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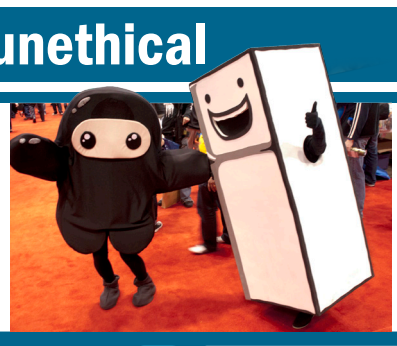
Teaching creationism is illegal, unethical » PAGE 37

THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

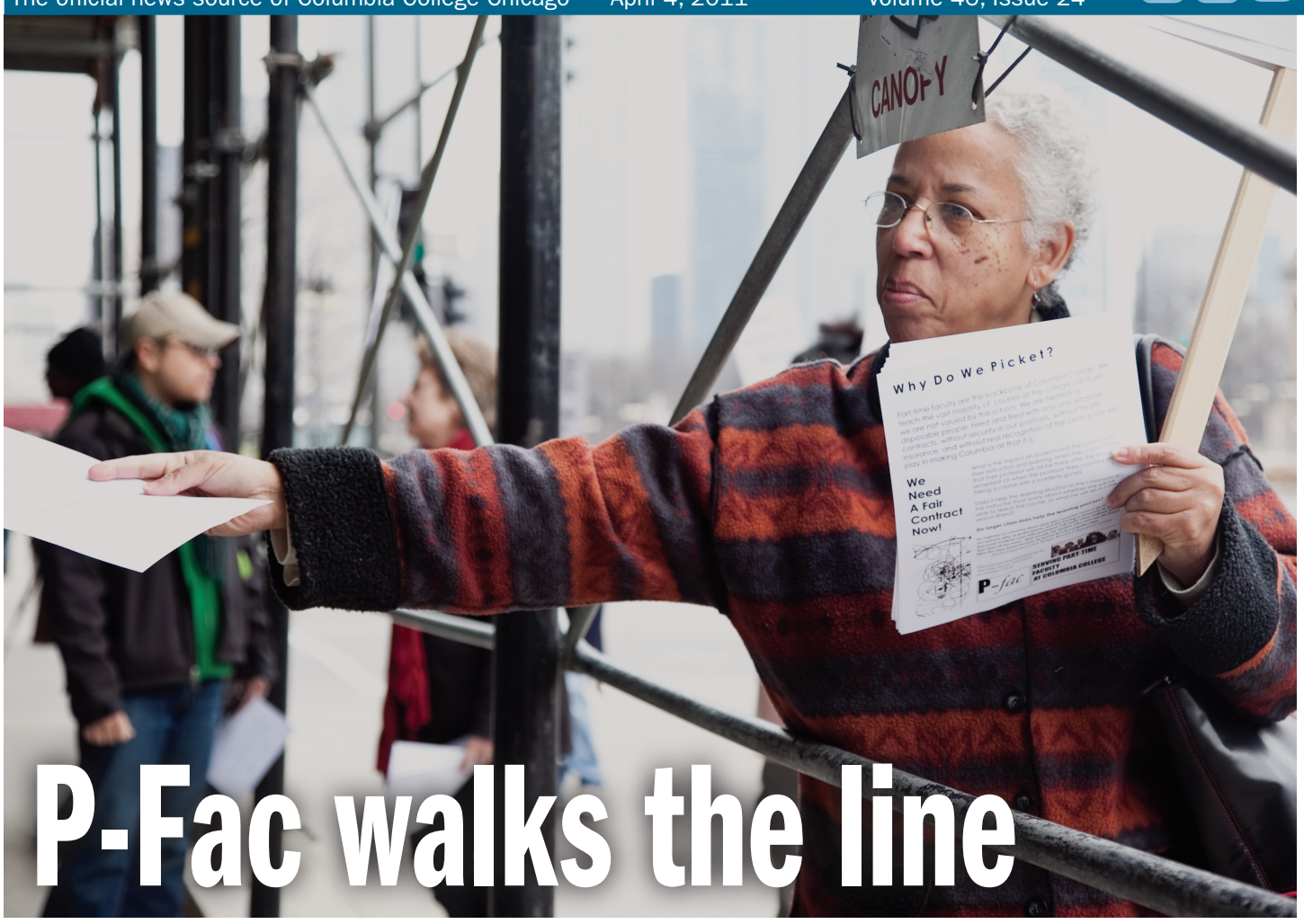
The official news source of Columbia College Chicago April 4, 2011 Volume 46, Issue 24

www.ColumbiaChronicle.com



Cosplayers, comics, games, oh my!

Web-Exclusive photo slideshow



P-Fac walks the line

Brent Lewis THE CHRONICLE

Members of Columbia's part-time faculty union, P-Fac, voiced their frustration with Columbia and negotiations between the two parties. Since October, the two parties have been in ongoing negotiation sessions while using different outlets to discredit each other.

Union members take to the street to spread their message

by Sam Charles
Campus Editor

COLUMBIA AND P-Fac, its part-time faculty union, continue to go back and forth, accusing each other of skewing the truth. Last week, the union took to the streets to hold what it described as an "informational" picket line to spread its message to the college community and general public.

The picketing was conducted outside the Alexandroff Campus Center, 600 S. Michigan Ave., beginning at 8:45 a.m. on March 31. The goal, according to union President Diana Vallera, was to increase public knowledge in regards to the current negotiations between the union and the college.

"We're trying to raise awareness about the failure to make progress at the bargaining table," said Nancy Traver, P-Fac's publicity chair and adjunct faculty member in the Journalism Department. "We are trying to inform our membership, the public at large and students in the whole Columbia College community that we've been talking to the college for 15 months now, and this is the first time we've gotten a counteroffer from them."

P-Fac accuses the college of unfairly dismissing long-serving adjunct faculty members in showing favor of younger, less-experienced and lower-paid adjunct faculty members.

Louise Love, vice president for academic

» SEE PICKETING, PG. 8

Student injured while abroad

Incident at Great Wall of China lands television major in hospitals

by Sam Charles and Meghan Keyes
Campus Editor and Copy Editor

A COLUMBIA student participating in an international study program was injured on March 30 and is in stable but serious condition, as of press time.

> "We are in close contact with Gabriela's parents and are supporting the family in all ways possible."
>
> - Statement from President Warrick L. Carter

Gabriela Gonzalez, junior television major, was hurt while in China as part of the Semester at Sea program at approximately 1:30 a.m. Beijing time. Gonzalez wasn't participating in a function organized by Semester at Sea but taking part in an independent function at the Great Wall of China.

"All students take part in independent travel," said Lauren Heinz, vice president of communications and media relations for Semester at Sea, which is sponsored by the University of Virginia. "But we strongly advise students to avoid self-organized field trips and, instead, make use of the trips we provide that are planned and fully vetted for safety."

Gonzalez will be transferred to a hospital in Hong Kong. She is currently in Beijing, and her mother flew to China to

» SEE INJURY, PG. 8

Obama's image used in anti-abortion billboards

Controversial ad campaign featuring president unveiled on Chicago's South Side

by Heather McGraw
Assistant Metro Editor

"EVERY 21 minutes our next future leader is aborted," reads a billboard featuring President Barack Obama's profile as a new anti-abortion ad campaign got underway last week in some of Chicago's South Side neighborhoods.

Life Always, a nonprofit anti-abortion organization founded in Texas in the beginning of 2011, unveiled three of its 30 new billboard advertisements at a press conference at an empty lot at 58th and State streets on March 29. All 30 billboards are now up.

"Our intent is to bring information and education to the community," said Pastor Stephen Broden, founding board member of Life Always. "We believe the practice of abortion is such a sensitive area most people don't want to talk about it, but we need to talk about it."

The billboards are the latest addition

» SEE BILLBOARDS, PG. 44

Tiela Halpin THE CHRONICLE

Representatives and supporters of the anti-abortion group Life Always met at 5812 S. State St., on March 29, while presenting three out of a series of anti-abortion billboards featuring President Barack Obama's face. More billboards are located throughout the South Side.

Health & Fitness » PG. 11

"Body Worlds" is back

Arts & Culture » PG. 24

Design at play

Metro » PG. 42

CeaseFire's Chicago impact

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Seniors should pick up grad slack

by Spencer Roush
Editor-in-Chief

BY THIS point in the semester, Columbia's seniors have received various emails and pamphlets regarding graduation, Industry Night, caps and gowns and Manifest. But even with these sporadic notifications on important pending dates, many Columbia seniors are confused about the process and what steps and forms are needed to graduate.

While the college sends out some information through emails and mailers, its easy to ignore these messages in our inbox by saying we'll come back to it later. Even if students do read the mailers, they aren't very informative.

As a somewhat involved senior, I'm unsure of what I need to do to successfully end my Columbia career. Am I too late to apply for Industry Night, and if I go, what should I bring with me? Have I filled out all the necessary forms to graduate the second weekend in May? Do my family members need tickets for graduation?

After my parents harped on me enough to ask someone the questions I was impervious to, I discovered students do need to apply for Industry Night and graduation through Oasis, but the deadline is over. And students are also allowed to bring as many hooting and hollering family members they would like without the need of graduation tickets because the ceremonies are broken up to house more attendees.

But this raises another question: What about my cap and gown? All I know is that it's black, and I can't remember if I ordered mine. I certainly don't know when or where to pick it up. Who knows, I may get stuck wearing my black bathrobe instead. I'm sure my parents would be proud then. They'd probably hand my graduation gift and flowers off to another senior to save themselves from the embarrassment of their child being completely irresponsible and wearing a bathrobe.

I realize we aren't in high school anymore and the level of personal responsibility should increase at this stage in our lives, but more guidance outside of a grand graduate checklist would clear up any existing confusion. Because Columbia does make an effort to inform students of pending dates, the burden lies solely on those graduating to use the tools provided to them. But right now, seniors' minds are filled with job searching and maintaining their GPAs, not what forms are needed to walk across the stage and what they're wearing while they do it.

Instead, seniors are wondering where they'll be in a couple of months with the hopes it's not performing street art for change or living in an alley somewhere. There is much to consider for those of us leaving this South Loop community behind, such as our portfolios, housing options, tuition debt, finishing final projects and, of course, landing the dream job or any job for that matter.

Everyone should make an effort to meet with his or her advisor one last time. It's up to the students to tie up any loose ends. Use Columbia's resources and be responsible for your own efforts during the remaining weeks because advisers aren't homeroom teachers meant to keep wandering seniors' minds on track.

sroush@chroniclemail.com

NEWS FLASH

4/6/11

Science and Math Colloquium Series

Beginning at 5 p.m., Stuart Sumida, professor of biology at California State University, will document his involvement with communicating anatomical information for animals and humans for traditional hand-drawn films and computer-generated projects for animation and digital affects.

Ferguson Auditorium
Alexandroff Campus Center, 600 S. Michigan Ave.

4/7/11

Wise-Ass Comedy Night

Ever had aspirations to be a stand up comic? Take the opportunity to stretch your legs at Columbia's stand up open mic, where anyone and everyone can perform. Sign up begins at 7 p.m.

Stage Two
618 S. Michigan Ave. Building

4/8/11

"The Bandana Project"

This free creative workshop begins at noon and is part of the public programming around "Off the Beaten Path: Violence, Women and Art," a contemporary art exhibition raising awareness about violence against women.

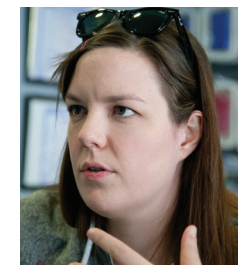
Chicago Cultural Center
78 E. Washington St.

CAMPUS POLL

"Given the college's economic strain, do you think investing in a new library is smart?"

John Davis
senior
journalism major

"I'm never going to turn down access to more knowledge. That helps everybody. I might try and help the part-time teachers with everything that's going there."



Blythe Dresser
senior
photography major

"If it's to preserve what's already there, then absolutely. A bigger library can only mean a better library. Anything that increases the wealth of knowledge is great."

Tom Carroll
junior
radio major

"I think there are majors here that are under-funded. I also think we have a really nice library as it is, so I don't think it's a proper way to spend the extra money that [Columbia has]."

John Stavola
sophomore
journalism major

"I think any time you have an opportunity to improve something you should. That being said, now may not be the wisest time to do it, but you have to chose your battles. It is what it is."

For The Record

In the March 28, 2011 issue of The Chronicle, a Hot and Cold review of the album "Angles" was mistakenly given the wrong title of "Angels." Additionally, an advertisement on page 39 promoting the event "Edible Books and Tea" was for last year's occasion. The Chronicle regrets these mistakes.

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Letters can be faxed to (312) 369-8430,
emailed to Chronicle@colum.edu or mailed to
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Chicago, IL. 60605-1996.

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Campus

Red hot fashion at Columbia

College hosts runway show, raises money for HIV/AIDS awareness

by Amanda Murphy
Assistant Campus Editor

Brock Brake THE CHRONICLE

The student fashion designers, whose work was on display at Red Hot Runway in the 619 S. Wabash Ave. Building, said they gathered inspiration from a variety of sources, ranging from red blood cells to a ball of yarn.

WITH STUDENTS from different disciplines around the college joining together for one cause—promoting AIDS awareness—Columbia helped kick off the first Red Dress Party in Chicago by organizing and hosting a fashion show to preview the national event, scheduled to take place later this month.

The annual national show raises money and heightens the understanding of HIV/AIDS in the world. The Columbia event was held on March 29 at the 619 S. Wabash Ave. Building in preparation for the main event on April 16 at 525 W. Monroe St.

The show was organized by Columbia's arts, entertainment and media management students of the Public Relations Student Society of America.

Kate Jacobsen, senior and special events coordinator for PRSSA, said Red Dress generated a great deal of press for the main event in April.

"I had always wanted to do a fashion show, and I found a way to incorporate public relations, fashion and benefitting a charity," Jacobsen said. "It was incredibly gratifying to know what we were doing was going to [promote] a really great cause."

There were 14 participating student designers chosen through an audition. The final decisions for whose work would be featured were made by Jacobsen and the president of the PRSAA, Lauren Hadeed, senior marketing communications major.

The four guest judges at the fashion show voted on the winners.

The first, second and third place winners were Amy Hilber, Chloe Flora and Russell Yost, all junior fashion design majors.

The dress judges for the event included Candace Jordan, a former Playboy model, and Kevin Aeh, editor at Time Out Chicago magazine. Jacobsen said she was proud of how many Columbia students and faculty came to the show.

The winning students will have their dresses displayed in a window from April 1–18 at the 900 N. Michigan Ave. shops.

The designers also won various gift cards, and the first-place winner received an iPod Nano courtesy of Columbia's Computer Store.

Omotola Akinbiyi, freshman fashion design major, said she was honored to be chosen for the event because the subject truly matters to her. Akinbiyi, who is Nigerian, found out through research that Nigeria has one of the highest concentrations of HIV infections in the world. She said her dress was inspired by red blood cells.

» **SEE RUNWAY**, PG. 9

Carter faces, explains challenges

Finances, MAP grants, tuition, scholarships seen as highest priorities

by Vanessa Morton
Contributing Writer

Brent Lewis THE CHRONICLE

At the Loft, 916 S. Wabash Ave., President Warrick L. Carter discussed issues such as Columbia's delayed receipt of MAP grant funding, the new tuition increase and what is being done to increase scholarships.

COLUMBIA ADMINISTRATION, faculty, staff and students recently gathered to hear from President Warrick L. Carter at the annual State of the College Address. The event gave the administration and student body a chance to discuss what is going on within different aspects of the college community.

Hosted by the Student Government Association, the address was held at the Loft, in the 916 S. Wabash Ave. Building, on March 30. Carter discussed many of Columbia's ongoing issues, such as the current financial state of the college and its future plans.

Carter focused on the recent tuition increase, scholarships and the problems faced with the Monetary Assistance Program grants, which give financial assistance to qualified Illinois students.

"As hard as the increases might be, we still are very concerned about holding the prices down and keeping us as affordable as we possibly can and to put more money on the table for scholarships," he said.

Carter also announced the college's new strategic approach, called Focus 2016, that comes from the previous Columbia 2010 plan. The strategic initiative identified the college's vast enrollment growth, student learning and finances, which Carter said made Columbia successful through 2010.

With the institution under economic strain, Focus 2016 will concentrate on student learning, finances and keeping enrollment steady.

"It will be a collegewide approach," Carter said. "We will diligently work to make sure we give you the best education experience we possibly can."

However, Columbia continues to make adjustments affecting its financial status. The biggest issue Carter mentioned was the high cost of college tuition and the decision made to increase it.

Although Columbia students face with a 4.98 percent tuition increase, he stated it's the lowest increase among Illinois schools. Higher institutions in the state face a 7 percent tuition increase on average.

According to Carter, Columbia tuition has increased 22 percent during the last four years, while state institutions have increased 54 percent and other private institutions have gone up approximately 29 percent.

John Trierweiler, president of the SGA, said he agrees with Carter. Although the tuition hike is a burden placed on Columbia's students, Trierweiler said it's important to understand the college has imposed one of the lowest tuition increases in the state.

"The increase in tuition is one of the most criticized things the administration has to deal with," Trierweiler said. "While it isn't something we want or like to see, it's unfortunately—in these times—something that has to happen."

» **SEE ADDRESS**, PG. 9

College Council prepares for its end

Provost talks specifics of new committees, future of Columbia

by Amanda Murphy
Assistant Campus Editor

Tiela Halpin THE CHRONICLE

Steve Kapelke, provost and senior vice president, spoke about his plans for the new Columbia committee.

AT WHAT may be one of the last meetings of the College Council, two new groups were presented as the solution to replacing the council when it dissolves.

The main topic discussed at the April 1 meeting in 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave. was the successor to the council, which will disband by Thanksgiving 2011, according to Theater Department Chair John Green.

Taking its place will be the new Faculty Senate which will handle academic issues, and a Provost Advisory Council, which will handle topics outside academics.

Council members at the meeting passed a motion to form a committee that would determine the logistics of the provost's council and draft a founding document. The decision to disband the College Council will allow more focused committees like the Faculty Senate and the Provost's forum to discuss various issues.

"My proposal was based on the premise [that] although College Council is in the process of transition, there still is a great desire on the part of the college community to have a forum or venue for discussions and recommendations on a wide range of issues that aren't specifically academic in nature," said Steve Kapelke, provost and senior vice president.

The Provost's Advisory Council will be composed of 15 representatives from the college community, including students, staff, part-time faculty, the Faculty Senate and the Chairs Council. There will be three members chosen from each group.

Kapelke said the forum will not focus on academic issues, but ones of significance to the larger Columbia community.

He emphasized the council is in the early stages of organization, and the ideas are more an outline rather than concrete details.

There will be no administrators present except upon invitation, and Kapelke will be the chair of the meetings, he said.

The motion approved a committee of five representatives from different constituencies of Columbia that will work with the provost to create finite details of what the forum will accomplish.

Green said the committee will likely begin its work in the fall.

"The nature of this will be different," Kapelke said. "This council will be much-more broadly based."

Other ground covered at the meeting included Kapelke's announcement that the decision on who will become the dean of the School of Media Arts is in the final stages. He and Louise Love, vice president for academic affairs, will make the final decision in the next week.

Additionally, Director of Academic Initiatives Pegeen Quinn said the Museum of Contemporary Photography in the Alexandroff Campus Center, 600 S. Michigan Ave., was accredited for the third time by the American Association of Museums.

"This really helps Columbia's national reputation and gives our students access to works of art," Quinn said.

New additions to the Columbia curriculum were also mentioned, including a number of classes in the Science and Mathematics, American Sign Language and Education departments.

The classes approved include Fundamentals of Physics, Cancer Biology and Child and Family in American Society: Images and Issues.

Robert Gordon, adjunct faculty in the Art and Design Department, spoke on behalf of the other part-time faculty regarding P-Fac contract terms with Columbia.

Gordon said Love sent an email to other members on March 31, presenting a proposal the college board made. The members are awaiting an outcome.

"The negotiations will affect all of us," he said.

amurphy@chroniclemail.com

Caged, by Laura Kurtenbach (BA '99)

ALUMNI ON 5: ALUMNI IN THE LIBRARY EXHIBITIONS

NECESSARY FICTIONS

What experiences do you carry? What are the true facts and necessary fictions that you use? The Spring 2011 Alumni Exhibition, *Necessary Fictions*, is an examination of memory and the ways it shapes identity through the artists' work.

EXHIBITION HOURS:
During Regular Library Hours
April 8, 2011 – August 29, 2011

SHOWS ORGANIZED AND CURATED BY:
Jodi Adams (BA '08)
Stephen DeSantis (MFA '08)

OPENING RECEPTION:
Columbia College Library
624 S. Michigan
5th Floor
Friday April 8, 2011
5:00pm – 7:00pm

create... change

colum.edu

Columbia
COLLEGE CHICAGO

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

Concert Hall Events

Monday April 4
Music Student Convocation 12:00 PM
Joaquin Garcia Senior Recital 7:00 PM

Tuesday April 5
Music Student Convocation 12:00 PM
Student Concert Series 7:00 PM
Alix Rosenberg and Keith Hinkley Senior Recital at the Sherwood 7:00 PM

Wednesday April 6
Dan Mclean Senior Recital 12:00 PM
Robert Mayfield Senior Recital 7:00 PM

Thursday April 7
Paul Goldman Senior Recital 12:00 PM
Jonathan McReynolds Senior Recital 7:00 PM

Friday April 8
Jazz Gallery in the lobby 12:00 PM
Jazz Forum 2:00 PM
Elissa Todd Senior Recital 7:00 PM
Mike Jurewicz Senior Piano Recital At the Sherwood 7:00 PM

Saturday April 9
Trevor Hardin Senior Recital 3:30 PM

The Year Book

create... change

www.colum.edu/yearbook

You don't have to wear a nice shirt to please your mom, you can't skip to the index to see how many times you're pictured, and no one's gonna say to you, "You're the best, don't ever change." But rest assured, it is a yearbook. One you will help us build.

Along the way, two Columbia students will win $1000, and a whole bunch of you will score prizes of all sorts and sizes.

Visit **www.colum.edu/yearbook** for details.

Columbia
COLLEGE CHICAGO

Racy college hookups site hits campus

College-oriented website for casual sex beckons Columbia students

by Lisa Schulz
Contributing Writer

STOCK PHOTO

IN EARLY February, a University of Chicago student currently known as Steve created a website called UChicagoHookups.com, a dating site for U of C students dedicated to casual sexual encounters.

Since then, the site has expanded to include other colleges and allows anyone with a college email address, including faculty and staff, to participate in the website, now known as EduHookups.com.

Columbia was the second college allowed to post personal advertisements on the site, followed by Northwestern University. According to Steve, Columbia was "fairly well-known" and had the most requests to access the site.

He said the schools were also added for ease in proximity. But within the week, the website had demands from schools across the globe. The 1,300 EduHookups.com users have anonymity, and the site's policy restricts anyone without a college email address from posting on the site.

"It's [a way] to try before you buy," said Steve, a biology major at U of C. "The whole idea is that the people can say exactly what they're looking for."

Steve said the expansion of the site beyond U of C makes the connection with other students easier to establish. However, EduHookups.com allows users to register under the colum.edu domain, which is used by Columbia faculty and staff.

"We did not confirm whether [it] was students [using the colum.edu domain] or whether it included more people," Steve said. "It's up to the user to determine if they feel they would be eligible to use the site. People in a position of authority must still abide by their code of conduct."

The site originated in 2010 as a coding project for a group of anonymous U of C undergraduates. According to the website, it quickly evolved into a dating site aimed at facilitating hookups on campus and demystifying the school's reputation as a place where "fun comes to die," and where "the squirrels are cuter than the girls and more aggressive than the guys."

According to Wilfredo Cruz, associate professor of sociology at Columbia, students participate in online intimacy websites for the adrenaline rush from rebelling against society's norms.

"We're socialized to believe you meet somebody, you date them, you get to know them and then you get intimate," Cruz said.

He sees the website as an "illogical" way of meeting people and having relationships, considering the possibilities of sexually transmitted infections.

Yet some students see the positive aspects of casual encounters provided by a student-based site.

"It's better for young people—it's college," said Michael Hernandez, junior arts, entertainment and media management major. "You don't have all the old people from dating sites."

Although the user database includes almost an equal number of both genders, most of the posts requesting casual encounters are made by males, Steve said. According to Cruz, different sexual behaviors between genders are most likely the cause of this.

"[Males] don't have the same reservation about sexuality women have," Cruz said. "They're more reckless. Women are more timid."

However, some female students say it's more than social norms that hold them back from posting on the site. According to Ellen Frank, freshman arts, entertainment and media management major, EduHookups.com is embarrassing to her peers.

"I don't need to put my body up for sale," Frank said.

The website has already expanded its services to DePaul University and Loyola University Chicago and has plans to include Washington University, Yale Law School and will eventually include all Ivy League schools, Steve said. The site releases colleges one by one to increase popularity and stagger the number of users from the high demands of each college. EduHookups.com aims to extend its services globally in the future.

"We're trying to bring power to social networking," Steve said.

chronicle@colum.edu

FINALISTS

MOVING IMAGE PRODUCTION I

CHARLIE
by Joseph Blackhurst

WRITER'S BLOCK
by Alex Bohs

LAY ME DOWN TO SLEEP
by Zachary Robert Craft

FRANCIS THENAGEN
by Austin Peters

HYPNOPOMPIC
by Ryan Thill

MOVING IMAGE PRODUCTION II

KYRIE ELEISON
by Nick Barks

HAZE IN A HOLLOW HEAD
by Caleb Fortune

EPIPHANY
by Jason Piszczor

DANIEL
by John Tait

DOMINO EFFECT
by Jake Wasilevich

TAKE 1 FILMFESTIVAL

create... change

A JURIED FESTIVAL FEATURING THE BEST OF
MOVING IMAGE PRODUCTION I AND II STUDENT FILMS

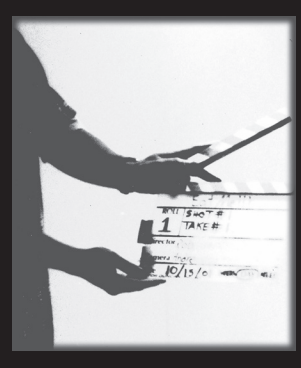

PHOTO: SARAH FAUST

wednesday, april 6, 2011
film row cinema
1104 south wabash, 8th floor

reception 5:30 pm
food and beverages will be served
festival screening 6:00 pm

awards will be presented
free admission

Columbia
COLLEGE CHICAGO

ATTENTION STUDENTS!

BRAND NEW APARTMENTS

FREE FOOD, FREE PRIZES, FREE RENT!

FOR ONE DAY ONLY...

Sunday April 10th, 11 am-2 pm
8 East Ninth Street

...tour the brand new apartments at Astoria Tower and enter to **WIN AN IPAD,** enjoy **FREE PIZZA** from Lou Malnati's and receive a **$5 STARBUCKS CARD,** all for just stopping by!

astoriatower

AstoriaTowerChicago.com

ONE MONTH FREE RENT!*

*Limited-time leasing special on specific unit types. New applicants only before 4/30/11. Subject to minimum lease term requirements. One promotional offer per apartment. Not applicable in combination with other discount packages. Subject to change at any time. See Leasing Office for full details. Astoria Tower is owned by 8 East Ninth, LLC which is a single purpose entity who is solely responsible for its obligations and liabilities.

» INJURY

Continued from Front Page

be with her, Heinz said.

As of press time, the exact nature of the mishap has yet to be determined and will be investigated further, she said.

Semester at Sea aims "to educate individuals with the global understanding necessary to address the challenges of [the] interdependent world," according to its mission statement.

Columbia President Warrick L. Carter issued an email statement to the college voicing concern for Gonzalez's well-being and urged the community to keep her and her family in their thoughts.

"We are in close contact with Gabriela's parents and are supporting the family in all ways possible," the email read. "Additionally, we are working closely with Semester at Sea administrators to continue monitoring Gabriela's condition."

