social celebrations. A meaningful display of loyalty is needed.



PISCES (Feb. 20–March 20) Work contracts and business permissions may soon be canceled. During the next five days, expect key officials to introduce complex adjustments or revised schedules. Financial promises are now best translated into written agreements. Ask for clearly defined terms and valid expectations. After Thursday, some Pisceans will experience a powerful wave of social or romantic intuition, vivid dream activity and quick emotions. Ask loved one for support and encouragement. All is well.

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3/13/11

ACROSS

- 1 "Trek: Voyager"
- 5 "I Met Your Mother"
- 8 One of the kids on "The Cosby Show"
- 9 Corrects a manuscript
- 12 Hot-tempered
- 13 Ted ___ of "The Mary Tyler Moore Show"
- 14 "Sesame Street" fellow
- 15 "I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of ___!"
- 16 "Please Don't ___ the Daisies"
- 18 Billy ___ Williams
- 19 Actor Danza
- 20 Alphabet openers
- 21 Actress Patricia
- 23 Toes the line
- 24 Actor ___ Donahue
- 25 Actress Jessica ___, who starred in the series "Dark Angel"
- 26 "The Bad News ___"
- 28 Nation whose capital is Lima
- 29 Building wings
- 30 Writer and poet Edgar Allan and his family

- 32 Cruise or Hanks
- 35 ___ MacGraw
- 36 Blockbuster film about a great white shark
- 37 Regis Philbin's co-host
- 38 "My Name ___"
- 40 Morley of "60 Minutes" fame
- 41 Piano student's practice piece
- 42 Son of ___; scoundrel, humorously
- 43 "The ___ Skelton Hour"
- 44 Diner where Alice worked

DOWN

- 1 Set of steps built over a fence
- 2 Series for Simon Baker
- 3 Prefix for dynamics or space
- 4 Rogers or Clark
- 5 ___ Fonda
- 6 Dog in "Garfield"
- 7 Toupee
- 10 "The Bold and ___"
- 11 Actor ___ Keach
- 12 Nourished
- 13 Berry of "Mama's Family"
- 15 Sacred
- 17 Six-pointers, for short
- 19 New Mexico art colony
- 20 Shortened form of a word, for short
- 22 Makes a mistake
- 23 Bullring cheers
- 25 "Planet of the ___"; film for Roddy McDowall and Charlton Heston
- 26 Arthur of "The Golden Girls"
- 27 Miss ___; "Dallas" matriarch
- 30 Whittled
- 31 Wise as an ___
- 33 Unlocks
- 34 Spoil
- 36 Gem that is usually green
- 37 Great anger
- 39 France's continent: abbr.
- 40 Bartender on "Cheers"

Solution to Last Week's Puzzle

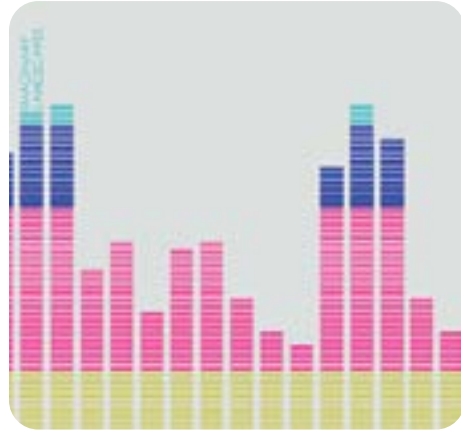
H	A	P	P	Y				T	E	D
A	T	R	E	E		H	E	A	V	E
L	A	I	R	S		D	U	M	B	E
E	T	C			S	A	R	I		
					E	M	P	T	Y	L
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G	R	A	S	S	Y	H	O	P	P	E
P	U	R	R			F	A	R	R	
A	N	T	I		B	I	L	K	O	
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A	R	C	H	I	E		D	A	T	E
R	O	U	T	E			O	P	E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

Stay In




“Imaginary Landscapes: Works from the Department of Audio Arts and Acoustics”

3.14 
 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. // *The Arcade*
 618 S. Michigan Ave.
 Building, 2nd floor
 jwitte@colum.edu
FREE




This event invites all Columbia students to explore sound. To better understand sound as an art, this exhibition encourages exploring the richness and variety of audio. Created by students in the Audio Arts and Acoustics Department, it will be presented by the Department of Exhibition and Performance Spaces.

