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Last listening forum for prioritization

Teams host assemblies, discuss reports before final decisions



Ting Shen THE CHRONICLE

Members of the Academic Team conduct a presentation April 9 at Film Row Cinema in the Conaway Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave. to discuss the current prioritization process and address the Columbia community's questions.

by Heather Schroering
Campus Editor

THE LAST forums before President Warrick L. Carter and the Board of Trustees decide the fate of Columbia's programs were held April 9-10. While the college has historically been known for its open admissions policy, the Academic Team discussed in

depth its recommendation that admissions become more selective.

The Academic and Support & Operations teams hosted assemblies open to the college community at Film Row Cinema in the Conaway Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave. The Academic Team gave a brief presentation on its prioritization program recommendations

before opening the floor for questions.

Don Smith, associate professor in the Film & Video Department and member of the Academic Team, explained why the team recommended a more selective admissions policy citing "morale reasons."

"As parents and prospective students look at Columbia, they see a graduation

rate that is too low compared to our competitors and similar institutions," Smith said. "Among our recommendations we include a more selective policy...We want students to succeed and persist, not to leave prematurely with crushing debt."

Peter Hartel, associate professor in the

» SEE PRIORITIZATION, PG. 2

Double-dipper

CFO candidate collecting salary, pension at Northeastern Illinois

by Sam Charles
Managing Editor

THE SEARCH for Columbia's next Chief Financial Officer was expected to conclude during summer 2011. Patricia Heath, interim CFO and vice president of business affairs, has been temporary steward of Columbia's finances since January 2011 when former CFO Michael DeSalle stepped down.

In an April 10 email to the college community, President Warrick L. Carter said offers were made to other candidates but none were accepted.

"Unfortunately, because of circumstances that occurred with the candidates after the interview process, they declined

[Columbia's] offers," the email read.

One of the newest candidates seeking to fill the position is Mark Wilcockson, current vice president for Finance and Administration at Northeastern Illinois University, 5500 N. St. Louis Ave.

Though he has experience in higher education finance, Wilcockson and other secondary education administrators in Illinois have come under fire for allegedly double-dipping from state funds.

According to a CBS2 investigation, Wilcockson retired from NEIU, where he was earning more than \$160,000 a year. He then returned to the university to earn \$123,000 per year in addition to collecting his \$101,312 annual pension, CBS reported.

It is unknown if Wilcockson would keep

his state pension if he were to be hired as Columbia's CFO. Wilcockson could not be reached for comment.

He is scheduled to take part in an open Q-and-A forum on April 20 with members of the college community.

The college, which had no comment, has used an independent firm to find candidates to fill the position.

According to Columbia's job description of the CFO position, "The Vice President for Business Affairs and Chief Financial Officer is responsible for providing leadership, direction, and management of the fiscal and information technology functions of the college."

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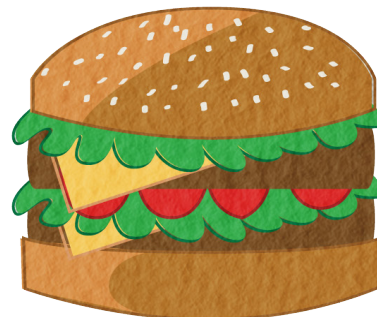
STOCK PHOTO

Fast food blues

by Emily Fasold
Assistant Sports & Health Editor

IT IS no secret that greasy fast foods like burgers, french fries and fried chicken are bad for human health, but new research has found that they are also linked to depression.

The study, published March 15 in the Public Health Nutrition journal and conducted by researchers at the University



Danaily Keo THE CHRONICLE

» SEE FAST FOOD, PG. 15

Campus

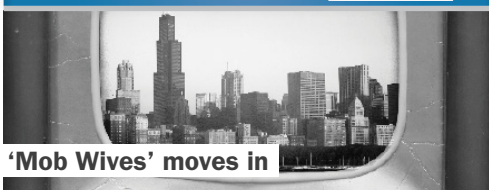
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Lives of honorary recipients

Arts & Culture

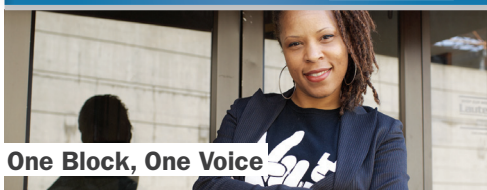
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'Mob Wives' moves in

Metro

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One Block, One Voice

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Pomp and circumstance



by Brianna Wellen
Editor-in-Chief

AS THE last few weeks of school dwindle down, an all-important event builds momentum: graduation, or as those at Columbia call it to sound fancier and more important, Commencement.

I’ve already had three graduations. My kindergarten graduation ceremony consisted of a performance of Noah’s Ark. For my eighth-grade graduation, I entered a competition to give the commencement speech and lost. High school graduation was dominated by the daunting task of figuring out how to get past “robe checks” with Silly String still intact for the ceremony.

Looking back on those scenes, I begin to realize that though I am a veteran of graduating, college graduation will be the first one that really matters.

I came to Columbia as a freshman in 2008 and four years later will be walking across the stage of the Chicago Theatre to receive an empty folder that will eventually hold my diploma. I’ve learned that graduating in four years is becoming somewhat of a rarity these days, and based on Columbia’s retention rates, the fact that myself and so many others I know have done so is nothing short of amazing. For all the heartache Columbia may have caused this year’s graduates in the run-up to graduation, they certainly know how to send us out in style.

As my graduation gets closer, my father relayed to me the tale of his. It was in

his school's gymnasium, everyone was a sweaty mess because there was no air conditioning and the graduating class had to listen to a small town mayor, senator or another equally boring politician speak for an hour. When I later tell the story of my graduation, I’ll be able to say I graduated in downtown Chicago at the historic Chicago Theatre and listened to legendary gospel singer Mavis Staples pass on her words of wisdom and sing. Sorry, Dad, but my story will be better.

This year’s Commencement will be the first time many students get to see President Warrick L. Carter in person and shake his hand, along with other seemingly nonexistent administrators.

While it seems unnecessary for someone who had such little impact on my education to be congratulating me, I’m looking forward to the bit of face time I’ll get with Carter. Maybe in those few seconds I can summarize my thoughts on prioritization and make him realize the importance of certain programs that I hold dear.

Despite everything, I’m proud of myself and my colleagues for surviving Columbia, the world of higher education and the economic environment during some shaky times. All three could have easily swayed my graduating class to jump ship.

So when we finally have what I expect to be an extravagant ceremony that only Columbia could pull off, it will be the most exciting graduation any of us have encountered, and we should all take a moment to congratulate ourselves on our Commencement.

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» PRIORITIZATION

Continued from Front Page

Film and Video Department, asked the team to elaborate more on the selective admissions recommendation because Columbia has always been open to virtually all applicants.

Smith said that leaving students with large debt is on a par with the way for-profit colleges take students’ money. He added that Columbia cannot do that with integrity.

Suzanne Blum Malley, associate professor in the English Department and member of the Academic Team, suggested that the college focus more on what students accomplished in high school, including portfolios, when they apply to Columbia. She added that enrollment should be less focused on “bodies in the door” and more on those who will be more likely to graduate.

Meanwhile, Murphy Monroe, executive director of Admissions, said that while most private schools strive to appear selective as a recruitment tactic, the number of students Columbia accepts is not drastically different than DePaul or Loyola.

He said the recommendation does not mean the college will stop marketing itself as an open, generous community.

“We aren’t suggesting that we go out to the world and claim selectivity and tell people that we are a precious institution of only the few,” Monroe said. “But we are suggesting that we continue to increase the ways that we look at students and be as thoughtful and ethical as possible when they come to the college.”

While the Academic Team’s forum was a platform for questions but involved no formal written statements from the audience, the Support & Operations Team held a typical listening forum.

“We chose this format both because it’s consistent with the formats that have been held before and also because it places the focus where we think it belongs, which is on [speakers] and [their] statement[s],” said Andrew Whatley, assistant dean of Faculty Advising and LAS Initiatives who also serves on the Support & Operations Team. “Finally, we didn’t want to shoulder a single team member the responsibility of speaking for all 11 of us.”

At the April 10 forum, the Support & Operations Team, which assessed a total of 133 programs that operate the business aspects of the college, such as Enrollment Management, recapped how programs were analyzed, ranked and scored by the teams.

According to Richard Dunscomb, chair of the Music Department and co-chair of the Support & Operations Team, teams considered programs essentiality, effectiveness

and efficiency. Programs were also scored on their unmet needs.

Regarding leadership and policymaking, Derrick Streater, training and development manager in Human Resources, said the team found a need to break down walls and pinpoint policies that are working and not just those that are not.

In addition, he said leadership roles need to be more thoroughly defined.

“[Program Information Requests] confirm that there is a need to clearly define, and in some cases refocus, roles of executive-level leadership,” Streater said. “Developing leadership at all administrative levels of the college is absolutely essential, and there is a definite need to develop clear, consistent policies that apply equally across all programs.”

Whatley highlighted the need to focus on the student “life cycle,” or student success. He said the college should design “seamless services that takes the student from prospective to alumni status.”

He also mentioned there is a need to ensure students are more prepared for careers, and that the college should reassess the enrollment timeline.

Listening forum guidelines were similar to previous ones, but the team said there would not be revisions to the recommendations based on the statements made at the forum because the reports have already

gone to Carter. Also, anyone who wanted to deliver a statement could do so, rather than just PIR authors.

Lastly, speakers were asked to keep their statements focused on the team’s report and not make comments on the overall prioritization process.

Twelve people made statements at the forum, including Jill Summers, director of the Office of Special Events in Student Affairs, who said she felt as if the role of the Student Affairs was misinterpreted in the team’s recommendations, which said the office is inconsistently structured to support the “complete life cycle of students.”

Summers said in her statement that she feared her voice would not be heard since the team would not be making revisions to the report. However, Whatley said all statements would be given to the president.

Summers said she felt that the lack of open discussion was “frustrating.”

“I wasn’t satisfied [with the listening forum format at all],” Summers said. “The academic side was inviting everyone to come for a presentation, have a Q-and-A, a very open setup. Then ours had all of these conditions attached to it ... Ultimately, it doesn’t really make a lot of sense why it was set up that way.”

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Corrections from the April 9 issue

In the article, “Faculty Senate flexes muscle” published April 9, The Chronicle incorrectly stated that the Senate “decided the search for a new president should begin ‘as soon as possible’ in fall 2012.” In fact, no decision was made, only opinions were expressed. Also, members of the Senate’s Faculty Affairs Committee met with Louise Love, interim provost and vice president of academic affairs, to discuss faculty raises. After the meeting, members of the committee had the impression that incremental faculty raises may not be available in the immediate future. The Chronicle erroneously reported that no raises would be available in the future. The Chronicle regrets and apologizes for these errors.

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CAMPUS

Meet the 2012 honorary degree recipients



MCT Newswire

Phil Ramone is an award-winning record producer who will receive an honorary degree from Columbia May 5.

by Alexandra Kukulka
Assistant Campus Editor

THERE ARE some celebrities, like Lady Gaga, whom everyone knows about. But there are also many people who do great things but less are familiar, such as the 2012 honorary degree recipients.

As reported by The Chronicle on April 9, President Warrick L. Carter sent out an email April 2 announcing the 2012 Honorary Degree Recipients. An honorary degree is given to an individual whose life work embodies Columbia’s mission. The following recipients were chosen because of their bodies of work.

Phil Ramone

With 14 Grammy awards and 33 nominations, including a Technical Grammy for his lifetime of contributions to the recording industry, Phil Ramone is considered one of the most prolific music producers in the record industry.

Ramone, a musical prodigy, played the violin for the Queen of England when he was 10 years old, according to Pantelis Vassilakis Audio Arts & Acoustics chair who nominated Ramone for the degree.

Ramone played an integral role in pioneering many technological developments in the music industry, including support for the compact disc and high definition recording, according to Carter’s email.

Ramone received his most recent Grammy for Pop Album of the Year last February for “Tony Bennett Duets II,” which he worked on with artists such as Amy Winehouse, Lady Gaga and Faith Hill, Vassilakis added.

He said he believes students will benefit from meeting Ramone because he is successful and passionate about what he does.

“Phil Ramone exemplifies critical, scientific, artistic and commercial success in the sophisticated manipulation of sound as an artist, scientist and technologist,” Vassilakis said.

Ramone will be honored and introduced by Vassilakis May 5 at 9 a.m. during the first Commencement ceremony.

Lee Flaherty

Lee Flaherty received his bachelor’s degree in marketing from the University of California at Berkley, and went on to work for a San Francisco-based company that

later transferred him to Chicago, according to the email. He worked in Chicago for seven years at three different marketing companies before founding his own marketing firm, Flair Communications, in 1964.

According to Flaherty, he wanted to study pharmaceutical science but changed his mind when he noticed how quickly people bought products advertised at the drug store where he worked.

His business first consisted of a three-person staff on the third floor of a “dilapidated brownstone,” according to the email. He was able to make the business successful when he began to implement a new marketing concept.

“When I founded Flair, I said, ‘We are not going to work on speculation anymore,’” Flaherty said. “Everybody said ‘You are never going to get any business,’ but our business was excellent from the very first day, and within a period of time we actually changed the industry.”

He was named Marketing Executive of the Year by the American Marketing Association in 1971, 1985 and 2001 according to Shanita Akintonde, associate professor in the Marketing Communication Department.

Phil Ramone exemplifies critical, scientific, artistic and commercial success in the sophisticated manipulation of sound as an artist, scientist and technologist.”

-Pantelis Vassilakis

“When you look at Columbia College and what our mission is, Lee Flaherty definitely serves as an example,” Akintonde said. “He embodies a lot of our core principles.”

Flaherty will be honored and introduced by Akintonde May 5 at 12:30 p.m. during the second Commencement ceremony.



IMDB

Steve James is the director of “The Interrupters,” a documentary that delves into the issue of urban violence. The film follows three violence interrupters who try to protect their Chicago communities.

Philip-Lorca diCorcia

Philip-Lorca diCorcia is known for creating images that range from documentary to theatrically staged photography, according to the email.

To further his career in photography, diCorcia first went to the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston in 1977 and pursued his master’s degree at Yale University in 1979.

His advice to students is to find another career because photography has changed.

DiCorcia has had numerous exhibitions and is now represented by David Zwirner Gallery, a contemporary art gallery. In 2009, his critically acclaimed solo show, “Thousand,” featured an installation of 1,000 Polaroid photographs. His fashion photography has also been published in W magazine.

Natasha Egan, director of the Museum of Contemporary Photography, nominated him because the Fashion and Photography departments share a commencement ceremony this year.

“He has become quite well-known but can also show artists how to start with a vision, how doors open and how doing one thing can lead to something else,” Egan said.

DiCorcia will be honored and introduced by Egan May 5 at 4 p.m. during the third Commencement ceremony.

Steve James

As the director of the film “Hoop Dreams,” Steve James has won many major awards, including a Peabody and the Robert F. Kennedy Award, according to the email.

Before he became a director, James received a bachelor’s degree in communications with a concentration in radio journalism at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Va. During his senior year, he realized he had a passion for film that led him to enroll in the film program at Southern Illinois University.

His award-winning films, which also

» SEE RECIPIENTS, PG. 10

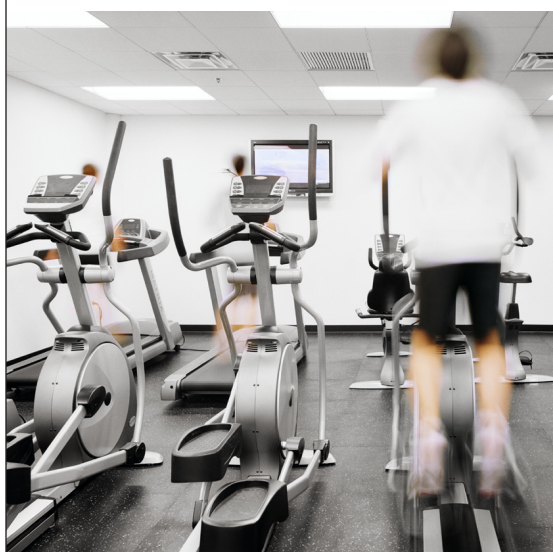
THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS				
4/16/12	4/17/12	4/18/12	4/19/12	4/20/12
Artist Checklist	Call-a-thon	“RENT ”	“Not Ready to Make Nice”	Secrecy and the Public Sphere
This workshop discusses what a selling artist should consider, like networking and branding Noon – 1 p.m. 623 S. Wabash Ave. Quincy Wong Center	Students will call prospective Latino students and answer their questions about Columbia. 4:45 – 8:30 p.m. 600 S. Michigan Ave. Suite 301	Come see this Pulitzer Prize-winning rock musical based on Puccini’s “La Boheme.” 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. 72 E. 11 St. Getz Theater	This presentation of the Guerilla Girls illuminates the ongoing work of provocative artists. 11 a.m. – 8 p.m. 619 S. Wabash Ave. A+D Gallery	Students with different backgrounds expand their viewpoints of themselves and each other. 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. 33 E. Congress Parkway C33 Gallery

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Angered graduates resume job search

by Meghan Farnsworth
MCT Newswire

MEREDITH BALLARD is an economics major at Colorado College, but when she began her senior year last fall, she started feeling she was spending more time traveling to job interviews than going to class.

“It got stressful,” said Ballard, 22, of Green Oaks, Ill. “I had to work on my thesis on top of having a very difficult class while trying to land a job.”

The employment market may be picking up, but graduating seniors like Ballard, who landed a job with a Chicago advertising agency that will start next month, have in many cases known nothing but economic turbulence and high unemployment during their college careers.

“Nowhere has the economic impact been as traumatic for college seniors graduating as in the last four years,” said Richard Berman, director of Career Services at Oberlin College.

To forestall entering the job market, many soon-to-be graduates are taking unpaid internships or social service work, going to graduate school or even trying to start their own businesses. Those who are searching for jobs are making it a higher priority than schoolwork. Gone is the luxury of taking it easy senior year.

But there are some glimmers of hope. The unemployment rate for recent college graduates is 6.2 percent, lower than the overall unemployment rate and the lowest since the start of the recession. Employers surveyed by the National Association of Col-

leges and Employers said they planned to hire 10.2 percent more new graduates this year than last year.

Still, the odds for job-seekers in many fields remain long.

“This year’s seniors are landing more interviews, but I think it’s more a function of their tenacity than an increase in the number of jobs available,” said Lisa Kastor, director of Career Services at the College of Wooster in Ohio.

Jacob Meyers of Elyria, Ohio, for example, applied for 35 jobs and got three interviews but no offers.

“I just don’t want to be floating around after college,” said Meyers, 22, who is job-hunting while finishing requirements for his triple major in English, theater and gender, sexuality and feminist studies at Oberlin. “There just seems to be this pressure from everywhere. Everyone is looking for a job. Even my mom is dead set on me finding one. She’s scared, too.”

At Washington and Lee University in Virginia, 15 students applied to meet on campus with a recruiter for an investment bank. Six got interviews. The bank has one position available.

“The employers are doing a lot more screening,” including remotely by Skype before even entertaining the idea of an in-person interview, said Beverly Lorig, director of Career Services at Washington and Lee. “There’s less willingness to consider a ‘maybe’ candidate.”

Meanwhile, students and their families have been subjected to unrelenting bad news from the job front.

“It bruises the psyche of your graduating class,” Lorig said. “There’s stress with seniors, and there’s stress with parents. It’s really important that we teach students to be resilient in these times. I fear that a lot of seniors withdraw after they get roughed up a bit with the rejections.”

Many students have reason to worry. Those who took out loans for college are graduating with an average debt of more than \$25,000—twice the 1996 figure—according to the U.S. Department of Education.

For Lauren Martinez, of Redmond, Wash., the time she took to job-hunt last semester paid off.

The senior economics major at Macales-

ter College in Minnesota found a job at a financial consulting firm in California. But Martinez said the offer came at the expense of time and energy she could have applied toward schoolwork.

“My grades suffered at the beginning of the semester when I was spending so much time traveling to interviews, practicing interviewing and filling out applications,” Martinez said. “It was all so overwhelming.”

Still, she said she’s glad she has a job.

“It’s definitely a relief to know that I’ll have a paycheck,” Martinez said. “With that in mind, the rest of my senior year will be a lot easier.”

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STUDYING ABROAD

broadens horizons

story by: Lisa Schulz layout by: Zach Stemerick



IN THREE WEEKS, the spring 2012 semester will be history. Summer 2012, on the other hand, a time to study history—the foundation of Columbia’s overseas study program’s curriculum.

For the program’s annual summer trips, approximately 12 students will pack up their bags and check Prague and Florence off their study destination wish lists. The Florence trip lasts from June 28–July 28 and is hosted by the Fiction Writing Department, which will also host a trip to Prague with the Marketing Communication Department from May 12–June 24. All majors can participate in the trip, and core departmental classes will be counted as college-wide credit.

“It’s impossible to have a college education in the arts and media without having an understanding of the international market that [students] would be working within,” said Chris Greiner, director of International Programs. “The opportunity for studying abroad, for exchanges and even for small summer programs cannot be underestimated as at the very least a taste, if not an understanding, of life in other countries and an understanding of [students’ own] careers from outside of the United States.”

In addition, Columbia has exchange programs during the fall and spring semesters with seven colleges in European and Asian cities: Dublin; East London, Bath and Sidcup, England; Paris; Shanghai; and Mannheim, Germany.

According to Columbia’s website, each college has different departments available for exchanges of students and faculty. Between two–six exchanges are accepted per year,

depending on the college. Greiner said scheduling the trips can be challenging because plans are based on the projected number of participants.