Michael Niederman, chair of the Television Department, said incidents such as Gonzalez's are an unfortunate reminder of the realities of traveling and studying abroad.

"Study abroad is such a great experience, but things happen sometimes, and it's just sad," Niederman said "When things like this happen, it reminds you of what's important."

Gonzalez's family could not be reached for comment.

The Chronicle will follow up with details when they become available on Columbia-Chronicle.com.

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» PICKETING

Continued from Front Page

to the college on March 23 responding to allegations P-Fac President Diana Vallera made on "848" the morning radio show on WCRX FM-91.5 on March 23.

"Diana Vallera, again, said that Columbia College has adopted a policy on course assignment that is unfavorable to the highest paid part-time faculty in favor of new hires," Love said in the email. "Yet Ms. Vallera was present at a meeting with President Carter on March 11 when he assured P-Fac that this is not the case and offered data in proof."

Included in her email to all full- and part-time faculty, Love gave data showing that since the 2006–2007 academic year, the number of credits taught by "top step"—long-serving adjunct faculty members—increased by 9.5 percent, while the number of credits taught by "new hires" has decreased by 3.9 percent.

Vallera said she is skeptical of the numbers' accuracy, and she is also concerned that the stats Love supplied don't address P-Fac's grievance entirely.

"Until we get the exact numbers, we don't know exactly what we're dealing with," Vallera said. "It doesn't eliminate the issues we brought up. We are seeing senior faculty members [who] are losing classes."

The bargaining stage began in October 2010. The negotiations stem from the college's unilateral decision to reduce the number of credits adjuncts are compensated for in the Photography Department. Initially, without bargaining, Columbia reduced all four credit hour classes to three in the department, lowering adjunct faculty's wages because they are paid per credit hour.

Brent Lewis THE CHRONICLE

Columbia's part-time faculty union, P-Fac, believes the number of classes taught by long-serving adjuncts is shrinking, but without information from the college, the exact number can't be calculated.

The union then filed an Unfair Labor Practice complaint against the college, which the National Labor Relations Board found to have merit. The NLRB then mandated the college bargain with P-Fac.

Love said the negotiation process between the two parties is slow. Vallera previously expressed the same sentiments.

"There have been a lot of delays [because of] issues other than the contract itself," Love said. "A lot of our negotiation sessions have been spent on other issues."

The disagreements between P-Fac and the college stem from the union's dissatisfaction with their current contract.

On March 31, the college offered P-Fac a new contract, which included two-year teaching appointments to certain members, in addition to several other benefits.

Love sent another email to all full- and part-time faculty on April 1 detailing what some of the issues are.

In her email, Love stated P-Fac has cancelled five bargaining sessions with the college, and added "despite [the college's] proposal being a fair offer for all unit members and Columbia following the agreed-upon process, in our negotiating session [on April 1] P-Fac attempted to mischaracterize both our offer and the process."

Though the picketing began early in the morning, support for the adjuncts was shown from the start. Cars driving on Michigan Avenue honked to endorse the picketers, while union members handed out pamphlets and explained their cause to those walking by.

One of the first people to be approached by union members was Jonathan Hirsh, senior theater major. Hirsh was well-versed in the negotiations and voiced his distaste for the college's position.

"A lot of the [instructors] aren't being paid what they should be paid," Hirsh said. "They're not getting paid to do the mentoring that's not included in their class time, so they're coming in out of their own free will, which is kind of crazy."

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Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago

mcachicago.org

SEEING IS A KIND OF THINKING

A Jim Nutt Companion

Through May 29

This exhibition presents the rich and varied visual and cultural universe that has informed Nutt's work as well as works by a younger generation of artists who have been directly inspired by Nutt.

Official Airline of MCA Chicago

AA AmericanAirlines

Eric Lebofsky, *Anxiety Man or Anxiety Woman*, 2009. Courtesy of the artist

» RUNWAY

Continued from PG. 3

"I learned African-American women [have] the highest number of infected people in the U.S.," Akinbiyi said. "It was very important to me to be part of an event that was trying to inform people of [the impact of HIV]."

The other contributing designers included Jiayin Zheng, sophomore fashion design major; Sadie Smith, senior interdisciplinary major in fashion design and arts, entertainment and media management programs; Kristin Gillespie, junior fashion retail and arts, entertainment and media management major; and senior fashion design majors Kelly Coll, Katya Flores, Ruth Reyes, Johnny Hicks, Jacqueline Amezcua, Julia Tiedt and Dana DuPree.

Yost took the Biology of AIDS: Life of a Virus class at Columbia and said he was greatly moved from what he learned about the disease's effects.

He said this is a very close-to-the-heart subject for him, and he would have regretted not being part of it.

"It's educational, and you're reaching out to people," Yost said. "I didn't care if it was going to suck up my entire spring break [because] it was something I had to be a part of."

Jacobsen emphasized it was a collective effort between Columbia and the Chicago organizations bringing everything together.

PRSSA wanted to ensure a high level of professionalism when they organized the event, Jacobsen said.

Because they were working with a lot of people outside the Columbia community, the PRSSA wanted to represent the college as an institution producing intelligent and capable aspiring professionals, she said.

"I am so proud of how the event turned out, and I can't emphasize enough how gratifying the entire experience was," Jacobsen said.

The Red Hot Runway event was primarily organized by Columbia students, according to Jacobsen.

A variety of Columbia departments in the college contributed. Jacobsen said the big contributor was the Fashion Department, which donated its time and talent.

Other Columbia contributions came from the Music Department, by playing music during the reception, and the Marketing Communications Department, which supplied food and drinks.

"So many people were willing to jump on board and help out, and it was incredible," Jacobsen said. "We could not have done it without those people."

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Brock Brake THE CHRONICLE

From left: Candace Jordan, a former playboy model, was among the celebrities at the Red Hot Runway event.

» ADDRESS

Continued from PG. 3

However, Casey Gold, a representative of the Student Affairs Committee and arts, entertainment and media management major, felt ambivalent.

Gold said Carter expressed a lot of great things that were "big picture ideas for forward thinking."

However, he was hoping to hear more details on the specifics of the current issues around campus.

"In what was said at this speech, there seemed to be a disconnect of, 'Oh, yes, these are our grand ideas, these are fantastic,'" Gold said. "But in reality, what percentage of students are actually getting scholarships, coming to the campus and like green initiatives? That was a big part of his whole speech."

In addition to a tuition increase, another financial problem stems from the MAP grants. While Carter explained the grants are vital to the college, there were threats made to the program last year by legislators.

Although the program is currently safe—partly due to student protest—he explained there is concern about money still due from the state. According to Carter, Illinois owes the college $10 million for MAP funding.

"These are challenging times, so we're learning to deal with them," Carter said. "We've made adjustments as a leadership group to make sure things will still run smoothly, just in case the state reneges on funds they owe us. But we will still be very aggressive with them, making sure we get the money that is ours."

Despite the school's financial concerns, Carter made sure to mention growth rise in Columbia's scholarship funding.

According to him, Columbia was able to increase the scholarship base because it received an additional $4 million last year from the school's Board of Trustees.

"The board agreed to increase the scholarship money by $4 million [throughout] a four-year period of time," Carter said. "So we will go from $4 million in scholarships in '09 to about $30 million in scholarships four years down the road."

He said with the additional money for the upcoming fall semester, Columbia will add another $4 million to student scholarships. He said the administration and staff are always looking for new approaches to find more student scholarships.

Addressing student affordability, student-at-large representative and television major Kendall Klitzke said it would be great to come up with some kind of automatic scholarship program.

"It would be great if they created these types of opportunity scholarships as well as merit-based scholarships," Klitzke said. "If you are on the dean's list with a high [grade point average], you should receive automatic money for something like that."

Trierweiler said despite Columbia's rough straits times, he's very hopeful for the future.

"Colleges have tough times, but just like any other college, we're not immune to the tough economic times that have happened in higher education," Trierweiler said. "I believe the college has done a great job with still maintaining [its goal] of taking care of the students."

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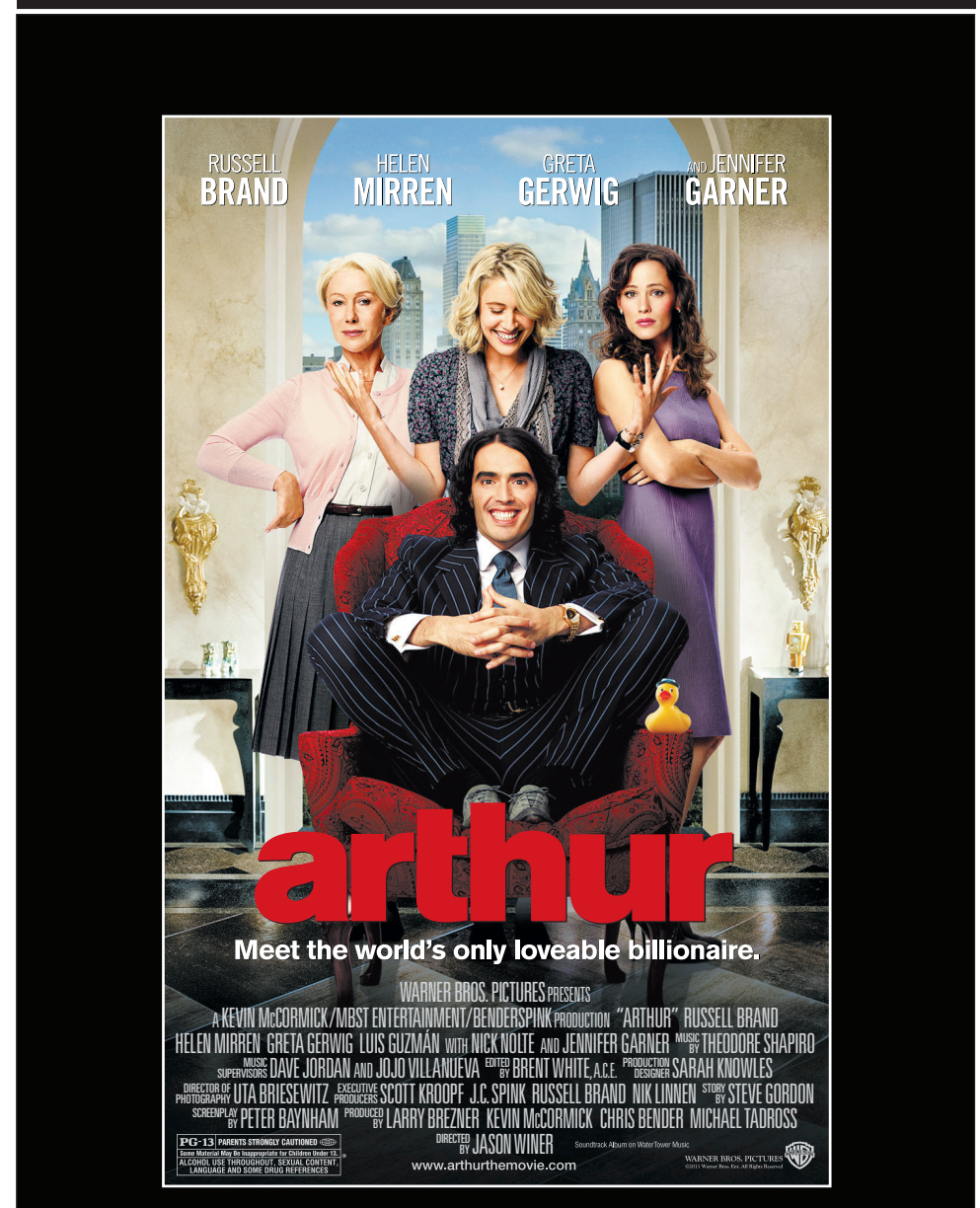

Television images can seem more real than real life

image + implication
CRITICAL ENCOUNTERS

by Liz Herzog
Sophomore, cultural studies major

TELEVISION IS very important to me. That's a trait of many Americans—one we're ashamed of now and then. But television is awesome! Books and films have nothing on television's ability to capture our attention week after week and fully engulf us in a storyline for multiple years of our lives.

The characters I watch on a weekly basis can influence my life more than the fluttering faceless people I come in contact with in real life. And OK, you're right, the real ones do have names and faces and probably affect me more sometimes, but not in the same way. With television, my method of even considering these faces on the street as more than just passersby becomes keener; I want to know their lives. Television is sneaky; it lets me feel as though I know people without coming into contact with them. Let's be clear: I'm not talking about reality television, with actual people and their actual names. The people I want to see are entirely fabricated and in that sense, entirely true. These made-up characters, with their problems and love lives and witty dialogues, actually give me hope that, hey, maybe that person I just shook hands with and vaguely remember being introduced to is super interesting!

At this point, perhaps I should announce I do realize television is over-the-top, and there are plotlines that could never happen in real life. I get that, I really do. But seeing life through the lens of a single-camera sitcom, medical drama, confusing sci-fi based show or detective/cop/lawyer show gives me a chance to break the rules of what can only be realized in another entertainment-based realm of reality. That is to say, yes, this young woman sitting next to me probably won't get stranded on a magic island, and this young man probably isn't secretly a serial killer, but what if they were? How would that story unfold? Certainly there are some people whose personalities seem absolutely perfect for a television show.

> "The people I want to see are entirely fabricated and in that sense, entirely true."
>
> - Liz Herzog

Television is awesome because it makes me see that while we don't all have absurd, prank-pulling office co-workers who put the annoying guy's stapler in Jell-O, well, hey, maybe you do. I idolize the characters and lives I wait to see more of each week, but perhaps the life I'm living and the real people I see in it could mirror those plotlines and witty dialogues. What would my life be like as a laugh-track sitcom or a dark comedy on Showtime? On one hand, my going to class and going to work and eating food here and there wouldn't make for an award-winning TV show. And darn, isn't that a sad thought? But if it could, if someone added the extra plot twists to give this day enough humor or drama or romance to be a worthwhile episode, what character would each person be? One of my roommates, funny and always outspoken, could certainly play the Phoebe in my life. And if life were split into episodes, rather than days, how might this one end? Would my life's show split off in different character plot lines each week or focus heavily on one well-rounded character?

Yes, perhaps this thinking does become trite after a while. And therein lies the beauty of televised viewpoints, of multiple writers and talented actors, of smart, forward-thinking plots that make me feel like I might be perfectly content sitting in front of the TV, if it were all well-written, for half my life. Television gives us all a common friend, a common problem to discuss the next day at work. "Did you see last night's episode?" is one of my favorite things to hear in conversation. Because, please, let's side-step real life for a second, or rather, delve further into it, by making these over-the-top storylines part of what keeps us going and makes us think about people and how crazy and interesting they can all be. Why not use this beautiful collaboration of writers and videographers and actors, this mesh of art, so well-distributed and infinitely multiviewed, to create discussion, to influence and explore humanity?

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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 email 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).

Health& Fitness

Body Worlds: Life Cycle in Chicago

New version of exhibit tells story of aging through preserved human cadavers

by Katy Nielsen
Assistant Health & Fitness Editor

ONE SKINLESS human body balances in a tai chi position, two others collide mid-tackle and another throws a javelin. Down the hall, human brains, blackened lungs—damaged from years of smoking—and complete digestive systems behind glass cases fill the rooms of the Museum of Science and Industry, while curious spectators peer inside the human remains.

This is Gunther von Hagens' "Body Worlds & The Cycle of Life" exhibit on display at the museum, 5700 S. Lake Shore Drive, until Sept. 5, featuring more than 200 real human specimens preserved through plastination and telling the story of the human life process.

Courtesy GUNTHER VON HAGENS

The technique of plastination involves removing fat and water from the body and replacing it with plastic to prevent decay. It was patented by Hagens in the late 1970s.

This is the third "Body Worlds" show to visit Chicago. However, unlike the earlier shows, this exhibit focuses on the aging process through a series of suspended moments, such as people walking or stretching, and highlights the effects of aging and disease on the human body.

"The story of how our bodies change is personal and relevant to everyone," said Patricia Ward, director of science and technology at the museum. "We all have a body, and we're all fascinated and curious to learn more about it and how it changes over time."

"Body Worlds & The Cycle of Life" follows healthy and unhealthy aging throughout a person's lifespan. One highlight of the exhibit is a documentation of the effects of cigarette smoking on the lungs, showing healthy lungs alongside lungs of individuals who had emphysema and lung cancer. Neural anatomy, muscular structure and the organs' internal arrangement are parts of the exhibit.

"[When] you go through the exhibit, you'll encounter vignettes, different lenses through which you can think about the cycle of life narrative," Ward said. "You'll find out information about how our bodies change when we're young versus how the body changes when we're older."

Jeremiah Myles, illustration major at Columbia who works at the museum, said having the opportunity to see the intestinal system of a real human being makes the information easier to understand for people who struggle with anatomy courses in school.

"It's a surreal opportunity for students to digest this information in a practical way," Myles said.

This accessibility was exactly what Ward hopes students will experience, she said. The reason the bodies are arranged in dynamic poses, for example, is to show how the body moves and functions in life.

To highlight how changes in the body affect the human experience, the exhibit showcases artists Claude Monet and Edgar Degas, who experienced cataracts and retinal eye disease later in their lives. Images of what the artists probably saw versus what they actually painted are generated by computer imaging. "It's really positive in all of its narrative aspects," Ward said. "It encourages healthy living, even though it doesn't shy away from death. It's really intended to show the body as a living active entity."

Earth Systems and Life Science teacher Rob Wallon, who works at Morris Community High School, 1000 Union St., Morris, Ill., said he enjoyed the exhibit, especially from an educator's perspective.

"It was very informative," Wallon said. "It took understanding the human body to a whole different level you can't reach with just images in a text book."

The science club at the high school will be taking a trip to see the exhibit, according to Wallon, and he said he thinks the students will have a positive experience. He said he noticed younger kids visiting the exhibit looking at the bodies of hockey and football players.

"I think it engages them a lot more than if it [were] just the bodies standing and not posed," Wallon said.

Randy Holt, a Chicago chemist, took his teenage son to see the exhibit and said they were impressed by the experience.

"There's a certain mystique or intrigue to the fact that these were once living individuals," Holt said.

The fact that the bodies were once real people made the experience come to life for him and his son.

For anyone who attended previous "Body Worlds" exhibits, this show offers a unique perspective on the life cycle, Ward said.

"Some people come back more than once to see the same exhibit," Ward said. "I think it can be a very unique experience each time. It makes you think a little more. It makes you consider the possibilities of how to stay active your entire life, which is just so important."

The show is on display at the Museum of Science and Industry, 5700 S. Lake Shore Drive, through Sept. 5. Tickets for the exhibit must be purchased in addition to the normal ticket price for visiting the museum. For ticket information visit www.msichicago.org.

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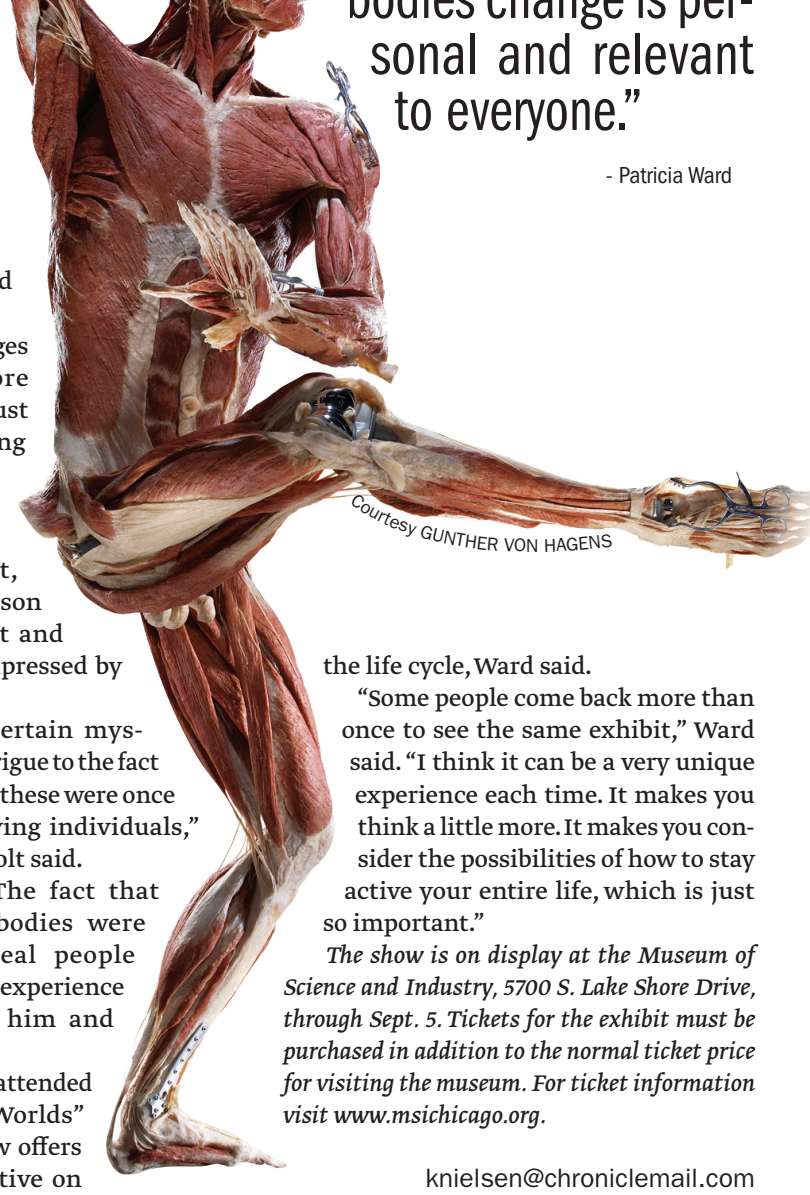
> "The story of how our bodies change is personal and relevant to everyone."
>
> - Patricia Ward



Courtesy GUNTHER VON HAGENS

Courtesy GUNTHER VON HAGENS

"Body Worlds & The Cycle of Life" exhibit on display at the Museum of Science and Industry, 5700 S. Lake Shore Drive, features more than 200 plastinates that tell the story of the human life span.

STAYIN' SAVVY

Obesity: the debate over weight

by Stephanie Saviola
Managing Editor

SINCE CONTROVERSY sparked in the '90s after skeleton-thin models appeared on runways and in advertising campaigns, there has been a long standing debate on what's considered too fat or too thin.

"Fat stigma spreads around the globe," was the March 30 headline on a NYTimes.com blog. The writer discusses stereotypes being created for overweight people as a result of increasing obesity rates worldwide.

One major question came to mind when I read this. How much money are governments—America's and other countries'—going to continue pouring into anti-obesity campaigns and studies? Who cares what people eat? Everyone is responsible for his or her diets. People don't need to be educated on what their appropriate weight or body mass index should be to the levels certain branches of government have taken it. People do need basic guidelines and regulations to follow. But guidelines should be kept simple. There are a lot of contradictory facts about food.

No one can even keep up with the information released on dietary options half the time anyway. The Food and Drug Administration is pushing for a new campaign to warn the public about the dangers of eating products with food coloring and dyes. Simultaneously, there's an advertisement for high-fructose corn syrup products claiming to be "fine in moderation" on another channel. It seems a bit contradictory.

Some health experts concerned about the overweight stigma said that campaigns targeted toward weight loss are claiming obesity is a disease. For some people, yes, obesity is a disease and is carried through genetics. But for many others, factors such as exercise, food options and lifestyle choices play a major role in the number they see on the scale.

However, in some ways these advertisements are fostering a negative environment to make overweight people feel guilty. It's placing blame on them for being overweight. Maybe some people are comfortable with the way they are.

Whose business is it to dictate how people should feel about themselves. And if people aren't at the weight they "need" to be, there's a good chance they already know and want to make a change.

In Mexico, ad campaigns crossed the line featuring a poster of an overweight person eating greasy food. People of all shapes and sizes eat greasy food regardless of their body type. I wonder what Americans would say or do if campaigns like that ran in this country.

These advertisements need to be phased out. They are cruel and have an obvious message, to say the least. Government branches like the FDA need to stick to the basics and stop with all the confusion and contradicting information.

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Personal Trainer

Do milk and exercise mix well?

Coaches, athletes and people who exercise have long debated whether drinking milk can hurt performance.

Benefits from milk

- Milk contains carbohydrates, protein and calcium – important nutrients for active people
- Low-fat milk is widely available
- Milk sugar (lactose) digests slowly, so milk does not cause a sudden rise in blood sugar the way many high-carbohydrate foods do

Problems from milk

- Milk causes diarrhea, gas, bloating or sour stomach in people with lactose intolerance

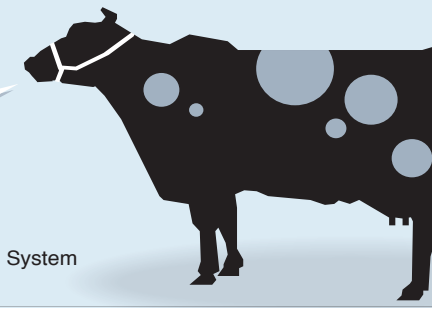
- Milk proteins coat the throat and esophagus, promoting phlegm production

To prevent this, drink water or juice after milk or consume yogurt instead of milk

- Milk digests slowly, and it sometimes causes stomach distress if a person exercises within 2 or 3 hours of drinking milk

Conclusion

Drinking milk before or after exercising is often helpful, but avoid milk just before a workout



Source: Jane Foos of Red Cedar Clinic-Mayo Health System
© 2010 MCT Graphic: Paul Trap

Most dangerous jobs

Brent Lewis THE CHRONICLE

A window washer cleans the glass of the 33 E. Congress Parkway Building on March 30. Window washers, like some others with dicey jobs, use harnesses and climbing-certified gear at work.

Tree care specialists, window washers, aerial riggers risk lives daily for low wages

by Katy Nielsen
Assistant Health & Fitness Editor

TOWERING 200 feet above the pavement, strapped into harnesses, equipped with cleaning supplies and climbing gear, window washers squeegee off the glass of sky scrapers. Dangerous jobs are similar to extreme sports like mountain climbing because of the physical and mental pressures involved, and spring is the time of year when these jobs are in high demand.

Tree care specialists, window washers and aerial lift specialists—people who move heavy equipment up to high locations—work some of the most dangerous jobs in the world at rates as low as $20 to $25 an hour. These workers risk their lives to trim trees, clean windows and set up venues.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor's most recent 2009 report, loggers, who have similar working conditions to arborists, have a fatality rate of 62 per 100,000 workers. Logging ranks as the second most dangerous job behind commercial fishing.

"It's not hard to come right off if you lose your balance," said Aaron Garcia, 25, certified aerial rigger who lives in Sarasota, Fla. "You're sitting on something that's half the size of a chair, and you're pulling up something that's a couple hundred pounds."

Aerial lift specialists work while suspended high above the ground often to build concert stages. Depending on the venue, riggers can be suspended from 40 to 200 feet off the ground.

"You use carabiners, pulleys and different kinds of ropes," Garcia said. "It's essentially climbing except it's inside, and there's not an ice base or a mountain base."

Riggers use harnesses and safety lines that will catch them if something should come undone. Most riggers use climbing-certified gear, according to Garcia.

While safety measures are taken, he has seen people fall and ropes snap. He said he knew someone who died in a rigging-related accident several years ago, when he slipped and fell from the area he was working on. Though Garcia said he is aware of the risks, he finds peace in his work.

"I get a very calm sense of myself when I'm up there," he said. "It's kind of like a heightened awareness. When I'm pulling up something really heavy, I can hear my heart beat. I can hear my lungs. It's a heightened place I put myself in."

Window washers, similar to riggers, face dangerous conditions daily at work. However, window washers have to brave the elements, like wind and freezing temperatures, in ways riggers generally do not.

William Dron, president and founder of Prime Time Window Cleaning, who has more than 40,000 residential and commercial clients throughout Chicago, said he is well aware of his employees' risks.

