

4-1-2013

## Columbia Chronicle (04/01/2013)

Columbia College Chicago

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### Recommended Citation

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# The Columbia CHRONICLE



THE  
APRIL FOOLS'  
EDITION

MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2013

THE OFFICIAL NEWS SOURCE OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

VOLUME 48, ISSUE 24 1/2

## Greek life comes to campus

by Tyler Eagle  
Assistant Campus Editor

COLUMBIA STUDENTS SEEKING a more traditional college experience now have reason to party.

Fraternities and sororities will take up residence on Columbia's campus for the first time ever after being banned from the college since its founding.

The decision to foster Greek life came March 19 when various unofficial Greek organizations petitioned the college to rescind its "no Greek letter community" policy. The organizations will begin activities this week, according to Mark Kelly, vice president of Student Affairs.

"Columbia is the greatest college in the world, and the greatest college in the world should give students what they want," Kelly said. "Fraternities and sororities are absolutely in line with our value of diversity and can give the campus a true feeling of community."

Organizations on campus will include Omega No Plans to Pay Off Debt Omnicron, a sorority that will bring dance and photography students together; Gamma Chi Kanye Did It, Why Can't I, a fraternity for hip-hop-oriented music students



Photo illustration Zach Stemerick and Kevin Gebhardt THE CHRONICLE

planning to drop out after their second year of college to make a name for themselves on their own; Chi Didn't Want to Leave Chicago Tau, a sorority for students raised in Chicago who weren't ambitious enough to attend college outside the city; Kappa Cannabis Kappa, a coed fraternity dedicated to the "herb" and its "medicinal" uses, and Alpha Beta Skinny Jeans.

The system was championed by Ryan Kron, a junior fashion studies major and official president of Alpha Beta Skinny Jeans. He said the fraternity is for male fashion studies majors with an ironic ideology concerning campus life.

"We are hoping to emulate the hipster lifestyle," Kron said. "Most students at this college don't realize that it is actually a way of

life, like veganism, which we also wholeheartedly endorse."

Traditionally, Pan-Hellenic organizations team up with a charity for which it fundraises. Kron said he's planning on connecting with Broke Hipster, a website that provides information on the daily drink specials geared toward individuals

» SEE GREEK, PG. 7

## Columbia students officially 'heard it first'

Poll shows student body is more hip to latest trends than entire nation

by Kyle Rich  
Social Media Editor

A RECENT RASMUSSEN poll conducted on college campuses across the nation shows that Columbia students are the first to know about the latest music trends and pop culture references before the rest of the general population.

Of the 9,229 students on campus, about 7,383 responded to the survey, which was sent to the students' Loop email accounts with the subject line "Want to be the first to take this poll?" The findings revealed that 93 percent of respondents believe they are generally more "in the know" about new trends than their peers. Additionally, 45 percent self-identified with the term "insider" and 60 percent said they strongly agree that they have predicted at least five pop culture trends. Of the 20 percent of students who declined the survey, several issued comments

» SEE POLL, PG. 7

## Rahm flips over new finger

by Kaley Fowler  
Copy Chief

MAYOR RAHM EMANUEL is now able to partake in his favorite pastime of flipping the bird following recent cosmetic surgery to replace his long-lost middle finger, which he notoriously cut off in an Arby's meat slicer at age 17.

The mayor's office announced in a March 29 press release that Emanuel underwent surgery that day to replace the missing portion with a bionic finger extension that will allow the mayor, infamous for his penchant for the F-bomb, to express himself physically as well as verbally.

"I am committed to being the most effective mayor Chicago has

ever seen, and I can't do that if I'm not firing from all cylinders," Emanuel said during an April 1 post-surgery press conference. "When the city of Chicago sees something is broken, it fixes it."

Standing only 5'7" and 150 pounds, the Evanston School of Ballet graduate's stature does little to boost his intimidation factor, but mayoral officials hope the surgery will help Emanuel compensate for his physical shortcomings.

"The fact of the matter is that the mayor just doesn't appear very physically threatening right now," said Tom Alexander, a spokesman for Emanuel's office. "We believe the bionic implant will boost the mayor's image as an authority figure and give him more leeway to

express his true feelings toward reporters, other politicians and the public."