Monday 3.14


“Art in the Library” 
 All day
 Columbia Library, South
 Campus Building
 624 S. Michigan Ave., 3rd floor
 loberc@colum.edu
FREE



**Blues Ensemble:
 Performance in concert**
 7–8 p.m.
 Music Center
 1014 S. Michigan Ave.
 (312) 369-6179
FREE

**“U-n-f-o-l-d: A Cultural
 Response to Climate Change”** 
 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
 Glass Curtain Gallery, 1104 Center
 1104 S. Wabash Ave., 1st floor
 mporter@colum.edu
FREE

Thursday 3.17


Playwriting Workshop: 
Regina Taylor
 10 a.m. – noon
 11th Street Campus
 72 E. 11th St., room 404
 Inaslund@colum.edu


Friday 3.18

**Orientation Leader
 information session** 
 3:30 p.m.
 Multicultural Affairs
 618 S. Michigan Ave. Building,
 4th floor
 afitzpatrick@colum.edu
FREE




Monday 3.21

Spring-Break begins 
 3.21 – 3.26
 Columbia College Chicago

**“U-n-f-o-l-d: A Cultural
 Response to Climate Change”** 
 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
 Glass Curtain Gallery, 1104 Center
 1104 S. Wabash Ave., 1st floor
 mporter@colum.edu
FREE


Tuesday 3.22

**Opera in Cinema Screening
 of “VIVA LA MAMMA”** 
 7 – 9:30 p.m.
 Film Row Cinema, 1104 Center
 1104 S. Wabash Ave., 8th floor
 edominick@colum.edu
FREE

Tuesday 3.15

**Meet the Artist: Producer
 Christian “Crada” Kalla** 
 Noon – 1 p.m.
 Music Center
 1014 S. Michigan Ave.
 (312) 369-6179
FREE




**Fiction Writing
 Department faculty reading** 
 2:30 – 5 p.m.
 Film Row Cinema, 1104 Center
 1104 S. Wabash Ave., 8th floor
 Inaslund@colum.edu
FREE

Wednesday 3.16

**“Robyn Hitchcock:
 Deconstructing the
 Music Industry”** 
 11 a.m.
 Stage Two
 618 S. Michigan Ave. Building
 cjuhlin@colum.edu
FREE

**“From Page to Stage
 with Student Playwrights”** 
 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
 Film Row Cinema, 1104 Center
 1104 S. Wabash, 8th floor
 Inaslund@colum.edu
FREE

Saturday 3.27

“Chicago Zine Fest, Zine Exhibition” 
 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
 Film Row Cinema, 1104 Center
 1104 S. Wabash Ave., 8th floor
 jsummers@colum.edu
FREE






“BIGArt: Spring Break Project”
3.14
 5:30 p.m. // Residence Center
 731 S. Plymouth Court

Do you have any plans for spring break? Attend this informational session on how you and other community members can spend a week doing service and making art with Chicago Public Schools students at Crown Community Academy (2128 Saint Louis) in the North Lawndale neighborhood. Discover your inner artist while helping children.

(312) 369-8675
FREE



Pop Orchestra in concert
3.15
 7 – 8 p.m. // Music Center
 1014 S. Michigan Ave.



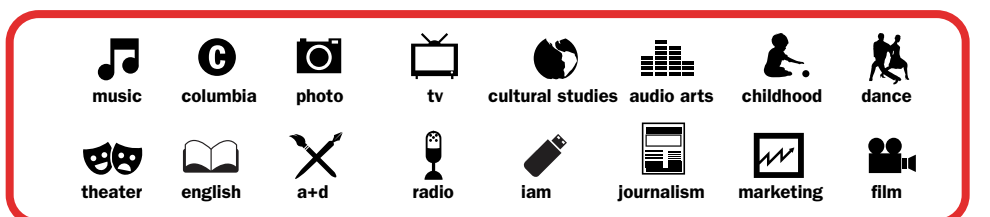
Columbia offers an advanced-level ensemble course that specializes in the repertoire of rock and contemporary bands orchestrated for brass and reed instruments, rhythm instruments and multiple vocals. Come to the Music Center, 1104 S. Michigan Ave., to watch the Pop Orchestra class perform challenging music live in concert.

(312) 369-6179
FREE

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CHRONICLE

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 keep up with your campus and city



Get Out



"Adler After Dark: Shamrock"

3.17.11

6 – 10 p.m.