"Every time they get up on a ladder they're taking a risk," Dron said. "We're dealing with lots of variables: Sometimes it's drizzling or [a] windy day. When these guys are up on ladders, maybe their footing isn't as sturdy or the ground isn't level. There are risks all day [and] every day on every single job."

Not everyone can physically handle the risks of a dangerous job, Dron said.

Arborists, like window washers and riggers, must be strong, not afraid of heights, flexible and able to withstand the elements, according to Dan Klindera, district manager for Autumn Tree Care Experts in Chicago.

> "Our guys are 70 feet in the air, hanging by a rope above a tree's canopy ... and they're wielding a chainsaw."
>
> -Dan Klindera

His employees typically work eight-hour days, climbing, trimming limbs, cutting down weak or sick branches and using wood chippers to cut the limbs into small 1-by-1-inch wood chips. Arborists typically make between $10 to $26 an hour, depending on the skill level of the worker.

"Our guys are 70 feet in the air, hanging by a rope above a tree's canopy," Klindera said. "It can be windy, it can be rainy, it can be snowing, and they're wielding a chainsaw and removing limbs and sections of trees that can be a couple hundred pounds. I would say it's kind of dangerous."

The team of arborists at every site must be in constant communication with one another, according to Klindera, because their lives depend on that communication.

"Your life is in the hands of everyone on that team," Klindera said. "You could be under a tree, and someone could be dropping limbs at that time ... you could be putting people's lives in jeopardy."

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All-American Game returns to Chicago

Top high school players square off at United Center, showcase talents

by Etheria Modacure
Assistant Health & Fitness Editor

IN THE 1980 McDonald's All-American Game, a local player from Proviso East High School in Maywood, Ill., was selected to play in the event. Twenty-one years later, in his hometown, Boston Celtics Head Coach Doc Rivers would see his son, Austin, play in the same event at the United Center, 1901 W. Madison St., on March 30.

The 34th annual McDonald's High School All-American Game returned to Chicago for the first time since 1982, when it was held at the Rosemont Horizon in Rosemont, Ill., currently named the Allstate Arena. The game wasn't the only event held here in Chicago featuring select male and female high school basketball players. On March 28, the Powerade Jamfest was held at Chicago State University, which consisted of a skills competition, a 3-point shooting contest and the popular slam-dunk contest.

Each player for the All-American Game was selected by the end of February to compete in the event.

"Just to come out here and play in front of 20,000 people, it's just unreal," said James McAdoo, a forward from Norfolk Christian High School in Virginia. "I just want to thank the coaching staff for allowing me to get this opportunity. There [are] thousands of kids who didn't get this chance."

Multiple colleges had pledged talent in this competition with the University of Kentucky being well-represented with four players who have committed to play for the Final Four participant. The Wildcats will have a loaded freshmen class this fall to match that of Duke University, which had three players on the boys' team.

For the girls, powerhouse programs such as the University of Connecticut, Stanford University and the University of Tennessee had multiple players who will be joining their teams in the fall.

On March 28, before the games began, the All-American players were able to showcase their talents and some impressed many with their antics alone.

In the slam-dunk contest, future Duke Blue Devils Marshall Plumlee and Rivers looked like they would share more than playing time as they were early favorites to win the competition.

Rivers took off his black and gold West team jersey to reveal his father's Atlanta Hawks jersey as he prepared to go for a dunk. In his first attempt, the 6-foot-3-inch guard from Winter Park, Fla., tried to dunk off an inbound pass from a teammate in the stands. This failed and Rivers quickly improvised a one-handed windmill dunk from inside the baseline.

Plumlee, on the other hand, looked like he was having a party dunking the ball as he completed one attempt with his left hand placed behind his head and came down and performed a dance move. Unfortunately for Rivers and Plumlee, LeBryan Nash from Dallas outshined them and won the contest.

Nash performed a running power slam with the Oklahoma State University orange Cowboys hat on. Before this attempt, he leaped over a teammate after jumping from inside the free-throw line.

"I tried to be creative and give the fans what they wanted, which is a show," Nash said. The native Texan said his mother inspired him to win the contest and gave him a helping hand picking out his hat.

> "I just tried to go out with a full effort and do whatever my team needed."
>
> - Elizabeth Williams

For the 3-point shooting contest, Kyle Wiltjer, 6-foot-10-inch forward from Portland, Ore., won the competition for the boys, and Kaleena Mosqueda-Lewis, Anaheim, Calif., won it for the girls. Wiltjer has committed to Kentucky and Mosqueda-Lewis will join the University of Connecticut Huskies in the fall.

"I'm just honored to be in this event," Wiltjer said. "I've watched the 3-point contest the last five, six years and to be in it and win it is a great honor."

March 30 was a record-setter for the All-American Game and Elizabeth Williams. The 6-foot-3-inch forward from Virginia Beach, Va., who will play at Duke next season posted a double-double with 23 points and 11 rebounds. She beat the previous scoring record for the girls' team by one point.

"I just tried to go out with a full effort and do whatever my team needed," Williams said. "I think rebounding was really important. It was one of our keys to the game, so I tried to rebound well and that led to a couple easy shots."

A new record was set for attendance when 20,919 fans witnessed two games from the girls' and boys' All-Americans. Both East squads won their respective contests with the girls winning 78-66 and the boys 111-96.

Three players from Illinois participated in the event: Ariel Massengale, Bolingbrook; Anthony Davis, Perspectives Charter High School; and Branden Dawson, Morgan Park High School.

Massengale will become a Lady Volunteer at Tennessee in the fall and reflected on how much fun she and her teammates had during the week. "It's been nothing but smiles and laughter this whole week," Massengale said. "We're sad it has to come to an end, but I think we finished the night off well."

For Davis, who will be attending Kentucky next season, he was able to fight off his early jitters of playing in his hometown at the United Center.

"Everyone gets nervous at the beginning," he said. "When you actually step out there and start playing, all that goes away. You see nothing but the players on the court."

(Top) LeBryan Nash dunks during the McDonald's All-American Game at the United Center on March 30. (TOP-LEFT) Austin Rivers speaks with members of the media after the East boys' team beat the West team 111-98. Rivers is the son of Boston Celtics Head Coach Doc Rivers. He will attend Duke University in the fall. (RIGHT) The East girls' team celebrates its 78-66 victory against the West team at the United Center, on March 30.

Photos Brent Lewis THE CHRONICLE

emodacure@chroniclemail.com

Rush-ing to match success from past

Chicago team off to its best start since 2004, new head coach inspiring players

by Etheria Modacure
Assistant Health & Fitness editor

WHILE THE Chicago Bears are one of the premiere football teams in the NFL, sharing that distinction in the same city—but a different league—is a franchise that plays its games indoors.

Ten years, nine postseason appearances, four division titles and one ArenaBowl championship are accomplishments achieved by an Arena Football League team that has seen changes with coaching and offense within the past year: the Chicago Rush.

After the 2010 season, Mike Hohensee, the only coach in the team's history, abruptly resigned and took over the helm in Philadelphia, leaving the franchise's all-time leading rusher Bob McMillen to take control.

Through three games in the 2011 AFL season, the Rush have matched their best start in franchise history. The last time they went undefeated this deep into a season was in 2004 when they went 4-0.

After a 54-41 victory against the San Jose Sabercats, on March 25, McMillen said he loves how his players accelerate the gas pedal to make plays, which he didn't see in the past. He's pleased if there aren't always positive results.

"You always want to make mistakes going 100 miles per hour," McMillen said. "You don't want to be lackadaisical like I think some teams Chicago had in the past. I'm not going to allow these guys to do it. If they're going to make a mistake, they're going to go [all out] making that mistake. I'll take that."

The rookie coach is surrounded by one of the stingiest scoring defenses in the league, giving up 36.7 points per game.

Unlike playing outdoors, arena football is played on a 50-yard field and opponents carry a scoring average of more than 60 points per game. Currently, the Cleveland Gladiators have the best scoring offense at an average of 63 points scored per contest.

When asked about the Rush/Sabercats game not being a shootout, McMillen said keeping opponents at a low score will be a goal throughout the season.

"You're going to see a lot more low scores, especially with our football team," McMillen said. "That's what we predicate our football team on, getting stops and controlling the ball on offense. We're not going to try to hit the home run on every play."

Controlling the ball and limiting turnovers helps a team avoid overcoming large deficits, and the Rush have trailed an estimated two quarters out of 12 played. In limiting turnovers, they're one of six teams to throw three interceptions.

The offense is led by third-year quarterback Russ Michna, second-year wideout "Big Play" Reggie Gray and kicker Chris Gould, brother of Chicago Bears kicker Robbie Gould.

With 15 passing touchdowns throughout three games, the cohesiveness on offense has been vital to the Rush's overall success. Five teams had more than 14 touchdowns during the first three weeks of the season.

"We just have to continue to work together," Gray said. "As receivers, we see things [on the field], and we have to communicate with [offensive coordinator Sherdrick] Bonner and Russ. It's things they see and things we have to do a little bit different they let us know about. If we continue out there, then we're going to get on the same page, and the sky's the limit for this offense."

> "We're a bunch of no-names and guys nobody wanted. I'll take this group over anybody because they come out and they play football the right way."
>
> - Bob McMillen

The other strength of this team is with takeaways. The Rush leads the AFL with eight picks and have forced their opponents to complete 58 percent of their passes. Defensive back Joe Simpson has three interceptions and earned defensive player of the game honors twice this season.

Simpson had two interceptions against the Sabercats. The former University of Missouri Tiger said the coaching staff rides hard on the defense to perform each game. He said the continuity on defense took a while to develop, but he knows it's coming to fruition.

"It's just doing your job and what the coaches ask you to do," Simpson said. "Just make the play whenever it comes to you and try to simplify it."

The concern addressed for the Rush is in relation to their kicking game. Gould missed three field goals in as many games. According to McMillen, he's his worst critic. The coach said he's not giving up on his young 26-year-old kicker and is confident he can right his ship.

"Chris Gould is not going anywhere," McMillen said. "Gould is going to be a member of the Chicago Rush for the whole season. I don't care if he goes 0-for-26, he's going to make the kicks when we need him to make the kicks."

As the Rush embarks on a bye-week, McMillen was adamant about his bond with a team he labeled as misfits and nobodies. He said he will have to make some tough decisions coming up in regards to cutting players, which he referred to as "the ugly part about this business."

"I told these guys in the locker room, 'We're bunch of no-names and guys nobody wanted,'" McMillen said. "I'll take this group over anybody because they come out, and they play football the right way."

The Rush' s next home game is April 22 against the Kansas City Brigade.

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Photos Brent Lewis THE CHRONICLE

The Rush offense is led by quarterback Russ Michna (top left) and wide receiver Reggie Gray (bottom left). Both players were together at Western Illinois University when Michna was a junior and Gray was a freshman, and they spent time on the Chicago Slaughter of the Continental Indoor Football League in 2009. Gray leads the team with seven touchdown receptions through three games. The team's last two home games against the San Jose Sabercats and Philadelphia Soul ended in victories.

Cristina Aguirre THE CHRONICLE

Lemon cookie cake

Easy to make, no need to bake lemon cake

by Cristina Aguirre
Multimedia Editor

THIS MEXICAN sweet treat has been with me since I was a kid. It's the perfect balance of sour lemon and creamy milk. You will need to hit up your Mexican aisle at the food market for some of the ingredients. This cold dessert is perfect for spring because you don't need an oven, just a refrigerator.

In a large bowl, combine one can of sweetened condensed milk, 1/2 cup of sour cream and the juice of 4 squeezed lemons or limes. Whisk them all together until you get a creamy texture, then set aside. Grab a small square pan, about an inch-and-a-half deep, and pour in a little bit of the batter at the bottom surface. Then grab some cookies and arrange them to create one layer.

With each pour of batter, add a layer of cookies. Repeat as many times as you want, but make sure to leave some lemon batter at the end. After your last layer, pour the rest of the batter on the top. Grab a few cookies and crumble them to add to the top of the layer. Once you are done, cover with plastic wrap. Leave overnight in the refrigerator or 6 to 8 hours. Then enjoy!

caguirre@chroniclemail.com

INGREDIENTS

- 1 pack of Goya Maria cookies (7 ounce package; reserve 5 cookies for crumbs)
- 1 can of sweetened condensed milk
- 4 lemons (you can use limes instead)
- 1/2 cup of sour cream
- 2 tablespoons crushed cookie crumbs

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Mix the sweetened condensed milk with the juice of 4 squeezed lemons
2. Whisk until creamy
3. Layer cookies at the bottom of baking pan
4. Pour batter on top of each layer, repeating until you have 4 layers
5. Crumble remaining cookies on top
6. Refrigerate overnight or up to 6 to 8 hours

KEY

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Writers **Lydia Millet** and **Kate Bernheimer** discuss ***Modern Fairy Tales***.
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Lifeline Theatre reads their fullstage adaptation of ***Neverwhere***.
Monday, April 11 at 6:00 p.m., Harold Washington Library Center,
Cindy Pritzker Auditorium, 400 S. State St.

Neil Gaiman in conversation with **Audrey Niffenegger**
Tuesday, April 12 at 6:00 p.m.,
Harold Washington Library Center,
Cindy Pritzker Auditorium 400 S. State St.

photo by Stephen Desantis

Neil Gaiman Reading and Lecture
Wednesday, April 13 at 6:00 p.m.,
University of Chicago,
Rockefeller Memorial Chapel,
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Baseball psychology

Associated Press

San Francisco Giants pitcher Tim Lincecum fires a pitch on opening day against the Los Angeles Dodgers. A player's success is more mental than physical, according to recent studies.

Success on the field often relates to mental toughness more than physical superiority

by Kyle Rich
Contributing Writer

WHILE WATCHING a professional baseball game, one will notice outfielders shifting around depending on wind speeds and whether the batter is right- or left-handed. The infielders creep on their toes in anticipation. The pitcher quickly glances at the runner on first before firing a pitch down the middle.

Players make it appear effortless to field a popup or scoop up a swift groundball and throw the opposing runner out. However, baseball has little room for mistakes; so little, in fact, that the number of errors made during a game are counted on the scoreboard with most games ending up with zero for either team.

There is no denying that there is a certain personality profile to those who play the game. Some players come equipped with mental and physical abilities above those of the average population; others crack under the pressure.

"The most important factors seem to be mental toughness and emotional control," said Mike Stadler, professor of psychology at the University of Missouri and author of "The Psychology of Baseball." "Baseball players have to be mentally tough because it is a game of failure, especially for hitters. And emotional control is important. When the ball is in play, the game requires intense concentration, so it is important to keep emotions under control."

Albert Johanson and Joseph Holmes, from the psychology lab of Columbia University in New York, decided to test what exactly made a ballplayer great in 1921.

The researchers studied Babe Ruth's dynamic baseball swing, his brain, hearing, muscle and eye coordination, along with examining all the elements working together simultaneously. They found Ruth's eyes were about 12 percent faster than those of the average human being. His hearing also functioned 10 percent faster than the average adults'. When it came to attention and quickness of perception, he rated one -and-half times above the human average. His intelligence was approximately 10 percent above average.

And these dynamic traits are transferable outside the baseball field.

"Hockey goalies seem to require this, defensive backs in football and defenders in basketball," Stadler said. "Outside sports, fighter pilots come to mind first. Ted Williams was as successful as a fighter pilot as he was on the baseball field, for instance."

In the past two years, there have been three MLB players who wound up on the disabled list. However, their injuries weren't visible—they were mental.

Former Detroit Tigers pitcher Dontrelle Willis, St. Louis Cardinals shortstop Khalil Greene and Cincinnati Reds first baseman Joey Votto all spent time on the disabled list with anxiety disorders in 2009. Willis, who returned to the lineup a month later, was put on the list again in mid-June for the same problems. Votto won the MVP award last season with the Reds.

"I think there's a lot more mental fatigue [compared to other sports]," said Mark Brticevich, coordinator of fitness and recreation at Columbia. "The hardest thing in sports to do is to hit a baseball. Baseball is more proactive and about thinking ahead of time. Every play requires you to think."

With an established baseball club at Columbia, one may wonder whether any of these stresses reach student athletes.

"In no other game can the whole outcome fall on one person in just one moment," said Columbia baseball captain Michael Grantz.

With spring approaching, baseball teams have started their season. While this excites fans, it can either bring excitement and opportunity to its players or unwanted dismay.

chroniclemail@colum.edu

Associated Press

St. Louis Cardinals players relax and laugh before their opening day game against the San Diedo Padres.

2

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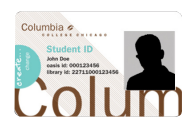

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How to: Spike a volleyball

by Lisa Schulz
Contributing Writer

BEACH VOLLEYBALL season is around the corner, so now is the perfect time to start practicing the approach and other steps needed to execute a volleyball spike. A spike is a forceful overhand swing aimed at slamming the ball to the floor of an opposing team's court.

"The approach gives all the power in the spike," said Abby Cress, freshman fashion design major and captain of the Columbia Renegades volleyball team.

The team's front row left, middle and right positions are the typical spikers who hit the volleyball which is popped into the air by a setter. Back row players can also spike the ball as long as they remain behind the 10-foot line on the court. Spikes should be executed at least two feet from the net to avoid illegally touching it.

Edward Kang THE CHRONICLE

1 Swift approach

Stand slightly behind the 10-foot line. If you are right-handed, lunge foward with your left foot. Hop into a lunge-like step with your right foot. Then step with your left foot to bring it beside your right foot.

If you are left-handed, reverse the footwork. This should be in a quick three-step motion. "If you just stand and jump, you're not going to get a very powerful hit," Cress said.

2 Gathering power

Immediately after the last step in the approach sequence, bend your knees to crouch down. Toss your arms straight behind your back with your palms facing upward. "It gives you more power because you're using your whole body," Cress said. Getting low and throwing your arms back gives you momentum for the jump and will create more height.

3 Pull back and swing

As you jump, have your non-dominant hand straight out in front of you. Have your dominant hand back behind your head so they're almost touching. The non-dominant hand acts as a balancing guide and will drop before the swing is in motion. With straight wide-spread fingers on your dominant hand, swing straight out and make contact on the top of the volleyball with the surface of your palm. Make sure your elbow does not drop below its initial height during this sequence. If your elbow drops, the volleyball won't be angled toward the floor. "It's just going to go like [a] shot put, [where you throw in a push motion] and you don't want to do that," Cress said.

4 Follow through

After you hit the ball, continue swinging your arm straight down. "Make sure you don't cross your body because that will hurt your shoulder," Cress said. Finally, land with both feet where you started your jump to avoid touching the net.

chronicle@colum.edu

The 4th Annual Library Haiku Contest

This year, the theme of Haiku in the Library is related to Tim O'Brien's book, *The Things They Carried*. What things of importance do you carry with you? Memories or stories? Objects or mementos? Experiences? The winning entry which best represents this theme or others within the book will be displayed on the Library's walls during Manifest and beyond.

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Please send all submissions via e-mail to kbowen@colum.edu by 9pm on Sunday, April 24th.

The Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts Midwest For more information please go to www.colum.edu/bigread.

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Creatures in Toyland

See PG 24

Arts& Culture

Blimpus is born

Inflatable canvas art gains attention, room for expansion

by Mina Bloom
Arts & Culture Editor

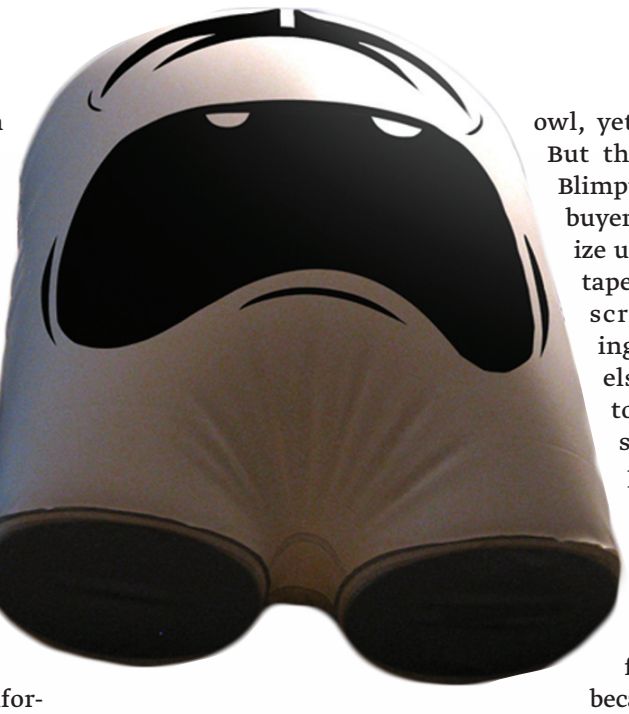
LOCAL GRAPHIC designers Mike Serafin and Tony Ruth received an inflatable mannequin in the shape of a torso in the mail almost two years ago. Ruth explained that mannequins are generally used to photograph products. Described as a "freakish Chicken McNugget" shape, this particular inflatable mannequin was designed for undergarments but ended up serving as the main inspiration for a do-it-yourself graphic design project called "Blimpus."

A vinyl inflatable canvas with two feet resembling a Pacman is what the pair now calls a Blimpus, which turned into an art project requiring funding. The objective of the "Blimpus" project is to either buy a blank Blimpus to customize using paint or pens or a fully printed character Blimpus that Ruth and Serafin have designed. The 3-D canvas is easily deflated and stands 26 inches tall—"the ideal height for something is when you can reach down and scratch it on the head," they agreed, adding they're dog owners.

Using Kickstarter.com, a Web platform for creative project funding, Ruth and Serafin pledged $7,500 by March 30 and surpassed their goal with $10,887.

"We'd like to put something out on the market for people who are into do-it-yourself art and T-shirt art who would want something that would be able to ship easily and cheaply to their house and turn into a 3-D product," said Serafin, who works with Ruth as a graphic designer at design studio Vessel.

With the money they've raised, they were able to order 500 Blimpus inflatable canvases and ship them to their backers after developing prototypes with their California-based manufacturer, Inflatables 2000.



> "You couldn't help but be sucked into their imagination. You almost create these stories in your head for what these characters are doing, and the storytelling is a huge part of their success. But first and foremost, it's a cool idea; it's an inflatable vinyl toy. It takes the whole vinyl toy trend and creates a new [genre] I've never seen before."
>
> - Craighton Berman

Serafin interned with a toy design company and has background in constructing inflatable furniture, which is why he knew who to approach to mass produce the canvases, he said.

According to Ruth, the overwhelming response they received is in part due to the project's versatility and inherent charm.

"There are a lot of designs we work on that are esoteric that are better for more of a design crowd, but we're hitting more of a middle ground with the initial launch," Ruth said. "[Blimpus] can appeal to design geeks, character lovers and even kids."

The Designer Edition Character Blimpus is currently available in four characters: cyclops, owl, yeti and ninja. But the entry-level Blimpus, which the buyer can customize using markers, tape, spray paint, screen printing or anything else, according to their Kickstarter.com page, allows for a more do-it-yourself approach. Serafin and Ruth have found success because they provide the option to buy an already printed vinyl toy or let you make one from scratch, said backer and fellow designer Craighton Berman.

"I love the idea that people can engage with this project on a whole bunch of different levels—to doing it yourself to the curating of an artist-created piece," said Berman, 31, who works as a designer, illustrator and a faculty member at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

The pair said they exceeded their Kickstarter.com goal because of the exposure on design blogs, like Core 77, and being featured on Kickstarter's featured project email.

"It seems like if you get the idea out on one blog and people dig it, it kind of explodes," Serafin said.

After the backers receive their canvases, whether colored, blank or designed, the future of the "Blimpus" project has no limitations, and Serafin and Ruth are looking to expand. A photoblog, where people post pictures of their inflatable canvases in different cities, such as on park benches or near monuments, is an idea they've been toying with.

"We had people contact us through the Kickstarter page who wanted to get them for trips they were taking," Serafin said. "They liked the idea of taking photos with them everywhere they went and then deflating them because they're easy to travel with."

By encouraging local designers to make characters and potentially hosting a gallery show, they can collaborate with artists using a range of mediums. If they gain commercial success, Ruth said they'd love for it to be profitable enough to pay for gallery events and independent art.

Berman, who backed the project and received an owl Blimpus, said he's saving it for his 2-month-old child, expecting him to enjoy playing with it when he gets a little older.

"The Blimpus could be so many things," Berman said. "You couldn't help but be sucked into their imagination. You almost create these stories in your head for what these characters are doing, and the storytelling is a huge part of their success. But first and foremost, it's a cool idea; it's an inflatable vinyl toy. It takes the whole vinyl toy trend and creates a new [genre] I've never seen before."

For more information, visit www.Kickstarter.com/Projects/Blimpus/Blimpus-an-Inflatable-Character-Canvas.

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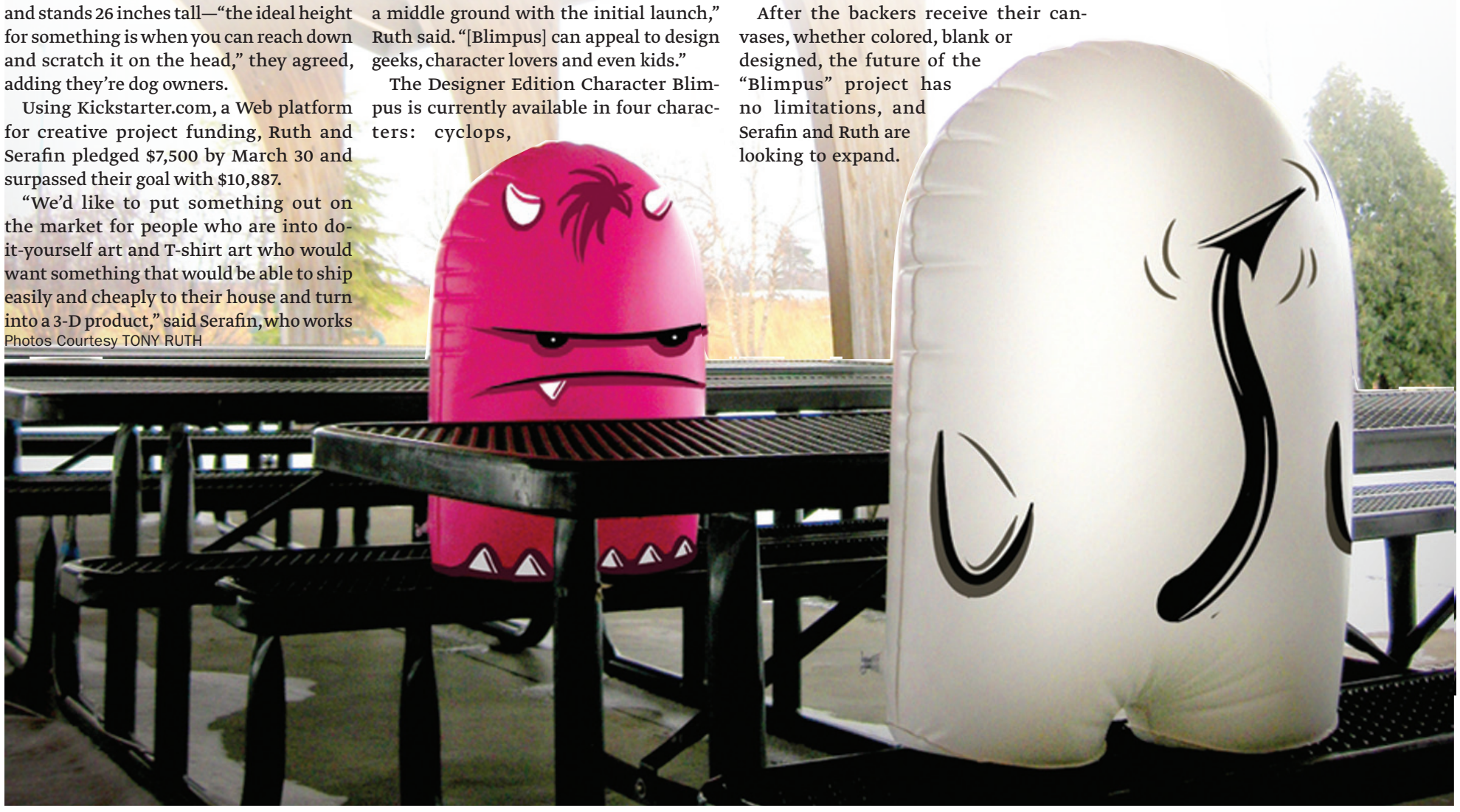
Photos Courtesy TONY RUTH



"A" To Zepeda

Learn to lighten up for laugh

by Benita Zepeda
Managing Editor

WHETHER IT strikes at home or in the office, April Fools' Day is a good way to cope with the depressing last leg of Chicago's winters. It provides an escape, even for a brief moment, from the constant seriousness and responsibility many adult lives are plagued with. But what happens when a simple prank completely backfires and turns into an awful situation full of negative feedback?