“We have to [teach] in four weeks for the full credit, so I think all of the Florence classes will be intense.”
–Ann Hemenway

Information sessions are typically scheduled a semester beforehand, he said. Applications are distributed during these sessions, which allow students to meet professors who will teach abroad. Questions about the program and the region and people are also addressed.

“Part of the charm is that the windows don’t close exactly like they should because they’re 100 years old,” Greiner said to students at an

April 10 informational meeting for Florence. “Keep your mind open to a European experience.”

The trip to Florence began in as an Art & Design Department initiative 12 years ago, but it became a college-wide opportunity six years later, he said.

Students can choose a four-credit-hour course through Columbia’s overseas partner arts college Lorenzo de’ Medici, according to Columbia’s website. Tuition is \$4,500, including housing and additional fees.

Columbia’s website also said courses offered at the college includes: a travel writing workshop, an art and

architecture class, a photography class, a comedy course with professors from the Radio and Film & Video departments, a cinematic art class and a fiction seminar.

Ann Hemenway, associate professor in the Fiction Writing Department, is scheduled to teach the fiction seminar in Florence for the first time.

“We have to [teach] in four weeks for the full credit, so I think all of the Florence classes will be intense,” Hemenway said. “But students get so much out of it.”

According to her, students in the seminar attend class two days per week and explore the city one day per



Florence, Italy, has been part of Columbia’s summer study abroad program for 12 years.

SCHOLARSHIPS

WHILE STUDY ABROAD prices for summer trips overseas can equate to almost half of a semester’s tuition, Columbia offers scholarships for smooth sailing. Most scholarships listed are open to all majors. More information on scholarships can be found on Columbia’s International Program’s website.



week. Greiner explained that students studying in Florence can also further explore with optional weekend excursions to parts of Italy such as Pisa, Elba Island, Venice or The Vatican in Rome, which are \$330 each.

Prague also has a four-week program that offers a similar number of credits. Classes offered in Prague are advanced fiction, dreams in fiction and critical reading and writing courses for contemporary European writers, fiction writers abroad and Prague-born author Franz Kafka.

“[Prague] was possibly one of the most beautiful cities I’ve ever seen,” said Hemenway, who taught Advanced Fiction Writing there during the summers of 2000 and 2006. “Students had really a wealth of visual material to draw from. There’s so much history. It’s so old, but it’s been so well-preserved. The student writing became timeless in some ways. It almost got dream-like.”

The dreamy quality is often represented in Kafka’s work, she said. Students have the opportunity to visit the Franz Kafka Museum full of the “beloved and revered” author’s work, according to Hemenway. She also said his Prague hometown strongly embodies the settings in his writing, both emotionally and psychologically.

Kafka has also influenced business jargon, said Tom Hamilton, associate professor in the Marketing Communication Department. For example, Hamilton would explain a “very strange meeting” as “Kafka-esque” to define a dark and gloomy situation.

“It’s not like you’re just going on vacation. You’re actually getting work done.”
—Ann Hemenway

Studying abroad in Prague also helps students understand the importance of knowing a culture’s background when marketing internationally, said Sandra Kumorowski, assistant professor in the Marketing Communication Department and professor in Prague.

“Look at what ‘Mad Men’ is doing right now,” Kumorowski said. “It’s a ‘60s show. None of our students were

born in the ‘60s, but the trend is going back like crazy. We need to understand history in order to create our future.”

Giving the profusion of brands from Oreo cookies to Nivea face cream, she said possessing a wide-range of history is also necessary when marketing different brands because immediate switches can occur.

Almost as quickly as marketing brands can change, Columbia students for the first time will experience the intensive seminars used in Czech schools. Czech classes typically consist of lectures, workshop, and written and oral exams, she added.

Columbia students will collaborate with students from the University of Economics to create a marketing strategy in two days for a local nonprofit organization and present it to the company on the third day, Kumorowski said.

Hamilton said the trip is also multicultural because it is not exclusive to Columbia students. He recalled students who still remain friends after meeting on the trip four years ago.

“There’s something when they’re all in a strange place at the same time,” Hamilton said. “There’s a terrific bond that builds and they become friends forever.”

Opportunity for overseas collabo-

ration also comes in short bursts between semester changes. Visiting students from Bath Spa University in England are scheduled to visit the Fiction Writing Department, Hemenway said. Guests from Bath Spa will also appear on the Television Department’s live sketch comedy show “Freq Out: A View from Across the Pond.” While the Marketing Communication Department would like to arrange a trip with the college, nothing is certain yet, Kumorowski said.

Columbia students should take advantage of the travel abroad whenever the chance presents itself, Hemenway said.

“It can be a very valuable part of your education,” she said. “It’s not always possible for everyone to do it, but it really is a real chance. It’s very difficult to do in the rest of your life. You can’t take that kind of time off from work. It contributes toward your degree, as well. And it’s not like you’re just going on vacation. You’re actually getting work done.”

Registration for Florence and Prague ended April 13. Sidcup, Shanghai and Mannheim colleges accept applications year-round, while other application deadlines were March 30.

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Prague is the hometown of the famous author Franz Kafka. Columbia offers an exchange program for five students to study English in Shanghai and partners with colleges in East London, Bath and Sidcup, England.



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Columbia

COLLEGE CHICAGO



MCT Newswire

Mavis Staples, a soul-gospel singer from Chicago, will receive an honorary degree May 6 at 4 p.m.

» RECIPIENTS

Continued from PG. 3

included “The New Americans” and “The Interrupters” have been shown during many film festivals.

According to James, his biggest struggle as a director was having to start at the bottom once he moved to Chicago, where he worked as a production assistant on TV commercials.

Other challenges he dealt with as a director were getting financial support to start films, making a living to provide for his family and putting in almost seven years of work for each film.

James is currently working with Bruce Sheridan, the Film & Video Department chair, on the documentary “Head Games” to explore brain trauma in sports.

“For whatever reason, we ended up working on this film together,” Sheridan said. “That just shows the students that their teacher, the department chair and this kind of filmmaker exist in the same world.”

James will be honored and introduced by Sheridan during the fourth Commencement ceremony May 6 at 9 a.m.

Warren Spector

Video game designer Warren Spector was an avid “Dungeons and Dragons” fan as a boy and describes himself as an amateur gamer who walked into the career after dropping out of college. He received a bachelor’s degree in teaching from Northwestern University and went to the University of Texas for a master’s in radio, television and film.

“It’s so pathetic,” Spector said. “I did my orals, I finished all my course work, I defended my dissertation topic and wrote the first three chapters and then dropped out to make games. My mother stopped crying about a year ago.”

In 1983, Spector, a cartoon enthusiast, created his first game, “Toon: The Cartoon Roleplaying Game.”

But it was his game “Deus Ex,” which won numerous awards, that seemed to bring out his innermost creativity.

“There are very few times in your life that you close your eyes and imagine what something can be,” Spector said. “Three years later, you open your eyes and there it is, pretty much as you imagined it.”

He was able to reintroduce Mickey Mouse as a superhero in his most recent game, “Disney Epic Mickey 2: The Power of Two.” In this game, Spector also had the opportunity to reintroduce Oswald the Lucky Rabbit, Walt Disney’s first cartoon star before Disney lost the rights to the character in 1928.

“As a lifelong Disney fan, to get to work with the most recognizable icon on planet Earth and make a Disney game, that was just a dream come true,” Spector said.

According to him, the biggest challenge in game design is the quality put into mainstream games and the amount of people a designer has to work with to make it happen.

According to Tom Dowd, assistant professor in the Interactive Arts & Media Department, he nominated Spector because he is globally respected and well-liked.

“Spector is a great resource and a great font of knowledge,” Dowd said. “He has a great critical eye, [and] I think it will be a very strong opportunity for students to not only meet and speak with [Spector] but get him to take a look at their stuff.”

Spector will be honored and introduced by Dowd during the fifth Commencement ceremony May 6 at 12:30 p.m.

Mavis Staples

Chicago native Mavis Staples began her singing career with her family in the soul-gospel ensemble “Staple Singers,” according to Carter’s email. The group was very successful from the ’50s through the ’70s, during which Staples released a series of solo albums.

“Being able to sing with my father, my brother and sisters was a blessing,” Staples said in an email. “I learned most everything from my father.”

As a Rock ‘n’ Roll Hall of Famer, she has had many acclaimed albums, such as 2000’s “Have a Little Faith.” She attributes her father, who died in 2000, as its major inspiration.

She said her most recent album, “You Are Not Alone,” is an effort to send a positive message to the world because of all the negativity that is surrounding it.

Staples said she considers her voice a gift from God. She added that she doesn’t play any instruments, which explains why she doesn’t know what key she is singing in.

Staples advises all music majors, singers in particular, to take care of their voice.

“With all the touring, interviews and talking I have to do, I have to be really careful with my voice,” she said. “I often have to not talk backstage, or whisper when I do need to speak. It’s important because this is my gift, and I need to take care of it.”

Staples will be honored and introduced by Terri Hemmert, adjunct faculty member in the Radio Department, during the sixth Commencement ceremony May 6 at 4 p.m.

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» **WASTE**

Continued from PG. 4

already cut down from 12 when the budgets came out in 2010. He is worried that cutting staff will be a disservice to students who live off of their student worker wage.

Wawrzaszek said he does not believe the Recycling Program was fairly represented in the prioritization process but declined to comment further.



The students are doing great work, but to be honest they could be doing even greater work, working with something more than just collecting and actually looking into more ways for us to be sustainable.”

—Donyiel Crocker

Donyiel Crocker, assistant to the associate vice president of Facilities and Construction and a Support & Operations team member, said she believes cutting down the collection duties of the students working for the Recycling Program will free up time for them to plan more ways the college can practice sustainability.

“We were looking at more efficient ways to do things,” Crocker said. “The students are doing great work, but to be honest they could be doing even greater work, working with something more than just collecting and actually looking into more ways for us to be sustainable.”

However, none of the recommendations for the Recycling Program suggest plans

other than cuts and reductions.

The Recycling Program started a “Green Seal Approved” initiative in spring 2011 for events on campus to promote mindfulness of waste minimization, according to the annual report.

In order for an event to qualify, it must meet a list of “green” criteria in three areas: catering, promotion and education.

Guidelines in catering include using reusable dishes and compostable foods. For promotions, event planners can print less marketing material, use recycled paper

and take posters to a recycling bin after the event.

Wawrzaszek said he hopes to include recycling initiatives occurring within other departments in future annual reports, such as when departments make efforts to reduce paper use.

“I would love if every other department that does specific recycling things would let us know because we can put it in our report,” he said. “[If] it’s getting recycled, I’d like to report that.”

To view the full Recycling Program annual report, visit Colum.edu/Administrative_Offices/Recycling.

hschroering@chroniclemail.com

STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

Each week we feature one student who is doing something unique and innovative. If you or someone you know fits this description, tell us about it at hschroering@chroniclemail.com.



Courtesy LACI COPPINS & SARAH DITLINGER

Name: Joel Boyd
Year: Sophomore
Major: Television

Joel Boyd began doing stand-up comedy at 14 years old. His desire to perform stand-up and improvisation allowed him to start his own comedy group in high school, which quickly became a success in his hometown of Milwaukee. Seeking more experience and opportunities, he traveled to Chicago to attend the Television Writing/Producing program at Columbia. Currently, he performs stand-up as often as possible in Chicago and is also producing a Web series that can be viewed at YouTube.com/BlackNerdFunnies.

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SPORTS&HEALTH



Courtesy UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SPORTS INFORMATION

(Left) The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign men's gymnastics team poses after winning the Big Ten title April 6 at the Carver Hawkeye Arena, Iowa City, Iowa. (Right) The next day, April 7, freshman C.J. Maestas (left) took home the Big Ten Freshman of the Year award, and Head Coach Justin Spring won the Big Ten Coach of the Year award for the second season in a row.

Illini win Big Ten, individual awards

by **Lindsey Woods**
Sports & Health Editor

THE SCORES were close, and everyone knew it. After two-and-a-half hours of intense competition, the Big Ten title came down to the last event: the floor routine. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign freshman C.J. Maestas had just finished a near-perfect routine, and now the competition was up to redshirt senior Paul Ruggeri.

Ruggeri had fallen twice on the high bar

earlier in the day, an uncharacteristic mistake considering he is usually a top scorer in that event. But the team needed him, and so with just the floor and the title in front of him, he nailed his routine and secured the Fighting Illini's fourth-straight Big Ten title.

"For me, just to have completed a successful floor routine, I was so happy I could [pull] it together for my team," Ruggeri said. "At that time, it wasn't about me at all; it was all about the team."

The Big Ten title wasn't the only award the Illini took home during the weekend of April 6. Maestas was named Big Ten Freshman of the Year and won an overall title with a career-high score of 89.5.

"That was just icing on the cake," Maestas said about winning the award.

Illini Head Coach Justin Spring also earned his second straight Big Ten Coach of the Year honor.

"I have to make sure that that award should be absolutely shared with my sup-

port staff," Spring said. "Ivan [Ivankov] and Daniel [Ribeiro] complete the coaching staff, so to speak. We all have different mindsets on things and bring a different energy to certain situations, so I think that without the balance of both of them, we wouldn't be the staff that we are."

According to Ruggeri, Spring's team-oriented attitude is something the Illini take great pride in, and it's one of the reasons

» SEE ILLINI, PG. 16

AIDS vaccine progress

Review of 2009 trial may hold key to effective virus prevention

by **Emily Fasold**
Assistant Sports & Health Editor

ALMOST 30 years after its discovery, the incurable AIDS virus continues to destroy lives around the globe. However, a new analysis of a 2009 AIDS vaccine trial has brought scientists one step closer to finding a preventive.

Researchers reported April 5 in the New England Journal of Medicine that the partial success of a Thailand-based trial that protected 31 percent of participants from infection may have been due to varying levels of antibody resistance in the patients.

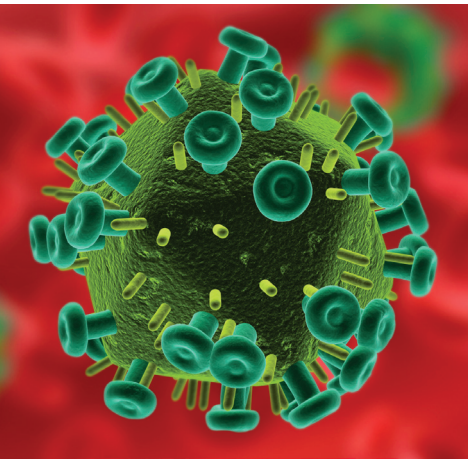
"These studies provide new insights that may lead to a better and longer-lasting HIV vaccine," said lead author Dr. Jerome Kim, deputy director for science of the U.S. Military HIV Research Program, in a press release earlier this month. "They may also

help scientists prioritize vaccine candidates for future clinical trials, which would accelerate the development of a vaccine."

In the trial, researchers studied 16,402 HIV-negative volunteers between 18-30 years old, the average ages of infection.

Col. Nelson Michael, another vaccine researcher, explained that different types of antibody responses in the body determine who gets infected and who does not.

In this case, study authors suspect that an antibody called IgG might have linked itself to the surface of the HIV protein V1V2, which helped prevent infection in some people. Patients whose blood contained high levels of a different antibody called IgA appeared to have less protection against HIV than their IgG-loaded counterparts, leading scientists to believe that these antibodies could play a critical role



STOCK PHOTO

The AIDS virus destroys T blood cells, which are crucial to helping the body fight diseases.

in developing an effective vaccine.

Michael said although the results are promising, the 31 percent prevention rate seen in the 2009 trial was not large enough to have a public health impact. He said he sees it as a "good and promising start."

Though considered promising by many, some health officials are skeptical that an HIV vaccine could make a difference in

» SEE AIDS, PG. 16

» SEE BOWMAN, PG. 16

Discussing baseball with Bowman

by **Lindsey Woods**
Sports & Health Editor

IF THERE is one sports team at Columbia that students know, it's the baseball team. Mark Kelly, vice president of Student Affairs, has been known to bring up the Renegades baseball team during freshman tours and orientation speeches, never forgetting to mention the championship they won in 2004.

THIS WEEK IN SPORTS

4/16/12	4/17/12	4/18/12	4/18/12	4/20/12
Bulls vs. Wizards	Blackhawks vs. Coyotes	4-on-4 Dodgeball	White Sox vs. Orioles	Cubs vs. Reds
The Bulls take on the Washington Wizards at 7 p.m. Watch the Bulls in one of the last regular season games on CSN.	The Blackhawks play the Phoenix Coyotes in game three of the Stanley Cup Playoff series at 9 p.m. Watch on CNBC.	Columbia and Roosevelt University students can join the Renegades for a free dodgeball tournament at 6 p.m.	The White Sox battle the Baltimore Orioles in the third of a four-game series at 7:10 p.m. Catch the game on CSN.	The Cubs play the Cincinnati Reds in the first game of a three-game series at 1:20 p.m. Watch the game on CSN.
United Center 1901 W. Madison St.	United Center 1901 W. Madison St.	Plymouth Elementary Gym 1212 S. Plymouth Court	U.S. Cellular Field 333 W. 35th St.	Wrigley Field 1060 W. Addison St.



Ramblers and Flames split season series, head into Horizon League Tournament

A NEW crosstown softball rivalry may be emerging in the Horizon League Conference, and with the two teams’ recent success, there may be more than bragging rights on the line. The Horizon League is home to two Chicago teams, the University of Illinois at Chicago Flames and the Loyola University Chicago Ramblers. The two play against each other a total of six times in two series this season. Following the end of the 2011 season, the winner between the two teams in the regular season took on more meaning. The Ramblers took the regular season title while the Flames won the league tournament and advanced to the NCAA Regionals. The Flames and the Ramblers split the season series, each team winning two out of three games played on its home field. With the two teams’ seasons on the latter half of the schedule, The Chronicle took a more in-depth look at both squads.



LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

RAMBLERS’ SOPHOMORE ace Brittany Gardner has five shutouts this season, four of them against HL opponents as her team looks to build on and surpass last season’s accomplishments. The Ramblers’ success in the HL and regular season championship did not translate into an HL tournament title last season. Senior infielder Lauren Arceneaux expects her team to take care of business come the 2012 postseason. “[I expect us] to win the HL Championship,” Arceneaux said. Although Loyola has only five returning starters and upperclassmen, Ramblers Head Coach Missy Beseres said her team’s biggest strength is trusting each other on the field. “I think when things are getting tough, they know one person or another person is going to pick them up,” Beseres said. Loyola’s team, mostly sophomores and freshmen, “gels together so well,” according to Gardner. As of press time, the Ramblers’ defense had a 96 percent fielding percentage while making 627 putouts and only 33 errors. The Ramblers only have four pitchers on their roster, but the time on the mound is mostly dominated by Gardner and senior Amanda Ciran. The two have combined for 17 complete games this season. Although Ciran has a 2-11 record, her 3.27 earned run average is the lowest on the team. “You could go [with] either one [of us], and we’re going to do awesome,”

Gardner said. Ciran and Gardner are responsible for 85 percent of the innings pitched as of press time. Gardner, however, is responsible for most of the winning performances. She is 10-6 and has struck out a team high of 99 batters as of press time. Gardner, who tied a Loyola record for most wins as a freshman last year with 14, struggled early on, racking up a 9.24 earned run average through her first eight appearances. She has since improved her play, having a 8-2 record during her last 10 starts and bringing her season ERA down to 3.98.

“[I expect us] to win the HL Championship.”
—Lauren Arceneaux

Six of her 10 wins have come against HL opponents. Gardner has posted a 1.59 ERA in conference play while holding hitters to a measly .175 batting average. The Ramblers are 8-4 in conference games this season and are currently in second place behind the Valparaiso University Crusaders. With 10 games remaining in the season, Loyola is not looking past any team. “You have to take it one inning at a time,” Gardner said after shutting out the Flames on April 11. “We have to stay focused.”

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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

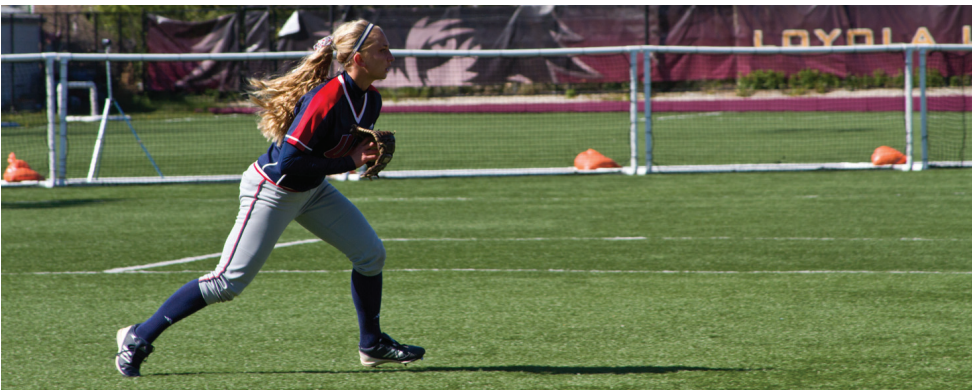
LAST YEAR, the UIC softball team ended the regular season in fifth place in the HL, but that did not stop the Flames from winning the Championship Tournament. Senior outfielder Melinda Macias expects the Flames to repeat the championship and return to the NCAA regional tournament. This year’s UIC team has 12 returning letter winners and only three new faces. “We have really good chemistry because we get along on and off the field,” Macias said. Even though the team is nearly identical to the 2011 squad, the Flames have yet to put all aspects of their game together, which is what it will take to take to win the conference tournament again, according to Macias. She added that the team will also need to make adjustments to the pitcher much sooner in games. According to Head Coach Michelle Venturella, her team’s defense has been solid this season, but the offense has been stagnant. “So much of it is about momentum and really just getting something going,” Venturella said. “It’s so contagious. So I think once we get a little bit of that on our side we’ll kind of take off again.” Although UIC’s .276 batting average this year is third in the HL, her team is in fifth place as of press time with a 4-5 conference record. The Flames’ two-person pitching staff

has an ERA of 3.92, which is sixth in the conference. The two-headed staff is led by junior Devin Miller. Although her ERA is above four, Miller has accounted for 146.2 innings pitched and 125 strikeouts as of press time. She also has three shutouts and 13 complete games pitched this season. Although UIC is not pleased with its performance so far, the team knows it is capable of executing.