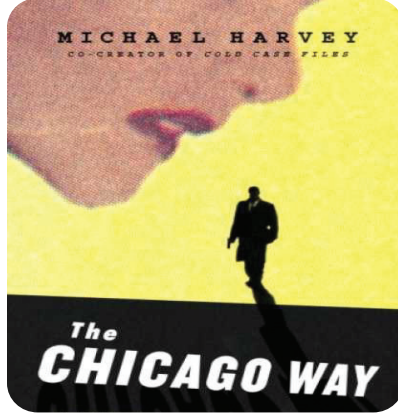
Adler Planetarium

1300 S. Lake Shore Drive

This monthly series features Irish beer and cocktails, music by DJ Shred One, karaoke and 3-D footage of historic astronomical doings in Ireland. "Adler After Dark" is the time guests can access the Doane Observatory.

(312) 922-7827

\$7 – \$15; 21+



The Chicago Way literary series

3.27.11

7 – 8:30 p.m.

Hidden Shamrock

2723 N. Halsted St.

Local writer Scott Miles hosts a conversation with crime fiction author Michael Harvey, who answers questions about police procedure, bio-chemical weapons, the legal process, how to get published and more. Prior to the Q-and-A with Harvey, playwright Mary Beth Hoerner reads a short selection from Harvey's work: Harvey will sign copies of his book afterward.

(312) 925-7578

FREE



Face the Strange: New Music from Chicago and Beyond

3.22.11

6 – 7 p.m.

Museum of Contemporary Art

220 E. Chicago Ave.

Musicians perform hour-long sets of original compositions. It's new music like you've never heard before in a good way. The band Disappears plays this month.

(312) 280-2660

FREE

Monday 3.14

Hambingo

8 p.m.

Hamburger Mary's

5400 N. Clark St.

(773) 784-6969

\$5 suggested donation

Tuesday 3.15

Mash Flob: The New Colony

6 – 7 p.m.

Museum of Contemporary Art

220 E. Chicago Ave.

(312) 280-2660

FREE

Mask of Sanity: Psychological Horror Films: "Safe"

6 p.m.

Gene Siskel Film Center

164 N. State St.

(312) 846-2800

\$10; \$7 for students with valid ID

Wednesday 3.16

"Yi Soon Shin: Warrior and Defender" comic book signing

5 – 7 p.m.

Challengers Comics

1845 N. Western Ave., 2R

(773) 278-0155

FREE

Thursday 3.17

Shamrock and Roll

9 a.m. – 2 a.m.

Mystic Celt

3443 N. Southport Ave.

(773) 529-8550

FREE; 21+

"GLEEKs and FREAKs: A 'Glee' Burlesque"

"9:30 p.m.

Gorilla Tango Theater

1919 N. Milwaukee Ave.

(773) 598-4549

\$15; 18+

Friday 3.18

St. Patrick's Day at DMK

11:30 a.m. – 11 p.m.

DMK Burger Bar

1954 N. Sheffield Ave.

(773) 360-8686

\$5 pints of Guinness and shamrock shakes; 21+

Sunday 3.20

St. Patrick's Run/Walk for Irish-American Heritage Center

10 a.m.

Cannon Drive at Fullerton Parkway

(773) 584-6650

\$30 – 35

Monday 3.21

Mud Queens of Chicago mud wrestling

8 p.m.

Viaduct Theater

3111 N. Western Ave.

(773) 296-6024

\$15

Tuesday 3.22

Heartland 101: Garden produce

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Markhouse

611 N. Fairbanks Court

(312) 224-2200

\$35; RSVP required

Wednesday 3.23

Southern Tier Brewery beer pairing and tasting

6 p.m.

The Martini Bar

401 S. LaSalle St.

(312) 377-6111

\$30; 21+

Thursday 3.24

Gallery Talk: "Finding Vivian Maier: Chicago Street Photographer"

12:15 p.m.

Chicago Cultural Center

78 E. Washington St.

(312) 744-6630

FREE

Friday 3.25

Chicago Critical Mass monthly bike ride

5:30 p.m.

Daley Plaza

50 W. Washington St.

(773) 710-4143

FREE

Travie McCoy

5:30 p.m.

Metro

3730 N. Clark St.

(773) 549-0203

\$17 – \$19

Saturday 3.26

Tom Hanks Day

Noon – 6 p.m.

Fizz Bar and Grill

3220 N. Lincoln Ave.

(773) 348-6088

\$1 Pabst Blue Ribbon drafts; 21+



FORECAST

AccuWeather.com Seven-day forecast for Chicago

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2011