One should ask reporter Shawn Jones of the Evanston Roundtable. After publishing a fictitious newspaper article, on March 29, discussing a ridiculous fake law about snow removal in the community, many residents took it more seriously and failed to read carefully.

The article claimed that due to the massive blizzard that hit Chicago and surrounding areas, the city of Evanston was facing a budget crisis because of the excessive but necessary snow removal. The article reported that in the future residents would have to purchase stickers daily to request snow removal from in front of their homes for $2.25 per day and place them on orange cones outside of their homes, according to a fictitious source the author called the "snow czar, Pearl de Blanc." If people wanted their driveways cleared, it was an extra $2 per day.

The article also referenced a meeting that took place on April 1, even though the press date was on March 29. As one continues reading the story, it gets completely unrealistic, and it's hard to believe so many people missed the joke. It went over Evanston resident's heads so much that City Hall got numerous complaints about the fake legislation.

Is it possible that publishing a fake article in a legitimate news source was not the best idea? Of course. However, the content was so blatantly fake people should have chuckled at the newspaper editors for having a sense of humor. This is especially true during times where dismal world and local news continuously bombard our televisions, radios and print media.

Some people need to learn to laugh a little bit and stop the hypersensitive attitude when they fall for a joke. It's not an uncommon scene when someone falls for a prank and his or her ego gets in the way. It turns a lighthearted simple hoax into a grudge-worthy moment that gets used against the prankster from that moment on.

Understandably so, not everyone has a sense of humor. However, as cliche as it sounds, the world could be a slightly better place with more humor.

Hopefully a good amount of well thought-out April Fools' jokes were successful and perhaps raised the spirits of whoever witnessed, took part in or fell for a prank.

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Eva Green steps into strong role

Film actress takes turn on small screen, explores character on television

by Rick Bently
MCT Newswire

FRENCH ACTRESS Eva Green needs love when she works on a new project.

"If I'm not passionate about the character, I can't do it," Green said. "Some actors work and work and work. I wish I could be like that. But I need to be in love."

Her latest love is Morgan, half sister to King Arthur (Jamie Campbell Bower), in the Starz original series "Camelot" that launched on April 1. Morgan believes she's the heir to the throne until Merlin (Joseph Fiennes) reveals the existence of Arthur. The series will follow the battle between Morgan and Arthur for control of the kingdom.

Green wasn't familiar with Morgan before being offered the part. The more she researched the character, the more her passions grew for the role. The trick was to find the right way to portray Morgan, a character who's been depicted in literature as everything from saint to sinner. Although Morgan's a master of the black arts, Green saw her in more humanistic terms.

"I didn't want her to be such a mystical figure," Green said. "She's a very damaged, very sensitive person. She's been through a lot. The 15 years she was banished to a nunnery gave her plenty of time to become bitter."

The one thing Green didn't want to do was play Morgan as evil. She sees her use of dark forces to take control as one of the tools she needs to become a good leader.

This is Green's first television series. Before "Camelot," her work was confined to feature films, such as "The Dreamers," "Kingdom of Heaven," "The Golden Compass" and "Casino Royale." She likes that the long commitment of a TV series gives her the time to explore her character—something she's not had with film roles.

"The evolution of Morgan is quite amazing," Green said. "You see the child, the femme fatale. It's a very powerful role. Sometimes in movies, you play the girlfriend and it's quite boring. Here, she's somebody very bold."

Right now, Green has 10 episodes of "Camelot" to bring Morgan to life. Whether she'll have more episodes depends on viewing numbers.

Either way, it seems Green can fall in love with more than one character at a time. Her next project is a film on the life of opera singer Maria Callas.

"I adore her as a character," Green said. "I will try to get the essence of her because I will never be able to become her."

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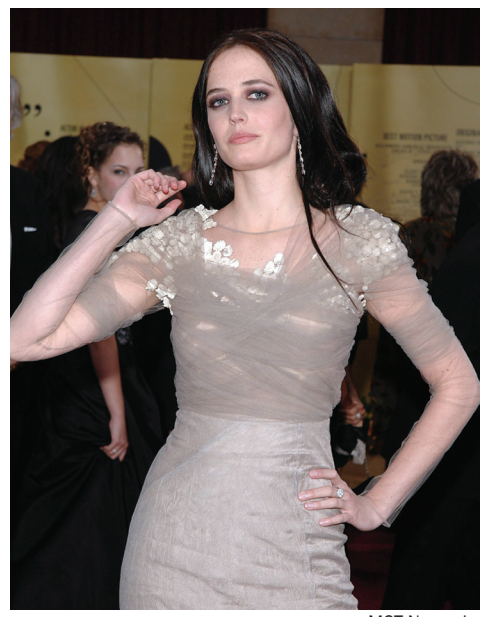
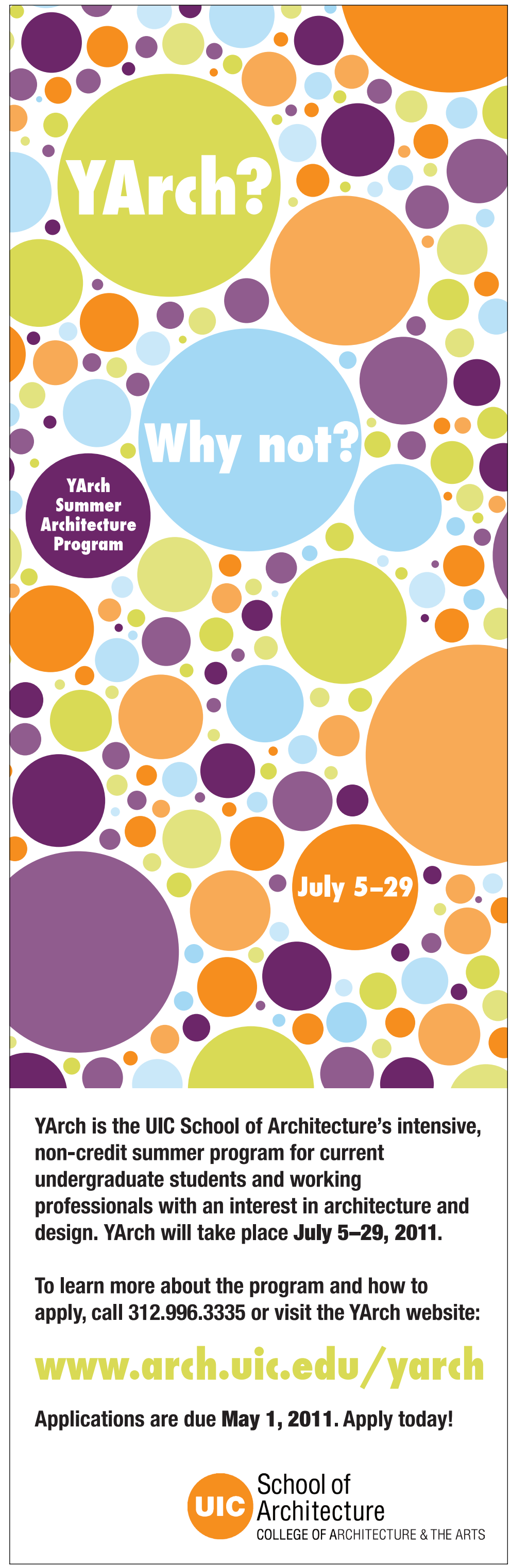


MCT Newswire

Eva Green at the 2007 Academy Awards.



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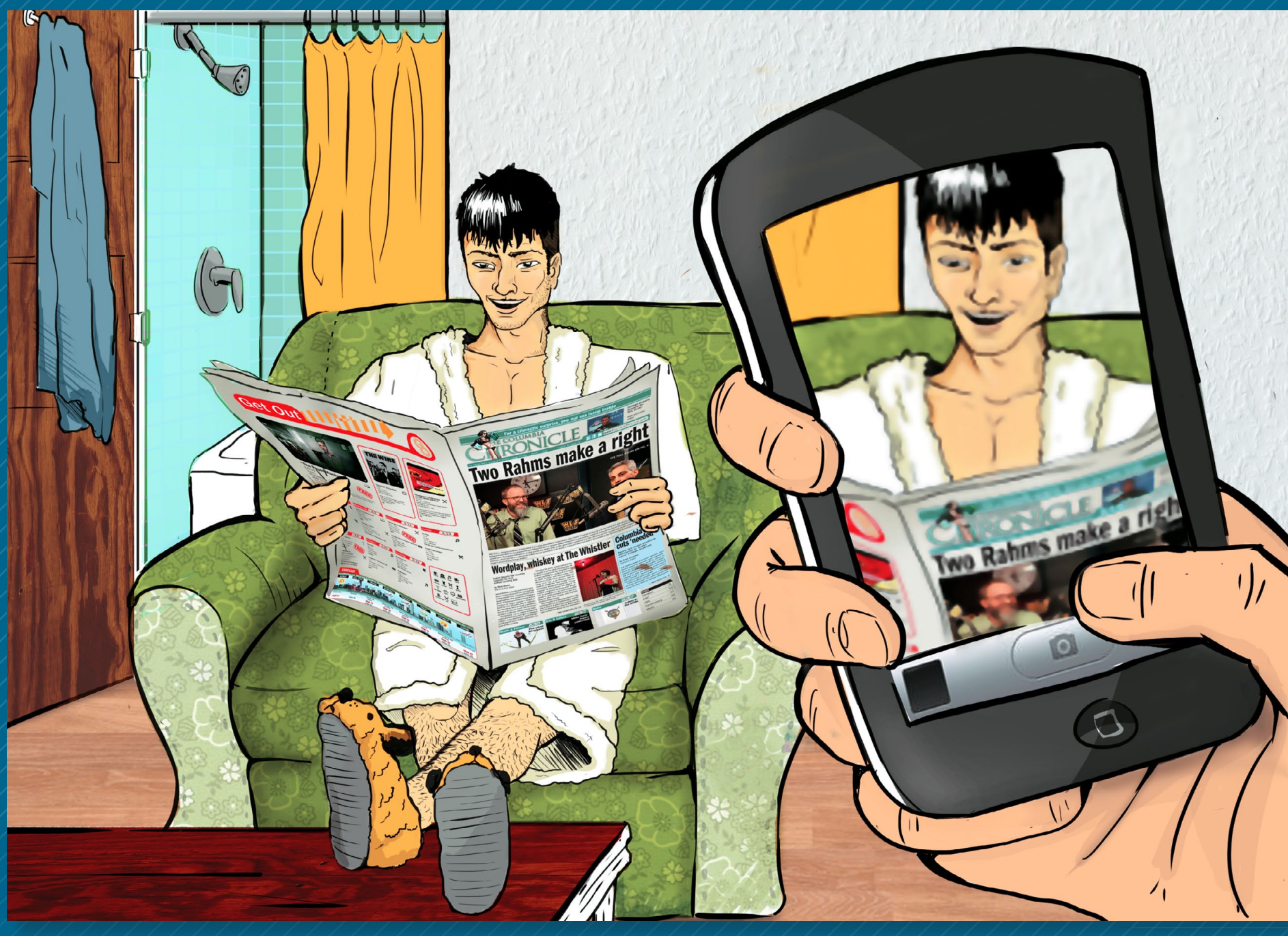

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*Rules and regulations apply

THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

We've got you covered

Conductor restored

MCT Newswire

Chicago Symphony Orchestra Music Director Riccardo Muti, 69, fell from the podium in early February but has returned to work to start rehearsing a concert version of Verdi's "Otello."

After rehearsal fall, Maestro Muti returns to podium to work for CSO

by John Von Rhein
MCT Newswire

FOR RICCARDO Muti, recent weeks have been a time of travail and triumphs not so far removed from those that stock the rough-and-tumble plots of his beloved Verdi operas, works that are his central musical preoccupations at the moment.

Now—cue the trumpets—the Chicago Symphony Orchestra music director is back in Chicago, back on the podium and in good health, clearly eager to put recent misfortunes behind him and return to the serious business of making music.

"The doctors actually said, 'Because you are a very good patient and very much in control, we think in three weeks you [could go back to conducting],'" Muti said. "I feel good. The cardiologists here told me today everything is very, very good. And fortunately, when I fell, I didn't lose any teeth. And that was a miracle."

His features bore no trace of scarring following surgery to repair facial fractures suffered when he fell from the podium at a CSO rehearsal in early February, a month that also saw the installation of a pacemaker to improve what was diagnosed as a low heart rate.

The 69-year-old Neapolitan maestro arrived in town early on March 28, four days ahead of schedule, to begin rehearsing the signal event of his April residency, a concert version of Verdi's "Otello" he and the orchestra will take to Carnegie Hall as part of their first New York tour in midmonth.

Muti's manner was as brisk and engaged as ever, and conversation bubbled with his customary good humor, perhaps the result of careful recuperation here in Chicago while his wired jaw healed and he regained his arm mobility, which was limited by the surgery to implant the pacemaker.

Contrary to published reports earlier this month that Muti had conducted performances of Verdi's "Nabucco" at Rome's Teatro dell'Opera in defiance of doctors' orders, he said he undertook that commitment after doctors at Northwestern Memorial Hospital gave him permission to shorten his recovery period and return to Italy to stand at the podium.

Muti said he has been taking his doctors' instructions seriously. Indeed, he said he extended his stay in Chicago from Feb. 20 until Feb. 24 to meet several more times with his physicians. Doctors removed the wiring from his jaw before he flew to Rome, where he deputized his assistant to lead the early rehearsals in his absence.

"I was careful in 'Nabucco,'" Muti said. "I was careful not to extend my left shoulder too far, at their request. My way of conducting is very careful."

If misfortune scuttled Muti's February residency with the CSO, phenomenal success marked his "Nabucco" in Rome on March 12, when he led the audience in a singalong encore of that opera's big patriotic chorus, "Va, pensiero," to make an impassioned plea to Italians to oppose proposed government cuts in arts funding.

His dramatic public appeal evidently worked: Thanks to his direct intervention through Giulio Tremonti, the Italian minister of economy and finance, the planned cuts were later reversed, Muti said, who by coincidence days before had been announced as winner of the $1 million Birgit Nilsson Prize, to be awarded on Oct. 13 in Stockholm, for his "enormous influence in the music world."

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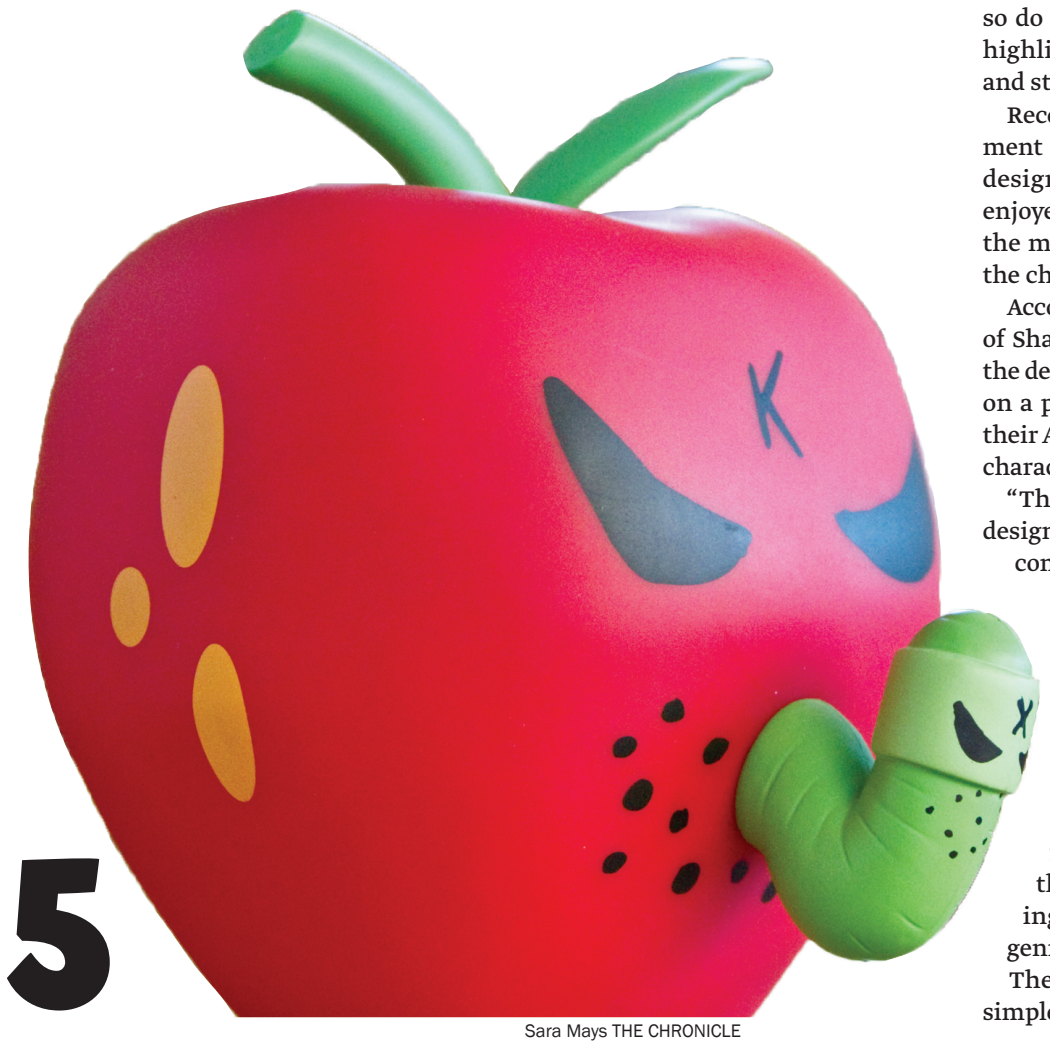
Tiela Halpin THE CHRONICLE

Sara Mays THE CHRONICLE



Sara Mays THE CHRONICLE

Toy Story by Brian Design by Jon

FORCES OF GOOD AND EVIL reside in countries like Hot Dog Kingdom and Pantsylvania, guarded by the protectors in Ninja Town. In another world, furry six-legged creatures, known as FluffyYukYuks, chomp through everything they can get their teeth on, with loyal FluffyBooBoos and FluffyBadBads by their sides. With scenes and storylines derived from the imaginations of artists, the fictitious characters enter the world in the form of vinyl and plush toys.

The toy designing culture came to Chicago in the early 2000s, according to Kirby Kerr, owner of Rotofugi Designer Toy Store and Gallery, 2780 N. Lincoln Ave., and the community has flourished since. This year, more local toy designers are represented at national events and collaborating with artists and designers from around the world, putting a spotlight on Chicago. As more toy designers emerge from the city, so do galleries associated with them to highlight the art behind the characters and stories.

Recognized alongside a specific movement of illustrative and modern pop art, designer toys are not played with but enjoyed for their aesthetic appeal. While the movement has Japanese influences, the characters differ in origin.

According to local designer and creator of Shawnimals, Shawn Smith, in Japan, the designer toys are often mascots based on a product, company or movie, while their American counterparts are creating characters from scratch.

"The things we sell are generally designed by artists and independent toy companies, and the idea is they're the vision of an artist and not so much a licensed character or something from a movie," Kerr said. "The idea of having a story behind it, creating the character first and creating a story after the fact is the exact opposite of how most toys work. Most toys are the result of a story, not the impetus of the story. I find that a very interesting twist on where this whole little genre goes."

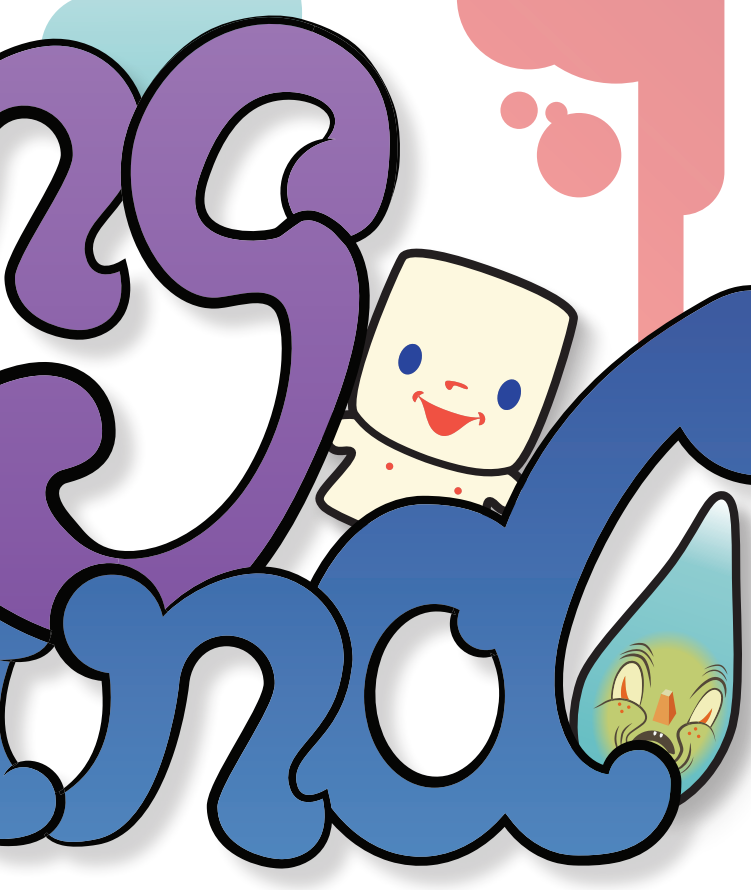
The style of designer toys is often simple, starting with rounded edges and bright colors. It's in the artistic details and narrative that the personality of each character comes to life. Smith's new designs are essentially stuffed animals shaped like moustaches with eyes attached. They were created to populate the fictitious Moustachio Territory, which, according to Smith, has a ground made of shag carpet and constant funk soundtrack. But the design process wasn't as simple as it may seem, he said.

"Everyone has to bring 25 moustache ideas to the table," Smith said. "We leave with 200 different moustache possibilities, and all of a sudden we have to whittle these down to the top 25. There are ridiculous meetings about why this moustache is better than the next and how it would be a better character and what other characters are its friends [and] does it have enemies?"

Narrative aside, the toys are meant to be viewed as art, Kerr said. Rotofugi started showcasing the drawings and paintings of designers in a gallery adjoining their store. While the art isn't always directly related to toys, there is a lot of crossover in style, and the worlds are very comparable, according to Kerr.

The designers of the

nna Wellen
athan Allen



Tiela Halpin THE CHRONICLE

Tiela Halpin THE CHRONICLE

Tiela Halpin THE CHRONICLE

Tiela Halpin THE CHRONICLE

1 Soft Served Tee & Plush at OhNo!Doom

2 Custom Nesting Dolls by Joe Call

3 Fluffy BadBad by Jordan Owen

4 Thought Processors by Phonetic Control

5 Big Monger Lorenzo by Frank Kozik

6 Rocket World Monkey by Patrick Ma

"The idea of having a story behind it, creating the character first and creating a story after the fact is the exact opposite of how most toys work."

- Kirby Kerr

OhNo!Doom art collective, 1800 N. Milwaukee Ave., took the ideas they use in their illustration and character-based art and translated that into toy making. According to Jordan Owen, co-founder of the collective, the original concept of OhNo!Doom was to act as a place artists could come to pass around ideas and express themselves creatively.

From there, it evolved into a studio and gallery space, where artists began showcasing toys and other work.

"Those toys derive from artwork," Owen said. "That's how they happen, they're forms of art. We love toys from the get go as kids, until now, it's just this undying love. Being designers and artists, finding this whole niche industry of that type of toy as a form of expression, we really connected with that."

When Owen and his OhNo!Doom team began making toys, there wasn't really a precedent for the genre, so they had no one to turn for advice on how to construct their creatures. After creating the concept behind FluffyFriends—plush toy monsters whose teeth actually chomp—Owen had to try his methods to bring his creatures to life.

"How do you make a toy? That was a really basic problem we had a long time ago, and it takes a lot of time," said Andrew Thompson, another OhNo!Doom co-founder. "We've gone through a lot of trial and error and roadblocks, but you learn from it, and now [Owen has] 10 ways he knows how to make it."

Plush is a fairly new concept for toys regarded as art, Kerr said. Designer toys originated as vinyl objects, more as collector's items, costing anywhere from $50 into the thousands. Now with plush, a subgenre was created reverting the toys back to something one can actually play with and is slightly more affordable while keeping with the Eastern style the toys originated from.

Another popular subgenre heralding back to Japanese influence called Neo Kaiju, or new strange beast, prompts artists to create Godzilla-like monsters not necessarily from a movie or based on an existing character. When the earthquake hit Japan on March 11, Rotofugi sold these toys in an effort to raise their own relief funds for the Red Cross.

"Over the years, [we've] gotten to know a lot of Japanese artists and Japanese toy companies," Kerr said. "So when that happened, we thought it was one small thing we could do to raise a little money."

In the past, artists and designers connected with fans through the Internet, but this year, Shawnimals and OhNo!Doom had booths at Chicago Comic and Entertainment Expo and have plans to attend various Comic-Cons across the country. Smith and Owen agree that being able to physically interact with people and tell them about the stories behind the toys helps fans connect to the artistic value on another level.

Keeping in step with the 21st century, many of these characters are branded in technology. Smith's Ninja characters are the subject of Nintendo DS and iPhone games "Ninjatown" and "Trees of Doom." According to Smith, it all aids the cause of drawing people into the art form.

"I really love when I see people who are just finding out about it," Smith said. "Some just enjoy it visually, and then there [are] the people who like it initially but are also very curious about what's going on here. Whether they buy something or not sort of doesn't matter as much. We see the level of enthusiasm, and we have a fan [who] is getting into the world and digging deeper."

bwellen@chroniclemail.com

Sara Mays THE CHRONICLE

Mortar Theatre builds solid reputation

New company defies norm, creates fresh dialogue in Chicago

by Matt Watson
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

WITH PLAYS chronicling the struggles of minimum-wage retail workers, veterans, prisoners and Cabrini-Green tenants, the Mortar Theatre Company shines a spotlight on the untold stories of less-than-glamorous Americans. Instead of trying to connect Shakespeare's "Richard the Third" to present day, the company puts on performances inspired by the 21st century.

Mortar, which was founded in October 2009, gained momentum in Chicago's theater scene by producing new and original plays that focus on social consciousness and working-class people.Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs selected Mortar to perform at its Storefront Theatre, 66 E. Randolph St. , in August 2010, an annual honor given to three up-and-coming theater companies. Mortar's founders said they wanted to spark a conversation within the community.

"All of us [at the company] come from blue-collar backgrounds, and that was the inspiration where Mortar Theatre came from," said Derek Garza, artistic director and founding member at Mortar. "We want to reach the Chicago community with a dialogue of everyday heroes who shape our society. All of us fully believe theater is a means for social change."

After a successful opening season in 2010, the fledgling company kicks off its second season with a production of "I am Montana" on April 8 through May 1. Following this is a production of "Mother Bear," which runs from May 27 to June 19.

Mortar chooses to showcase issues relevant to many Chicagoans. In "I am Montana," an Israeli veteran returns to Montana to work a minimum-wage job at Valumart, an obvious allusion to Walmart. The play compares a soldier fighting in combat to battling a corporation.