“At points, we’ve seen strengths at all parts.”
—Michelle Venturella

“At points, we’ve seen strengths at all parts,” Venturella said. Following its weekend series with the University of Detroit Mercy Titans, the Flames will have 12 conference games remaining to get it right. Venturella wants her team to compete consistently the rest of the season. “I think it’s important to be a good competitor and respect the game and show up every single day and play the game between the lines,” she said. “That’s really the expectations, and I think when we do that, we play pretty good ball.”

nihmoud@chroniclemail.com



Photos Sara Mays THE CHRONICLE

The Loyola University Ramblers won two out of three games with UIC to even the season series at three apiece during their regular season series finale April 11–12. The Ramblers won game one 1-0 April 11 then split the following day’s double-header.

» **FAST FOOD**

Continued from Front Page

of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria in Spain, found that regular fast-food consumers were 51 percent more likely to develop depression than those who ate little or none.

Researchers studied the behavior of 8,964 individuals with no history of depression for six years. When the study ended in 2011, 500 of them, many who were frequent consumers of fast food, had been diagnosed with depression.

“I think the study is one piece of the puzzle, but more research needs to be done to see what is truly happening at a cellular level.”

—Amy Jamieson-Petonic

According to the study, participants who consumed the most fast food were also more likely to be single and not get adequate exercise or consume enough healthy foods, such as fruits, vegetables and Omega-3 fatty acids.

Although the research was conducted in Spain, some experts find its conclusions relevant to the U.S., a nation where fast food is a dominant cuisine and, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website, an estimated one in 10 adults is depressed.

Dr. Will Lassek, professor of epidemiology at the University of Pittsburgh and co-author of “Why Women Need Fat,” said he was not surprised by the study’s conclusions. He added that high levels of Omega-

6 fatty acids, which have been linked to depression in the past, and the lack of brain beneficial Omega-3s in processed food are major contributors.

“The more fast food you eat, the less Omega-3 you’re getting and the more Omega-6,” Lassek said. “It’s the perfect storm for having a higher risk for depression.”

He said he perceives the study as a warning sign of a future in which more people than ever are depressed and overweight.

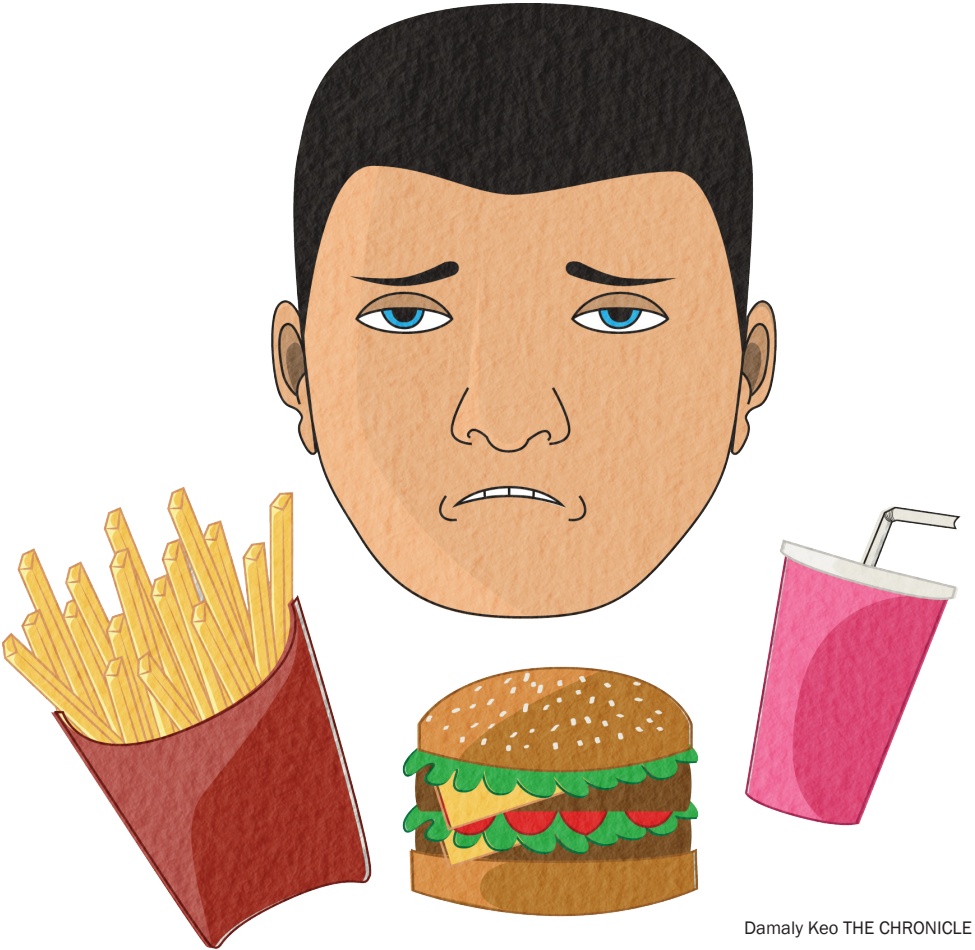
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics spokeswoman Amy Jamieson-Petonic said she believes the results are plausible but thinks more research on other factors that could contribute to depression should be

evaluated before the research is accepted as fact.

“I think the study is one piece of the puzzle, but more research needs to be done to see what is truly happening at a cellular level,” Jamieson-Petonic said. “We also need to tease out other factors, such as stress levels, to find why folks [who] eat fast food are more prone to depression.”

According to study critics, the research was too vague to be significant because it did not examine external factors, like overall diet, workload, social behavior, stress and smoking, closely enough.

Dr. Joy Dubost, director of Nutrition and Healthy Living at the National Restaurant Association, also said she believes the study was too quick to blame fast food for



Damaly Keo THE CHRONICLE

consumers’ problems.

“Fast food is often targeted in this kind of research,” Dubost said. “People speculate and draw these conclusions when the scientific evidence is very limited, and that causes a fear tactic that isn’t beneficial to consumers.”

In defense of fast food, she noted that nutritious options on fast-food menus was one of the top trends the National Restaurant Association’s “What’s Hot”

survey found in 2012. Dubost said fast-food restaurants like Subway, McDonalds and others have continued to incorporate more healthy foods on their menus.

“Across the industry, you really do see a movement with our trend data where healthier options are more readily available,” she said. “People are demanding it, and restaurants are providing it.”

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» BOWMAN

Continued from PG. 13

Despite its relative anonymity, the team still plays and has just started its spring season. Although The Renegades lost their opening three-game series against the DePaul University Blue Demons March 24-25, captain Jon Bowman, senior Journalism major, is looking forward to a competitive season.

Bowman took some time between class and baseball practice to talk to The Chronicle about the team’s strengths and weaknesses, its biggest competition this season and Columbia’s rich baseball history.

The Chronicle: Baseball season is back. How does it feel to be in the diamond again?

Jon Bowman: It feels really good. It feels kind of like my home away from home, so it’s good to actually get out there and enjoy the nicer weather while playing a game that we love.

The Chronicle: The Renegades just started their season. Is the team where you want it to be at this point?

JB: Honestly, no. I blame that a lot on the fact that we had a weird winter, and it extended a little bit longer than we would have liked. We weren’t able to get on the field as much as we would have liked. But there were definitely some positive things we took away from it, and we learned what we need to work on.

The Chronicle: You opened with a tough series against DePaul. What went wrong?



Photos Brent Lewis THE CHRONICLE

Jon Bowman, captain of the Columbia Renegades baseball team, leads practice at the Grant Park baseball fields on the corner of East Balbo Avenue and South Columbus Drive. The Renegades kicked off their season March 24, taking on the DePaul University Blue Demons.

JB: I don’t know how much it was that something went wrong as it was we didn’t have a lot of experience with live-pitching in the offseason. I think a lot of our batters were trying really hard to compensate for that. So we just need more practice.

The Chronicle: What do you feel the team’s strengths and weaknesses are this season?

JB: Compared to last year, I think we’ve got some better pitching. We have a solid five-pitcher rotation at this point that I really like. Obviously, our weakness is our hitting, but that will improve as the season goes on and the rust shakes off.

The Chronicle: Who’s going to be your biggest competition this season?

JB: It’s a competitive league. Northern Illi-

nois University is undefeated so far in their season. DePaul and Loyola universities are high up there, too. Saginaw Valley State University is a little bit down, but they’re still ahead of us in the standings at this point. It’s a much more competitive league than I originally anticipated, which is good.

The Chronicle: Do you feel supported by the college administration?

JB: That’s kind of a difficult question to answer. I haven’t really gotten in touch much with the actual administration, but Mark [Brticevich, fitness and recreation coordinator,] has been wonderfully helpful. He’s been so supportive, and he’s always trying to find ways to help us out, and I really appreciate that.

The Chronicle: Do you feel supported by the college community?

JB: It’s hard to feel supported when not a lot of people in the college know who we are and that we exist. We’re working on that. As long as we’re rebuilding the team, we’re rebuilding its view in the school.

The Chronicle: Columbia baseball has a pretty rich history. What are you and the team doing to make sure that the legacy left by past teams is perpetuated?

JB: At this point, we’re just trying to make sure that kids come out who really want to play and that they’re passionate and committed to this team. That’s something that’s been on the decline, so I’m taking it upon myself to get the ball rolling and get this team back up to standards they had back when they were championship-caliber teams.

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» AIDS

Continued from PG. 13

Third World countries because of the frequent use of unclean needles in these regions.

Dr. Susan Lowe, a general practice physician at the Caribbean Association of Medical Councils in Jamaica who reviewed the analysis, contracted HIV in Jamaica after she was injected with an infected needle.

“[A]fter my experience, I would rather take my chances with no vaccine unless serious changes are made to how testing and use is regulated,” Lowe said.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website, there are an estimated 1.8 million people ages 13 and older in the U.S. living with HIV, 20 percent



STOCK PHOTO

“These studies provide new insights that may lead to a better and longer-lasting HIV vaccine.”

–Dr. Jerome Kim

of whom had undiagnosed infections.

In 2010, the World Health Organization reported that there are an estimated 34 million people worldwide who are HIV-positive.

This news makes Bob, 47, an HIV-positive photographer from New York City, hopeful that a vaccine is around the corner, although he thinks researchers have a long way to go before that goal is reached. To protect his identity, Bob asked The Chronicle

not to print his last name.

“From what I’ve read, I would be skeptical if it were released today,” Bob said. “But it does give hope that they’re working towards finding [a vaccine], and this seems more promising than anything else they’ve tried.”

Although he considers himself fortunate because he has not experienced AIDS-related symptoms since being diagnosed with HIV in 2000, Bob said the stigma of having HIV and the expensive medications he must take on a daily basis have made life more difficult. He hopes a vaccine will be developed so people can avoid infection in the future.

“I think it could be absolutely amazing for people not only in the U.S. but around the world because so many people in other countries are dying,” he said.

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» ILLINI

Continued from PG. 13

they’ve been able to keep their Big Ten streak running for four years straight.

“We say it time and time again that we’re about being a family,” Ruggeri said. “We’re the closest team in the NCAA, and I really believe that and I know every member of our team believes that. That’s what really pushes us to the next level. It propels us to be the best we can be because we bring out the best in each other.”

According to Spring, the Big Ten win was important to the team, but the biggest competition of the year is still on the horizon as the Illini approach the NCAA National Championships, from April 20-21 at the Lloyd Noble Center in Norman, Okla.

“We can’t take for granted that we’ve got [the Big Ten title] under our belt,” Spring said. “This team’s mission, this team’s ultimate vision of success for this year, is winning a national championship. And after talking to them, I absolutely think that they’re ready.”

According to him, the team may be ready, but they won’t win the title without a fight. The No. 1 Pennsylvania State University Nittany Lions and the No. 8 University of Michigan Wolverines are going to come back with a vengeance after marginal losses in the Big Ten championship competition, Spring said.

“I know that Penn State and Michigan

“The team and myself are going to do everything in our power to bring home a national championship.”

–C.J. Maestas

are not happy with the final results in the Big Ten,” he said. “I think that they went back angry and they’re going to show up as stronger and better teams at [the] NCAA Championships.”

The No. 2 University of Oklahoma Sooners and the No. 3 Stanford University Cardinal are also on the Illini’s radar in terms of competition, Ruggeri said.

“I think that Oklahoma and the gymnasts there are masterminds of doing clean, consistent gymnastics, and they’ve shown that time and time again,” he said. “I think that Oklahoma, Michigan, Penn State or Stanford are going to have that strategy.”

The team has been doing a lot of mental and physical preparation in order to train for the upcoming tournament, Spring said.

“So much of postseason is a mental game and being mentally prepared to take the weight of an NCAA Championship on your shoulders [during] every routine you do,” he said. “That’s really the essence of the NCAA Championships.”

With that kind of preparation, Spring, Ruggeri and Maestas all agree that the Illini have a legitimate shot at bringing home their first NCAA title since 1989.

“We’re coming off that big win at the Big Ten, but I can tell you, we’re still hungry,” Maestas said. “Half the job is done with, but we still have another half to go. The team and myself are going to do everything in our power to bring home a national championship.”

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1 Avoid caffeine

Avoiding caffeine is recommended for people with mild insomnia. “[It is] common sense that caffeine can affect your sleep,” Friedman said. “It is not always just coffee. Sometimes it’s green tea, chocolate and other products.”



2 Avoid alcohol

“It is a misconception [that people] think alcohol makes them tired,” Friedman said. Although alcohol usually makes you fall asleep, you will often wake up in the middle of night and ruin your sleep schedule, he said.



HOW TO: Sleep through the night

by Kaitlyn Mattson
Contributing Writer

EVEN COLLEGE students can’t run on only caffeine. Sleep is necessary. But sometimes falling and staying asleep can be more difficult than staying awake. Michael Friedman, a Chicago sleep specialist at ChicagoENT, has some tips to help improve sleeping habits. According to him, there are common misconceptions when it comes to insomnia because many people aren’t aware that the condition can take two forms.

“[There is] onset insomnia, which means having trouble falling asleep, and the other is called maintenance insomnia, where patients have trouble staying asleep,” Friedman said. These problems affect approximately 60 million Americans, he said. “I see patients literally every single day with either maintenance or onset insomnia,” Friedman said. Following these steps may help you fall and stay soundly asleep.

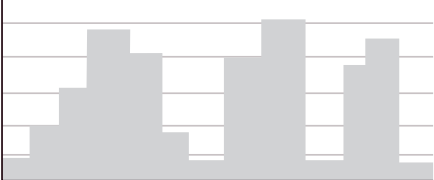
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3 Have a schedule

Try to have a sleep schedule that includes an exact sleep and wake up time. “Maintaining a set sleep schedule seven days a week is very helpful,” Friedman said. This allows you to sleep the same amount each day, which helps keep you from falling asleep too early and feeling tired the next day.



4 See a physician

Patients who have problems sleeping need to see a doctor so they can get the professional help they need. “There is so much that can be done and can be assessed,” Friedman said. “In many cases, a sleep study will help identify the problems.”



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Recipe

INGREDIENTS

24 ounces grated potatoes or store-bought hash browns
1 1/2 sticks of butter, softened
1 can cream of celery soup
1/2 onion, chopped
1 cup sour cream
2 cups of finely shredded cheddar cheese
2 cups crushed cornflakes

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Heat the oven to 350 degrees.

2. Chop the onion and grate 24 ounces of potatoes (or use a bag of hash browns).

3. Mix 1 stick of butter, soup, onion, sour cream and hash browns in an 8-by-10-inch pan.

4. Top potatoes with cheddar cheese.

5. Melt 1/2 stick of butter and mix with crushed cornflakes in a sealable plastic bag (optional).

6. Spread crushed cornflakes over cheese.

7. Bake for 1 hour or until the edges start to boil. Let cool slightly before serving.

NOVICE

SOUS CHEF

GURU



Sara Mays THE CHRONICLE

by Chris Loeber
Assistant Metro Editor

POTATOES HAVE been mashed, baked, fried and battered, but they have never been casseroled into a guilty pleasure like Killer Potatoes. This recipe is recommended for those who do not mind paying for tasty food with clogged arteries. If you are willing to risk a coronary bypass or two, read on.

As a side dish, this casserole goes well with steak or ham but also makes a filling snack for those of us who like to consume a day’s worth of calories in one bite.

Begin by chopping half an onion.

Toss the chopped onion into an 8-by-10-inch pan along with a stick of butter, 1 can of cream of celery soup and 1 cup of sour cream. Mix until it looks disgustingly delicious.

Once the ingredients are evenly mixed, add 24 ounces of hash browns and stir. You can grate your own potatoes, but it’s not as if this dish has any integrity to begin with, so a store-bought bag of hash browns works just as well.

Flatten the top of your mixture and sprinkle with 2 cups of finely shredded cheddar cheese. Then evenly spread 2 cups of crushed cornflakes over the bed of cheese.

If you are feeling especially self-destructive, mix 1/2 a stick of melted butter with the cornflakes in a resealable plastic bag before spreading them on top. Either way, the cornflakes will add a layer of crunchiness over an otherwise soft casserole.

Finally, bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour or until the edges start to boil. Spend some time reflecting on the delicious punishment you are about to inflict on your body. After removing the pan from the oven, let it cool for a few minutes. Serve and enjoy!

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Photo Courtesy CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

SEE PAGE 22



ARTS & CULTURE

Bringing a love story to life

by Trevor Ballanger

Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

IMAGINE WAKING up on a beach, wet, covered in sand and hearing the sweeping waves of the ocean crash ashore. In a daze, you realize you are lost. Then a face comes into focus in the glittering sun. It's a stranger, a beautiful woman, saving you from the wreckage in which you arrived. Then a film director yells, "Cut!" and it's a wrap for the day.

That's the magic of the movies—the ability to transport viewers into a world unlike their own. For a group of Chicago filmmakers, this is their life—no editing necessary. For some, however, making "Luzia," the story of a man who wakes up on a mysterious island and meets a woman with a secret, has been the most challenging project of their careers.

"Luzia," starring Jordan Jansen and Velizar Ionikov, was recently entered into the International Movie Trailer Film Festival. Viewers watch competing trailers online, then vote for their first choice. "Luzia" is currently in first place for the \$5,000 prize out of 240 films. Getting the film to a point of such recognition has been an arduous process that began one year ago.

The film's director, Gustavo Bernal-Mancheno, approached producer Sofy Gomez Garcia with a script he had written because they had worked together before and he wanted someone who would understand his vision. Production began in May 2011 by further developing the script and finding a crew capable of handling the task.

"This is the biggest thing I've ever done," said Matthew Rivera, the film's cinematographer. "One thing that I found challenging was getting myself in the mindset because you can always learn the technical side of things to achieve what you want creatively and [be] ready to delegate."

Rivera was asked to be the director of photography after a chance encounter with Bernal-Mancheno in June 2011. Having taken classes with Rivera at Columbia in 2009, Bernal-Mancheno allowed him to read a draft of his script. The film already had a cinematographer at the time, but Rivera said Bernal-Mancheno took a chance and



Gustavo Bernal-Mancheno (left) and Matthew Rivera (right) have a laugh on set. The crew (right) works together to rig the camera for water safety.



Photos Courtesy MATTHEW RIVERA

hired him instead because of his insights.

Bernal-Mancheno said he makes his choices based on instinct, and bringing Rivera into the film was simple because he spoke eloquently about the script. The crew became what he described as a family, despite how attentive he was to his work behind the camera. According to him, he was surprised by the way he was able to connect with the crew in such a short time.

Gomez Garcia said learning to be creative with technique is part of being able to film a movie with as little money as possible. She added that much of what the crew was able to accomplish was because they cut corners and used innovative ideas to make certain shots possible. According to her, the heavy

camera needed to be rigged for safety and security while shooting scenes in the water, which Rivera and the crew were ultimately able to achieve.

Rivera said "Luzia" didn't have a budget, so everything was "done from scratch." The movie was supposed to be shot digitally, but Rivera wanted to honor tradition and use film. He reached out to Kodak for assistance, and eventually the company donated 7,800 feet of film, launching it into production.

Bernal-Mancheno created a Kickstarter page in April 2011 to help raise \$5,000 in 45 days. This goal was surpassed, reaching \$5,136. Rivera even made a private donation of \$3,000 out of his own 401(k) to ensure the

filming was done with impeccable quality. He said several people gave private donations because they saw potential in the project and wanted to be a part of it.

By July, enough funding came through for the cast and crew of 30 to film on location for five days at Sleeping Bear Dunes, Mich. Eighty percent of the film was completed, save for some interior shots. Creating a quality film comes with its fair share of risks, Gomez Garcia said. As the producer, she said it was part of her job to be in the action. On the last day, an underwater shot was scheduled to be filmed. Gomez Garcia said it wasn't until the crew was in the water that they realized a storm the night before had caused choppy waters, making the filming dangerous.

"[I was] ever so present," Gomez Garcia said. "I still have scars from the experience. It was rough. I mean, especially being on top of it, managing it. I probably didn't sleep throughout [filming], but it was fun."

Despite the setbacks, Bernal-Mancheno said his vision for the film translated well onto the screen. However, he added that there is always a different way to do something because what's imagined based on the script is the primary goal for film and is always hard to achieve. He said sacrificing the initial vision of the story is the hardest thing to do.