> "We want to reach the Chicago community with a dialogue of everyday heroes who shape our society. All of us fully believe theater is a means for social change."
>
> - Derek Garza

"How do you fight an enemy who doesn't use missiles but very low prices?" Garza said. "[One that] doesn't roll over your neighborhood with tanks but with pavement?"

Garza said the company isn't performing propaganda plays that hit audience members on the head with an issue but ones that raise awareness about both sides. At the April 10 performance, a University of Illinois at Chicago economics professor will read a study he did on Walmart's effect on urban environments.

"Theater started out of community dialogue, a way for people to express things," said Stephanie Stroud, founding member and casting director for Mortar. "We're getting back to that. It's a dialogue between stage and audience, and we're able to make it more of a public forum."

The company's plays are intended to entertain an audience and get people thinking about issues that may not affect them but others around them. Rachel Harvith, Mortar stage director, said the company wants to bring people together from different backgrounds and help them understand one another.

» SEE MORTAR, PG. 29

Courtesy MICHELLE UNDERWOOD

The Mortar Theatre Company focuses on productions of plays that highlight everyday blue-collar heroes.

Making Ends Meet After Graduation – APRIL 6th

Student Financial Services in collaboration with the Illinois CPA Society and Money Smart Week will host an hour long discussion about financial life after Columbia.

When: Wednesday April 6th
from 12:00 – 1:00 pm
Where: 618 S. Michigan, 2nd floor Stage 2

Money Smart week is a weeklong event sponsored by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago to promote financial literacy. This year Student Financial Services is hosting two Money Smart sessions for the Columbia College Community.

No RSVP is required and you can start your Money Smart behavior by enjoying complimentary refreshments and entering for your chance to win a Columbia College Chicago Bookstore gift card.

For more information visit www.colum.edu/sfs

Creative Professionals Share their Path to Success APRIL 7th

Student Financial Services in collaboration with Money Smart Week Partners will be hosting an hour long panel discussion made up of creative professionals in your areas of study! The panelists include local musicians, theatre professionals, graphic designers, and fashion designers to name a few and will be moderated by radio personality Matt Sapaula. Panelists will discuss their experiences as entrepreneurs and how the economic recession has impacted their ability to maintain their career.

When: Thursday April 7th
from 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Where: 618 S. Michigan, 2nd floor Stage 2

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The Columbia College Library presents the Big Read, six weeks of special events featuring:

THE THINGS THEY CARRIED

A WORK OF FICTION BY TIM O'BRIEN

The Big Read Kick-Off Event
Wed Mar 30, 2011 6pm - 8pm
Film Row Cinema, 1104 S. Wabash Ave., 8th Floor
Susan Padveen, Theater department faculty along with local actors will read excerpts from *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien.

The Big Read Keynote Address: Veterans in Conversation
Tue Apr 5, 2011 6pm - 8pm
Stage 2 Auditorium, 618 S. Michigan Avenue
Please join us as a panel of Vietnam War Veterans discusses the novel, The Things They Carried and about their own wartime experiences. The panel will be moderated by Dominic Pacyga, Vietnam War veteran and faculty member in the Department of Humanities, History and Social Sciences.

Opening reception: "The Allure of Viet Nam"
Wed Apr 6, 2011, 5:30pm - 7:30pm
Columbia College Library, 624 S. Michigan Ave., 2nd Floor
Vietnamese-American photographer Liat Smestad will present an exhibition of photographs of contemporary Vietnam. She is an adjunct professor in fashion at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and her studies have taken her to China, Vietnam and Thailand. Her work has been shown in the Rice Gallery, San Jose; The National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum, Chicago, and The National Exhibition Hall in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Escaping Vietnam: A Boy's View
Thu Apr 7, 2011 6:30pm - 8pm
Columbia College Library, 624 S. Michigan Ave. 3rd Floor North
Cuong Chau reads from his recently published memoir, *Escaping Vietnam: A Boy's View*. Cuong was 8 years old when he fled Vietnam with his parents, and he tells his family's story from his youthful perspective. Copies of his book will be available for purchase after his presentation.

Opening reception: "Necessary Fictions" Alumni on 5 Art Exhibition
Fri Apr 8, 2011 5pm - 8pm
Columbia College Library, 624 S. Michigan Ave., 5th Floor
Inspired by *The Things They Carried*, "Necessary Fictions" showcases Columbia College alumni artists who answer the questions: What experiences do you carry with you that inform your work? What are the true facts and the necessary fictions you use?

Telling Stories About the War
Mon Apr 11, 2011 6:30 - 8:30pm
Film Row Cinema, 1104 S. Wabash Ave., 8th Floor
Veterans read recent fiction and non-fiction about their wartime experiences in Iraq, Vietnam, and Korea. Moderated by John Schultz, Fiction Writing faculty.

Film Series: The Vietnam War on Film
Tue Apr 12, 2011 5pm - 10pm
600 S. Michigan Avenue, Room 921
Documentary films. *Two Days in October* (PBS) 5-7pm and *The Other Angels* 7:30-10pm

The Language of War: A Panel Discussion
Wed Apr 13, 2011 6:30pm - 9pm
Hokin Auditorium, 623 S. Michigan Ave., Room 109
Join us as a panel of veterans, moderated by faculty member in the Department of Humanities, History and Social Sciences Louis Silverstein, discusses "the language of war".

Friends of the Library Signature Showcase: The Veterans History Project
Thu Apr 21, 2011 7pm - 8:30pm
Hokin Auditorium, 623 S Wabash Ave., Room 109
This spring, the Library is pleased to have Erin McCarthy, Associate Professor of History in the Department of Humanities, History & Social Sciences as our speaker for the Spring 2011 Friends of the Library Signature Showcase. Dr. McCarthy has been teaching "Oral History: the Art of the Interview" at Columbia College since 2000 and her students have contributed over 200 transcribed interviews to the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project. She will discuss her participation with the project in documenting the lives of veterans and its historical and cultural importance.

Film Series: The Vietnam War on Film
Tue Apr 26, 2011 5pm - 8:30pm
600 S. Michigan Avenue, Room 921
Documentary films. *Soldados: Chicanos in Vietnam* 5-6:30pm and *No Vietnamese Ever called Me N****r* (Cinema Guild)7-8:30pm

Parting Shot: Depicting War Across Media
Thu Apr 28, 2011 7pm - 9pm
Hokin Auditorium, 618 S. Michigan Ave., Room 109
Artists in various media discuss the challenges of depicting war, as well as the impact of their personal wartime experiences on their work. This panel discussion is sponsored in part by the College's *Critical Encounters Showcase: Image and Implication*. Panelists include: editorial cartoonist Matt Bors; Vietnam War veterans and faculty members Tom Nawrocki and Kimo Williams; and Sarajevo born artist Goran Maric.

Film Series: The Vietnam War on Film
Fri Apr 29, 2011 5pm - 10pm
600 S. Michigan Avenue, Room 921
Documentary films. *Maya Lin: Strong Clear Vision* 5-7pm and *Dear America: Letters Home from Vietnam* (HBO) 7:30-10pm

In Their Own Words: the Veterans History Project at Columbia College
Thu May 5, 2011 12:30pm - 3pm
623 S. Wabash Ave., Room 203
Columbia College students enrolled in Erin McCarthy's "Oral History: the Art of the Interview" present their final projects capturing oral histories of Vietnam veterans through interviews.

In Their Own Words: the Veterans History Project at Columbia College
Thu May 12, 2011 12:30pm - 3pm
623 S. Wabash Ave., Room 203
Columbia College students enrolled in Erin McCarthy's "Oral History: the Art of the Interview" present their final projects capturing oral histories of Vietnam veterans through interviews.

The Combat Paper Project
Fri May 13, 2011 12pm - 7pm
NE Corner of Wabash and Balbo Avenues, Chicago, IL
Brooklyn, NY-based *The Combat Paper Project* invites former service members to turn their used uniforms into paper. This program is cosponsored by "Manifest: An Urban Arts Festival," Columbia College's end-of-the-year celebration of the arts and The Big Read at Columbia College.

MANIFEST

A limited number of free copies of The Things They Carried will be available at each event.

All events listed here are FREE and open to the public. For more information about these events, schedule updates, or to find a book discussion group, please visit: colum.edu/bigread.

For more information on The Big Read, please visit: neabigread.org

The Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts Midwest.

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THE BIG READ
INSTITUTE of Museum and Library SERVICES
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Columbia COLLEGE CHICAGO
create... change

STAFF PLAYLIST

KATY NIELSEN, ASSISTANT HEALTH & FITNESS EDITOR

MARK RONSON & THE BUSINESS INTL. // SOMEBODY TO LOVE ME
JAPE // FLOATING
LYKKE LI // I FOLLOW RIVERS
PHOENIX // LASSO

SAM CHARLES, CAMPUS EDITOR

TED LEO & THE PHARMACISTS // ME AND MIA
BIBIO // LIGHT SLEEP
WILCO // I'M THE MAN WHO LOVES YOU
SONIC YOUTH // TEENAGE RIOT

AMBER MEADE, COPY EDITOR

BIG LOU FT. BRUNO MARS // WE ARE FIGHTERS
PAUL MCCARTNEY // DEAR FRIEND
VAN MORRISON // CHICK-A-BOOM
ELTON JOHN // HAVE MERCY ON THE CRIMINAL

MINA BLOOM, ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

WIZ KHALIFA // BLACK AND YELLOW
MARIAH CAREY FEAT. JAY-Z // HEARTBREAKER
RIHANNA // S&M
NOTORIOUS B.I.G. // NASTY GIRL

music downloads

Week ending March 29, 2011

#1 Album

Songs for Japan
Various Artists

Top tracks

( ) Last week's ranking in top five

United States

Just Can't Get Enough • Black Eyed Peas	(1)	1
S&M • Rihanna	(4)	2
E.T. • Katy Perry	(2)	3
Born This Way • Lady GaGa	(5)	4
Best Love Song • T-Pain		5

21
Adele

United Kingdom

On the Floor • Jennifer Lopez		1
Someone Like You • Adele	(2)	2
Just Can't Get Enough • Black Eyed Peas		3
Don't Hold Your Breath • Nicole Scherzinger	(3)	4
Party Rock Anthem • LMFAO		5

Songs for Japan
Various Artists

Spain

Lead the Way ... RMX • Carlos Jean		1
On the Floor • Jennifer Lopez	(1)	2
Lead the Way • Carlos Jean		3
Mr. Saxobeat • Alexandra Stan	(2)	4
Tonight (I'm Lovin' You) • Enrique Iglesias	(4)	5

Source: iTunes

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CHICAGO AUDIOFILE

Courtesy BRIAN BRISSART

From left, members of BIGCOLOUR: Brian Brissart, Jordan Vouga, Jeremy Lindemulder and Alex Auby.

BIGCOLOUR creates splash

by Matt Watson
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

WHEN BRIAN Brissart moved to Chicago to attend Columbia in fall 2008, he started working on a solo music project he called BIGCOLOUR. After becoming bored with recording guitar loops and realizing he couldn't perform every instrument live, Brissart said he decided to recruit friends he trusted with his sound. With Columbia students Alex Auby, on guitar and back up vocals; Jeremy Lindemulder, on drums; Jordan Vouga, on bass; and Brissart, on lead vocals and guitar, BIGCOLOUR performed live for the first time in October 2010 at a house in West Lafayette, Ind.

Since then, the self-described dreamy psychedelic-pop band has performed at numerous venues across Chicago and the Midwest. With two EPs already out, BIGCOLOUR is in the process of recording its third EP and first full-length LP, which the group hopes to have out this summer. They also plan to go on tour after the spring 2011 semester ends. The group has three shows booked for April, including two in Chicago, one at Saki Records, 3716 W. Fullerton Ave., on April 8, and the other at Lincoln Hall, 2424 N. Lincoln Ave., on April 26.

Between work, class and practice, Brissart chatted with The Chronicle to discuss balancing priorities, inspiration and musical diversity.

The Chronicle: What are the challenges of being in school and a band?

Brian Brissart: I'd say the biggest challenge is trying to balance a workload and being attentive toward creativity at the same time. A lot of times, I find I have a butt load of homework, essays and other projects I have to do, and I will totally neglect to do those things and sit down and record music for 24 hours. You just have to find out what you want to do at that point, and if it doesn't work out, it doesn't work out.

Chronicle: Have you guys played outside Chicago?

BB: We've played a lot in the Midwest . We're planning on doing a tour after this semester is over, but we'll see how that pans out.

The Chronicle: How often do you guys usually practice?

BB: Once a week. Sometimes we'll all be hanging out, having a couple beers and we'll decide to pick up instruments and not necessarily decide to practice but have kind of a little jam thing going on. I won't call it a "jam session" because I hate that term.

The Chronicle: Where did you come up with this unique sound?

BB: I feel like I have an eclectic taste in music, and I derive a lot of inspirations from things that aren't necessarily musical. Just a relationship with a person or a conversation can develop some sort of unique thought or process in my head that leads me to pick up a guitar and make a riff, write a melody to it. It kind of branches off from there. A lot of people stress only listening to older bands and don't give the attention or respect to modern music I think it deserves. I kind of have a balance between all music.

The Chronicle: Who writes the music?

BB: I'll usually write and record it myself. My guitar player, Alex, will sometimes come along and write a guitar riff to go along with the music. I write all the parts, but I like to let everyone have their creative freedom, so when we play live, everyone has some sort of say in what we're doing.

The Chronicle: How do you stand out from other bands you play with?

BB: We are starting to play bigger shows with bigger bands we can mesh with well. We have a huge collective of friends in Chicago who all like to play music. We all play different styles, but we like to collaborate together. There's a lot of electronic music and folk music, and I think it's really cool that people can come out to shows like that. It offers diversity and a unity to that diversity. I really enjoy doing that stuff.

To hear recordings from BIGCOLOUR, visit BigColour.BandCamp.com. For concert dates, visit the band's Facebook page.

mwatson@chroniclemail.com

» MORTAR

Continued from PG. 26

"There's so much diversity in Chicago, yet people tend to hide in their communities," Harvith said. "We want to bring different segments of the community together to talk about issues that are meaningful but also to get conversation going between people from different backgrounds who wouldn't normally be in the same room together."

This year, Mortar produced a reading of "Mr. Welfare" in its Graphite Series, which was performed on March 21 and 22 at the Steep Theatre, 1115 W. Berwyn Ave. This series gives playwrights a chance to see their work read aloud by actors. Mortar's members work with outside writers on their pieces to get them ready for future production.

> Theater started out of community dialogue, a way for people to express things. We're getting back to that. It's a dialogue between stage and audience, and we're able to make it more of a public forum."
>
> - Stephanie Stroud

"We're having playwrights who haven't had a voice, giving them an audience and helping them on their work," Stroud said. "It's a development section of our season."

The group wanted to bring fresh ideas to production and introduce new voices to the city, Stroud said. Samuel D. Hunter, who wrote "I am Montana," is working in Chicago for the first time. Stroud said the company wants to expand this concept in the coming years.

Mortar plans to produce three-show seasons in the future, said Dana Lynn Formby, Mortar's literary manager and playwright. Usually, theater companies have one season a year. However, the Department of Cultural Affairs Storefront Theatre chose Mortar to open the department's season with its "Corazon de Manzana," written by Formby, on Aug. 23. The DCA selects three small storefront theatres every year to perform at its space, assisting with production and offering resources. This will kick off Mortar's third season, putting it in line with traditional theater openings.

"We wouldn't have gotten going so fast on the third season if it weren't for the DCA choosing 'Corazon,'" Harvith said. "We're growing faster than we expected, which is great, so we're in the process of deciding the rest of our third season."

Mortar members hope to see the company continue to grow and eventually have its own space. Currently, the group rehearses at UIC and performs at various theaters across the city. Until then, Mortar will strive to inspire Chicagoans to look at theater as a form of entertainment and a way to be enlightened.

"We're creating a forum where we're not so much trying to educate society about problems but present art that facilitates discussion about these things," Formby said. "What's different about Mortar is we try to engage stories about people who have not been told before."

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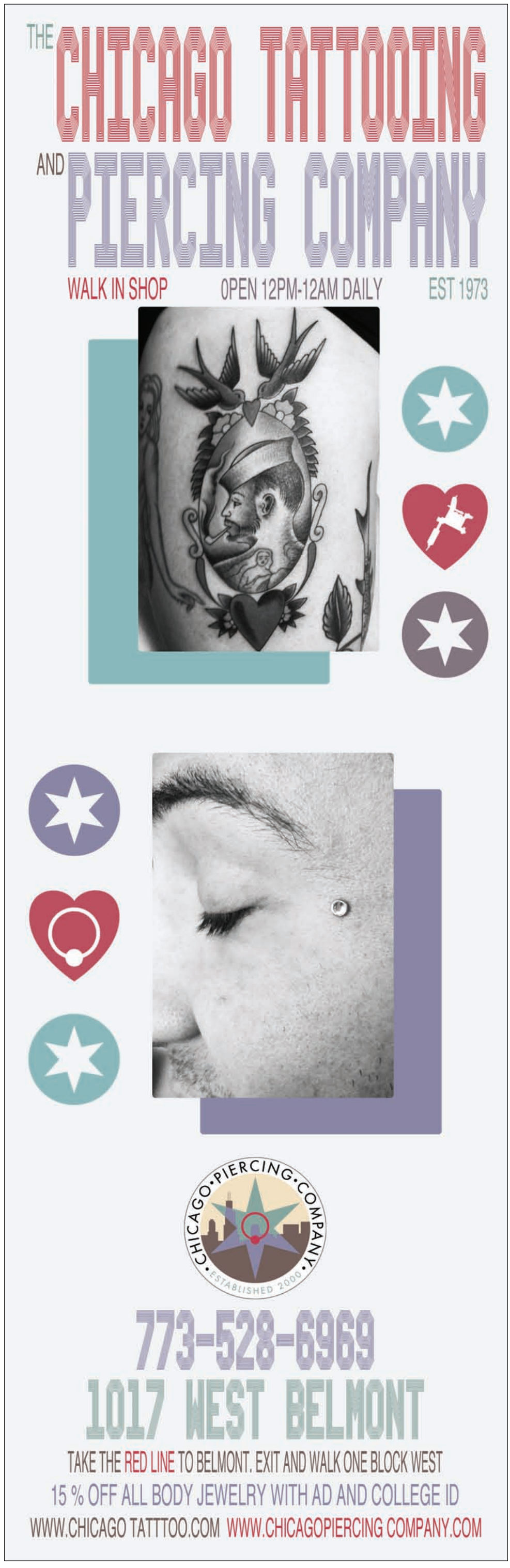

Philadelphia's anonymous hit-maker

Singer/songwriter respects hometown influence after success of newest album

by David Hiltbrand
MCT Newswire

MCT Newswire

Amos Lee often walks through the parks in his hometown of Philadelphia without getting recognized by fans.

NEXT TIME you're out at Citizens Bank Park, you may want to pay closer attention to your neighbor.

That rangy, slightly rumpled guy you're shoulder to shoulder with on Ashburn's Alley? He could very well be Philadelphia's best-known, least-recognized chart-topping singer/songwriter.

"I'm not a mass-appeal artist," said Amos Lee. "I live a pretty anonymous life."

The staff at his local bar treats him like a regular, not a rockstar, when he strolls in for an interview, his boho ensemble (lumberjack shirt, jeans and sneakers) topped off with a resplendent Phillies cap.

He's counting the days until the baseball season begins, though work limits his attendance at the games. Lee spends most of his evenings on stage, singing his crystalline songs with his wiry but expressive voice.

His most recent release "Mission Bell" debuted atop the Billboard album chart two months ago.

The accomplishment was asterisked with an unfortunate music-industry statistic. The first-week sales of 40,478 set a record low for a No. 1 album.

"Mission Bell," which features contributions from Willie Nelson, Lucinda Williams, Iron & Wine's Sam Beam and others, is notably rootsier and looser than Lee's previous three albums. And the singing is far more assertive and forceful.

In part, that's the influence of "Mission Bell's" producer, Joey Burns, leader of the band Calexico. In part, it's a byproduct of the studio layout in Tucson, Ariz., where it was recorded.

"The singing on the record is part and parcel of the arrangements," Lee said. "I was also just more comfortable than I had been in the past. Sometimes you get in the [isolated singing] booth, and all of a sudden, the world shuts down for you. This time it wasn't really like that. The way that studio works, it's kind of just open, instruments all over the place. You never feel like you're alone. I always sound much better that way when everything is basically live."

The ensuing eight-minute jam inspired the arrangement for "Violin," the single Lee performed this month on "Late Night with David Letterman."

His international tour to support "Mission Bell" brought him to Philadelphia's Merriam Theater. Lee lives close enough to the Merriam to walk to the gig. He knows the city's streets like a native.

Born Ryan Anthony Massaro, he spent his early years in Philadelphia, moving to Cherry Hill, N.J., as a teen. He was anything but a prodigy.

"I would listen to music and sing along," he said. "It was just checking out what was on the radio and connecting to it like a lot of people do."

His real passion was roundball. That changed during his first semester at the University of South Carolina, when he was given his first guitar.

"It was mesmerizing, like a snake coming out of a barrel," he said. "It was, 'Oh, my God. I need this in my life. This is something powerful.'"

He didn't follow the usual pattern of learning other people's songs.

"It wasn't that I wasn't interested," he said. "It's that I wasn't talented enough. My ear wasn't good. I couldn't even get halfway through a cover song."

After graduating he returned to Philly, teaching second grade. He began performing at local clubs. Eventually he was signed by the Blue Note label, releasing a widely praised eponymous EP in 2005. The record launched him on a touring regime.

"It's not very glamorous," he said. "You spend a lot of time sitting [on the bus] in motel parking lots."

Six years and four albums later, Lee considers Philadelphia home.

"When I come off the road, this is where I go," he said. "Although I've been spending more time in San Francisco, where I have friends, because the winters here have been so brutal."

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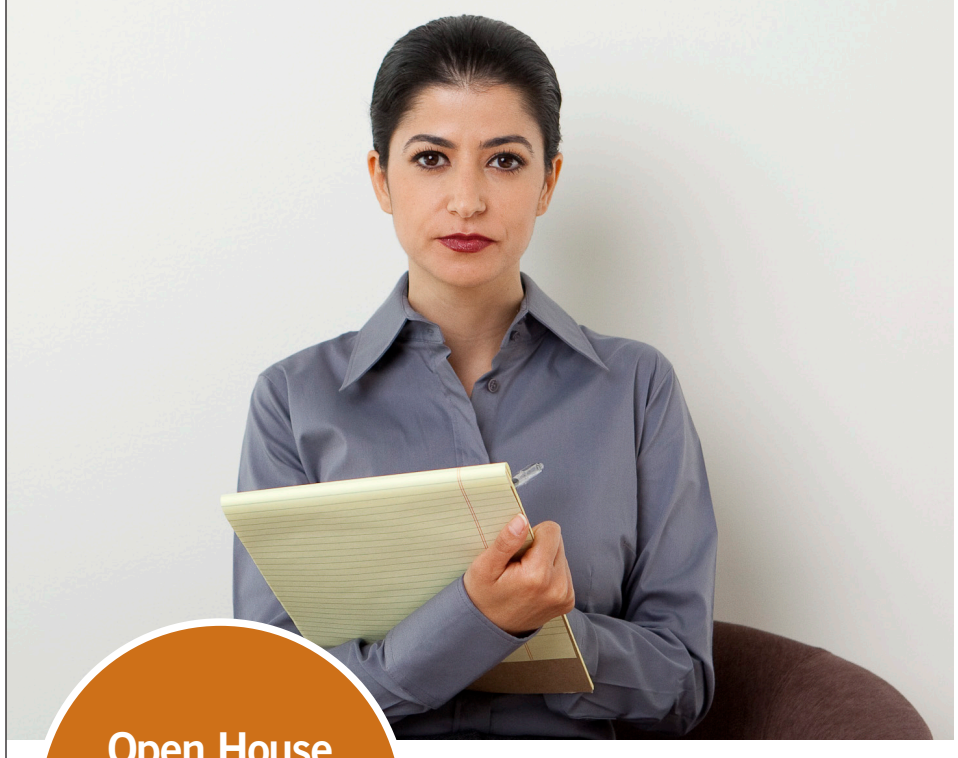
Old School



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FILM REVIEW

Rainn Wilson ain't so 'Super'

Demented comic book flick takes shots at genre tropes

by Drew Hunt
Film Critic

'Super'

Starring: Rainn Wilson, Ellen Page, Liv Tyler
Director: James Gunn
Run Time: 96 minutes

Rating:

Now playing at local theaters.

IMDB

Ellen Page, who plays a comic book store clerk, and Rainn Wilson, who plays a fry cook, star in "Super," a film directed by James Gunn.

AFTER CUTTING his teeth under the banner of Troma Entertainment—a horror film production company—director James Gunn seems poised for a career working in shlocky exploitation cinema.

For his third film, the pseudo-comic book movie "Super," Gunn enlisted the help of Rainn Wilson to portray Frank, a deeply perturbed fry cook with a fascination for religious television.

When Frank's wife, played by Liv Tyler, is lured away by a smarmy drug dealer, he takes matters into his hands and adopts an alternate identity as The Crimson Bolt, a mighty superhero. Soon, he's fighting his way through the criminal underworld, saving the day in his demented way. Libby, played by Ellen Page, is a comic book store clerk who appoints herself as Frank's sidekick Boltie and quickly joins him.

Despite its lurid subject matter, "Super" has a kind of backward charm. Already proving himself adroit in blending and deconstructing genre tropes, Gunn's superhero tale owes far more to "Taxi Driver" than "Batman" by blurring the line between heroics and vigilantism. He raises a number of intriguing concerns about the nature of justice and the many ways it's carried out—all with a delightful shade of gray.

But in getting down to brass tacks, Gunn's capricious stylization can't save the film's flimsy narrative and gimmicky premise. Little of the confidence Gunn seemed to possess in previous work is present here.

Where the film excels is in its characterization. Frank leads a minimalist lifestyle, yet as The Crimson Bolt, he has a purpose. But Frank isn't motivated by heroism. Instead, it's his innate and irrational anger that drives his actions.

Via Frank's fractured psyche, Gunn speculates on the falsities of superhero lore, particularly on the complete lack of realism present in some comic books and graphic novels.

Though clearly unopposed to escapism, Gunn is clearly taking jabs at the delusional nature of the superhero mystique, using the sociopathic Frank as an example.

On more than one occasion, Frank lashes out at criminals and neglects to realize the legitimate danger at hand. Despite what Marvel Comics leads him to believe, he quickly learns criminals fight back. All he can think to mutter when a particular baddie beats him to a pulp is, "No fair!"

In this regard, "Super" is almost a critical denigration of the superhero gambit. The glorification of such inane behavior is never given thoughtful consideration. While Gunn's film is far from thoughtful, given its grotesque depictions of violence, he at least has the gall to demystify the inscrutability of superheroism.

"Super" rarely reaches the heights it sets for itself. Frank's pseudo-religious delusions, which are stoked by a Christian superhero he's seen on TV called the Holy Avenger, fuel a skewed moralism that leads him to senselessly beat a villain and his girlfriend who cut in line at the movie theater with a lead pipe. This is pitch-black humor, but Gunn's broad strokes leave little to be desired. The line is blurred for Frank, but there seems to be little demarcation for the director.

Provocation is never a bad thing, but justification is key. As clever as Gunn is, he's not much of a satirist. "Super" lampoons a good number of institutions, such as religion, marriage and urbanization, but there isn't anything revealed about these subjects that hasn't been revealed before.

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MCT Newswire

Travie McCoy (left), formerly of Gym Class Heroes, and Pete Wentz, formerly of Fall Out Boy, recently brought their friendship and collaboration to the Metro, 3730 N. Clark St., on March 30.

Musicians form rock bond

Pete Wentz, Travie McCoy connect in their bands, personal lives

by Luis Arroyave
MCT Newswire

PETE WENTZ didn't seem to mind opening for rapper Travis "Travie" McCoy at Chicago's 1,150-capacity Metro concert hall on March 25. Sure, Wentz is used to headlining larger venues with Fall Out Boy, but he's not in Fall Out Boy anymore (at least not at the moment). He's now in Black Cards—the band he started last year with female vocalist Bebe Rexha.

For Wentz, McCoy's tour will give his lesser-known band exposure. For McCoy, the Gym Class Heroes frontman headlining his first U.S. tour as a solo artist, it's an opportunity to repay the friend who gave him his big break.

The two musicians met in June 2004 after a mutual friend passed along Gym Class Heroes' album to Wentz, who had started his Decaydance record label.

The band's alt-hip-hop sound caught Wentz by surprise, especially because he was used to being handed demo tapes that all sounded the same, and he met with McCoy and Gym Class Heroes guitarist Matt McGinley before a Fall Out Boy show in Buffalo, N.Y.

"Pete came in a dressing room and gave me the up and down," McCoy said, sitting backstage with Wentz hours before their show at Metro. "He eyeballed me and tried to gauge me."

Wentz signed Gym Class Heroes to his label that fall and had the band open for Fall Out Boy on tour.

Throughout the years, Wentz and McCoy became close and have collaborated on songs (McCoy appeared on Fall Out Boy's 2008 single "What a Catch, Donnie"), an art show (at Gallery 1988 in Los Angeles in 2008), music videos (Wentz made a cameo in McCoy's 2010 clip for "Billionaire")—even tattoos (they share matching wrist tattoos: McCoy's says "Young Hearts," Wentz's says "Be Free").

When it came time for Wentz to choose a godfather for his son, Bronx, later that year, he narrowed his options down to McCoy and Cobra Starship singer Gabe Saporta before deciding on McCoy.

"I figured Bronx needed Travis just as much as Travis needed Bronx," Wentz said. "Travis, under it all, is really a sensitive dude. I know having something like that in his life will make his life important—make him keep chugging ahead when he has hard times."

McCoy went through a public breakup with pop star Katy Perry and, like Wentz, has had his battles with drugs and depression. He said he has often turned to Wentz, who is going through a public divorce himself, with pop star Ashlee Simpson, to help him through.

"There have been so many instances where I'd be down and would call Pete, and he would walk me through it," McCoy said. "He's been through a lot of things I've been through. He's someone I can talk to about things and not feel judged."

Although McCoy is having success as a solo artist, he said a new Gym Class Heroes album is in the works and could be out by the summer.

A new Fall Out Boy album? That's a different story. The band members are currently working on separate projects. The potentially good news for Fall Out Boy fans is Wentz feels the bandmates are getting along better these days.

"It's the time apart and space," Wentz said. "And we're now in a position where we have creative outlets and aren't in each other's way."

He planned on releasing Black Cards' debut album in the spring but is now shooting for the summer.

"It's different than Fall Out Boy," Wentz said. "We need to get the whole building behind it. With Fall Out Boy, it's like, 'Let's put out an album,' and we could just roll it out. We need to market [Black Cards] in a different way. People don't know us."

In addition to bringing them on tour with him, McCoy plans to make a cameo on Black Cards' single, "Dominos." He expects to record his verse by the end of the tour.

"This industry has a lot of fake people," Wentz said. "They're your friends when you're hot, but when you're not hot, they're not your friends. The fact that Travis is having us on his tour—that means a lot. [He] didn't have to do that ... To me, it's pretty cool that the roles are reversed."

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TOP 5

Ren Lahvic / Advertising & Business Manager

Things you will most likely never understand as a man

Fresh Pants Dance: I refer to it as the "fresh pants dance" because it happens most often when pants are fresh out of the dryer. To get in those pants, I've seen girls (or myself) jump, wiggle, lay on the floor, tug, pull and even do a few squats to get in them. It really looks like a bad '90s workout VHS. Unless you were emo in high school, of course, you wouldn't understand.

Inspecting your pores: Once I started living with multiple girls, I realized we have a commonality guys do not, which is inspecting our faces entirely too long in the bathroom. Every minor detail is inspected and analyzed.

Shower gymnastics: Ever try to shave your legs in a shower, dudes? Not so easy, especially when there is no ledge to place your foot on. I dare you to try it. See how long you can balance before you cut yourself on accident.

Losing all coordination: There was a point in my life where I could run as fast, jump as high and play as hard as the guys. What happened? I got boobs, hips and a butt and became a dorky, uncoordinated tween.

Creeps: They are catcalling, grabby little minions that must be destroyed. Don't whistle at us from your car: Your mating call is perverted. Don't put your arm around a girl if you don't know her, your body heat is revolting. Most importantly, if you're interested, then say so. Don't pull out a line you learned from a '90s comedy.

Andrew Billmyer / Senior Advertising Account Executive

Most recent dreams

Being an alien: A week ago, I had a dream I was an alien coming to earth to abduct my foster kitten from PAWS Chicago. Unfortunately, just as we were attacking the evil staff (they're actually very nice people), my cellphone's alarm woke me up. Perhaps next time I will be more successful!

Being on a beach: With winter blues and spring fever setting in, I'm constantly having dreams of lying on a beach, drinking a strawberry daiquiri. No matter how many times I have this dream, it never gets old. But I wake up to gray skies and chilly Chicago weather.

Sneaking into Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory: I had a dream I snuck into Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory. As I devoured the largest gummy bear, Richard Simmons magically appeared and said it's time to "party off the pounds." I blame this horrible dream on my consumption of Sour Patch Kids before bed.

Running from velociraptors: One of my favorite movies is "Jurassic Park." Just the other night, I dreamt I was working late in The Chronicle office, and I looked out a window into the journalism hallway, and there stood a large velociraptor. Like anyone would, I jumped out the window and escaped.

I survived the Titanic: Unlike the hit movie "Titanic," I survive the catastrophic sinking of the ship by simply standing up and realizing I was in a pool. Everyone around me stopped screaming and stood up. Let's face it, I'm a hero. I can dream, can't I?

Cristina Aguirre / Multimedia Editor

Favorite pickup, breakup lines

"Is it hot in here, or are you suffocating me in this relationship?": Sometimes there is no other way to say it. If you are pillow fighting, swimming or doing something that can cause suffocation, this is the perfect moment to use this line and finally break up.

"I'm an astronaut on a mission to Uranus": If this worked for me, this can work for you, except through text, because the person might be slow on the uptake. Saying this in person—like at a bar—and emphasizing the word Uranus will probably work.

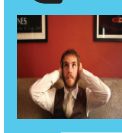
"Hey baby, are you being followed? Because I've been seeing people behind your back": If you cheated and want time to run before he or she makes sense of this breakup line, then use it. And, if the person still doesn't get it, then that's good enough reason, too.

"Hey, is there a new movie called 'Other People'? Because that's what I want to see right now": When you don't know how to say you don't like someone or that person is getting a little too creepy and doesn't leave you alone, invite them to this movie. They will never stalk you again. At least, I hope not.

"Do you have any raisins? How about a date?": This is one of those cheesy pickup lines super creepy people will use. So if you are a creepy person, which I am sure you are because you're reading this, use it. Or better yet, if you're the other person hearing this line, carry some raisins and dates, and you will be the one scaring the person.

tweets of the Week

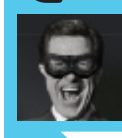
@charliemcdowell



Dear GAM, "He wanted to know the last book I've read and all I could think of was Goodnight Moon." And didn't your mom read that to you?

March 30

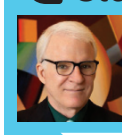
@StephenAtHome



The escaped zoo cobra saga may be over, but its lessons in hysterical media attention will live on forever.

March 31

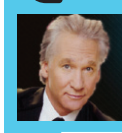
@SteveMartinToGo



Cobra found. Sure. And men walked on the moon. Then why was Obama in New York on Wednesday? TO PLANT DUPLICATE COBRA

March 31

@billmaher



Can we go back to using Facebook for what it was originally for—looking up exes to see how fat they got?

March 25th

@ConanOBrien

I like to teach my kids that they can do anything. For example this year, our taxes.

March 31

Follow the Columbia Chronicle at Twitter.com/CCChronicle

check me out

Caslon Hatch, junior, journalism major

"I try to have a preppy style with more of a twist."

Shirt: Forever 21, $12; Skirt: thrift store, $5; Shoes: Steve Madden, $70

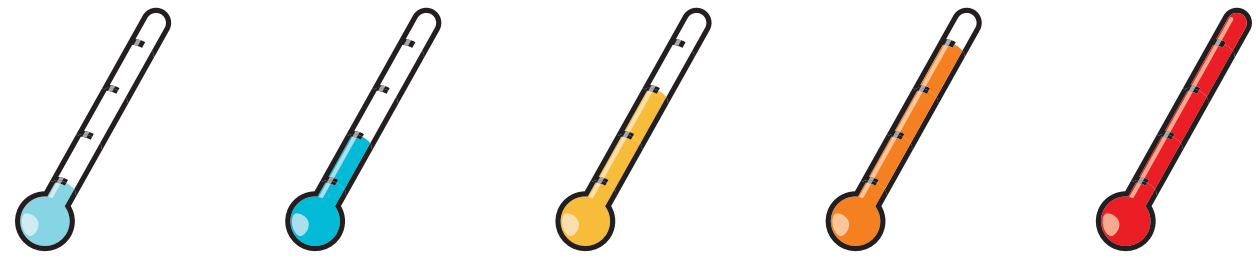
Photos Brent Lewis THE CHRONICLE

Tyler Nickelly, senior art and design major

"There's usually nothing to it. I just do as I feel."

Sweater: H&M; Shoes: Macy's, $40; Glasses: Ray Ban, $100

HOT & COLD



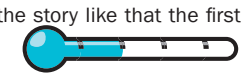
PRINT

"IV" BY CHUCK KLOSTERMAN

In my never-ending quest to be more like him, I've just finished my third Chuck Klosterman book. Always funny, thought-provoking and beautifully written, he manages to take on whatever topic, no matter how seemingly low-brow, and turn it into something that could be analyzed in a college lecture. In "IV," he discusses music mostly, with many of his previously written articles for SPIN appearing in the book. If you're a fan of pop culture in any capacity, you'll probably love his work.—*S.Charles*

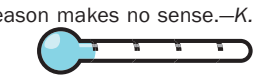
NEW YORK TIMES RE-PRINTS RAPE STORY

After controversy surrounding a story printed in its March 8 issue about an 11-year-old girl who was gang-raped, the New York Times retold the story. The original article cited the girl's makeup and clothing as the reason she got raped, basically saying she was asking for it. While it's admirable that the newspaper took the time to rewrite the story taking the blame off the little girl, maybe they should have just written the story like that the first time.—*B. Wellen*



"A VIRTUAL CERTAINTY" BY KYLE

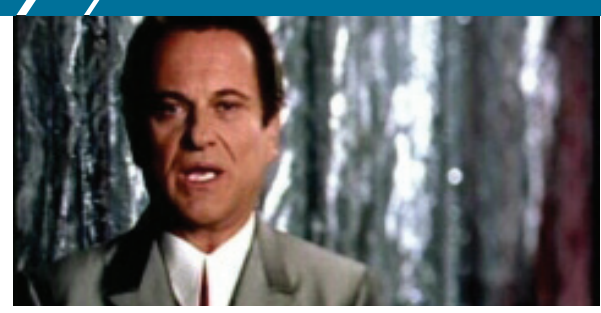
A simulation of the Major League Baseball's 2011 season is not newsworthy, but the RedEye clearly thought it was. The imaginary scenarios are generated by MLB 2KII for Xbox360, and the story got a two-page spread on April Fools' Day. From make-believe injuries to hypothetical trades, the article is a major failure. Baseball has so many unpredictable elements; that's a huge aspect of the game. This planned-out scenario of the season makes no sense.—*K. Nielsen*



MOVIES / TV / DVD

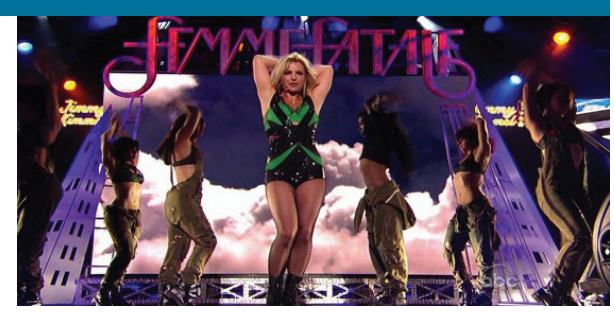
"SHAMELESS" SEASON ONE FINALE

Although I disliked Steve (he was a rich boy slumming on the South Side for the hell of it), he was more redeemable than Fiona's father, Frank, who did something unforgivable, disturbing and admitted he enjoyed it. Frank received a hilarious punishment from his son, Lip, though it was less than what he deserved. A year is too long to wait for season two.—*A. Meade*



WISEGUY MUSIC VIDEO

Joe Pesci has made a successful career out of playing a gangster in films like "Casino," "Goodfellas" and "Home Alone." However, it wasn't until recently I learned that he took his gangster cred to an entirely new level. The music video for Wiseguy, complete with Naomi Campbell and a Blondie sample, follows Pesci rapping about being a gangster. I've taken one message away from watching this: "It's the bitches that'll gitchas."—*A. Murphy*



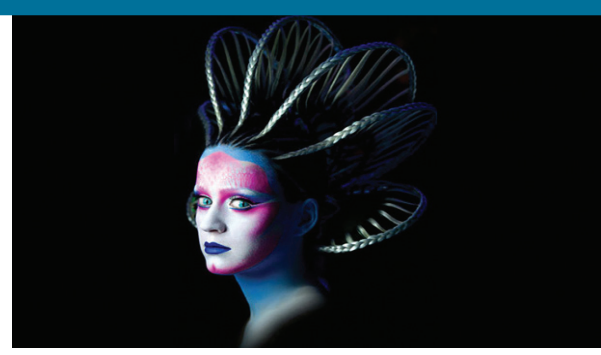
BRITNEY SPEARS ON "JIMMY KIMMEL LIVE"

Seriously, Brit? I mean lip-synching is bad, but I can understand it because the song you're singing is mostly digitized anyway. My problem lies with the fact that Britney didn't put any effort into her dance moves. Her "performance" involved walking around the stage in a very unflattering leotard and shrugging her shoulders sporadically. At one point, she stands on some scaffolding, which was really unnecessary. Survey says: Epic fail.—*K. Neilsen*

MUSIC

ACID HOUSE KINGS: "MUSIC SOUNDS BETTER WITH YOU"

After a long day of work and school, this new album by Swedish band Acid House Kings hits the spot. It's light, dreamy and makes me want to lay in a field and watch clouds all day. It's not the most exciting or innovative collection of music, but it's consistent and stays true to its nature. People on the el probably think I look weird bobbing my head back and forth with my headphones in, but I couldn't care less.—*M. Watson*



KATY PERRY: "EXTRATERRESTRIAL"

Katy Perry used to be a guilty pleasure of mine, but with her new song "Extraterrestrial," I am willing to openly admit I love her. The beat is catchy in a totally different way than her cheesier girl-power songs. When I first heard it, I doubted it was even her as I started tapping along. If this is what being married to Russell Brand is doing to her music, they should have tied the knot a long time ago.—*B. Wellen*

THE RURAL ALBERTA ADVANTAGE: "HOMETOWNS"

Canada is good at a lot of things, like hockey and free health care. But now, it's more apparent how much of the country excels within the realm of indie rock. The Rural Alberta Advantage's simple and catchy guitars mixed with a steady drum beat and smooth synthesizers do a lot to bring out the yearning vocals. I'm bummed I didn't discover these guys sooner because they've quickly become one of my favorite groups.—*S. Charles*

RANDOM

WINGSTOP

If you happen to have 30 minutes free in your day, there's no better place to spend it than at the Wingstop on Harrison and State streets. Its awesome futuristic pop machine with more than 100 flavors is only upstaged by its delicious chicken, incredible ranch dressing and mind-blowing fries. The only problem is the torture of waiting for them to prepare it, which takes about 10 to 15 minutes, but it's totally worth it.—*Z. Stemerick*

ANHEUSER-BUSCH

Since I've graduated high school and moved on to big boy beer, I can't stand the watered down crappy taste of any Anheuser-Busch products. I'll spend the extra few bucks to get something with some taste and a little more kick. The multinational conglomerate just bought Chicago's only major microbrewery, Goose Island Brewery, and I'm not looking forward to the result. I hope Goose Island stays true to itself.—*M. Watson*

UV GEL NO-CHIP MANICURES

Call me skeptical. I've had my fair share of expensive manicures that chip just days after I fork over a fortune at an overpriced salon. I had to try it to believe it, and sure enough, UV gel no-chip manicures really are the answer to my nails' prayers. They are a bit costly and you can't remove the gel at home, but if you want a manicure that won't chip for nearly three weeks, UV gel is the way to go.—*B. Buonsante*

Commentary

Editorials

‘Casual encounters’ on campus

UNIVERSITY OF Chicago students created a system for organizing anonymous, attachment-free sexual encounters and one-night stands on campus several weeks ago with a website called UChicagoHookups.com. It’s similar to Craigslist.org’s Casual Encounters section. The site recently changed its name to EduHookups.com and was expanded to include students from Columbia and Northwestern University. Listings for DePaul University, Loyola University Chicago and others are set to open by April 4.

It’s not surprising that the site is growing so rapidly because many college students are sexual beings. They are going to have these kinds of hookups and one-night stands whether they meet at a party or connect online. If consenting adults want to use this service, that’s their business, but any students considering using the service should be safe about it. They should always tell someone where they’re going, only meet people in public places and always remember to use protection if they’re sexually active.

A site like this can potentially be safer than using Craigslist because it is only open to people with college email addresses, rather than the entire Internet-using public. Despite that requirement, the site is open to exploitation by predators using hacked or stolen email accounts or who just happen to be college students. At least one listing was posted by an alumnus seeking a hookup with a U of C student, and there doesn’t seem to be a way to verify that users are actually students beyond registering with an “.edu” email address.

While students are free to set up anonymous trysts on the Internet if they so choose, there is something to be said for the development of basic social skills when it comes to meeting new people. Learning how to approach and talk to people is a crucial life skill students won’t learn through a hookup website.

That’s not to say all students should be looking for long-term relationships or there’s anything wrong with a casual fling, but basic human contact shouldn’t be sacrificed to make that happen. In a world where young people are becoming increasingly disconnected from one another through an overabundance of technology and social networking, the use of this site may not be the best idea. Many people today talk more with their friends online than in person. Applying a similar faceless technological veil to something as intimate and personal as sex seems like a step in the wrong direction.

Nonprofits better than private lobbies

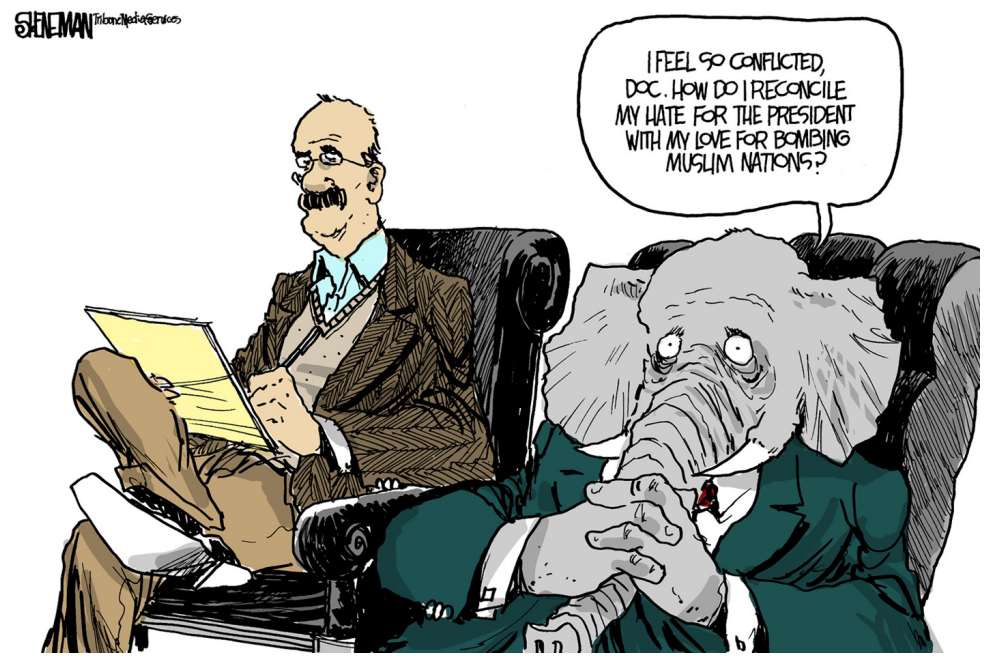
MAYOR-ELECT RAHM Emanuel recently solicited $200,000 in donations from local nonprofit organizations to cover the costs of his administration’s transition into office. He asked the MacArthur, McCormick, Joyce and Spencer foundations for funds, and they gladly obliged. Most of those funds will go toward covering staff holdover salaries until Emanuel is in office, and some of his campaign staffers can be put on the city payroll.

Politicians typically rely on campaign funds to cover their transitions. But soliciting donations seems like a strange move when Emanuel has approximately $2 million in campaign cash left after the election. The question of why he isn’t using those funds should be addressed to avoid any implications that he merely doesn’t want to pay for the transition out of pocket. Emanuel may have other plans for that money, but he needs to make them clear.

However, if Emanuel had to solicit funds from anyone, nonprofits are a good choice. It is obvious, though, that the aforementioned foundations are, on some level, attempting to win favor with the new administration and further their agendas. They’re cozying up to a new mayor in a city that has been run by one administration for decades with the hopes that their issues and agendas will get more attention in city government. Several members of the Joyce and MacArthur foundations have already been appointed to positions on Emanuel’s transitional committees. In layman’s terms, this is lobbying.

This sort of lobbying is an inevitable fact of life in politics in general and particularly in Chicago. If it’s going to happen anyway, it’s better that our new mayor is supported by foundations with clearly stated humanitarian and philanthropic goals rather than private and corporate donors with more mercenary motivations. Emanuel admitted he went to the foundations because he didn’t want to rely on private and corporate donors.

If the Mayor-elect’s motives are truly noble, this is a good start. However, if he wants to give the city a fresh start, he’ll have to shy away from the kind of cronyism that has defined Chicago politics for decades. He’ll also have to avoid slipping into a pattern of patronage and favoritism toward the long line of wealthy and powerful contributors who helped him win the office in the first place. Only time will tell if this is Emanuel’s first step on the road to cleaning up city government or nothing more than an empty gesture.



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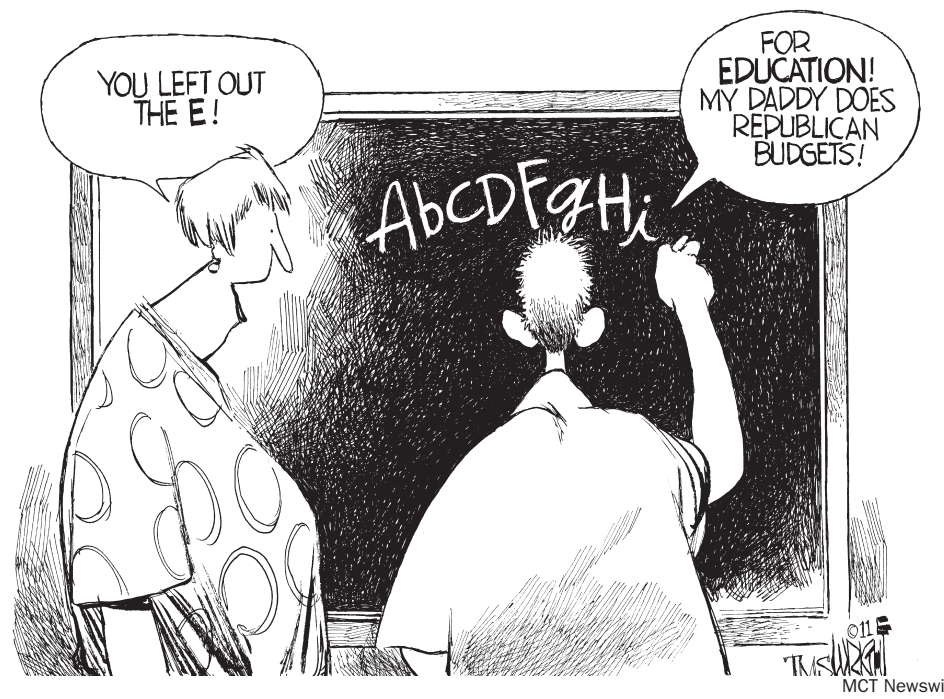

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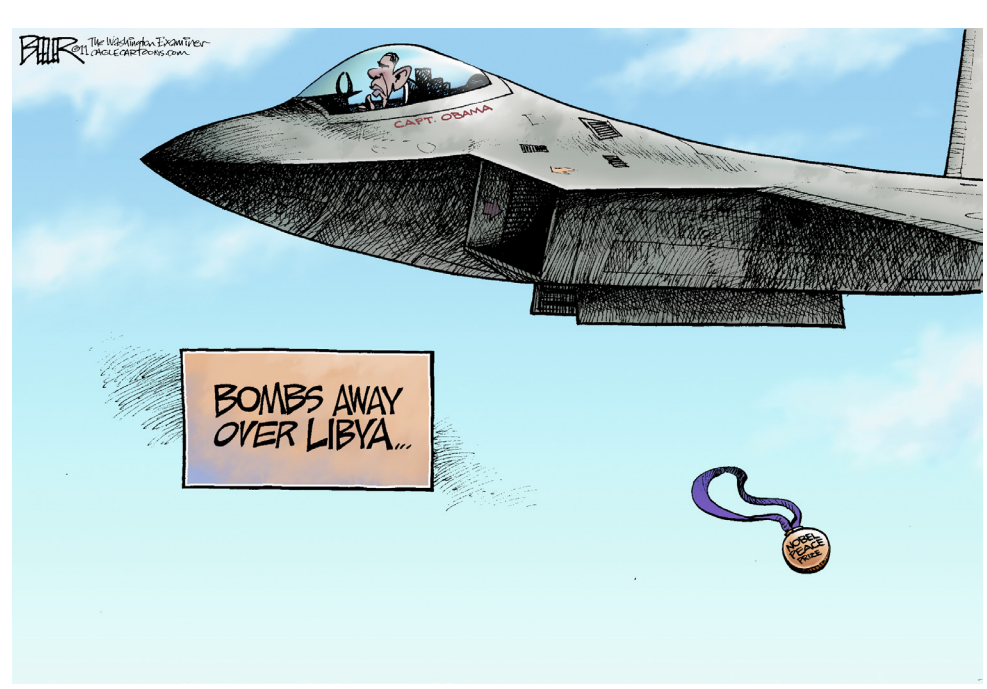

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Did you catch a mistake, think we could have covered a story better or believe strongly about an issue that faces all of us here at Columbia?
Why not write a letter to the editor? At the bottom of page 2, you’ll find a set of guidelines on how to do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

—The Columbia Chronicle Editorial Board

AT&T makes moves against free Internet, consumer rights

"Such abuses and monopolistic behavior from ISPs and the broader media conglomerates they often belong to are becoming more common every day."

by Luke Wilusz
Commentary Editor

INTERNET GIANT AT&T Inc. released an updated version of its terms of service on March 30 that effectively gives the corporation increased power to take advantage of consumers and charge them more while stripping those same people of their legal rights. Such action is not surprising after Congress refused to fund network neutrality legislation in February, leaving Internet service providers free to restrict Internet access more or less at their discretion.

The new terms of service impose monthly data caps of 150 GB for DSL users and 250 GB for subscribers of its U-Verse service, with the intention of slapping violators with overage charges if they use more than their allotted amount of data in a month. While AT&T argues most average users won't be affected by these caps, households with several computers or households that frequently use data-heavy video streaming services, such as Netflix or Hulu, could easily exceed those allowances. If consumers are paying for Internet service each month, they should be able to use as much data as they want or need to in the course of their day-to-day lives.