"I think that's what was the most challenging part," Rivera said. "For the first time, I was working with a director who knew exactly what he wanted on every level."

The filming of "Luzia" was expected to wrap late summer 2011, but production eventually slowed and will resume this summer. Bernal-Mancheno said he expects to begin filming the last few scenes next month and have a finished product by June, if a new budget goal is reached.



"Luzia" stars Jordan Jansen and Velizar Ionikov in scenes depicting a growing relationship between two strangers and the secret that stands between them.

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Whatchu talkin' bout, Wilusz?

ISP with a shred of integrity



I RARELY see news about Internet privacy policy that makes me hopeful for the future, so it's hard to express the joy I felt when I read a recent CNET article about what New York-based Internet provider Nicholas Merrill was cooking up. Merrill is raising funds to launch a national nonprofit Internet service provider that would dedicate its operations to ensuring the privacy and confidentiality of its users' data in an age when most telecommunications giants are happy to accommodate the federal government in its legally dubious surveillance endeavors. Merrill's ISP will be run by a nonprofit organization called the Calyx Institute and will prioritize consumer privacy by building technological safeguards into its basic infrastructure. Calyx will offer built-in encryption for Web browsing over its networks and an email service that will be encrypted so Calyx will not even be able to access users' email, meaning it will be unable to comply with federal demands to hand over such data. In addition to these safeguards, Merrill plans to resist any federal requests that seem legally or constitutionally questionable by openly challenging them in court, a stark contrast to the overwhelming Patriot Act

compliance in the telecommunications industry. I support such an endeavor wholeheartedly. If I pay for Internet and wireless services, I expect the companies that are taking my money to serve me and act in my best interest, and that includes respecting my privacy. When I see other providers very obviously putting profits before their consumers, regularly raising prices while simultaneously implementing restrictive data caps and voluntarily agreeing to monitor and police user traffic, an endeavor like Calyx's looks like a luscious, welcoming oasis in a desert filled with vultures and scorpions. I sincerely hope Merrill is able to scrape together the funding to get this thing off the ground because I am eagerly looking forward to switching to Calyx as soon as the service becomes available in the Chicago metropolitan area. As the federal government continues to expand its authority with increasingly invasive measures and a blatant disregard for privacy or civil liberties, it's important to support companies that are willing to take a stand and speak out against it. Consider giving Calyx a shot, if only for the sake of providing a market alternative to the people who are OK with warrantless, unaccountable agencies digging through the intimate details of your everyday communications and online activities.

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by Amy Kauffman
MCT Newswire

IN AMERICA, moviegoer interest in "Titanic 3D" may soon start to ebb, but in China the tide of box office receipts for the updated James Cameron classic is rising high. The reformatted version of the 1997 film starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet debuted in China April 10 and posted the second-highest opening day ever in the country, not accounting for inflation. The historical romance sold \$11.6 million worth of tickets in one day, or roughly 26 percent of the \$44 million the original grossed in China during its initial theatrical run in 1998. The movie, when released in China 14 years ago, played in only 180 theaters. "Titanic 3D" was screened in 3,500 locations in the country, which in recent years has become one of the leading foreign markets

for Hollywood films. The original "Titanic" remained the top-grossing film in Chinese history until 2009, when it was eclipsed by "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen." The record now belongs to a different Cameron-directed film: "Avatar," which raked in a whopping \$207 million in China in 2010. Since its international release April 6, "Titanic 3D," which is being distributed overseas by 20th Century Fox, has grossed a total of \$60 million abroad as of press time. China is so far the highest-grossing foreign market for the film, though it is also performing solidly in Russia and Britain. The 3D reissue has collected almost \$28 million domestically in the eight days since it hit theaters and opened in third place behind "The Hunger Games" and "American Reunion."

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'MOB WIVES'

THE HARD AND FAST RULE OF THE MOB IS THAT YOU DONT TALK ABOUT IT, ESPECIALLY TO THE WOMEN.

But times have changed, and a handful of local women with connections to the Outfit, the Chicago Mafia, are doing more than just moving their lips.

While some residents would rather forget the countless crimes committed by the city's most notorious gangsters, new light is being shed on Chicago's dark and dirty history in a new reality show on VH1, "Mob Wives Chicago."

"When you think about the mob, the first thing that comes to mind is either going to be John Gotti or Al Capone," said "Mob Wives" producer Jennifer Graziano. "Obviously, New York was the first pick. That's where I'm from, that's what I know. Chicago, naturally, was the next city for [the show]."

Graziano began her franchise in April 2011 with the original "Mob Wives," which featured six Staten Island women whose husbands or fathers have been imprisoned for crimes tied to the Mafia. Graziano, who is the sister of Renee Graziano, one of the New York "Mob Wives," originally planned to write a scripted series based on her life growing up with her father, Anthony Graziano, a New York mobster who has been charged with various Mafia-related crimes.

After the popularity of shows like "Real Housewives," Graziano said she envisioned a reality show format that would be easier to launch and have the ability to be franchised out to other cities.

"I had the cast right under my nose, so it was a no-brainer," Graziano said of the Staten Island mob wives. "I explained to them that it wasn't about the men, it was about how that lifestyle affected them and where they are in their lives mentally and emotionally because of it."

Graziano has now brought "Mob Wives" to Chicago. She said the show is going to be a wild and crazy ride full of dynamic women with interesting mindsets.

The cast of Chicago's "Mob Wives" is made up of five women whose fathers or



(Back row, left to right) Rocco DeGrazia, Louis Campagna, Claude Maddox, Nick Circella, and Sam Costello (front row, left to right) Frank LaPorte, Vera Emery, Al Capone, Willie Heeney, and Jimmy Emery.

Photos Courtesy JOHN BINDER

husbands have ties to the Chicago Outfit. None of them have been shy about revealing their connection, according to VH1's press release. Renee Fecarotta Russo's uncle, "Big John" Fecarotta, was an alleged loan collector and hit man, before being gunned down in 1986 by fellow mobster Nick Calabrese. Nora Schweihs is the daughter of Frank "The German" Schweihs, a notorious hit man for

the mob and who was rumored to be involved in the death of Marilyn Monroe. Schweihs, who died in 2008, allegedly had his remains confiscated by the government, which made Nora return to Chicago to attempt to find them. Other mob wives are more reluctant to discuss their family's history, such as Pia Rizza, whose father was a "dirty Chicago cop who worked for the mob" and is now

in the Federal Witness Protection Program.

The remaining two cast members are Christina Scoleri, whose father is Raymond Janek, a one-time thief and alleged fence for the mob, and Leah DeSimone, the "over-protected" daughter of William "Wolf" DeSimone, an alleged "associate" of the mob.

During the filming of the New York "Mob Wives," Graziano said she dealt with Italian-Americans who were unhappy about the show. Some staged protests, and a few restaurant owners denied them access to film inside their businesses. Despite the resistance, Graziano was able to complete the first season of "Mob Wives," which became a hit on VH1 and garnered positive reviews from some entertainment critics, like Entertainment Weekly's Ken Tucker.

"I knew that there was going to be some people that were angry with me in the [Italian] community and the whole circle," Graziano said. "They [should] realize that we aren't giving away any secrets. We don't have any secrets to give away. We aren't talking about anything that's not public knowledge."

Public knowledge or not, it is clear that Chicagoans have also not embraced the reality show with open arms. Graceland Cemetery and restaurants like Gilt Bar, Lux Bar and Tavern on Rush have denied filming at their businesses, according to



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UNDER FIRE

WRITTEN BY SOPHIA COLEMAN
DESIGNED BY HENDI UNKEFER



Colosimo and his wife

Frank Nitti

THE RISE OF THE OUTFIT

The predecessor to the Outfit was born roughly in the 1900s with notorious gangster “Big Jim” Colosimo and second-in-command John Torrio, who took small-scale organized crime to the next level before the years of Prohibition. Colosimo had valuable political connections, which in turn offered him protection, according to Binder. By 1910, Colosimo was in charge of the city’s largest group of racketeers, a multi-ethnic body of Italian, Jewish, Irish and Greek members. Al Capone came to Chicago in 1919 and encouraged the mob to pursue liquor trades during Prohibition.

“Colosimo was hesitant to go that route and was killed in 1920 by New York Mobster Frankie Yale under contract from John Torrio,” Binder said.

Torrio became the gang’s leader and built it up dramatically during the early years of Prohibition. He stepped down in 1925 and the gang turned to Capone, who expanded the Outfit to take over the West Siders mob during the height of gang wars in 1926. Capone then took over the North Siders mob in 1931, and by that point his organization had control of most of Chicago gangland.

“Al had a bit of trouble filing his income tax returns and fled for Atlanta in May 1932,” Binder said. “Frank Nitti, who had previously been the underboss [for Capone] and had been instrumental in running the business end of the gang’s activities, replaced Capone.”

At the end of Prohibition, the organization known as the Outfit was born under Nitti.

Graziano. She said Chicago as a whole has been even more resistant than New York and added that she wishes locals would realize she is not saying all Italians are in the mob or all Italians behave or act a certain way.

Louis Rago, president of the Italian-American Human Relations Foundation of Chicago, has been against the series since its beginnings in New York. He said he will continue to voice his opposition now that it has come to his city.

He said what angers him most is the continued Hollywood portrayal of Italian Americans in the media, from characters like Vinnie Barbarino in the TV series “Welcome Back, Kotter,” Joey Tribbiani of “Friends” and the cast of “Jersey Shore.”

According to Rago, the surge of popularity with reality TV has continually portrayed Italian-Americans in a negative light. He said cult classics like “The Sopranos” and “The Godfather,” have perpetuated the image that all Italian-Americans are affiliated with the mob to some degree.

“They have portrayed Italian-Americans as gangsters or buffoons,” Rago said. “Are they lovable characters? They may very well be, but they are still negative characters. I wouldn’t want to hold them up to my grandchildren as positive images.”

He said that now Italian-American kids are growing up watching these shows, thinking, “Why should I study? Why should I strive to do anything bigger?” because they see celebrities like the cast of “Jersey Shore” and think they could make a living by being dramatic and rude-mannered.

“I remember Newton Minow (chairman of the Federal Communications Commission in the 1960s) saying that television is a vast wasteland,” Rago said. “He should see it now. At least then they had people sitting down writing scripts.”

The “Mob Wives” series has particularly irked him, he said, because it is glorifying

the mob and the lifestyle that comes with it.

“Five years ago, you’d be sitting in a corner if you were related to the mob,” Rago said. “You wouldn’t want to stand up and say that. It’s like hanging your dirty laundry.”

John Binder, author of “The Chicago Outfit,” which provides a detailed history of the Chicago Mafia, said he finds it bizarre that relatives of the members of the Outfit would come out publicly. He chalked it up to people wanting their “15 minutes of fame” and that the show falls in line with “Jersey Shore” and “Keeping Up with the Kardashians.”

“WE DON’T HAVE ANY SECRETS TO GIVE AWAY. WE AREN’T TALKING ABOUT ANYTHING THAT’S NOT PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE.”

JENNIFER GRAZIANO

Though he said he views the show as a publicity stunt, Binder could confirm the status of a few of the “Mob Wives” ties to the Mafia.

Binder said Fecarotta was a juice-loan collector, meaning that he was responsible for collecting debts owed to the Outfit, and a hit man in the 1960s.

“If a guy didn’t pay off their loans, he would eventually kill him,” Binder said. “He became a full-fledged killer and [was] killed in an Outfit hit, which was part of the ‘Family Secrets’ trial in 2007.”

The “Family Secrets” trial, an FBI investigation of mob-related crimes in

Chicago, also involved Schweih, one of the men indicted as a defendant, according to Binder.

He could not confirm the history of Riza’s “dirty Chicago cop” father, Janek and “Wolf” DeSimone, as he did not have any files on those members.

“If you are a daughter of a mob figure, you can certainly say what he ate for breakfast and what kind of pajamas he wore, or how he was as a dad—the personal side of it,” Binder said. “But they’re not going to know anything about [the Outfit] more than what they read in the newspapers.”

He said because the women involved

in the show are not daughters of what he considers high-ranking mobsters, there has clearly been a selection process involved in the casting of the show. Most people from mob families, by and large, want nothing to do with the show because they would be shunned from their families, according to Binder.

“In the world of organized crime, you don’t talk to non-members about what you do, and that includes relatives,” he said. “The Outfit guys don’t come home and talk in front of their family about what they are doing. That’s a law in their world.”

Binder added that the Outfit of today is

not nearly what it used to be in terms of being involved in the political system and the amount of money members pull in. Now they are heavily involved in various forms of gambling in northern Illinois, from betting on college and professional sports to running video-poker machines. The Outfit controls workers through labor racketeering and are involved in “juice lending,” in which interest is charged on loans, and the selling of narcotics, according to Binder.

His friend Matt Luzi is related to Frank LaPorte, a high-profile mobster who ran rackets, or illegal businesses, for the Outfit in the 1960s and early 1970s in Chicago’s South Suburbs and Northwest Indiana. Luzi was never fully aware of his great uncle’s involvement in the mob, as none of his family members spoke about it when he was a child. For 20 years, he dug up information on his family’s past and has since been researching the history of the Outfit along with Binder and Mars Eghigian, the author of “After Capone: The Life and World of Chicago Mob Boss Frank ‘The Enforcer’ Nitti.”

“I don’t agree with [pop culture] glorifying the mob,” Luzi said. “At their core, they were criminals and killed people. It’s not an image you would want to capitalize on. But on the other hand, you can’t ignore the reality that existed. I’ve always been more interested in the facts, and the whys and the hows, not the sensationalism of it.”

Graziano said the show is not meant to sensationalize the Outfit, but rather it is a way for viewers to peer into the lives of women who have previously kept mum about their family’s dealings.

“We are showing you things that are happening in real time against real newspapers and current events,” Graziano said. “It’s my family that it’s happening to. It could not be any more authentic.”

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‘Anything you can do’

by Trevor Ballanger
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

ART CAN be interpreted a number of ways. Depending on the eye of the beholder, an artist’s talent is lovingly adored, heavily scrutinized and sometimes even imitated. While allowing the audience to modify work may be unheard of to most artists, one Chicago exhibition is making it OK to say, “Anything you can do, I can do better.”

Curator Jenny Lam is taking drastic measures to prove art can be important to anyone if they’re given the opportunity to take matters into their own hands. Her latest endeavor, “I CAN DO THAT,” currently showing at Variable Space, 1564 N. Damen Ave., furthers her quest to get artists to step out of their comfort zones by presenting various pieces of art that visitors to the exhibition are allowed to put their own creative spin on.

The concept came to Lam, 24, when she realized the growing disconnect between artists’ intentions and how audiences interpret their work. She said this is a problem typical of the art world, and she’s grateful to the more than 40 artists for being open-minded to the concept.

Chicago artist Clarisse Perrette is lending two pieces to the show. Perrette, 42, said allowing the modifications is a bold move for an artist.

“I think it goes both ways in that some artists and some artwork can be pretentious,” Lam said. “It’s kind of a challenge to both parties involved—challenging the artists to

be more open and also challenging the audience to think about the artist’s position.”

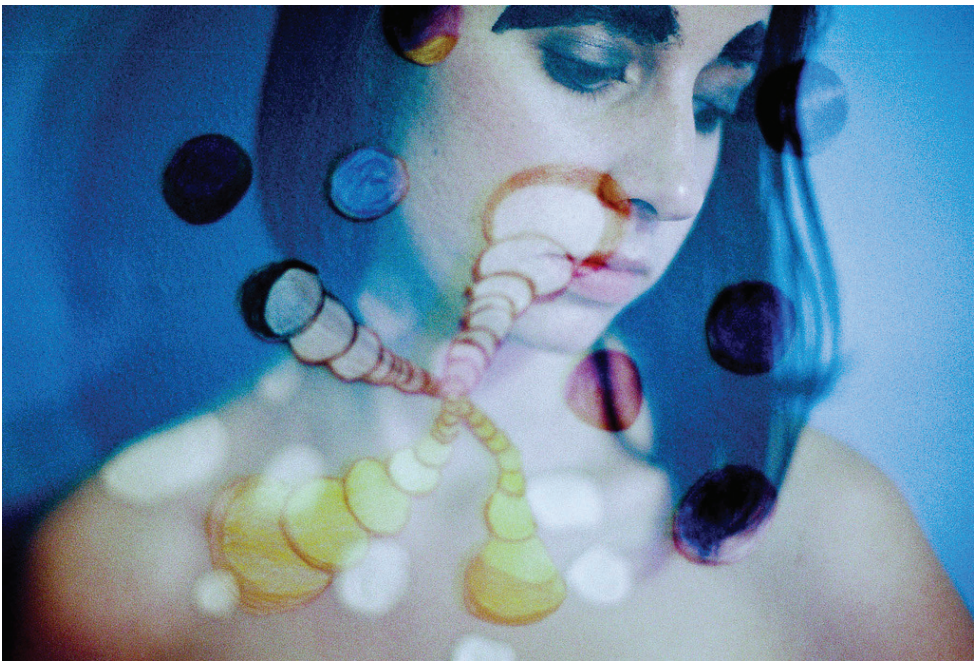
Participating artists will display their own pieces along with the same materials used to make them. Lam will be circulating the exhibit throughout its two-week duration and videotaping the modification processes, the end result of which she said will take on a living, breathing life of its own. Afterward, the artist will be able to sell or keep the “finished” product.

Finding the right pieces for the exhibit was inevitably a challenge for their creators. The selection process was hard for Perrette because she said so many of her paintings, particularly portraits, have personal significance to her.

However, the need to vanquish pretenses in the art community overpowered her anxieties. She said the situation is actually ironic because people will probably find it a daunting task to mark over someone else’s work and call it their own.

“Art is a dialogue for me,” Perrette said. “Some people have trouble parting with their work and want to keep it around. I love work going out into the world and being seen by people and being interacted with in many ways. That being said, this was complicated.”

Lam said the exhibition will also showcase nontraditional forms of artwork, including street art, costumes and performance pieces. On April 27, the exhibit’s last day, comedian Caitlin Bergh will perform a preview of her upcoming stand-up routine. Bergh, 26, will pull a story idea out of a hat



Courtesy JENNY LAM

A piece titled “After Galatea” by Gracie Cannell is one of the featured works in the “I CAN DO THAT” exhibit.

and perform for three minutes. Audience members will be asked to perform a comedy routine with the same storyline and attempt to make it funnier than the last.

Bergh, a graduate student at the University of Chicago, said doing comedy routines as a form of art is a way to “connect people who are drifting away from each other.” When people share an experience like art or stand-up, it forms a common ground and an intimate human connection among strangers, she said.

According to Perrette, this exhibit says that despite having a smaller art community, Chicago has more of an adventurous spirit than places like New York.

Bergh described Lam’s exhibition as the literal deconstruction of the “artist-as-a-snob” idea. Being part of the exhibit

gives artists the chance to understand what viewers see as opposed to what was intended, she said.

Lam said she agrees with Bergh because letting people work together on a single piece of art aid in the community’s creative growth.

“I’ve always been interested in audience interaction and getting a lot of people involved in creating art,” Lam said. “I tried to get artists to break out of their shells. For this show, it’s kind of breaking down even more barriers.”

“I CAN DO THAT” runs through April 27 at Variable Space, 1564 N. Damen Ave., 3rd floor, from 7–10 p.m. Regular gallery hours are 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday–Wednesday, or by appointment.