While AT&T claimed the usage caps are meant to reduce network congestion, there's no way to prove that is true. While they may reduce consumers' total monthly data usage, they won't have any effect on people using large amounts of bandwidth during busy periods. With the company's vested interest in broadcast TV services, it's more likely the caps are meant to punish people in a roundabout way for using services like Netflix.

As if the usage caps and overage fees associated with them weren't enough, some users have taken to blogs and online forums to complain that AT&T's measurement of their data usage isn't even accurate. One user said AT&T has, at times, under-reported his usage by as much as 91 percent and over-reported it at other times by as much as 4,700 percent compared to the usage logs on his router. If AT&T is going to be nickel-and-diming consumers regarding data usage, the company should, at the very least, learn how to keep track of it. I don't let gas station attendants guess how much fuel I'm pumping into my car and charge me accordingly, and I'd like to be able to apply similar standards to my ISP.

Further examination of the new terms reveals authoritarian abuses of power on AT&T's part. The corporation reserves the right to discontinue broadband service and force consumers to upgrade to a more expensive U-Verse package at its discretion. The company also takes measures to stifle consumers' abilities to stand up for themselves.

However, unhappy users should take caution when venting to customer service representatives. Under the new terms, AT&T also reserves the right to cut off service for "repeatedly contacting our customer service representatives for reasons that do not pertain to our provisioning, maintenance, repair or general servicing of your high speed Internet access service after you have been asked to stop such conduct." In other words, it plans to punish anyone with the tenacity to complain about being mistreated after it asks them not to.

Furthermore, the new terms prohibit U-Verse subscribers from participating in class-action lawsuits against AT&T and require all disputes to be settled by third-party arbitrators chosen by the corporation. These arbitrators tend to rule in favor of their corporate clients rather than consumers with alarming regularity—up to 94 percent of the time, according to a report released by consumer advocacy group Public Citizen in 2007.

Courts have ruled several times that such fine-print measures prohibiting consumers from taking part in class-action suits are illegal, and the Supreme Court is set to make a decision in a case involving the issue by June. With any luck, the ruling will force AT&T to remove at least one of the draconian restrictions from its new terms of service.

Such abuses and monopolistic behavior from ISPs and the broader media conglomerates they often belong to are becoming more common every day. The federal government is doing very little to restrict them, and the corporations are unlikely to regulate themselves for the good of American consumers. Unless Congress and the Federal Communications Commission work to develop strong net neutrality laws to keep these companies in check, consumers can expect to see more of their rights periodically sacrificed for the good of corporate America.

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ROAMIN' NUMERALS

47 Percentage of surveyed Americans who said they approve of military action against Libya, according to a March 22 Gallup Poll. Thirty-seven percent said they disapproved, while 16 percent had no opinion on the matter.

18 Percentage of Americans who said they believe there will be a 1930s-like depression within the next few years, according to a March 27 Rasmussen Report. Another 31 percent said it was somewhat likely, while a total of 42 percent said they did not think it was.

22.5 Millions of dollars Anheuser-Busch will pay for a 58 percent ownership share in Fulton Street Brewery LLC, according to a March 29 SunTimes.com article. The purchase will give the international beer giant ownership of Chicago's Goose Island Brewery.

25 Hundreds of yellow rubber ducks stolen from a police academy in Yorkville, Ill., according to a March 28 Associated Press article. The ducks were intended for use in the annual Duck Pluck event to raise funds for the academy.

Creationism does not have place in public classrooms

"It might not be a crime that requires jail time, or any sort of legal reproach, but this man should not be able to continue exerting his influence over students."

by Heather McGraw
Assistant Metro Editor

HERE'S A scenario: The U.S. Supreme Court acts under its appellate jurisdiction and makes a ruling against a certain act. If a person thereafter commits said act, that person would be doing something illegal.

So why has Beau Schaefer, biology teacher at Libertyville High School in Illinois, not been fired from his job?

Schaefer admitted to the Community High School District 128 School Board in March that he was teaching creationism as part of his curriculum in biology classes. There are even reports stating that he included questions about creationism on quizzes he gave to his class.

In the 1987 Edwards v. Aguillard case, the Supreme Court ruled against legislation in Louisiana that would mandate teachers to include a creationism segment in all biology classes in the state.

The court stated that the legislation was unconstitutional, further ruling that teaching creationism in a science class was unnecessary and unjustly favored one religion's ideas as scientifically sound.

But those crafty creationists tried again by renaming their theory intelligent design. They went as far as changing the name in textbooks, like "Of Pandas and People," which critically attacked evolutionary biology, in an attempt to get their books into the classroom.

Alas, they were not able to slide this past the courts. In 2005, a case was brought to the U.S. District Court in Kitzmiller v. Dover, which ruled creationism and intelligent design were religious teachings and not areas of legitimate scientific research. The case was not appealed by the school board in Pennsylvania and, thus, never made it to the Supreme Court.

The efforts of creationists are not new. In fact, there have been countless court cases involving the theory. Most, however, end badly for pro-creationists.

In 2007, Kris Helphinstine was fired for using his position as a part-time biology teacher at Central Oregon High School to promote his religious ideals. His lessons included a PowerPoint presentation linking evolution to Nazi Germany and Planned Parenthood.

The Ohio Board of Education voted to terminate John Freshwater, science teacher at Mount Vernon Middle School, in 2008 after it learned that he continued to teach creationism in his classes two years after he was initially told to stop. It took until 2011 for the board to officially terminate Freshwater's contracts, but eventually it was done.

These cases provide a good example of what should be done when a school discovers that a teacher is basing some of his or her curriculum on what can only be described as religious doctrine.

The idea of creationism cannot, unfortunately, be disproven. As anyone who has ever taken a philosophy class knows, it is impossible to disprove a negative.

My argument is not to criticize religion or come down hard on those who have faith. But in a society constantly fighting to maintain a separation of church and state, the classroom is the last place the line should be blurred.

Many pro-creationists will argue that their theory deserves the same amount of time in a biology class as the theory of evolution. This is a flawed argument.

Creationists say there are still kinks to work out when it comes to evolution. But, evolution is the basis of biology and it is accepted by scientists to be as true as the fact that the Earth revolves around the sun.

When it comes down to it, Schaefer was doing something illegal.

It might not be a crime that requires jail time or any sort of legal reproach, but this man should not be able to continue exerting his influence over students.

The Community High School District 128 should consider the impact Schaefer has already had. One father at the meeting on March 22 urged board members to remove Schaefer from the school because he had lost all effectiveness, and his ability to teach should be questioned. He also said his daughter was devastated by Schaefer's teachings. I would bet she is not the only one.

The most disturbing part of this whole scenario is not that a lawbreaking teacher is allowed to keep his job. What upsets me the most is that these impressionable teenagers have been subjected to a lesson plan the U.S. Supreme Court ruled as having no place in the classroom.

But keep up the good fight, creationists. After all, what does science love more than a challenge?

hmcgraw@chroniclemail.com

Matthew Abbott, *Somewhere Over the Rainbow,* 2010. Detail. Courtesy of Dunham Place Salon.

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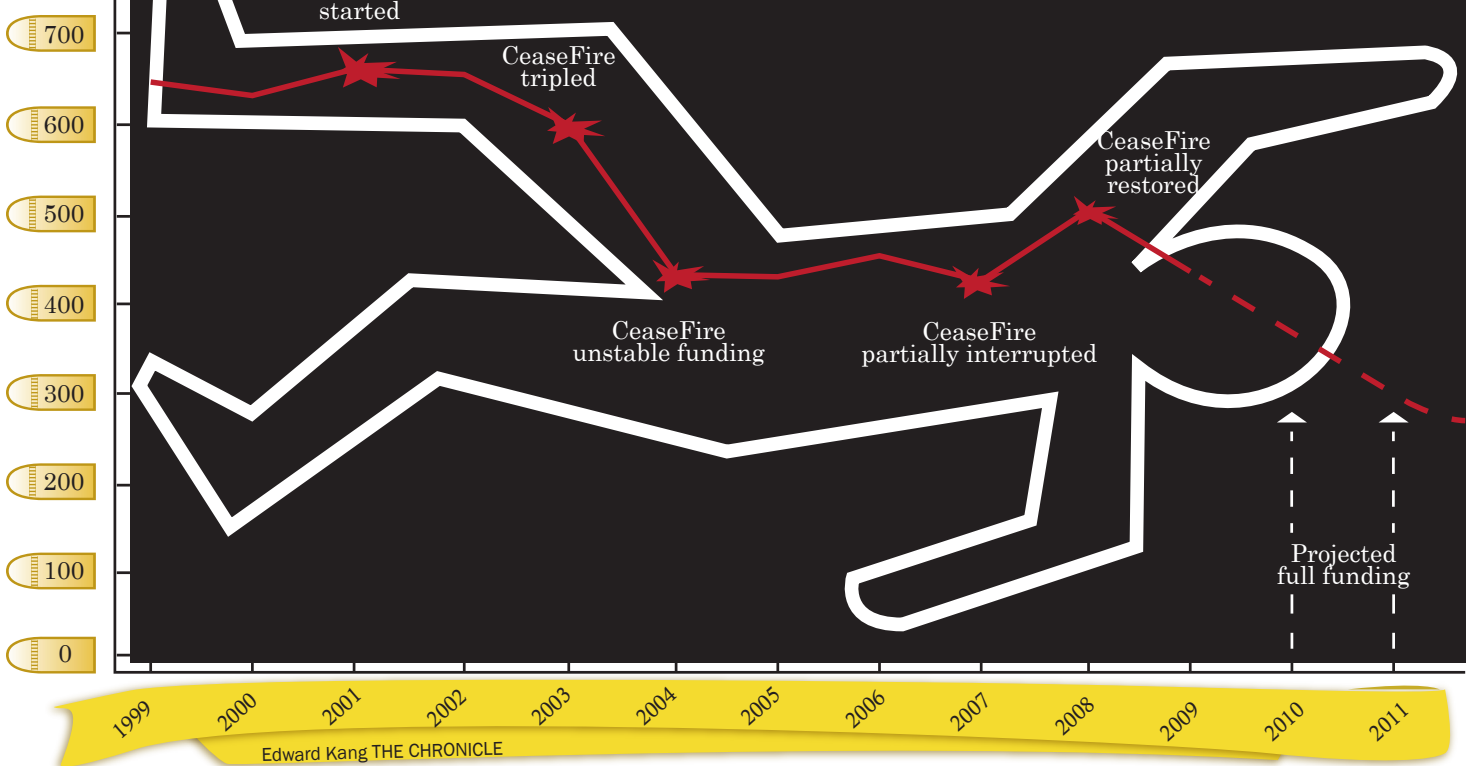

Group helps ease murder rate

Chicago homicide rates drop in 2011, CeaseFire strategies had impact

by Heather McGraw
Assistant Metro Editor

WITHIN MONTHS of being released from prison in 2002, Zale Hoddenbach was approached by a stranger who seemed to know a lot about his life.

The man was working for an organization called CeaseFire, a group which interferes in gang violence. He contacted Hoddenbach to recruit him as one of the group's "violence interrupters". After a few failed attempts, the man finally convinced Hoddenbach to come on a response call. Hoddenbach agreed and was able to personally witness what CeaseFire was doing.

After officially taking a position with the group a few weeks later, Hoddenbach went on his first response call after a child was shot. The goal was to console the family and prevent any possible retaliation.

"Seeing the young kid dead there is what really just struck me," said Hoddenbach, who is now CeaseFire's supervisor for the Latino community.

Before joining the group, Hoddenbach was sent to prison when he was 18 for violent, gang-related crimes, including shootings and aggravated battery. Aside from his work with CeaseFire, Hoddenbach also teaches a "street smarts" curriculum to approximately 600 children every week, mainly in the Humboldt Park and Logan Square neighborhoods. He presents the children with four different modules, ranging from gang awareness and resistance to conflict resolution.

CeaseFire, which was formally started in 2000 by epidemiologist Dr. Gary Slutkin, goes through the same routine countless times every year, recruiting workers from the streets. The recruits—often referred to as violence interrupters—then use their experience and reputations to reach out to other at-risk youth, putting their biggest focus on those they feel are most likely to retaliate with violence.

"The idea is just to stop the murders," Hoddenbach said. "Get in there, be the ears of the community. Feel the heartbeat of the community—the pulse of the community."

The program works with neighborhood organizers to develop strategies to prevent and assess violence. They also work with police and rely on public education programs to help spread their anti-violence message.

"We feel it's successful, but we feel there's more we can do," Hoddenbach said. "We're stopping a lot of things on the front end but there's more we can be doing."

» SEE CEASEFIRE, PG. 42

Gadget grabbers plentiful on CTA

High black market prices make smartphones sought-after items

By Ryan Haggerty and Jeremy Gorner
MCT Newswire

THE ROBBER had to time it right.

Snatch the iPhone as the train pulled up to the platform and the doors opened, creating a quick getaway.

It's among the most common crimes on the Chicago Transit Authority, with the exploding popularity of smartphones that command high prices on the black market.

But this time, in a deadly turn, the fleeing robber hit Sally Katona-King, 68, who was walking up the stairs to the platform at the Fullerton Avenue el station, knocking her down the steps. She died from the fall the next day.

Chicago police detectives, on April 1, continued to scour the area around the Lincoln Park train stop—a hub for three CTA train lines frequented by hordes of riders—for more witnesses to the incident and possible surveillance video images.

Smartphones can be an easy and lucrative target for thieves, because commuters are often distracted by listening to music or checking email or the Web. Some smartphones with a contract that sell for less than $100 in stores can be sold on the street for $200 because they're activated, said John Graeber, commander of the Chicago Police Department's public transportation section.

While police say smartphone thefts are on the rise in Chicago and nationwide, investigators are able to track and arrest criminals by tracing calls made with a stolen phone or using a phone's GPS to locate the device. Thefts of iPhones and other small electronic devices have become prevalent on the CTA, Graeber said.

While crime on the CTA rose 7.5 percent

» SEE SMARTPHONES, PG. 42

Redistricting goes public at hearing

Crowd gathers to discuss Chicago's changing boundaries

by Darryl Holliday
Metro Editor

RESIDENTS AND minority communities are expressing concern regarding the coming remapping of state and city borders, despite attempts at fairer redistricting on the part of legislators.

The first of a batch of hearings planned for the state took place on March 28 at the Michael A. Bilandic Building, 160 N. LaSalle St., in which nearly 40 residents joined a crowd of more than 100 to testify on the past, present and future of redistricting in the city.

"Redistricting will critically affect people's day-to-day lives because[it]determines who can vote, who can run for office and who can win in any given district," said Ami Gandhi, legal director for the Asian-American Institute, 4753 N. Broadway. "But historically in Illinois, minority votes have been diluted by unfair and illegal practices, including cracking and packing."

"Packing" happens when a group—typically minority—is grouped into one district to confine its voting power to one area. "Cracking" involves breaking a group up among various district with a similar result.

Concerns from minority communities were prominent during the hearing, notably from Chinatown residents. The Chinese-American gateway neighborhood has urged legislators to adopt an alternative strategy to remapping its area for the past three decades.

Gandhi and other residents said Chinatown is a victim of fracturing, which occurs

» SEE REMAP, PG. 43

Brent Lewis THE CHRONICLE

Teresa Mah, of the Coalition for a Better Chinese Community, spoke before the Senate Redistricting Committee on March 28 at the Michael A. Bilandic Building, 160 N. LaSalle St. Advocates for fairer Chinatown redistricting aim to keep the area in one district.

ELECTION RUNDOWN

Legal matters in 50th Ward ongoing after run-off

Candidates disagree regarding funds to ward organization, official decision expected

by Darryl Holliday
Metro Editor

THE HEATED 50th Ward race between Alderman Bernard Stone and challenger Debra Silverstein has become more contentious as election officials continue to look into funds related to Stone's campaign.

A complaint was filed with the Illinois State Board of Elections alleging that a local group, Concerned Citizens of the 50th Ward, failed to file disclosure reports detailing money it received. The group paid for anti-Silverstein campaign mailings and so-called robocalls to voters.

"There's an issue of whether the Concerned Citizens of the 50th Ward is an independent educational group or simply a campaign appendage," said James Nally, a lawyer representing Silverstein.

Nally questioned whether all contributions to the group have been reported.

"If you look at the amount of activity this group had, it would appear they spent in excess of $12,000, yet that's all they've reported up to now," he said. "The mailhouses don't work for free."

Contradictory A-1 reports, detailing contributions of at least $1,000 made since Jan. 1, were filed by the organization, Nally said. One of the reports originally identified three individuals as providing in-kind contributions for the mailings. Another A-1 was later reported and said the money, $12,000, had come from Alderman Bernard Stone's campaign, which he later admitted to funding but said was unintentional.

"When it was formed, the organization said they were not supporting or opposing any candidates," Silverstein said. "Then they came out with anti-Debra Silverstein, pro-Berny Stone mailings—many of them."

This isn't the first clash between Silverstein, wife of Illinois Sen. Ira Silverstein, and the 83-year-old Stone. Sen. Silverstein defeated Stone in his 2008 bid for the 50th Ward Democratic Committeeman seat and Stone recently called Ms. Silverstein, a certified public accountant, a "housewife" in a Sun-Times article.

Stone also questioned some of Silverstein's contributions because various local unions, including Unite Here Local 1, SEIU Illinois and the Chicago Teachers Union, have contributed thousands of dollars to her campaign since Jan. 1.

"She's a captive of the union," Stone said. "And of course the unions man most of the polling places on election day."

During the general municipal elections, Silverstein was one of the few candidates to be endorsed by Mayor-elect Rahm Emanuel, who is expected to continue his support for her during the run-off.

> "There's an issue of whether the Concerned Citizens of the 50th Ward is an independent educational group or simply a campaign appendage."
>
> - James Nally

Stone, however, said he has the support of two of the original three "change" candidates who didn't make the runoff, Ahmed Khan and Michael Moses.

"Throughout the campaign we had various issues and agendas that we had presented," Khan said. "After the election, Alderman Stone was the candidate willing to sit down with me and see what those ideas are."

A vote for Stone is a vote for stability, said Khan, who also noted with the budgetary pressures facing City Council, he doesn't think Silverstein has the knowledge or experience needed to face the challenges ahead.

"We don't have time right now for a learning process," he said.

Stone is campaigning for his 11th term in office. Initially elected in 1973, Stone notes his elimination of a food desert on the ward's east end and an increase in construction on Devon Avenue as some of his accomplishments.

Increased action on needed city services for residents, major economic development and the promotion of an "international marketplace" are part of Silverstein's platform she hopes will sway enough voters to elect her when the April 5 run-off comes. She said these are all points Stone has fallen short on.

Having won 33 percent of the votes in the Feb. 22 election, Silverstein notes a majority—63 percent—of those who cast ballots against Stone and says that's evidence the neighborhood is ready for change.

Stone, who won 37 percent of the vote, said he's confident he will be able to win an 11th term.

However, the question of Stone's contribution to the Concerned Citizens of the 50th Ward lingers. A hearing was held on March 3 and a public hearing on March 30, where evidence was presented by Silverstein's lawyers regarding the nondisclosure of funds by the group.

Silverstein's lawyers anticipate a decision by the Illinois State board of elections regarding the case in the coming months.

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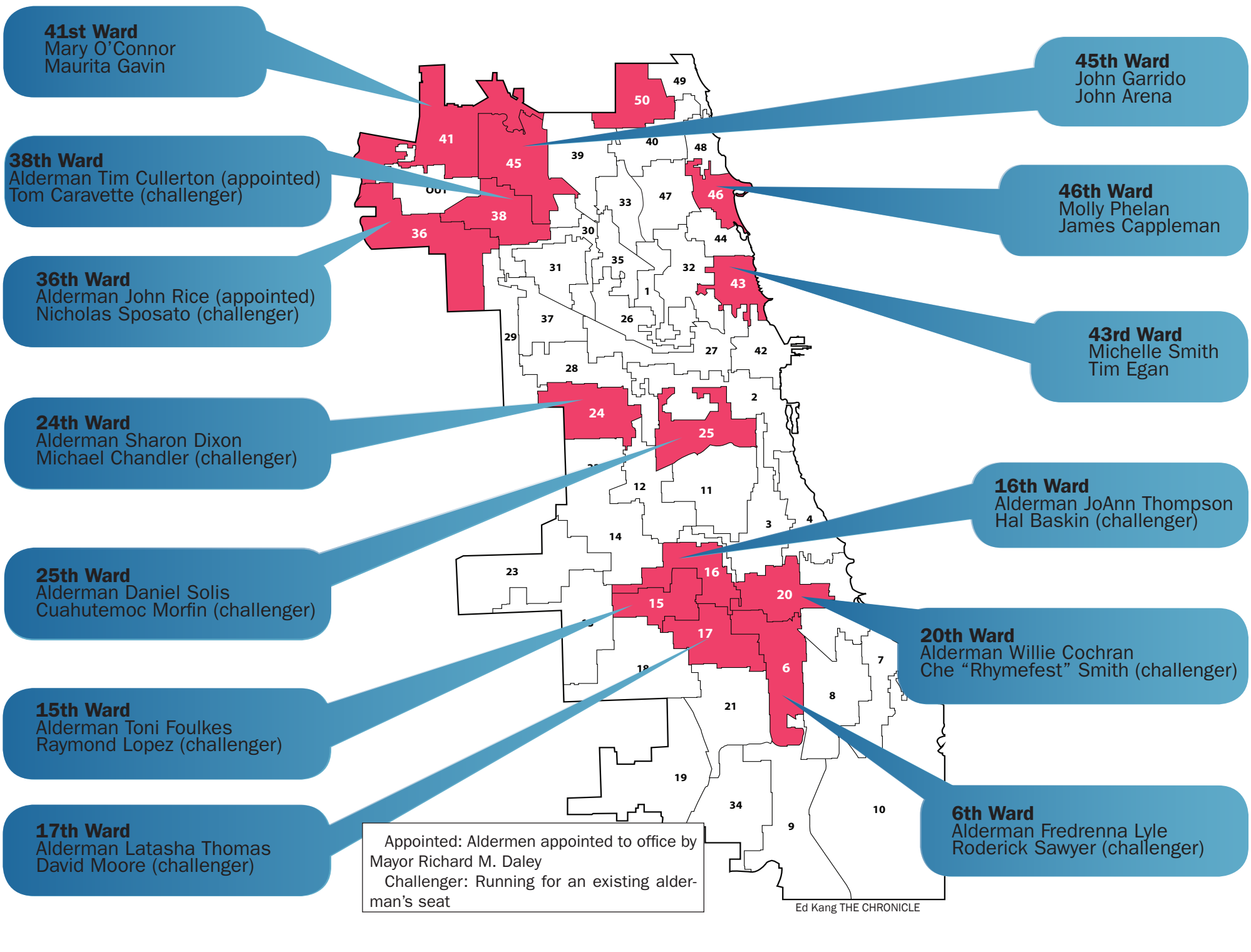

Dan Peterman. *Villa Deponie*, 2002. Collection Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Joseph and Jory Shapiro Fund by exchange. © 2002 Dan Peterman

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» SMARTPHONES

Continued from PG. 39

in 2010 compared with 2009, robberies soared 17.4 percent. Neither the CTA nor Chicago police track how many electronic devices are stolen.

Police said the suspect and the robbery victim in the March 28 incident were on a northbound Brown Line train that stopped at the Fullerton station at about 4:20 p.m. When the doors opened, the suspect snatched the woman's iPhone out of her hand and ran away after a brief struggle, police said. He knocked over Katona-King while racing down the stairwell.

The Cook County medical examiner's office said Katona-King suffered multiple injuries and ruled her death a homicide.

Undercover officers riding CTA trains and buses look for thieves trying to steal smartphones, Graeber said, but he advised commuters to be aware of their surroundings. Criminals often work in small groups and target people standing or sitting near a train's doors, he said.

Users should also enable features that allow all data on a stolen or lost phone to be deleted remotely, said Nikki Junker, social media coordinator and victim adviser at the Identity Theft Resource Center.

Several apps are available that allow smartphone users to find their phones with GPS, display a message on their phone's screen or make the phone emit a loud sound for minutes at a time.

A person whose smartphone has been lost or stolen should act as if their wallet were missing and contact their bank and credit card companies and notify police, Junker said.

chronicle@colum.edu

Tiela Halpin THE CHRONICLE

Smartphone robberies are the latest trend on CTA trains. One case, on March 28, led to a 68-year-old woman's death when she was knocked down on the stairwell at the Fullerton Brown Line station.

» CEASEFIRE

Continued from PG. 39

In 2010, the number of Chicago homicides dropped from 460 to 435. Many think CeaseFire's presence played a role in this.

Officer Darryl Baety, Chicago Police Department spokesman, said there are a lot of variables that contribute to declining homicide rates, including political and police strategies.

He said it comes down to the police working with different organizations to achieve community goals.

"I would definitely attribute some of our success to CeaseFire," Baety said.

According to a 2009 report by the Institute for Policy Research at Northwestern University, in areas where CeaseFire is present, there was on average between a 20 and 30 percent decrease in killings. Areas considered "hot spots" for crime had a larger range of a 15 to 40 percent decrease.

The institute evaluated the CeaseFire program through a commission from the National Institute of Justice. Because the program is funded primarily through charity foundations and private or corporate funders, the study was completely independent.

One of the key components of the institute's research was personal interviews with more than 300 individuals who worked with the program.

"We interviewed them to see their views of how successful CeaseFire was in terms of disengaging them from gangs, getting them into a GED program, getting them into a job readiness or job seeking program and very substantial percentages of them described success along these lines," said Wesley Skogan, professor at the Institute for Policy Research.

Skogan said when participants were asked who the most influential and important adults were in their lives, the second most popular answer—behind their mothers—was their CeaseFire outreach worker.

The institute also concentrated on CeaseFire's general impact on gang violence and CeaseFire's prevention efforts, which Skogan said is the group's main focus.

"What we saw in particular were big reductions in reciprocal killings," Skogan said. "They would step in to stop the retaliations from happening, and they were very successful at stopping the reciprocal killings in their target areas."

One particular area of focus that provided a good example of CeaseFire's impact was Englewood, according to Skogan. The institute found overall shootings were down 34 percent in that neighborhood since CeaseFire's work began.

James Highsmith, program manager for CeaseFire Englewood, said the program is a huge success in his beats.

"When we're fully funded and fully implemented, it has been proven that it works, and it reduces occurrences of violence, shootings and killings dramatically," he said.

While Highsmith said he thinks the overall decline in homicide rates could be linked in part to CeaseFire, he said law enforcement and community organizations must also be taken into consideration for the part they play.

"As they say, 'It takes a whole village to raise a child,'" Highsmith said. "It takes a whole village to deal with the epidemic of violence."

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» REMAP

Continued from PG. 39

when a group of people with common interests and demographics is weakened through district partitions. The area is split between four state house districts, three senate districts, three congressional districts and four wards.

Groups in similar positions, such as residents of Little Village, argue this causes people with common interests to be split between various representatives who do not necessarily represent them as a unified community.

Since the last redistricting cycle in 2000, the Chinatown population has increased dramatically, according to Teresa Mah, policy consultant at the Coalition for a Better Chinese Community, a group formed in order to keep Chicago's Chinese community in a single district.

"We've been chomping at the bit to have this opportunity again after 10 long years," Mah said.

Being combined into one district would increase the voting power of the more than 31,000 Chinatown area residents, possibly allowing them to elect a representative of their choice. According to the CBCC, the proposed Greater Chinatown Community Area would by defined by the Chicago River on the north, Kedzie Avenue to the west, roughly Pershing Road to the south and Indiana Avenue on the east.

Chinatown community advocates testifying at the hearing argued the prominent demographic and institutional anchors in the area—including the many businesses and cultural centers—serve to tie the community together and justify the need for a single district.