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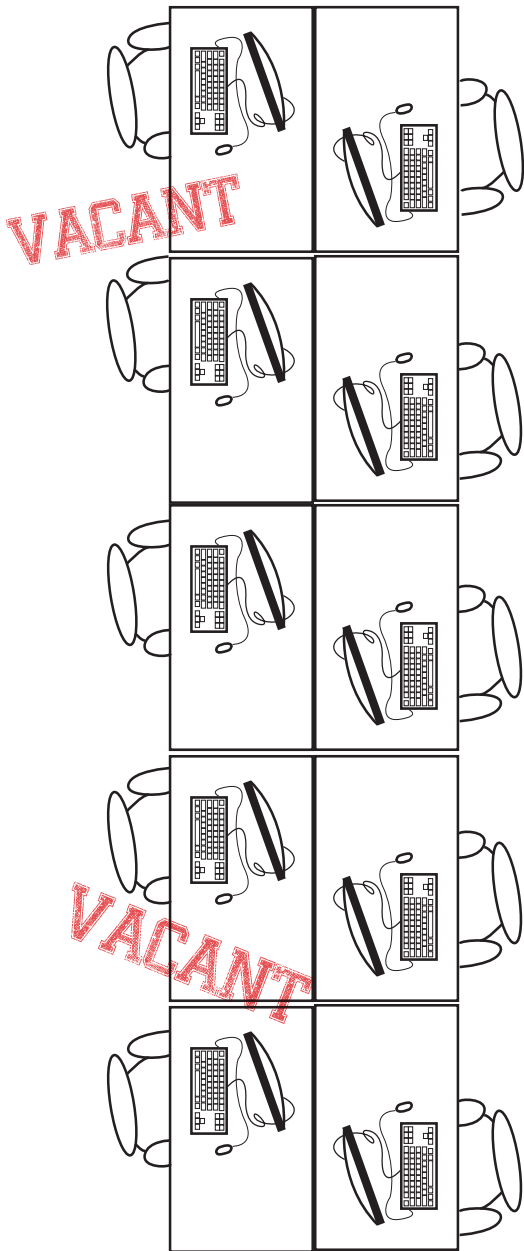
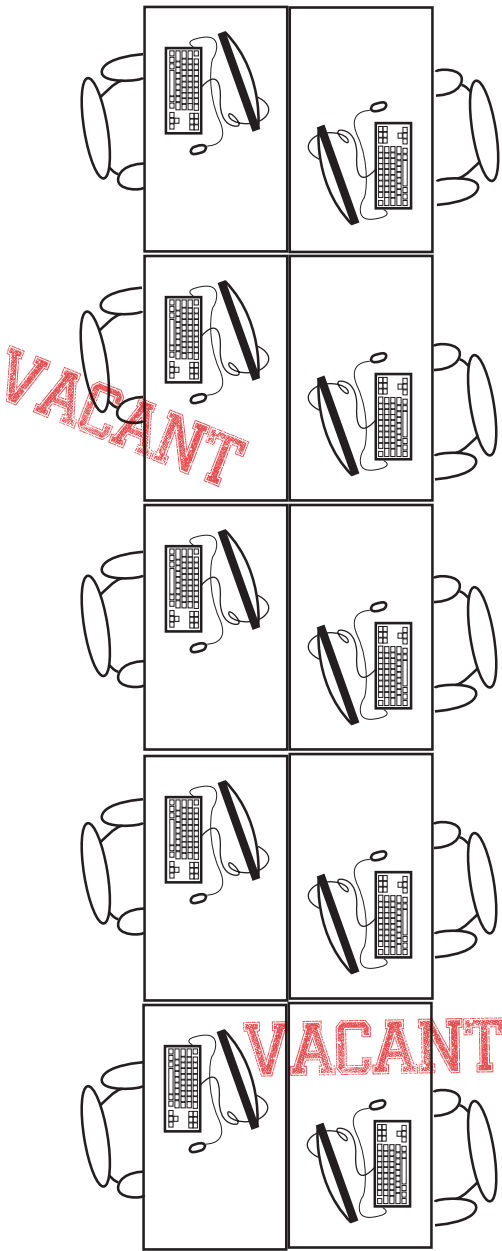
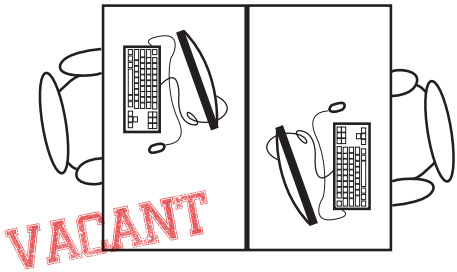
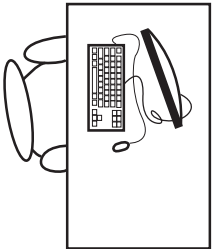
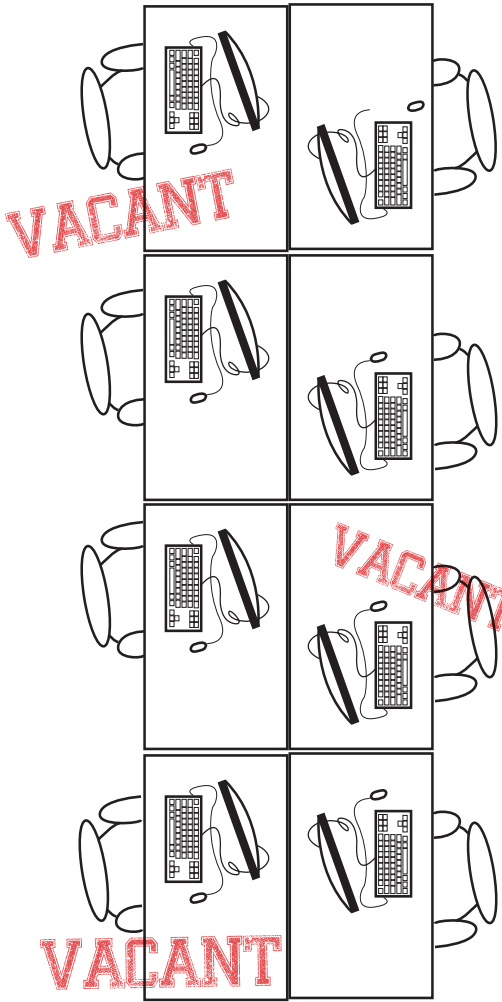
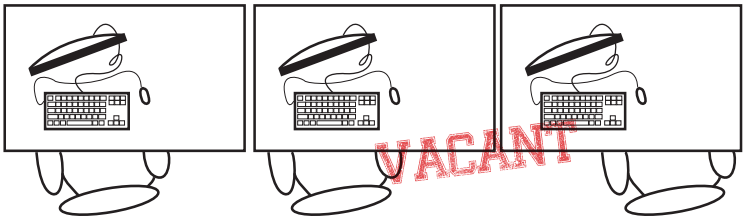
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KURT VILE // BABY'S ARMS

AMANDA MURPHY, ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR



BUZZCOCKS // JUST LUST
THE REPLACEMENTS // CAN'T HARDLY WAIT
THE STOOGES // NO FUN
RAMONES // JUDY IS A PUNK

AMBER MEADE, COPY CHIEF



THE FIVE STAIRSTEPS // OOH CHILD
LYNYRD SKYNYRD // SIMPLE MAN
ACE HOOD // HALLUCINATIONS
JAY-Z // D.O.A.

GABRIELLE ROSAS, COMMENTARY EDITOR



SLEIGH BELLS // TRUE SHRED GUITAR
TUNE-YARDS // GANGSTA
M83 // MIDNIGHT CITY
OH LAND // SUN OF A GUN



Tiela Halpin THE CHRONICLE

Sean McConnell released the debut self-titled album for his project Cold Country on April 10.

Take it from me, Cold Country

by Amanda Murphy
Arts & Culture Editor

PHOENIX-RAISED SEAN McConnell may not have been born in what's considered cold country. But after a few musical endeavors and a move to Chicago after a stint in Austin, Texas, McConnell found his warm-blooded self back in a cold-blooded city. After a year of writing, accumulating musicians and recording, he released the self-titled debut album April 10 for his project Cold Country. The album boasts a perfect summer sound, a colorful mix of perky Americana tracks laden with harmonica and horns paired with others that are more mellow, bittersweet and beautiful and always seem to end sooner than one wishes they would. With shows booked around the city for the next few months and a video out soon for the album's single, "Take It From Me (Nicole Marie)," Cold Country is quickly warming Chicago's chilled winter bones. The Chronicle sat down with McConnell over coffee to talk about the process of putting the band together, the difficulties that come with recording your own music and the roots of the band's name.

The Chronicle: You formed the type of band that you wanted. What were you looking for in the other members and the instruments?

Sean McConnell: In coming back to Chicago from Austin, I was already familiar with a pretty good network of musicians. People I had played with before, people I had recorded. So I already knew they were great players, and that allowed me to take my pick of my favorites of different groups and form this ensemble around the songs I had written. So that was really cool for me to be able to do that. I didn't have the band first and then we write the songs. This was all material I had been working on over the last year and then decided to pull all of these guys and girls in to make the album sound the way I wanted it to.

The Chronicle: What's different about this musical effort compared to what you've done in the past?

SM: Before this, I was in Austin, and I had started a two-piece project called You Are An Airplane. I was doing that for a little

while, and it got me a start. It got me writing more and performing my songs. It was fun, simple pop music, but it wasn't anything I thought to be too grand or ambitious. Then when I moved back, I started working on new material, and I had the idea to create a larger sound with more elements that I wanted and that I felt was missing from everything else, like strings, horns, other vocals. It wasn't some specific thing I had in mind. It was a general idea that I knew I wanted more out of these songs and that I wanted to see what I could do if I had all of these components at my disposal.

The Chronicle: You are an audio engineer, and you recorded the album yourself. Did you run into any problems?

SM: Luckily, it was a pretty effortless process. The hardest thing was the same problem I have for organizing members for the live show—scheduling people to come in. I like having that kind of control over what I do rather than having a producer come in and tell me what to do or not do, or having to worry about paying money or deadlines with a studio.

It's cool that I am able to do that myself and have that in my control. Producing and mixing your own music is an interesting dynamic. You just have to keep an open mind and distance yourself from it. When you're listening to it, you can't be like, "OK, that's my voice, these are my parts that I put together." You have to listen to it objectively as a piece of music.

The Chronicle: Why did the name Cold Country resonate with you?

SM: It's mostly to pay homage to my dad, who is from the Midwest. I came out here, and he's from here—Minnesota actually. He's a really traditional, old-fashioned kind of guy. If you ask him where he's from, he will always say, "I'm from the Cold Country." There's just something about the way it sounds that resonates with me.

For more information on Cold Country, visit the band's Facebook page. To listen to or purchase the album, visit ColdCountry.Bandcamp.com. Upcoming shows include one at Township, 2200 N. California Ave., on April 29 and one at Reggie's Music Joint, 2105 S. State St., on May 25.

amurphy@chroniclemail.com


music downloads

Week ending April 10, 2012

Top tracks

() Last week's ranking in top five


#1 Album



My Head Is an Animal Of Monsters and Men

United States


<i>We Are Young</i> • Fun.	(1)	1
<i>What Makes You Beautiful</i> • One Direction	(3)	2
<i>Boyfriend</i> • Justin Bieber	(2)	3
<i>Somebody That I Used to Know</i> • Gotye	(4)	4
<i>Call Me Maybe</i> • Carly Rae Jepsen	(5)	5



Now That's What I Call Music! 81

United Kingdom

<i>Call Me Maybe</i> • Carly Rae Jepsen	(1)	1
<i>Boyfriend</i> • Justin Bieber		2
<i>She Doesn't Mind</i> • Sean Paul	(2)	3
<i>Climax</i> • Usher		4
<i>Somebody That I Used to Know</i> • Gotye	(4)	5



21 Adele

Spain

<i>Yo Te Esperare</i> • Vali & El Dandee	(2)	1
<i>Tiempo ...</i> • Cantera F.C., Ramori, Juego	(1)	2
<i>Someone Like You</i> • Adele	(3)	3
<i>Dance Again</i> • Jennifer Lopez		4
<i>Ai Se Eu Te Pego</i> • Michel Telo	(5)	5

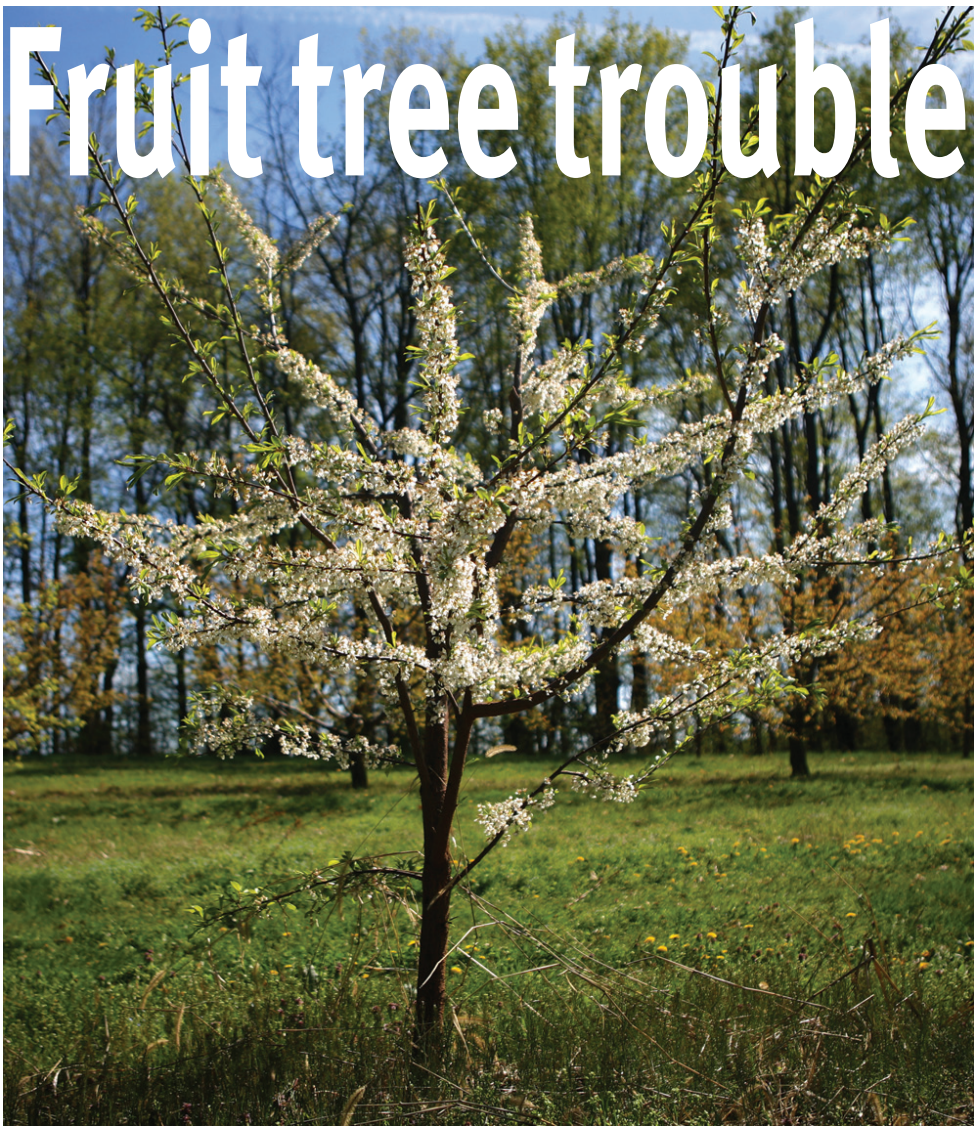
Source: iTunes

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MCT Newswire

by **Monica Eng**
MCT Newswire

TO THE delight of flower lovers, fruit trees have exploded with early vibrant blossoms across the Midwest.

But to fruit farmers, these early blooms inspire more distress than delight. If the flowers are hit by a frost and die, the tree's fruit crop will die with them.

"We need all the prayers we can get," said Mick Klug, who supplies peaches, cherries, apples, pears and more to Chicago restaurants and several area farmers markets. With these fragile early blooms, "it only takes one night in the low 20s to devastate the crop. And we still have to get through the whole month of April and the first two weeks of May."

Klug's family grows 3,000 fruit trees in St. Joseph, Mich., part of a region just across Lake Michigan that grows the majority of tree fruit in the Midwest.

This year's unseasonably warm temperatures have coaxed hundreds of his fruit trees into full bloom more than a month ahead of schedule. And while that could mean hefty and early harvests if the weather stays warm, it could also mean disaster.

The precarious situation has fruit growers obsessively watching weather reports, and according to Chicago WGN-TV meteorologist Tom Skilling, they have good reason to be worried.

"We're not out of the woods in terms of a frost threat here [in Chicago] or in southwest Lower Michigan," Skilling said. "The median date of the last frost dates there occur between April 10 and April 30, but the last observed dates for frost there extend into mid- and late May."

Mark Longstroth, a fruit educator at the Michigan State University Extension, said 30 minutes at 28 degrees around bloom time will cause damage, and 30 minutes at 25 degrees could take 90 percent of the crop.

For Chicagoans, that would translate into sparse fruit tables at farmers markets and sad, empty pie shells everywhere. For farmers, it would mean a severe financial blow.

"We are on pins and needles most of the time," said Rene Gelder, who owns and operates Ellis Family Farms in Benton Harbor, Mich., another major fruit supplier to Chicago restaurants and farmers markets.

Gelder said she has never seen a spring like this one. "And neither has my father, who started the farm," she said. "And he's 79."

Just how likely is it that local fruit farmers will escape another frost in the next six weeks?

"It would be unprecedented," Longstroth said. "But then again, those two 80-degree weeks in March were also unprecedented."

This year's strange weather also has meant freakishly early and abundant local spring produce.

"We have so much asparagus that we've asked Green City Market if we can start coming four weeks early," Klug said. "We usually don't get asparagus until early May."

But the official City of Chicago summer farmers markets won't launch until May 12 at the earliest.

Changing the date of the city's summer markets would be too difficult logistically, officials said. But some independent markets are contemplating sooner starts to accommodate the early harvests.

Farmers can battle mild frost on some crops with fans, irrigation and tarps, but these methods would not save the crops against sustained low temperatures.

In preparation for the worst, Klug said he's planting an ample supply of vegetables this year, including tomatoes, broccoli, potatoes and cauliflower.

"We need to diversify our income in case something happens to the fruit," he said. "We'll also need something for our help to do. We'll have 15 people working for us and we need to grow something."

Either way, the warm weather has produced a high-stakes growing season that is keeping fruit farmers up nights with worry and hope.

"It's either going to be the best year or the worst," Klug said. "It will either be the earliest crop ever or we won't have anything."

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Do you know where you're living next year?

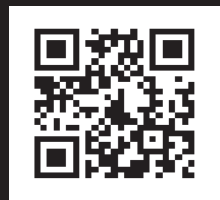


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FILM REVIEW

Popular doc returns to Siskel

by Drew Hunt
Film Critic

FERRAN ADRIÀ'S El Bulli is widely regarded as perhaps the most innovative and influential restaurant in history, specializing in a cooking style known as molecular gastronomy. Adrià's essential idea was to deconstruct food as a concept and reorient the notion of cuisine as we know it. Sometimes, this led him to some radical departures. His menu frequently included such curious items as "carrot air," "potato foam gnocchi" and "parmesan marshmallows."

Unfortunately, those interested in trying Adrià's unique dishes are out of luck. El Bulli, located in Catalonia, Spain, closed its doors in 2011, its website claiming the restaurant had "completed its journey." So unless you can snag a table at Next, the Chicago restaurant currently paying tribute to Adrià and his work by serving reconceptualized versions of his food, the next best option is Gereon Wetzel's documentary "El Bulli: Cooking in Progress," back by popular demand for another run at the Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State St.


Adrià closed El Bulli six months out of every year to formulate a new menu for the upcoming season. "Cooking in Progress" chronicles the creation of the restaurant's final menu. First Adrià and his close group of assistants began the painstaking process of perfecting ideas such as a dish of "ravioli whose pasta vanishes."

'El Bulli: Cooking in Progress'

Starring: Ferran Adrià, Oriol Castro

Director: Gereon Wetzel

Run Time: 108 min

Rating: 

Playing at the Gene Siskel Film Center April 21–26.

As meticulous as Adrià and his crew may have been, their method wasn't an exact science. Months of trial and error were the name of the game. Some dishes failed to move beyond the idea phase, while others underwent so many transformations that they became virtually unrecognizable from their initial design. Wetzel captures it all, observing the work with a sort of hushed curiosity.

Cinéma vérité has long been the preferred approach for many modernist documentarians, and considering El Bulli is the bellwether of modernist cuisine, the two styles marry nicely. There are no talking head interviews in "Cooking in Progress," nor is there any voiceover narration. Wetzel simply lets the camera capture the moment, relying on the discussions that transpire in what can be aptly labeled as Adrià's laboratory to propel the narrative forward.

Less patient viewers may become aggravated by the seeming lack of drama, but for both Wetzel and Adrià the pleasure is in the discovery. Judging from the film, Adrià is a person who sees the world as being com-



IMDB
"El Bulli: Cooking in Progress" follows the design of new culinary delights from chef mastermind Ferran Adrià.

posed of various elements that ought to be deconstructed in order to realize their true value. Accordingly, Wetzel makes sure to show us even the most innocuous moments of Adrià's process so that when everything finally comes together, the level of detail will prove that much more profound.

That said, when the film finally does reach its intended climax—when the menu is finalized and the restaurant reopens—things get less interesting. Wetzel spends most of his time in the back of the house, illustrating the workmanlike procedures of El Bulli's dozens of chefs as they arrange each plate with laser-like precision. With

Adrià's maniacal conceptualizing complete, he's free to rest on his laurels. Unfortunately, Wetzel follows suit, and "Cooking in Progress" quickly abandons its inquisitive mise-en-scène in favor of reflecting the ritualism of El Bulli's employees.

Although one of the film's central themes is the idea of labor and its many forms, Wetzel's abrupt shift in tone doesn't go unnoticed. Still, probably not unlike Adrià's food, "Cooking in Progress" goes down easy as an intriguing look into one of the world's most fascinating minds.

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Photos by Jacob Boll ('12)

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TOP 5

[NSFW]

The Columbia Chronicle presents
your online time-wasters of the week.

VIDEO: “Hey, Arnold!” movie trailer



IF THERE’S anything our childhoods taught us, it’s that none of us had it better than cartoon characters. Unfortunately, they grew up, too. In this “Hey, Arnold!” spoof, the title character has a chance encounter with childhood bully Helga, only to find out she’s still a scary unbrowed creeper.

APP: Batman Arkham City Lockdown

IN PREPARATION for the upcoming summer release of “The Dark Knight Rises,” fanboys and gamers would do well to purchase this new app to tide over their Batman enthusiasm. In this game, Batman faces off with classic foes like Harley Quinn and Bane. Players can choose Batman’s suit and develop skills to win back Gotham City.



BLOG: First-World-Problems.com



FINALLY THERE’S a site where all of America’s greatest issues can be mused upon. First-World-Problems.com is chock full of important everyday issues definitely worth talking about. “It sucks that I have a check so large that I can’t deposit it using my iPhone app.” #FIRSTWORLDPROBLEMS.



Miranda Cummings

Ad Account Executive

Inappropriate things to do on Facebook

Vaguebooking: According to UrbanDictionary.com, “vaguebooking” is an intentionally vague Facebook status update that prompts friends to ask what’s going on. It’s cute that you want your whole social network to know you’re upset, but nobody cares, Bridget Jones.

Posting your pregnancy: MTV doesn’t scout for the next cast of “Teen Mom” on Facebook, so the ultrasound, baby bump update and picture of you post-childbirth is unnecessary. We’ll see if you’re this excited in five years.

Chickenhead pictures: Another term tagged from UrbanDictionary.com, defining the tacky pictures people take with their camera phones in the mirror. Whether you show off your abdominal area or pout your lips lathered in your newest Smackers lip gloss, this is not cute, and some people, like myself, probably unfriended you.

Facebook game requests: Whether it is Farmville or Mafia Wars, it’s rather irritating when you repeatedly ask me to play it with you. When gaming systems were connected to your TV, you didn’t repeatedly knock on someone’s door asking them to play those games with you, right? This isn’t different.

Relationship blasting: Oh, you’re in a relationship with Joe? And you like taking pictures of you guys playing tonsil hockey? That’s great, but relax. Putting all the good things about your relationship on blast makes it even more embarrassing when he wasn’t actually ~*~The*bEst***BF***EvR~*~.



A.J. Abelman

Operations Manager

Worst things about living in space

Farting in a space suit: Let’s not pretend you haven’t thought about this phenomenon. There’s no circulation, you’re wearing a full body suit and floating upside down. Also, let’s take into consideration the weird bodily functions that could be associated with a steady diet of dehydrated space snacks. Which brings us to No. 2 on the list.

Space food: I’m a vegan, so I have to imagine that vegan space food is even worse than the regular kind. Although space ice cream was delicious when bought at the science museum on middle school field trips, a lifetime of squeeze tubes and packets would get old really fast. Do they even make Space Chipotle?

Monkeys make terrible pets: Poo-flinging at zero gravity sounds awesome now, but I think most of us would miss the companionship of all the animals that couldn’t survive the trip through the earth’s atmosphere.

General loneliness: It’s very quiet and dark up there. Though you’d occasionally get visits from the likes of Ashton Kutcher and other hot shots who can afford Virgin Galactic’s \$200,000 ticket to go into space, everyday life in the great beyond would generally be pretty lonesome. With only your pet monkey and in-suit farting to entertain you, it’d be a slow life. There are only so many times a person can play Solitaire.

Mars ain’t the kind of place to raise your kids: In fact, it’s cold as hell, and there’s no one there to help you raise them if you did.



Drew Hunt

Operations Manager

Bands that should be headlining Lollapalooza

Bell Biv DeVoe: Ricky Bell, Michael Bivins and Ronnie DeVoe were the kings of the new jack swing sound, a music genre sorely in need of resurgence. Their hit song “Poison” makes its way into virtually every deejay’s set, so why not have the real deal, live and in color? Also, most people don’t know that “Poison” is an AIDS awareness song—maybe all those over-privileged white kids from the suburbs who get wasted at Perry’s during the weekend will think twice before drunkenly raw-dogging a stranger in a Porta Potty.

Jimmy Ray: He owes us a lot of answers, and Lollapalooza is the perfect stage for him to finally own up to such burning questions as “Are you Johnny Ray?,” “Are you Slim Ray?” and “Are you Paid Ray?” Dude better be transparent as hell.

Jessica Pare of “Mad Men” singing “Zou Bisou Bisou” over and over again: Nice ...

Lou Bega: Apparently “Mambo No. 6,” “7” and “8” are straight fire, Joe. What better place to unleash them to the world than Lolla? Bega would light up the skyline with his fiery German-turned-Latin rhythms. Perry Ferrell can even pass out Cubano sandwiches and plantains during the set.

Tito Jackson: It’s time we show Tito some love by giving him a headlining slot at Lollapoolza. Sure, his catalogue is limited, but maybe he’s got a cool PowerPoint presentation he can show us. Lolla could benefit from embracing multimedia formats, anyway.

Check Me Out

What are you looking forward to wearing this summer?



“Cut off jeans and color. I can finally show off vests.”

Junior
Monica Pizano | Fine Arts and Design Major



“I’m a fashion kid, so I’m looking forward to wearing more business attire and urban swag.”

Sophomore
Dedrick Gray | Dance Major



“Loose knit tops, short denim shorts, cowboy boots, high-top sneakers.”

Senior
Chyma Serna | Fashion Studies Major



“I’m ready for my shorts and a nice tank.”

Sophomore
Garrett Demko | Art and Design Major

REVIEWS

LITERATURE

“DON’T PUT ME IN, COACH” BY MARK TITUS



BEING AN avid consumer of anything sports-related, I was excited to read this much-anticipated book from Mark Titus, not only because it was written by an alumnus of my beloved Ohio State Buckeyes, but because his cult-followed blog, ClubTrillion.blogspot.com, is so hilarious.

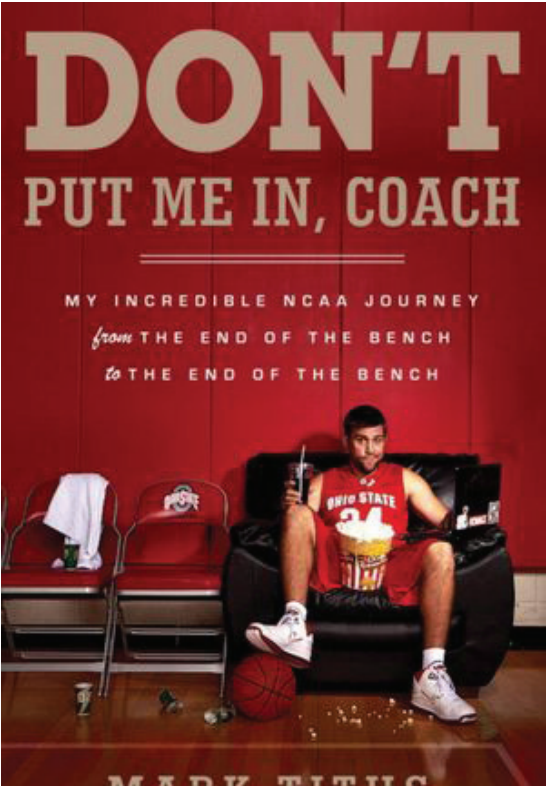
For those of you who don’t know, Titus made a name for himself by writing a blog about being a walk-on bench warmer for Ohio State University’s men’s basketball team. His candid and often hilarious window into the team earned him media attention and a small but devoted following.

In the book, he continues his “Trillion” legacy with blunt, hilariously inappropriate writing that gives even more insight into the often off-limits world of college athletics. He talks about pulling pranks on teammates that were condoned by Coach Thad Matta. His honesty makes him relatable and trustworthy, and he also has hilarious anecdotes about teammates like Greg Oden.

Some of the best parts, though, are when Titus takes an honest look at himself. He acknowledges that he owes his fame to luck and at one point even admits that he did have a desire to play more minutes before

adopting a “make the most of it and have as much fun as possible” attitude. These insights give the book enough depth to be a good read while maintaining the lovable snarky persona he’s created.

By the end of the book, you will wish Titus could be your best friend. His style and content make him appealing, like a loveable frat guy who is a staple on the nights you want to let loose at a bar. It’s a quick read that will have you laughing out loud and thinking, “I can’t believe he just said that!” —*L. Woods*



MUSIC

THE SHINS: “PORT OF MORROW”



THE SHINS are back after a five-year hiatus (or what felt like an eternity) with their latest album, “Port of Morrow.” Though your separation anxiety may have caused you to play your “Wincing the Night Away” CD to no end, it appears good things actually do come to those who wait.

The Shins have not been totally stagnant these past five years. They’ve undergone several changes, most notably the loss of three of the four founding members, leaving the weight of keeping the band alive squarely on the shoulders

of front man James Mercer.

Even though there are currently five members, The Shins are more of a one-man band. With Mercer being the only remaining original member and having co-produced, and composed the entire album himself, he seems to be doing a fine job of being the brains—and all other vital organs—behind The Shins.

“Port of Morrow” displays the wide range of Mercer’s talents, with songs like “Simple Song” having a new upbeat and polished sound that sets this album apart from previous releases. On the other hand, tracks like “September” are more of a throwback to The Shins’ 2001 breakthrough album, “Oh, Inverted World,” featuring the indie lap steel guitar sound that Mercer does so well.

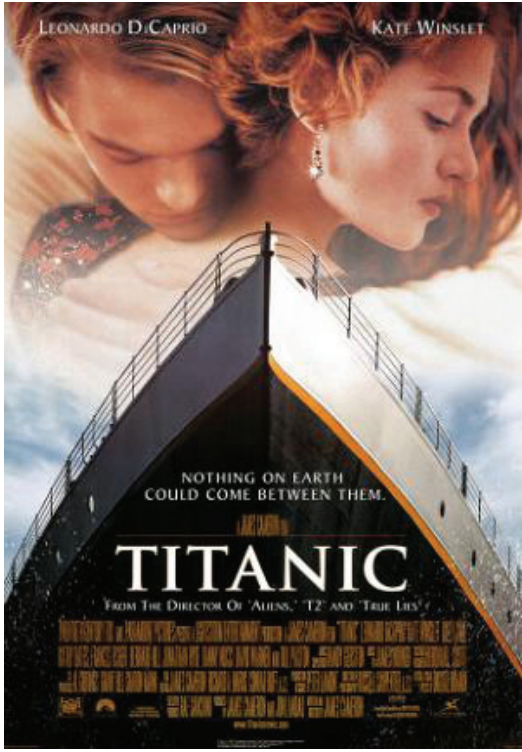
Though the album has not lost the essence of The Shins, “Port of Morrow” has a more mature and cleaner sound than the group’s previous albums yet manages to shy away from the sterility of Broken Bells, Mercer’s side project during The Shins’ hiatus.

Touching on themes of new beginnings (in reference to the birth of Mercer’s second daughter shortly after writing the album), rebirth and what lies beyond, “Port of Morrow” allows itself to be openly indie-pop, staying in a safe region between do-it-yourself ethics and experimentally catchy tunes. —*H. Unkefer*



FILM/ TELEVISION

“TITANIC 3-D”



LET’S BE honest. This movie is a classic whether you want it to be or not. And if you saw it five times in the theater like most of the world did, then you’re going to have to accept that you aided in making it the highest-grossing film of all time.

Watching this movie in theaters 15 years later is kind of surreal. Despite how many times I’ve seen “Titanic,” it

felt completely new this time around. In 3-D, viewers are able to see the doomed liner fall spectacularly to the bottom of the ocean in more than technicolor—they

get to feel like they’re actually there. While the effect is the technological achievement of the moment, it’s not exactly necessary. The film is big enough without being forced to spend an extra \$3 on special glasses that you can’t even keep.

However, it’s interesting to see how much the star-crossed lovers have matured from 1997 to the present. To this day, I feel Kate Winslet’s Oscar-nominated role in the film should have garnered the Academy Award. Her transition from the skeptical and well-to-do Rose DeWitt Bukater to the icy porcelain doll freezing in the Atlantic ocean was no doubt an emotional journey. Not to mention the bravery of performing a particularly famous scene in which her portrait is drawn wearing a heart-shaped diamond.

The film still holds up to the promise of inadvertent anxiety during some of its key scenes. My palms were definitely sweating while watching Leonardo DiCaprio’s Jack Dawson pull Rose to safety after hanging off the back of the ship. And seeing the ship split in half as helpless passengers cling to each other in desperate uncertainty is heart-wrenching.

Lastly, allow me to declare what everyone else thought: “They both could have fit on that board!” —*T. Ballanger*

RANDOM

CONTINUED CONTACT WITH AN EX



BREAKUPS HAPPEN. It’s a fact of life. No matter how hard it may seem, it’s usually for the best. For whatever reason, you and your “boo” just didn’t fit. I’ve come to notice most people tend to break clean and cease communication with their former love. I am not one of those people. I have remained close, or at least civil, with roughly 75 percent of my exes. I look at it differently and less cynically. Yes, things ended for a reason, but they started for a reason, too. I can’t simply cut someone out of my life because we don’t make dinner together three nights per week anymore. Yes, it could be detri-

mental to hang on to the emotional connection and even more so if you maintain a physical relationship. I like to defend myself with the term “recycling.” Call it pathetic and delusional (OK, maybe not because I feel crummy enough as it is), but I look at it as a way to keep my newly single self from slutting it up all the time. My most recent ex didn’t match me emotionally, so we mutually broke up to preserve our friendship. While it still hurts to spend time with him and I still daydream about being together, I can’t imagine not talking to him and seeing him a couple of times per week. But dag-nabbit if we don’t flirt like when we were first dating. It’s frustrating and perhaps stunting my ability to move on, but we just get along so well. —*T. Halpin*



COMMENTARY

EDITORIALS

Salary not to blame

COLUMBIA'S TUITION will increase approximately 5 percent next semester, President Warrick L. Carter announced earlier this year. Why tuition was raised is still hazy, and no clear answers have been given. But some, such as Vice President Joe Biden, are blaming college professors and their salaries for nationwide tuition hikes.

Biden and David C. Levy, president of Cambridge Information Group, are both mistaken in their assumptions that faculty pay is at fault for tuition increases, according to a new report from the American Association of University Professors. When the data is analyzed carefully, it is clear that faculty pay is not to blame.

First of all, the rate at which tuition is rising is much faster than that of faculty salary increases. According to the AAUP report, private four-year colleges increased their tuition rates by 28.9 percent in the last decade, while faculty salary increases have ranged only from 1.9-7.7 percent.

This means that tuition increases at four-year private universities and colleges were more than double the increases in full-time faculty salaries. In other words, it makes no sense that faculty salaries, especially for part-timers, would cause a yearly increase in tuition.

In fact, many colleges realize significant savings in faculty salaries. Part-time faculty makes up approximately 40 percent of total faculty at most colleges, yet they

tend to be the lowest paid, according to the AAUP report. While the number of faculty is increasing each year, salaries either remain stagnant or increase very little.

For the last two years, P-Fac, Columbia's part-time faculty union, and administrators have strained to agree on a fair contract. P-Fac has claimed time and again that they are underpaid and treated unfairly compared to full-time faculty.

Meanwhile, presidents across the country have fared better in protecting their own salaries from budget cuts. From 2009-2011, university and college presidents have seen a salary increase of almost 2 percent, according to the AAUP report. But faculty salaries have seen an average 1.3 percent cumulative salary decrease since 2009. If faculty salaries are to blame for tuition increases, then administrators' salaries must hold some responsibility, as well.

It makes no sense to assume that faculty salaries are main reasons for rising tuition. Before administrators and politicians begin pointing the finger at faculty, they should set the example for change, just like Birmingham-Southern College President Charles Krulak, who forfeited his first year's salary to show his commitment to restoring the college's fiscal well-being. Not every administrator is expected to give up their salary. But playing the blame game with faculty will just perpetuate a volatile, ongoing issue.

Residents come first

MAYOR RAHM Emanuel wants to put Chicago on the map. He announced April 5 that the city's Convention and Tourism Bureau will open new offices in Brazil, Germany and Japan July 1, in an effort to drastically increase international tourism to the city. Emanuel has set a goal of 50 million visitors by 2020 and said Chicago will host the U.S. Travel Association's International Pow Wow in 2014.

Increased tourism to Chicago, especially international tourism, will no doubt bring revenue to the city. But tourism to Chicago is already exceptionally high, according to statistics from the city's Office of Tourism and Culture.

Chicago is the 10th most visited city in the world in regard to overseas visitors and the third most popular in the country after Los Angeles and New York, according to the Office's 2010 statistical report. Emanuel said he is not satisfied with the title and doesn't believe "that the best kept secret in America should be the city of Chicago."

But Chicago's tourism, both domestic and international, has steadily climbed since the recession hit in 2008. In 2010, Chicago had 1.134 million visitors, up from 1.130 the year before. Perhaps not an enormous increase, but it is an improvement just the same. Chicago is also the

top regional vacation destination, with approximately 71 percent of all overnight leisure travelers coming from within Illinois or neighboring states. Chicago can still maintain its reputation as a top travel destination without the opening of new offices.

Chicago constantly competes with L.A. and New York as a tourist haven. One overseas traveler spends on average \$3,000-\$4,000 per trip, according to the mayor's office. When added up, the numbers are staggering. Plus, according to Emanuel, the consolidation of the travel and convention bureaus will save \$2 million per year.

Ironically, some of Chicago's must-see attractions for tourists and residents have suffered from budget cuts under Emanuel's administration. The Chicago Cultural Center, an architectural landmark, has faced serious repercussions. It no longer has its cafe, gift shop or some of its live music.

Emanuel's push for an increase in international tourism is an ambitious goal, and there is nothing wrong with that. But Chicago is still one of the top 10 tourism destinations in the world and that's not too shabby. Currently, it would be more practical to concentrate on improving the city for its residents.

Editorial Board Members

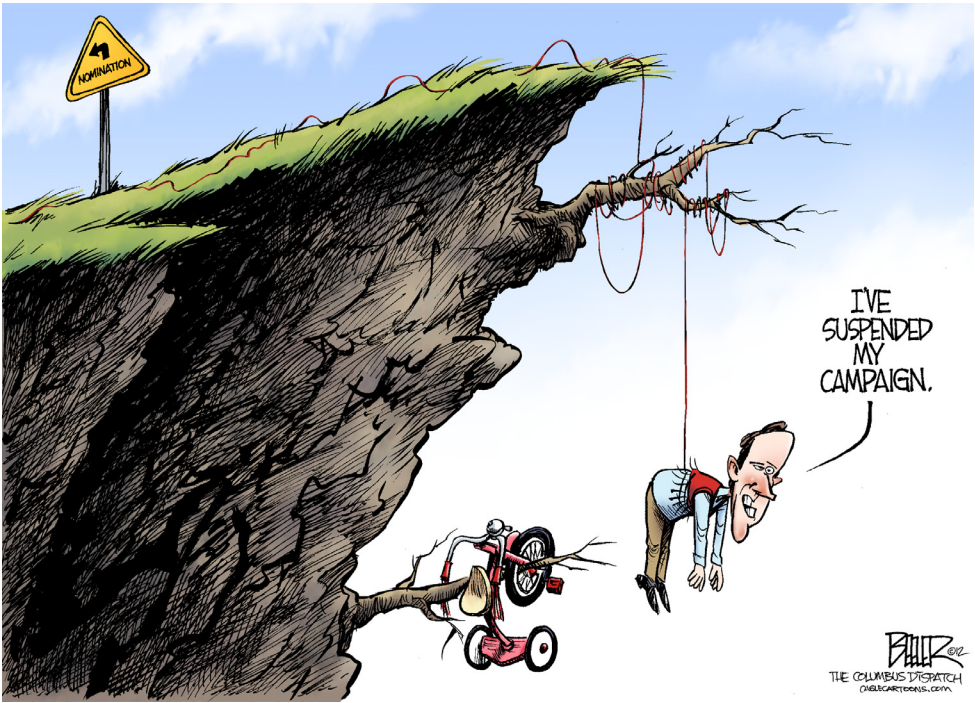
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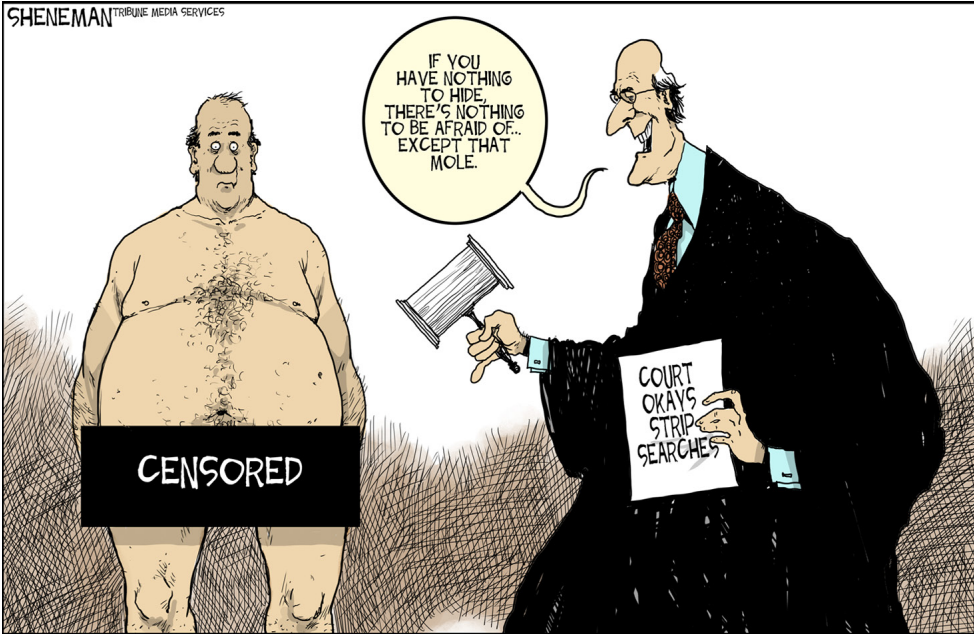
EDITORIAL CARTOONS



MCT Newswire



MCT Newswire



MCT Newswire

Have an opinion about something you read in this newspaper?

Did you catch a mistake, think we could have covered a story better or believe strongly about an issue that faces all of us here at Columbia?

Why not write a letter to the editor? At the bottom of page 2, you'll find a set of guidelines on how to do so. Let us hear from you.

—The Columbia Chronicle Editorial Board

Extra, extra! Print preferred on campus!