"Because we're split up in so many districts, it's hard for our legislators to be responsible to the needs in our community," said David Woo, executive director of the Pui Tak Center, a church-based community center in Chinatown. He also noted that the large number of U.S. born and immigrant residents find it difficult to become more involved participants in political processes.

As legislators continue to redraw Illinois' boundaries in the coming months, they will have to take into account the many city regions that claim to be, or in fact, are unduly impacted by unfair results of the last redistricting cycle.

The Illinois Voting Rights Act of 2011, sponsored by State Sen. Kwame Raoul and signed into law on March 7, "provides that legislative and representative districts shall be drawn to create crossover, coalition or influence districts." Along with an unprecedented increase in resident procedural involvement, the legislation will attempt to protect minority voting rights.

The Redistricting Committee, chaired by Raoul, hopes to hold approximately 10 to 15 hearings across the state before the map can be approved on June 30, according to Ronald Holmes, spokesman for the Redistricting Committee.

"As far as we're concerned the [Chicago] hearing was a huge success," Holmes said. "Sen. Raoul, in his opening statement, said this has been the most open redistricting process so far, and the hearing on [March 28] definitely reinforced that."

However, with less than three months before the new lines are submitted, residents will have to stay on guard to attain a map in their best interest. Noting what he called a need for a "dramatic overhaul" of the redistricting process, Sen. Dale Righter also issued a warning to the crowd gathered at the hearing.

"Keep in mind two things after this hearing is over: One is you should insist on having just as many, if not more, substantive hearings on the map that actually comes out ... and two, you should insist on knowing exactly, specifically, what criteria were used in drawing that map we will see later," he said.

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Photos Sara Mays THE CHRONICLE

(Above) Chinatown residents walk along Wentworth Avenue. Many members of the community are urging legislators to keep the area intact, proposing the "Greater Chinatown Community Area" as a demographic and institutionally cohesive region. (Below) The Senate Redistricting Committee hears testimony from residents on March 28.

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» BILLBOARDS

Continued from Front Page

to the group's campaign focused on low-income, primarily black communities, such as Chicago's South Side and adjacent parts of the West Side.

According to Broden, these communities are targeted because of the impact abortion has on that population.

"They're just unaware of how devastating this practice is and what it is doing in terms of our population numbers across the country," Broden said.

In February 2011, Life Always started a similar ad campaign in New York City's SoHo neighborhood. Those billboards featured pictures of a young black girl and said, "The most dangerous place for an African-American is in the womb."

That billboard was later removed after the girl's mother revealed she had not given the group permission to use her daughter's photo in the advertisement.

The new Chicago billboards also received some opposition from abortion rights groups, like the Chicago Abortion Fund. Executive Director of CAF Gaylon Alcaraz was at the unveiling ceremony on March 22 because she said her group didn't want the voices of Life Always to be the lone ones heard that day.

"That's why we went out," Alcaraz said. "Not necessarily to protest, but to make our presence known and talk to media to pass out press releases about out position on it."

According to Alcaraz, CAF thinks the billboards are derogatory and condescending.

"It's just wrong on a lot of different levels," Alcaraz said. "We wanted to express our displeasure in these shock-value tactics that these outside organizations are coming in attempting to do."

Obama's image in the advertisements was used in a negative manner, according to Alcaraz. She said a speaker at the unveiling said the president's picture was used because he is more recognizable to young people than Frederick Douglass or Stevie Wonder.

"[They're] basically saying the people in this community are not educated, that we don't know who those people are, who famous black people are," Alcaraz said.

But Rev. Isaac Hayes, an anti-abortion activist who spoke at the unveiling and the president of the Frederick Douglass Foundation of Illinois, said the president's image was used to draw a correlation between the high number of abortions in the black community and his position as leader of the free world.

"Putting his face there, which is very recognizable, it's going to get people's attention," Hayes said. "I think most will get the point that it's not in any way demeaning to the president. It's very much honoring the president in saying we don't know who the next leader may be and by terminating those pregnancies we cut off those possibilities."

African-Americans make up slightly more than 12 percent of the total population but account for 37 percent of all abortions, according to Hayes. He also said black women choose abortion five times more often than white women.

"What genocide looks like is taking place in the black community," Broden said. "[We have] a goal of activating a grassroots movement that will push back against the culture of death."

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Tiela Halpin THE CHRONICLE

Local women, who declined to identify themselves, argue with an anti-abortion advocate over the billboards' presence in their neighborhood at the press conference on March 29. The women claim the group responsible for the billboards has no true concept of what their lives are like and has no right to tell them what to do with their bodies.

"**Cheap, fast, and good. The Chicago dogs are spot-on...**" –Edward P., Chicago IL.

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FEATURED PHOTO

Sara Mays THE CHRONICLE

Devoted Chicago Cubs fans stand outside Wrigley Field in the rain at gate R on Sheffield for the Cubs home opener on April 1. The Cubs lost to the Pittsburgh Pirates 6-3, although they had 11 hits.

IN OTHER NEWS

Rose is blooming

According to HuffingtonPost.com, two-time NBA MVP Lebron James doesn't think he deserves the award this year. James said he thinks the Chicago Bulls' Derrick Rose is the front-runner this season. "What he's done for that team, with all the injuries they have and them being first in the Eastern Conference—they're playing some really good basketball," James said. The Bulls were at the top of the Eastern Conference with a record of 54-20, and Rose was averaging 25 points a game with 7.9 assists and 4.2 rebounds as of press time. The MVP vote is decided before the conference finals.

Crosstown rivals

On April 14, President Barack Obama will arrive in Chicago for a brief fundraising visit, according to ChicagoTribune.com. The same day, one of his biggest critics, Glenn Beck, will be performing his "Glenn Beck Live" show at the Chicago Theater, 175 N. State St. Obama will be returning to his hometown to meet with Democratic fundraisers in hopes of having them raise $350,000 by the end of the year for his 2012 campaign. Chicago was also designated as the headquarters for Obama's re-election campaign. Details on the fundraising event were not available, as of press time.

Targeting Cabrini

Target Corp. has been talking to the Chicago Housing Authority, according to SunTimes.com, and will likely put in a new store at the former location of the Cabrini-Green housing development. Matt Aguilar, spokesman for the CHA, said the deal calls for a "land-swap," in which Target will give the CHA a parcel of land equal in value to be used for building new housing in the same neighborhood. Aguilar also said Target agreed to hire 75 CHA residents at the potential new store. A typical Target store has roughly 500 employees, but the new urban format calls for 200.

Ban no more

According to TheExpiredMeter.com, Chicago's overnight winter parking ban officially ended at 7 a.m. on March 31. The annual ban, which runs from Dec. 1 through April 1, usually results in the Department of Streets and Sanitation removing thousands of illegally parked vehicles, costing city drivers anywhere from $50 to $160 and up in tickets and fines. Although the overnight ban has ended, another one that prohibits parking on city streets after two inches of snow remains in effect year-round. April 1 also is the official first day of the city's street cleaning season.

OFF THE BLOTTER

Compiled by Chronicle staff with information provided by the Chicago Police Department. Map created by Jonathan Allen THE CHRONICLE.

1 The ex files

A Columbia student told police officers a former friend sent her numerous emails from March 17–29 after she had repeatedly told him to stop, according to police reports. The suspect also left written notes, flowers and balloons for her on two separate occasions at 1324 S. Plymouth Court.

2 Picturing will

A woman told officers she received text messages with photos of a male exposing his penis, according to police reports. The woman said the suspect has sent a total of four "posed" photos from March 25–28, and the same phone number called her several times and hung up when she answered.

3 Sinja ninja

A taxi driver told officers he received threatening phone calls from an unknown male who said, "I am going to kill you" and "Stay away from Sinja," according to police reports, on March 28. The victim told officers Sinja is a friend of his and fellow taxi driver, who also received threatening calls, though he was not able to provide the phone number of the suspect caller.

4 Home invasion

According to police reports, on March 26 a man told officers a suspect was at his doorway, brandishing a knife in the hall as he left his apartment at 30 E. Roosevelt Road. The suspect ordered him to remain quiet, led him back inside and made him lie on the floor before tying his wrists together. The victim told officers while on the floor, the suspect took his wallet and ran out the front door.

Games

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21–April 20) Friends and lovers will react strongly this week to new opinions or late social changes. Group expectations and romantic passions are high during the next 12 days. Take extra time to explain last minute cancellations and clarify long-term intentions. Later this week, contact a distant colleague or forgotten friend. Before May, complex family demands and competing romantic interests may be quite draining for friends or co-workers. Your emotional support is needed.

TAURUS (April 21–May 20) Financial facts, permissions or paperwork are now vital to the success of long-term business ventures. Thoroughly check sources for misinformation and carefully research proposed improvements. New partnerships and complex work projects will now benefit from cautious planning and a relentless commitment to detail: Refuse to be limited by poorly defined agreements. After Saturday, social invitations will dramatically increase: Stay open to usual proposals.

GEMINI (May 21–June 21) New romantic proposals are passionate but unreliable. During the next few days, enjoy compliments from potential lovers but wait for valid social promises, public displays of affection and firm commitments. Love affairs and sensuality will soon be an ongoing distraction. Remain determined and respond quickly to sudden reversals. Later this week, a disgruntled colleague may voice strong opinions. Refuse to be drawn into bold discussions: Workplace politics are unpredictable.

CANCER (June 22–July 22) Love relationships will this week challenge your need for privacy and predictable routines. Someone close may now wish to bring greater spontaneity into their lives. Creativity, romantic expression and group behavior may all be at issue. Define strong terms and accept new changes. In the coming weeks emotional progress will be fast and rewarding. After Wednesday, business relationships may expand to include financial agreements or partnerships. Study key paperwork.

LEO (July 23–Aug. 22) Family decisions are unnecessary during the next few days. Although loved ones may now press for quick home revisions, this is not the right time for newly established routines or heated group discussions. Encourage patience and opt for light social encounters. Close relatives will follow your example. After Thursday, powerful insights are available. Key issues may involve unfinished love relationships or past misunderstandings: Pay special attention the subtle hints of friends.

VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22) Social habits and repeated emotional patterns are now a source of private tension. Group activities may provide the needed relief. After Tuesday, plan outdoor events or explore new forms of entertainment. During the next few days, loved ones will adopt renewed optimism or actively challenge unproductive behaviors. Friday through Sunday highlight bold career discussions and financial negotiations with loved ones. Complicated ideas will require extra planning: Stay alert.

LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 23) Listen closely this week to the social needs and family expectations of loved ones. A long-term friend or relative now needs added group support. Areas affected involve addictive behaviors, complicated relationships or unusual power struggles between friends. Stay focused and offer sincere opinions: Your sensitivity to private details will be appreciated. After Thursday, many Librans begin several weeks of increased career ambition and business research. Opt for change.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24–Nov. 22) Romantic partners this week may ask for increased access to private family decisions. New proposals, community involvement and group awareness are now a top priority for loved ones. Encourage a fresh perspective from all concerned: Important relationships will soon require dramatic emotional growth and serious choices. Later this week, minor home repairs may prove unusually costly. Go slow and wait for new instructions: Revitalized plans will soon emerge.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23–Dec. 21) Before midweek, younger relatives may be temperamental or quick to anger. Don't be derailed. Close friends and family members now need extra time to explore a fresh social perspective and new family behaviors. Provide optimism and reassurance. Calm home relationships will soon be re-established. After Thursday, many Sagittarians begin a brief but intense phase of job strain or work disruption. Authority figures may challenge key ideas: If possible, research other options.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 20) Friendly or innocent flirtations will now deepen. After Tuesday, expect rare complications in business relationships and unusual proposals in long-term friendships. Although new attractions are potentially rewarding, minor delays concerning confirmed times or romantic promises may be bothersome. Wait for an obvious display of public affection. Wednesday through Saturday, career and financial negotiations are complex but successful: Closely study detailed paperwork.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21–Feb. 19) Someone close may soon reveal a powerful need for social or romantic change. Boredom, emotional withdrawal and long-term doubt now need to be publicly addressed. After midweek, offer constructive ideas for improvement or revised habits: Loved ones need your guidance and continuing daily support. Thursday through Saturday accent rare family discussions and unexpected financial improvements. New sources of income may be revealed: Remain flexible.

PISCES (Feb. 20–March 20) Important business decisions are best avoided over the next few days. Authority figures may now feel briefly threatened by public announcements, probing questions or suddenly changing routines. Remain cautious but watch for valid opportunities for candid discussions. Your suggestions and needs are valid. Later this week, a close friend may demand a detailed explanation of a past decision or social event. Offer neither: Disputes will not be easily resolved.

SUDOKU Level 2

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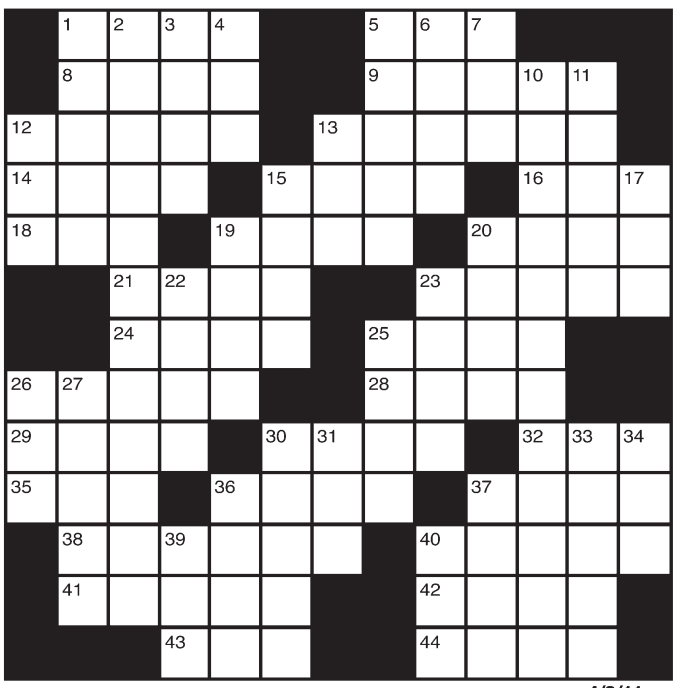
CROSSWORD



4/3/11

ACROSS
1 "__ '70s Show"
5 Bartender on "Cheers"
8 "__ Improvement"
9 Lt. __ Van Buren; "Law & Order" role
12 Food for which Oliver Twist asked for more
13 Like a collision in the sky
14 Actor Rip __
15 Actor Danza
16 "O Sole __"; song from Naples
18 Cries of sudden pain
19 "The Man Who __ Liberty Valance"; John Wayne movie
20 Singer/songwriter Billy __
21 Walk around with a long face
23 Information on a book spine
24 Days of __; times long past
25 "The __ Chaparral"
26 Like a harsh, grating voice
28 "__ Rider"; movie for Peter Fonda and Dennis Hopper
29 Sandwich choices, for short
30 Diner on "Alice"
32 "Scarecrow and __. King"
35 Suffix for favor or graph
36 "My Name Is __"
37 Word to a pest
38 Vine-covered latticework shelters
40 Actress __ Dickinson
41 "__ Hope"; soap opera of past decades
42 Claim against property
43 Bit of sooty residue
44 "Planet of the __"; Charlton Heston/Roddy McDowall movie

DOWN
1 "__ Momma from the Train"; film for Danny DeVito & Billy Crystal
2 "48 __"
3 Sitcom for Sherman Hemsley
4 __ Aviv, Israel
5 Actress Eva Marie __
6 Opie's pa
7 Farrow or Kirshner
10 Sean Murray's role on "NCIS"
11 Lead character in "The Little Mermaid"
12 Classic Pontiac
13 Cow's comment
15 "How do I love __? Let me count the ways..."
17 "Grand __ Opry"
19 Nimble; agile
20 Lively Irish dances
22 Fumbler's word
23 Mowry and Carrere
25 "From __"; Johnny Depp movie
26 Baseball hitter's stat.
27 Church table
30 Swampland
31 Trauma centers, for short
33 Actor Claude __
34 Sault __. Marie
36 Long, long times
37 Make a quick cut
39 "__, Baa, Black Sheep"
40 Birmingham's state: abbr.

Solution to Last Week's Puzzle

B	O	B	■	G	O	I	N	G	■	C	A	L
O	R	E	■	A	N	S	O	N	■	A	R	I
N	B	A	■	Z	O	R	R	O	■	R	M	N
N	I	C	H	E	■	■	■	M	A	S	O	N
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C	E	O	■	P	R	O	W	L	■	N	N	E
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4/3/11

Stay In

"The New AFI 100: Is 'Citizen Kane' really the greatest film of all time?"

4.5.11
4:30 p.m.
1104 Center
1104 S. Wabash Ave.,
room 302
FREE

On the eve of the latest installment of the AFI 100 Best Films and the Sight and Sound Greatest Films list, participate in a lively discussion that sets out to answer the most asked question among film students: "Is 'Citizen Kane' really the greatest film of all time?" The panel features Robert K. Elder, author of "The Film That Changed My Life: 30 Directors on Their Epiphanies in the Dark;" Michael J. Phillips, film critic at the Chicago Tribune; Tasha Robinson, film critic at The AV Club of The Onion; and Milos Stehlik, founder of Facets Multimedia. After the discussion, Elder will sign copies of his book.

ShopColumbia's Sustainability in the City

4.7.11
11 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Quincy Wong Center for Artistic Expression
Wabash Campus Building,
623 S. Wabash Ave.

ShopColumbia and the Columbia College Recycling Program are collaborating to produce Sustainability in the City, a sale of artwork created by Columbia students. All artwork presented will embrace the concepts of reuse, recycling and reduction. Sustainability in the City promotes artists who already apply sustainability to their work and educating others on how they can and why it is important. In addition to the sale, ShopColumbia and CCRP will host an Art Supply Swap from April 4 – 7, where artists can discard unwanted materials and others can repurpose. Please do not bring hazardous or toxic materials. In celebration of Earth Month, ShopColumbia will be giving away a free ShopColumbia reusable tote with every $50 purchase through the entire month of April.

(312) 369-3295
FREE

Art Baltazar

4.8.11
5 p.m.
Ferguson Theater, Alexandroff Campus Center
600 S. Michigan Ave..
1st floor

Alumnus Art Baltazar is the creative force behind the New York Times best-selling, Eisner Award-winning DC Comics' "Tiny Titans," co-writer for "Billy Batson and the Magic of Shazam" and more. He defines cartoons and comics as an art style and way of life. He has created many characters, worked with Warner Bros. and had a monthly comic strip in Disney Adventures Magazine called "Gorilla Gorilla."

(312) 369-6987
FREE

FREE

Monday 4.4

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

Joaquin Garcia senior recital
7 – 8 p.m.
Music Center
1014 S. Michigan Ave.
(312) 369-6179
FREE

FREE

Tuesday 4.5

Muggles Association of Columbia first meeting
Noon – 3 p.m.
The Loft
916 S. Wabash Ave. Building
jesus.torres@loop.colum.edu
FREE

The Big Read – Keynote Address: Veterans in Conversation
6 – 8 p.m.
Stage Two
618 S. Michigan Ave. Building
rfeshbach@colum.edu
FREE

Acoustic Kitchen
7 – 10 p.m.
Quincy Wong Center for Artistic Expression
Wabash Campus Building,
623 S. Wabash Ave.
FREE; sign up to perform with ddolak@colum.edu

Wednesday 4.6

Take 1 Student Film Festival
5:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Film Row Cinema, 1104 Center
1104 S. Wabash Ave., 8th floor
(312) 369-6700
FREE

Laser Tag
7 – 9 p.m.
Meet at Residence Center
731 S. Plymouth Court
(312) 369-6917
$10

Music Department Showcase
7:30 – 10:30 p.m.
Reggie's Rock Room
2105 S. State St.
(312) 949-0121
FREE; 17+

Thursday 4.7

Spring Job Fair
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Film Row Center, 1104 Center
1104 S. Wabash Ave., 8th floor
mevans@colum.edu
FREE; students must pre-register

12th Annual Citywide Undergraduate Poetry Festival
5:25 p.m.
Ferguson Hall, Alexandroff Campus Center
600 S. Michigan Ave., room 101
(312) 369-8819
FREE

FREE

Friday 4.8

Student Affairs Committee of the College Council meeting
9:30 – 11 a.m.
Alexandroff Campus Center
600 S. Michigan Ave., room 401
echung@colum.edu
FREE

Jazz Forum
2 – 4 p.m.
Music Center
1014 S. Michigan Ave.
(312) 369-6179
FREE

FREE

Saturday 4.9

Trevor Hardin senior recital
3:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Music Center
1014 S. Michigan Ave.
(312) 369-6179
FREE

"John Fischetti Exhibition"
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Columbia Library, South Campus Building
624 S. Michigan Ave., 1st floor
(312) 369-7900
FREE

The Big Read – The Allure of Vietnam, photographs by Liat Smestad
All day
Columbia Library, South Campus Building
624 S. Michicgan Ave., 2nd floor
rfeshbvach@colum.edu
FREE

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theater english a+d radio iam journalism speaker film

Get Out

“The Alchemist”

4.8.11
8 p.m. // Heartland Studio Theatre
7016 N. Glenwood Ave.

In the Alchemist’s parlor, anything can be yours: endless riches, beautiful women, guaranteed success, the defeat and death of your enemies, the list goes on and on. But what happens when this world collapses? Come see Ben Jonson’s “modern masterpiece of misanthropy” to witness a downright gritty attack on hypocrisy, morality, greed, lust and plain human nature.

(773) 465-8005
$10–$15

“Peter Fischli and David Weiss: Questions, the Sausage Photographs, and a Quiet Afternoon”

4.4.11 – 5.1.11
10:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. //
The Art Institute of Chicago
111 S. Michigan Ave., 1st floor

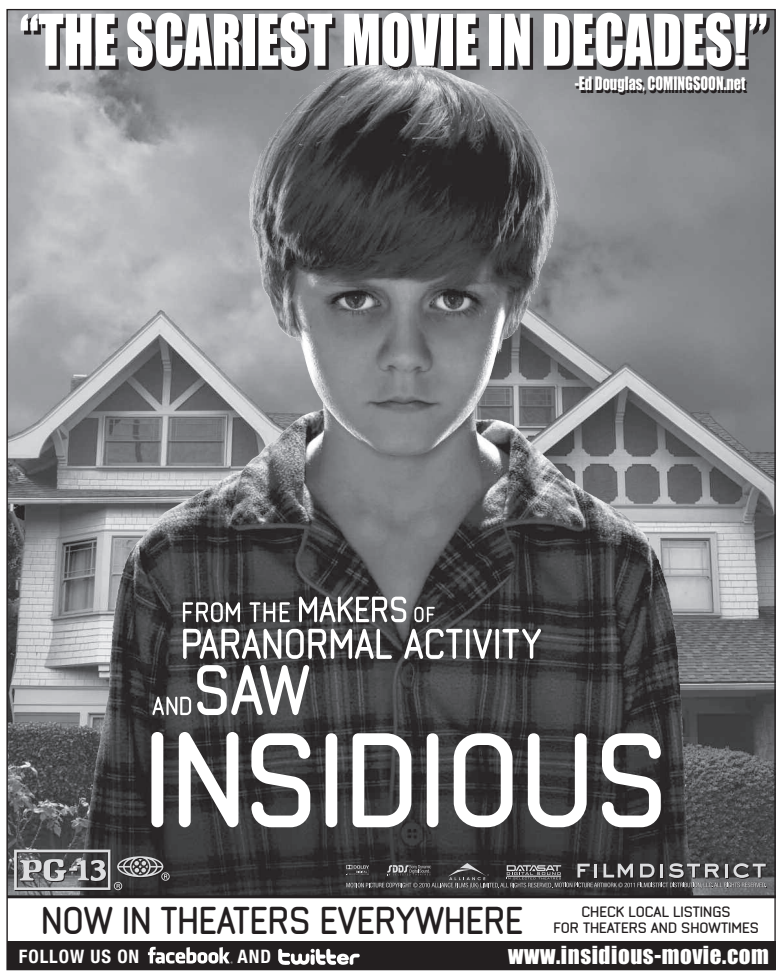
Come enjoy the beauty of commonplace objects. This exhibit features two separate photography series totaling 92 photographs. Artists Peter Fischili and David Weiss exhibit their conceptually driven art influenced by Dada, surrealism and pop art with characteristics of humor, playfulness and “an interest in language and everyday objects.” The exhibit is sponsored by the Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation.

(312) 443-3533
$18; $12 for students with valid ID

“The Grisly/Glorious Adventure of Winnie-the-Pooh and Billy Moon”

4.4.11
8 p.m. //
Dream Theatre Company
556 W. 18th St.
(773) 552-8616
$15+

The Dream Theatre Company presents a story of a man who has grown to resent his imagination and a childhood imaginary friend in the form of a bear that “left him” as a boy. The play chronicles adventures the boy and his bear took together and the happiness and friendship the bear provided. It also depicts the destruction of imagination when dreams and innocence die.



music movie
art night life
sports theatre
food TV
reading museum

Monday 4.4

Rehab Three-Year Anniversary: The Max
10 p.m.
Debonair Social Club
1575 N. Milwaukee Ave.
(773) 227-7990
FREE; 21+

Tuesday 4.5

Toro Y Moi
9:30 p.m.
Empty Bottle
1035 N. Western Ave.
(312) 564-2100
FREE; 21+

Midwest Film Festival
6 p.m.
Landmark’s Century Cinema
2828 N. Clark St.
(312) 642-4222
$10

Wednesday 4.6

Soup and Bread
5:30 – 8 p.m.
The Hideout
1354 W. Wabansia Ave.
(773) 227-4433
FREE; 21+

Chicago Blackhawks vs. St. Louis Blues
7:30 p.m.
United Center
1901 W. Madison St.
(312) 455-4000
$56–$627

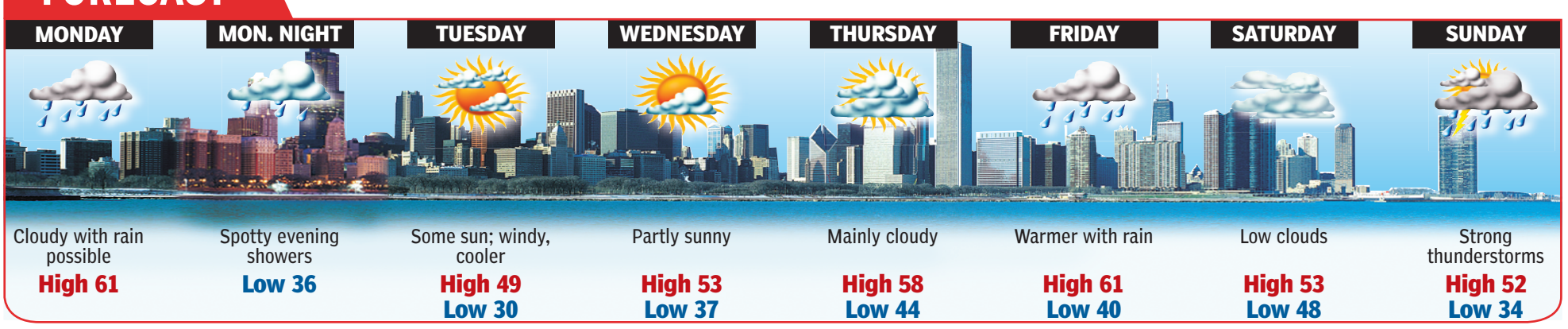
Thursday 4.7

God of Carnage
7:30 p.m.
Goodman Theatre
170 N. Dearborn St.
(312) 443-3800
$26–$76

Summer Festival Guide launch party
6 – 9 p.m.
State Restaurant and Café
935 W. Webster Ave.
(773) 975-8030
FREE

Friday 4.8

NBA Eastern Conference Quarterfinals: Chicago Bulls vs. TBD
1 p.m.
United Center
1901 W. Madison St.
(312) 455-4500
$88+

Baby Wants Candy
10:30 p.m.
Apollo Theater
2540 N. Lincoln Ave.
(733) 935-6100
$15; $6 for students with valid ID

FORECAST