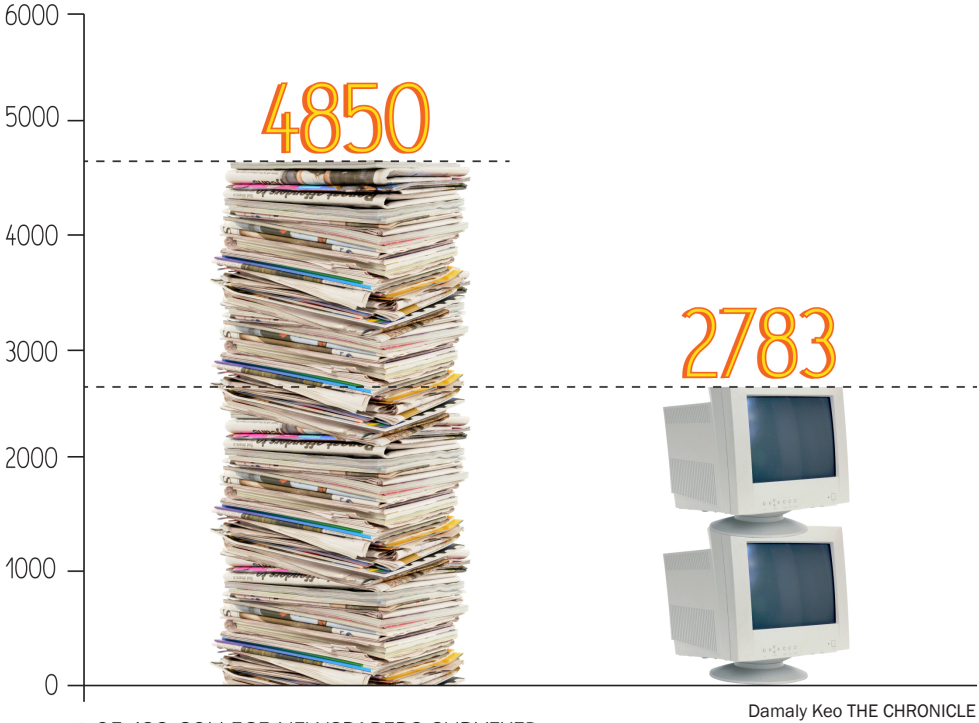
Gabrielle Rosas
Commentary Editor

RESEARCH CONDUCTED by the Pew Research Center in 2010 showed that the print newspaper is slowly becoming a nostalgic item. Approximately half of U.S. citizens get their news online, preferring the mobility and accessibility of an iPad or laptop. In fact, 44 percent of people who took the survey said they get most of their news from the Web or on a mobile device. The future of the mainstream media lies in the post-digital age.

But what about those niche publications that aren't so easily defined? What about, say, the college newspaper? Despite popular belief, college communities prefer their newspaper's print version to the online version. It might seem strange, but the facts speak volumes about what exactly motivates students and faculty to read a print newspaper rather than its digital counterpart.

If colleges want to improve their campus newspapers, they should embrace a multimedia approach that incorporates both a website and a print version. Excluding print newspapers from campuses would be a great disservice to students and faculty. It's a joke among student journalists that nobody bothers to read their articles except faculty. But

AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAILY STUDENT READERS



* OF 198 COLLEGE NEWSPAPERS SURVEYED
* AVERAGE TIME SPENT ON WEB WAS 3 MINUTES AND 18 SECONDS PER VISIT

approximately 76 percent of all college students have read the campus newspaper in the last month, according to a new report from Alloy Media + Marketing. In the last two months, that number rose to 82 percent. Each student who reads the paper passes it along 3.2 times on average. But why is it so popular?

Student newspapers offer several benefits that websites simply can't. For example, almost 60 percent of students pick up the campus newspaper from an

on-campus rack. Passing it from one peer to another helps foster an active and unified campus community. It is also convenient for students rushing to class, and it's easier to glance at during classes.

Many students discuss campus news in the paper and these publications often spark debates. College newspapers also offer coupons and display special interest ads that many students respond to. More than 78 percent of students use coupons and roughly 80 percent react to

ads in some form. And I don't know about anyone else, but after spending all day on the computer, it's a nice respite to read from paper. Not only that, but students who read news from the print edition of a publication, as opposed to the online version, were able to better retain more information about the articles they read, according to an Arizona State University study.

Although it isn't clear why print news is easier to recall than online, the study says it might have something to do with the fleeting nature of online news. And let's face it, most college students are too worried about final exams and end-of-semester parties to remember what crazy verkakte North Korea is threatening to do to us. But the newspaper could really help them get in touch with the world and their campus.

The college newspaper is the main source of campus news for both faculty and students. Almost 90 percent of students said the college newspaper is their main source for campus news and only 18 percent of students read the online version. The majority of faculty read the paper and usually page through the entire issue. According to Student Monitor, a New Jersey company that surveys college students about their reading habits, 56 percent of students didn't know that their college newspaper had a website.

So what is the benefit of cutting the print version from a college's newspaper? I'm thinking nada, zilch, zero. Nothing. Anyone unable to see that must not be listening. Especially when the numbers speak for themselves.

grosas@chroniclemail.com

Sperm banks breed dysfunction



Alexandra Kukulka
Assistant Campus Editor

CHICAGO IS a busybody city with thousands of people walking its streets every day. It is impossible to notice every person who walks by, but those faces present a frightening reality for donor children who are born via artificial insemination. A stranger might be their father, or they may panic if they see a resemblance to a person they have never met.

Some parents hide their use of artificial insemination from their children, making them lucky enough to not have to deal with this struggle. But this isn't the major problem. The bigger issue at hand is that some men are donating almost a dozen times per year during the course of multiple years.

Berthold Wiesner opened his own fertility clinic with his wife in London in the 1940s. He lured his patients by promising them "high IQ donors," leading them to believe he used donors from a small circle

of intelligent friends. What these women did not know was that he was using his own sperm to inseminate them.

It was recently discovered that Wiesner fathered some 600 children from 1943-1962. Two brave men who were conceived in the clinic, Barry Stevens and David Gollancz, revealed the twisted truth behind Wiesner's operation. They conducted DNA tests on 18 people who were conceived in the clinic during those 19 years and found that two-thirds were fathered by Wiesner.

An estimated 30,000-60,000 children are conceived from sperm donors in the U.S. each year. This is just an educated guess, however, because according to a New York Times article, only 20-40 percent of women report their donor child's birth to the sperm bank.

While diseases can be passed along from parents to offspring, the more socially awkward problem is if two donor children meet and fall in love not knowing they are related, resulting in accidental incest.

"My daughter knows her donor's number for this very reason," a woman told the New York Times. "She's been in school with numerous kids who were born through donors. She's had crushes on boys who are donor children."

Can you imagine your mom telling you, "Oh honey, don't forget your lunch, backpack and donor number. Now run along to school." God forbid you have the same

number as that person you flirt with in math class, or else you have a whole new problem on your hands.

This same New York Times article talked about an anonymous donor from the U.S. with 150 children, raising the point that many donors are subject to this situation because they are promised a low number of children, not hundreds.

There needs to be some sort of limit put on the number of times a man can donate his sperm.

Furthermore, there are far fewer safeguards in donating sperm than in adoption. The only thing doctors do to a man who wants to donate sperm is test him for any health problems. Adoption, however, involves home visits and interviews with the couple about their relationship, finances and sex life. The donation process needs to be more regulated. A study conducted in early June 2010 by Karen Clark, whose father was a sperm donor, and Elizabeth Marquardt, who studies "sperm donor babies," proves that this form of conception has a negative effect on the child later in life.

The study proved roughly half of these individuals are disturbed that money was involved in their conception. More than

half said when they see someone who resembles them, they wonder if they are related. Approximately two-thirds affirm the right of donor offspring to know the truth of their origin. According to the same study, these children are twice as likely to have problems with the law before age 25 than children who know their biological parents. They struggle with substance abuse, depression and health problems and tend to feel hurt, confused and isolated, the study said. It also stated that the U.S. should do the same as Britain, Norway and Sweden and end the anonymous trade of sperm. This could be a positive step forward because it would diminish cases like Wiesner's.

There are some cases where the donor steps out of the shadows and connects with his donor child. For example, People magazine reported on sperm donor 48QAH, or Matthew Niedner, who has fathered more than a dozen children. He sends them emails and talks to them frequently. I bet he has an easier time managing that than Wiesner would.

There needs to be some sort of limit put on the number of times a man can donate his sperm. Otherwise, we may all be more interconnected than we think. Who knows? Maybe the person next to you is your half-sibling. All I can say is I am glad I know who my father is and that I am a product of my parents' love.

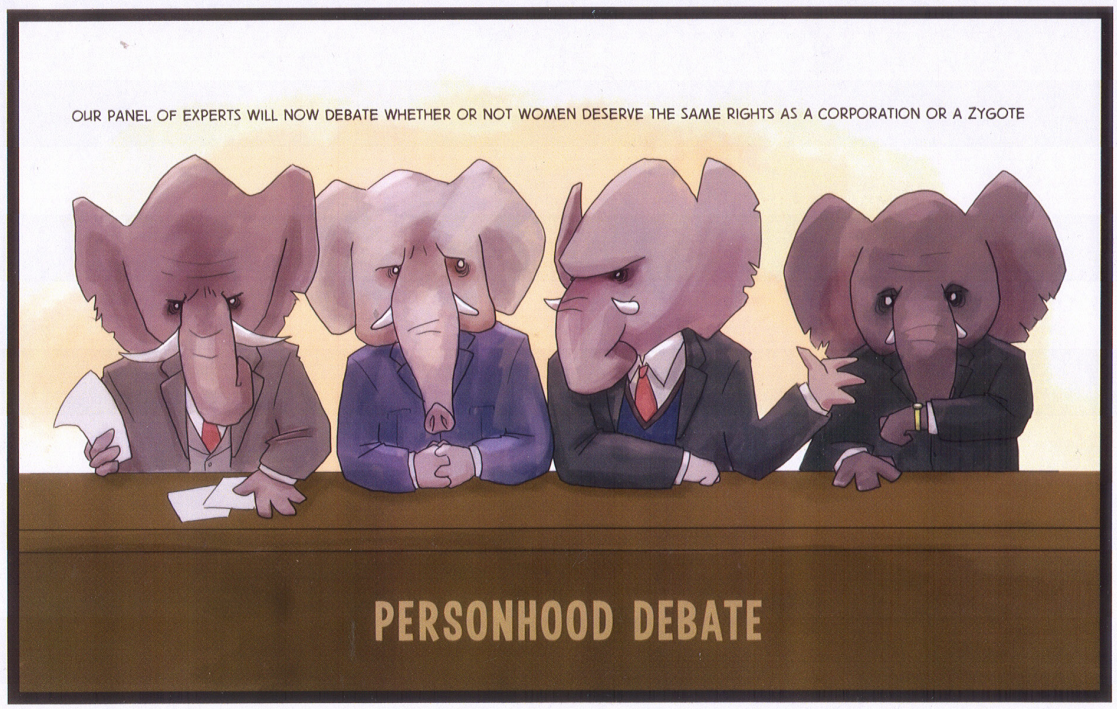
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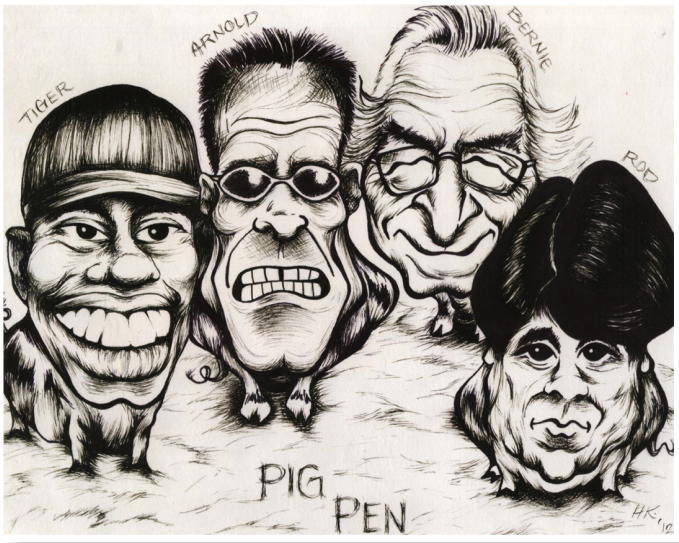


3RD

PLACE WINNER: MAX CLARKE



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Ting Shen THE CHRONICLE

City cuts recycling costs

The city has saved \$2.2 million since implementing competitive bidding for recycling services last October. The savings should allow for citywide recycling by 2013.
by **Tim Shaunnessey**
Assistant Metro Editor

ALTHOUGH THE city touts its recycling efforts, many Chicago residents find themselves without access to the service. By the end of 2013, however, the issue will be resolved thanks to money the city saved by stirring up competition.

Since implementing a competitive bidding system for recycling services, Chicago has saved \$2.2 million, Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced April 5 at the Humboldt Park Boat House, 1400 N. Sacramento Ave. Those savings have allowed the Department of Streets and Sanitation and private companies to plot citywide recycling expansion.

“Competitive bidding for recycling

services has saved taxpayer money and increased efficiencies while maintaining quality service,” Emanuel said. “These savings and efficiencies will help to make citywide recycling in 2013 a reality and further Chicago’s reputation as a leader in sustainability efforts. No longer will Chicago be a tale of two cities when it comes to recycling.”

The competition is among three entities: Texas-based Waste Management, New York City-based Sims Municipal Recycling and the Chicago Department of Streets and Sanitation. The collection is divided into six sectors—private companies service four and city employees handle the remaining two.

The competitive bidding system implemented in October 2011 called for private

companies to submit proposals for services to the city, according to Anne Sheahan, director of Public Affairs for the Department of Streets and Sanitation.

“Essentially what the city did was call for private recycling companies to bid on certain areas of the city to provide recycling services,” Sheahan said.

The system drove companies and public workers to compete to offer the city the greatest value. The private haulers are able to offer a price of \$2.70 per cart, as opposed to the city crews’ \$4.77 per cart. City workers strove to close the cost difference between the two, ultimately bringing their price down to \$3.28 per cart.

Sheahan said these changes drove total

» SEE RECYCLE, PG. 40

Media skills aid youth self-image

by **Chris Loeber**
Assistant Metro Editor

AS MAINSTREAM media cast a negative light on underprivileged neighborhoods, a Chicago organization seeks to empower local youths by giving them a voice and highlighting positive contributions to their communities.

Visions Blu Institute, a nonprofit organization that teaches media production skills to children and teens on Chicago’s South Side, is providing kids ages 9–18 with the knowledge and experience they need to tell their stories through digital media.

“Unfortunately, there are a lot of negative images portrayed in mainstream media, and [children may] perpetuate stereotypes based on things they see on television,” said Karon Hamlet, executive director of Visions Blu. “To change that, we want them to be more involved in telling their own stories and the stories outside of those that are seen on television.”

Media influence youths’ self-image, particularly in underprivileged communities, by frequently depicting them as aimless and shallow, according to Al Hawkins, a board member and creative director at

» SEE VISIONS, PG. 41

Keep busy, keep safe

Summer program aims to decrease youth unemployment, violence on South Side
by **Tim Shaunnessey**
Assistant Metro Editor

THE SUMMER season has a radiance not present during other times of the year. That radiance leads many to spend the waning days of spring longing for months spent in the sun. But there are dangers inherent in the summer, particularly for youths, as a result of excess free time and subsequent violence among young people.

In an effort to combat this problem, Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle announced April 6 that improvements to the One Summer Chicago program will provide 17,000 summer jobs and 168,000 activities for Chicago youth.

“Keeping children busy and engaged helps them grow and develop as people, but also keeps them safe so they can enjoy their summer,” Emanuel said in a written statement. “By collaborating with Cook County and other agencies, we are doing more than offering children the chance to develop strong, responsible work habits or earn money—we are giving kids a safe alternative to spending unsupervised time on the streets.”

The program is in its second year and

has a new website, OneSummerChicago.org, that will enable youth to seek summer jobs and activities.

Evelyn Diaz, commissioner of the Department of Family and Support Services, said the goal for One Summer Chicago is twofold: aiming to address the challenging work situation for youth in Chicago and counteracting the elevated risk for violence in summer months.

“We think summer is a really important time to engage youth in social activities,” Diaz said. “Not only do we think that unem-

ployment has lifelong consequences, we also think that engaging [youth] in work has positive impacts: raising later wages, connecting kids, helping them develop work-related skills and keeping them engaged in school.”

Barbara Shaw, director of the Illinois Violence Prevention Authority, said there are many positive long-term consequences for youths who are involved in supportive and secure environments.

“For teenagers or preteens, you want to make sure there are as many adult-super-

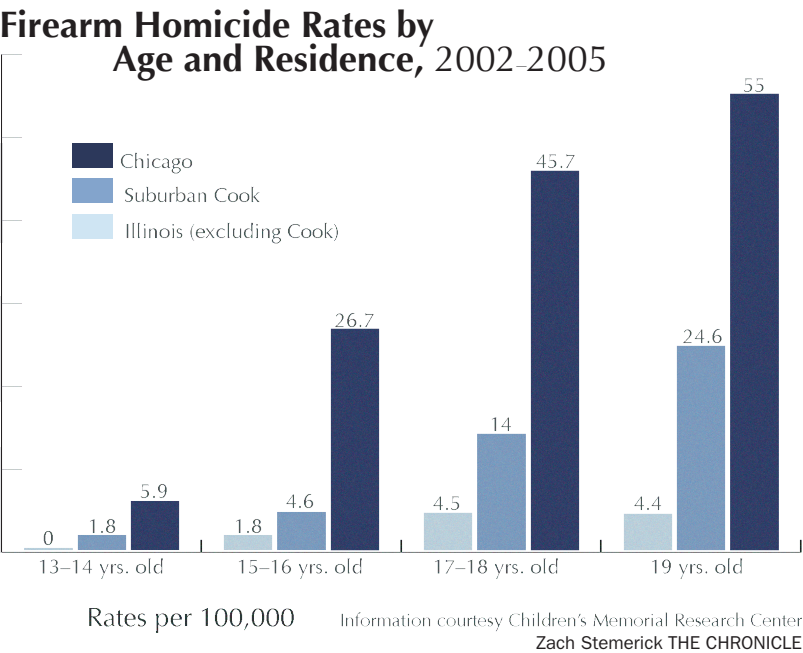
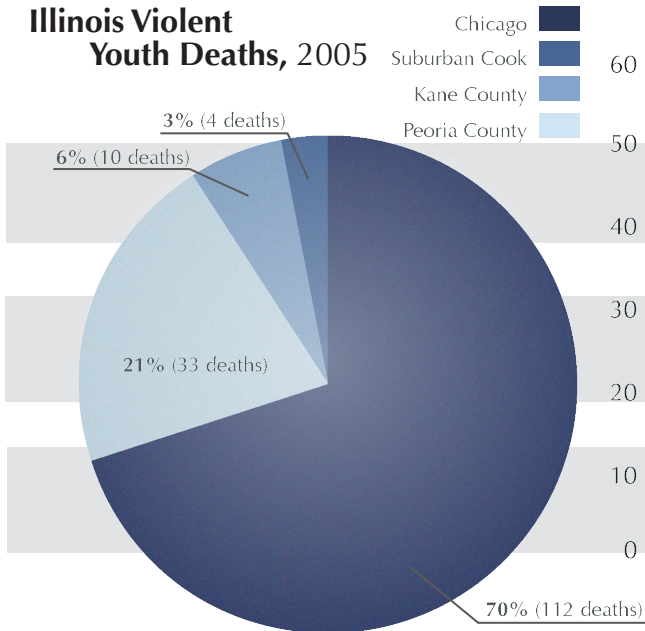
vised, constructive, positive pathways for them to take [that allow them] to socialize, develop their talents and engage in positive behaviors,” Shaw said.

Extensive research is a crucial element to improving the programs, Diaz said. Developing such research is a special component of the One Summer Plus program that will function as both a positive experience for the youths involved and a means of gathering data for bettering the program.

“One Summer Plus is designed as a rigorous evaluation to test a couple of different employment models,” Diaz said. “We can begin to know whether different models have higher impacts or better cost benefits for the city.”

Diaz said the plan is to have a Plus designed to answer new research

» SEE SUMMER, PG. 40



Charles In Charge

Short end of the stick



by Sam Charles
Managing Editor

MY MOM has worked as a Chicago Public Schools teacher for more than 25 years—longer than I’ve been alive. Throughout her career, she’s been at the same school, McKay Elementary, 6901 S. Fairfield Ave., in the destitute Chicago Lawn community. She’s the longest tenured employee at the school by a long-shot. Seeing her come home from work every day taught me what dedication is.

Teachers don’t do what they do for money; that’s a common misconception among the ignorant. They do it because they genuinely care about the betterment of society and its youth.

But Mayor Rahm Emanuel seems to think that because teachers want to make the city a better place through education, they’d be willing to do it for free. This is the same argument that Internet media pirates use to justify stealing music. If someone likes what they do and isn’t really in it for the money, it should be free right?

No. Absolutely not.

I was pleasantly surprised when Emanuel showed some humility and backed off his plan to increase the length of the

school day from five hours and 45 minutes to seven hours and 30 minutes and is now only asking for seven hours. But that feeling was quickly dashed when the Chicago Sun-Times reported that the idea for a seven-hour day came not from Emanuel, but from Jean-Claude Brizard, CEO of CPS.

It’s no secret that Emanuel has a genuine hatred for Karen Lewis, president of the Chicago Teachers Union. She’s one of the few people in the city who holds a trump card over Emanuel. Kids are a great sympathy card, as morbid as that might sound.

Chicago is a union city. Union members built it and made it much of what it is today.

Getting paid for the work you do is one of the cornerstones of capitalism and the American economy.

The City Council has bent over backwards to appease Emanuel since the day he took office. Whether or not you agree with what’s passed, a circle-jerk government is not a good one, no matter what’s getting done.

Dissent naturally fosters intelligent thought and discourse if done correctly.

Lewis is a polarizing person. You love her or hate her. But she might just be the one to give Emanuel’s cage the rattling it so desperately needs.

scharles@chroniclemail.com

FEATURED PHOTO



Brent Lewis THE CHRONICLE

Celebrity chef Joe Bastianich prepares a healthy meal during an April 9 cooking demonstration at the Walgreen’s flagship store, 151 N. State St.

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8. SHISH KABOB PLATE

9. PASTRAMI ON RYE

10. CORNED BEEF ON RYE

Preckwinkle ices ICE proposal

by Hal Dardick
MCT Newswire

COOK COUNTY Board President Toni Preckwinkle has thrown cold water on a proposal by a high-level federal official to end a months-long dispute regarding immigration enforcement at the county jail.

In a letter sent April 9 to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Director John Morton, Preckwinkle labeled Morton's invitation to set up a "working group" to resolve differences about the county's refusal to hold suspected illegal immigrants after they post bail as "premature."

Preckwinkle went on to say she is willing to meet with Morton to discuss the issue, even as she expressed "strong reservations" about holding people for Immigration and Customs Enforcement without a warrant after a judge has ordered them to be released.

The County Board president was responding to an earlier letter from Morton in which he proposed covering the costs of putting ICE agents inside the jail and holding people on immigration detainers until his agency can take custody.

Those steps would open up the county to legal action and violate people's rights, Preckwinkle wrote. Although in the past she expressed concerns about costs, Preckwinkle said April 10 that she now is more concerned with the legal ramifications.

"The more I've gotten into it, the more offensive and unjust it seems to me to make distinctions between people based on their documentation," she told the Chicago Tribune. "Equal justice before the law is more important to me than the budgetary considerations."

Preckwinkle's letter is just the latest volley in a dispute that surfaced earlier this year after a Mexican illegal immigrant living in Chicago failed to show up in court to face a charge that his drunken driving resulted in a death.

Saul Chavez's release from the county lockup came almost two months after the County Board voted last September to stop honoring requests from ICE to detain suspects until the agency checked their immigration status.

Critics of the ordinance contend that Chavez could not have avoided prosecution if the county had honored a detainer ICE placed on him, but Preckwinkle said it's up to criminal court judges to set proper bail to ensure people don't skip out. She ordered a study on how bail is set by county judges.

But Commissioner Timothy Schneider (R-District 15, Ill.) said he was disappointed Preckwinkle declined Morton's invitation. Schneider said he will now push for passage of an ordinance to require jail officials to hold ICE people who are on a federal terrorist database or who have been charged with felonies involving

violence or drugs.

"It seems to be what people want," he said. "This isn't about immigration. That's for the federal government to deal with."

Meanwhile, sICE officials said they would continue trying to find a resolution.

ICE's proposal "would have enhanced public safety in Cook County at little to no cost to the county," ICE spokesman Brian Hale wrote in an email. "Regardless of the disappointing response, ICE remains committed to exploring a solution that promotes public safety."

chronicle@colum.edu



Associated Press

Activists rally against the proposal to create the Crete Detention Center in the village of Crete. Rather than being housed in standard prison facilities, immigrant detainees would all be housed in Crete.



The ASL-English Interpretation Department Presents

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8:00PM**

**Conaway Center
1104 S. Wabash**

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Join the Department of ASL - English Interpretation as we welcome Sean Forbes, a deaf musician on a mission to build a badly needed bridge between the music industry and deaf people everywhere. There will also be a showcase of talent from the ASL-English Interpretation Department Students.

Inspired by what he calls "The Three B's" (the Beastie Boys, the Beatles, and Bob Dylan), Sean started out making music videos

in his basement and today is producing professional music videos with a focus on the deaf and hard-of-hearing community. Not only is he the voice for his generation and deaf culture, he is also the co-founder of D-PAN, The Deaf Professional Arts Network, a non-profit organization that focuses on translating popular artists' songs into American Sign Language music videos for the deaf and hard-of-hearing communities.

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» RECYCLE

Continued from PG. 35

costs down dramatically and encouraged quality service from competing companies. “It’s really healthy competition,” she said. “It has served to motivate our workers to be as efficient as possible and has motivated the private industries to try and bring in the lowest price possible. We feel like it’s been a real win for the city.” Bill Plunkett, a spokesman for Waste Management, said his company believes the competition is a benefit for taxpayers. “We think competition is good for the city,” Plunkett said. “Clearly, it’s delivering value and savings to the city’s residents.” According to Emanuel, there has been a 35

percent decrease in the overall cost of providing recycling services. Those savings, 10 percent greater than initially anticipated, are a result of collaborative efforts between labor unions and the Department of Streets and Sanitation to develop efficiencies in the city’s Blue Cart program. Plunkett said for Waste Management, remaining competitive boils down to “having a sharp pencil and being able to deliver.” “We look at the efficiencies we can bring to collection, the cost involved, make an evaluation and submit our numbers,” he said. The final check-in for competitive bidding on unserved neighborhoods is planned for July when the mayor announces who the final providers will be based on the quality of the companies’ operations during

the trial period. While both private companies have seven-year contracts, they could be terminated if found to be unsatisfactory. “A number of scenarios could play out,” Sheahan said. “It could all go to private, everyone could keep their own [sectors] or the city could take it all back.” Emanuel said competitive bidding for tree trimming and street marking is also planned, a development he hopes will provide taxpayers the greatest possible value. Sheahan said the results of the new strategy have been promising for city residents. “We’re trying to provide taxpayers with the best service possible with the resources that we have,” she said. “[Competitive bidding] has certainly done that.”

tshaunnessey@chroniclemail.com



» SUMMER

Continued from PG. 35

questions each year. The objective is to gather information about what works and where investments should be made for improvement. Diaz said half of the kids involved in One Summer Plus will be involved in paid employment for six hours every afternoon. The other half will be involved for the same amount of time but will have paid employment for four hours and take part in a group project for two hours. “During that project, they’re getting what we call social and emotional support,” Diaz said. “Instruction on life skills, work skills, things like attitude, initiative, self control [and] problem solving [are] all embedded into the project.” Youth unemployment, which presents significant amounts of free time and increased danger for teens and young adults, is at a 60-year high, according to Diaz. “In 2000, 44 percent of teens were employed,” Diaz said. “Only 26 percent were working in July 2010. There’s been this precipitous drop in employment.” According to Shaw, violence is also prone to increase when the school day is over and is only amplified during the summer. “Too much time invites problems,” she said. “We know adolescent crime peaks in p hours. Tensions are just higher [in summer]. There’s a great deal of heat in every sense of the word, and people get more easily aggravated.”

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THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

» **VISIONS**
Continued from PG. 35

Visions Blu.

“If [they] are constantly bombarded with negative energy or negative images, I think that after a while people start to doubt their self-image,” Hawkins said. “The more you’re bombarded with it, the more you start losing your own identity [and] your own aspirations.”

Despite the media’s supposedly negative portrayal of the South Side, the area is home to many creative individuals and constructive initiatives that remain largely invisible to the public, according to Hamlet. Visions Blu and its students are working to change that.

The institute launched its One Block, One Voice program in 2011. Hamlet said the five-week summer project provides an opportunity for students to gain hands-on production experience while working with professionals in the industry.

The program offers practical knowledge and experience in media production with an overall purpose of promoting a sense of community, Hamlet said.

“I think there’s a disconnect, especially with the proliferation of digital media,” she said. “[Youth are] so involved on their phones, on their computers and anything outside of interpersonal interaction. One Block, One Voice is to get them to come out of that and to get more involved in their communities.”

Isaiah James, 19, a former student of the program, was unsure of what to do with his future when he signed up for the program. By the end of the five weeks, James decided to enroll in college and study mul-

timedia production, Hamlet said.

James said he was particularly inspired by Hamlet, who became a mentor to him. He said she encouraged him to pursue additional work outside of Visions Blu and to “look at media from a different angle to get a story told.”

“A lot of things that are being played on the television or through the media are programmed to get you to feel a certain way,” James said. “Instead of saying something negative all the time, the One Block, One Voice project was meant to give a different view of the South Side.”

With the help and supervision of their instructors, students will document local efforts to instigate positive change on the South Side in a film titled “The Sun Shines in the Shadows.”

Students will interview individuals, organizations and community leaders who offer youth development or education programs, such as the DuSable African-American History Museum, 740 E. 56th Place, which holds educational events for children .

Currently, Visions Blu is seeking funding for the film through Kickstarter.com. It has to raise \$10,000 before May 5, or all pledges will be refunded to the donors.

Hawkins said he hopes One Block, One Voice will encourage children and teens on the South Side to pursue meaningful careers beyond the stereotypes propagated by mass media.

“The kids that we’ve talked to, they want to be veterinarians, they want to be attorneys, they want to be consultants,” he said. “This particular program gives youths an opportunity to see that there are people like them that are striving, and there are a lot more of them—a lot more than they think.”

cloeber@chroniclemail.com



Ting Shen THE CHRONICLE

Karon Hamlet, executive director of Visions Blu, is working to provide South Side children and teens with media experience.

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—Kristen B.

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—Troy W.

FEATURED PHOTO



Tiela Halpin THE CHRONICLE

Luis Salgado patrols a northbound Red Line train the evening of April 4 as part of the Guardian Angels volunteer group. Salgado joined the Chicago chapter of the New York-based organization two years ago because he “likes to help out.” Guardian Angels was founded 33 years ago by Curtis Sliwa to combat one-on-one crime in the city and has since spread to more than 130 chapters in 14 countries.

IN OTHER NEWS

Hair-oic action

According to ABCLocal.com, Jose Moran, a hairstylist from Hoffman Estates, was honored April 11 by the Hoffman Estates Police Department. When Joan Ludovice, Moran’s 82-year-old friend and client, did not show up for her hair appointment last month, he went to her Hoffman Estates home. When she failed to answer the door, Moran feared she was having a medical emergency. He notified police, who discovered Ludovice semiconscious and alone on the floor of her home. Because his actions saved Ludovice’s life, Moran was given the key to the city. Hoffman Estates Mayor William McLeod also declared April 11 Jose Moran Day.

Beach bummer

Concerns regarding safety convinced the Wilmette Park District to increase supervision of Wilmette Beach this summer, ChicagoTribune.com reported April 12. According to park leaders, safety is an issue at the beach, as people regularly ignore the “No Swimming” sign. The district is expected to spend \$3,000 on bullhorns and walkie-talkies, \$36,000 on additional staff and \$10,800 on six chairs for staff to monitor the beach. Summer weekend evenings have been “unmanageable” because of “hundreds of people in the water,” according to Kathy Bingham, the Park District’s recreation superintendent.

International thieves

According to NBCChicago.com, two men were charged the week of April 8 in connection with a streak of ATM thefts in Chicago. Negru Raul, 25, and Vasile Dobos, 23, who were arrested when Chase Bank noticed something suspicious near Elston Avenue and Addison Street, may have perpetrated the crimes from overseas. They are in custody and accused of theft of roughly \$50,000. Police said the men may have installed “skimmers” and hidden cameras in the machines to record customers’ names and card numbers when they swiped a debit card. In Chicago, at least 15 people are known to have been victims of the scam.

Two wrongs

Walid Rahmouni was arrested April 10 after he was caught driving a stolen taxi, according to SunTimes.com. Rahmouni told officers he was driving the stolen cab to “make some money to get my brother out of jail,” according to police. He was caught when a real cab driver saw Rahmouni driving the stolen vehicle and waved down a cop. Police caught up to Rahmouni at the 3000 block of North Kenmore Avenue. After jumping out of the moving car, the suspect fled into the neighborhood and hid under a porch. When Rahmouni refused to come out, police tasered him and took him into custody.

OFF THE BLOTTER



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

1 Roommate ripoff

On April 9 at 525 S. State St., a Roosevelt University student discovered her debit card had been used to make \$200 worth of fraudulent charges. She later found the card in her roommate’s wallet. The victim confronted her roommate, who admitted to stealing it. The victim reclaimed the card and called her bank. Police later advised the suspect of arrest and warrant procedures.

2 A foot in the door

A woman’s wallet was stolen April 9 at the Jackson Red Line stop, 230 S. State St. She said she was boarding the train when an unknown man stuck his foot between the doors, hindering her from boarding. Once she pushed past the offender, she looked in her purse and noticed that her wallet was missing. She contacted police, who are looking into the case.

3 Panera purse jacking

A theft was reported April 9 at Panera Bread, 500 S. State St. A 71-year-old woman said she left her bag unattended for a few minutes and returned to find it missing. The bag contained schoolbooks and miscellaneous personal items valued at approximately \$70. Authorities were contacted and are investigating.

4 Mystery caller

On April 9, a 65-year-old man of 801 S. Plymouth Court informed authorities that an unknown offender has been calling him at night repeatedly for the past three months. He said the offender always calls between 9 – 10 p.m. The caller reportedly breathes into the handset, hangs up and calls again. Police are investigating the situation.

GAMES

HOROSCOPES



ARIES (March 21–April 20) Early this week, private workplace discussions and social criticism may be bothersome: Watch for friends and colleagues to challenge your personal style or ask probing questions. Fear of abandonment or self-doubt may be a driving force: After Tuesday, expect unusual comments from long-term friends and quickly changing opinions. Friday through Sunday, rare business meetings or new financial ideas may cause tension: If possible, avoid contracts or revised paperwork.



TAURUS (April 21–May 20) Short-term investments or unique business proposals are favorable this week. Use this time to research new opportunities or finalize partnerships. Some Taureans, especially those born late in April, may also receive a unique financial gift from the past. Remain dedicated to established procedures, and workplace relationships will progress smoothly. After Thursday, an old lover or friend may announce family or marital changes. Stay balanced: Emotions may prove distracting.



GEMINI (May 21–June 21) Yesterday's romantic ideals and family plans will now reappear. Before midweek, watch for loved ones to return to old habits, patterns or promises. Nostalgic moments will now initiate several months of deepening commitments. Expect sensuality and intimate trust to soon be an ongoing theme. Friday through Sunday also highlight quick financial improvements or a return to outdated business ideals. In the coming weeks, job and partnerships opportunities will expand: Stay open.



CANCER (June 22–July 22) Wisdom and social guidance in the workplace are a strong theme during the next eight days. Late Monday, expect key officials to offer valuable political information. Remain cautious, however: Before mid-April, legal or financial documents and the personal observations of colleagues may be riddled with costly mistakes. Thursday through Saturday, family power struggles and home changes will require added trust. Remain diplomatic: Loved ones will soon reveal their feelings.



LEO (July 22–Aug. 22) New work assignments and unusual social invitations will require added attention during the next few days. After Monday, expect ongoing miscommunications between colleagues. Some Leos may also experience the arrival of a new love affair or flirtation. Passions will be strong: watch for complex proposals and minor social triangles. Friday through Sunday, a friend or relative may offer financial solutions. Money restrictions will not be easily resolved: Avoid new commitments.



VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22) Friends and lovers will this week request public declarations of loyalty, affection or trust. Before Wednesday, key relationships will deepen: Expect revised social plans and fast romantic proposals. Late Thursday, powerful intuition is also accented. Watch dreams for valuable social and romantic insights. Friday through Sunday, business tensions may quickly escalate. Officials will not take responsibility for faulty ideas. If possible, avoid group discussion or workplace risk.



LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 23) After Monday, social questioning from loved ones will be followed by a sharp increase in romance, sensuality and family decision. New emotional growth will this week demand concrete home and social plans. Take your time. Accurate statements and reliable promises are now important. Later this week, a business or employment opportunity from approximately eight months ago may reappear. Don't hesitate to ask for detailed paperwork: Verbal promises will be vague.



SCORPIO (Oct. 24–Nov. 22) During the next few days, take time to listen to the private needs of close friends and lovers. Loved ones may this week wish to end a period of emotional stagnation and social restlessness. Single Scorpions can also expect fast workplace flirtations or a sudden increase in romantic attention. New relationships will, however, take time to develop: be patient. After Wednesday, a new era of financial freedom begins. Respond quickly to fresh opportunities: Rewards will prove meaningful.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23–Dec. 21) Early this week, colleagues may rely heavily on your ability to finalize projects or represent the needs of the group. Career and financial restrictions will now ease. After Tuesday, expect an improved public reputation to create new opportunities for leadership. Don't disappoint: Bosses and managers will silently evaluate your progress. Late Friday, a unique social or romantic proposal arrives without warning. Someone close requires new trust and affection: Stay focused.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 20) Unexpected romantic invitations are distracting during the next eight days. After Monday, watch for loved ones and potential mates to offer unique compliments. Sensuality and new flirtation will create excitement in the weeks to come. Expect fast proposals and deepening passions in all key relationships. Later this week, an older family member or trusted friend may reveal unusual business or financial information. Past mistakes and lingering debt are accented: Remain open.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 21–Feb. 19) Time limitations and team assignments will require diplomacy early this week. Coworkers and key officials may soon relinquish control of complex projects. Use this time for open discussion and careful workplace planning. Before Thursday, group relations and private tensions will intensify. Friday through Sunday, a previously silent or emotionally distant friend may offer bold opinions. Avoid controversy, if possible: romantic or family obligations may be a central theme.



PISCES (Feb. 20–March 20) Loved ones may offer valuable insights into their dreams and long-term goals this week. Areas affected are financial independence, new career paths and self-employment. Underutilized talent will soon find an outlet. Watch for fast business discussions and highly creative proposals. After Thursday, nostalgic moments are highlighted. A despondent friend or lover may express a deep need for new commitment. Don't hesitate. The honest expression of fear is a compliment.

SUDOKU

LEVEL 4

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CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Metrical rhythm

6 Poetic contraction

9 Choke

12 Sp. chaperon

13 Cheer

14 First-rate

15 Excess of solar year

16 Bureau of Indian Affairs (abbr.)

17 Container

18 Fr. historical provinces

20 Chemist's pot

22 Caster

24 Romanian money

27 Equal opportunity employer (abbr.)

28 Toothed formation

32 Arabian Sea gulf

DOWN

1 Project

34 One who is (suf.)

36 Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (abbr.)

37 Mount Sinai

39 Heir

41 Grab

42 Mex. president

44 Sleep

47 Kettledrum

52 Hardwood

53 Alabama (abbr.)

55 Ancient tribe of Britons

56 Monk

57 Abet

58 Extract of cork

59 Noun-forming (suf.)

60 Energy unit

61 Golf score

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

S	B	E		A	G	A	L		S	T	O	L
E	A	R		L	A	N	E		U	R	E	A
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MONDAY

4.16

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3 – 4:30 p.m.

Multicultural Affairs

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FREE



TUESDAY

4.17

Game Changers: Jesse Spungin

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Stage Two

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(312) 369-7489

FREE



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WEDNESDAY

4.18

“Rent”

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Getz Theater

72 E. 11th St.

(312) 369-6126

FREE for Columbia students with valid ID; **\$15** general admission; **\$10** for senior citizens



Aaron Kunin and Rusty Morrison Poetry Reading

5:30 p.m.

Hokin Hall

Wabash Campus Building,

623 S. Wabash Ave.

nwilson@colum.edu

FREE



THURSDAY

4.19

Industry Events

Various times

Various locations

(312) 369-7281

FREE; registration required



FRIDAY

4.20

“Chicago’s Twelve: 12 Artists Mobilizing the Earth”

7 p.m.

Zhou B. Art Center Gallery

1029 W. 35th St.

(773) 523-0200

FREE



SATURDAY

4.21

Laptop Ensemble in concert

2 – 3 p.m.

Music Center

1014 S. Michigan Ave.

(312) 369-6300

FREE



SUNDAY

4.22

“Travelling with John Fischetti”

Noon – 5 p.m.

Columbia Library, South Campus Building

624 S. Michigan Ave., 3rd floor

FREE



MONDAY

4.16

“Poonie’s Cabaret”

8 p.m.

Links Hall Studio

3435 N. Sheffield Ave.

(773) 281-0824

\$5 suggested donation



The Chicago One-Minute Play Festival

7:30 p.m.

Victory Gardens Biograph Theater

2433 N. Lincoln Ave.

(773) 871-3000

\$15



WEDNESDAY

4.18

Casa Noble Tequila Tasting

6:30 p.m.

Zocalo

358 W. Ontario St.

(312) 302-9977

\$25; 21+



FRIDAY

4.20

“Crafting Hope: An Arts Activism Project” closing reception

5 – 8 p.m.

The Hokin Gallery

Wabash Campus Building,

623 S. Wabash Ave.

thehokin@gmail.com

FREE



SUNDAY

4.22

“Superior Donuts”

8 p.m.

Mary-Arrchie Theatre

735 W. Sheridan Road

(773) 871-0442

\$18–\$22



TUESDAY

4.17

Todd Baxter: From Vision to Reality

7 p.m.

Apple Store, Lincoln Park

801 W. North Ave.

(312) 777-4200

FREE



Doc Films Screening: “The Mirror”

7 p.m.

Doc Film, University of Chicago

1212 E. 59th St.

(773)702-8575

\$5



THURSDAY

4.19

“Chesapeake”

7:30 p.m.

The Greenhouse Theater Center

2257 N. Lincoln Ave.

(773) 404-7336

\$35–\$45



SATURDAY

4.21

Indoor Farmer and Artisan Food Market

9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Evanston Ecology Center

2024 McCormick Blvd., Evanston, Ill.

(847) 448-8256

FREE



“The Late Live Show”

11:59 p.m.

Stage 773

1225 W. Belmont Ave.

(773) 327-5252

\$5



FORECAST

MONDAY	MON. NIGHT	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Thunderstorms possible	Partly cloudy and colder	Times of clouds and sun	Partly sunny	Some sun	Rain	Cooler with rain	Sun, then clouds
High 63	Low 38	High 56 Low 41	High 66 Low 46	High 63 Low 40	High 57 Low 35	High 50 Low 41	High 53 Low 41

EVENTS KEY

MUSIC	FILM	CELEBRITY	ART	POLITICS	SPEAKER
FOOD	ENGLISH	THEATRE	DANCE	EXHIBIT	HOLIDAY
MARKETING	JOURNALISM	TELEVISION	COLUMBIA	CULTURAL	AUDIO
SPORTS	NIGHTLIFE	SHOPPING	PHOTO	GAMES	COMPUTERS