The surgery will be financed with public money through tax increment funding, or TIF. As part of the city's initiative to make data widely available, every time the mayor brandishes his middle finger, the bionic finger will send a message to Chicago Data Portal to track how frequently the mayor loses his cool, according to Brett Goldstein, the city's chief data officer.

"By tracking when and where Emanuel is provoked to use his middle finger, we will be able to monitor which situations could be most detrimental to the mayor's productivity," Goldstein said. "We hope to have an interactive map up within the next month."

When asked during the April 1 press conference why the city

funded the operation when the mayor could just as easily use his fully-functioning left middle finger, Emanuel raised his bionic finger to the crowd and exited the conference.

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Photo illustration Michael Scott Fisher THE CHRONICLE



James Foster THE CHRONICLE



CAMPUS

Puppy/Nap room catastrophe • PAGE 3



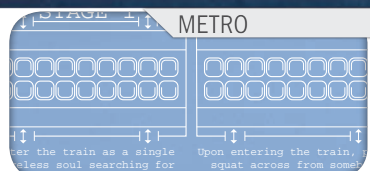
SPORTS & HEALTH

Men may enjoy sex • PAGE 8



ARTS & CULTURE

Painting alumna gets job • PAGE 10



METRO

New intimate CTA cars • PAGE 15

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THE  
APRIL FOOLS  
EDITION

# Editor's note

by Härthur Schröering  
Editor-in-Chief

## Less transparency, please

**LOOK, I KNOW** we've had discussions in the past about the need for transparency in our administration; however, now I'm thinking maybe I spoke too soon.

On March 22, the President's Office released records detailing the frequency and volume of its employees' bathroom visits. The numbers were startling, to say the least.

The Chronicle's data analysts spent hours sifting through the details of the report to try to link bathroom usage to faculty productivity, but results were inconclusive. We did, however, discover an eye-opening connection between the amount of coffee consumed and usage of restroom facilities about an hour or so later, depending on what the subjects ate for breakfast.

Though for the most part inconclusive, the report brought up an important conversation. When I called for transparency from the administration last semester, I was

not referring to the frequency of bathroom facility usage on a given weekday. I was referring to the administration's lack of communication with students regarding the prioritization process, as well as disregarding the opinions and concerns of the student body.

To be clear, The Chronicle and likely the rest of the college has neither interest in the March 22 report nor the March 15 email listing administrators' favorite types of candy, nor the Feb. 13 report detailing President Warrick L. Carter's Netflix queue. In addition, we have no desire as students to review the catalogue of faculty Instagram selfies completed by the Office of Student Affairs on March 3.

In a week-long email correspondence with the President's Office, Diane Doyne, associate vice president of Marketing and Communications, noted that the administration is attempting to be "so transparent that [they] are nearly



invisible to the naked eye." Their plans may have worked too well though, as students are reporting that they haven't seen anyone from the President's Office on campus for several months now.

Several Snapchats sent from Robert Koverman, associate vice president of Safety and Security, have given The Chronicle numerous 3-second looks into the administration's most secret moments.

Among them, only one Snapchat proved useful, which was sent to my cellphone March 28 at 5:14 p.m. It was an image of the top 10 highest paid administrators "making it rain" in the President's Office.

I took a screen shot and made it my phone background.

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The administration should make as many shady decisions as they possibly can without telling anyone.

## The Columbia CHRONICLE

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## DISCLAIMER

This year, The Chronicle had the advantage of publishing on April 1, AKA April Fools' Day. All content in this section of the newspaper should not be taken as fact. All references and quotations to real people are fabricated. For real news stories, flip over to back.

### CAMPUS EVENTS

#### MONDAY April 1

##### Medium Mouth

4-6 p.m. / Stage 2 / 618 S. Michigan Ave. / FREE

##### Shut Up: A Conversation with President Warrick L. Carter

6:00-6:05 p.m. / The Loft / 916 S. Wabash Ave. / \$5 with student ID

#### TUESDAY April 2

##### International Student Welcoming Kegger

4 p.m. / The Loft / 916 S. Wabash Ave. / FREE

##### Poetry Industry Event

7-9 p.m. / Film Row Cinema / 1104 S. Wabash Ave. / FREE

#### WEDNESDAY April 3

##### Student Financial Services hosts: Put the U and I in Tuition

1-2 p.m. / Alexandroff Campus Center, Room 1301 / 600 S. Michigan Ave. / FREE

##### First Year Seminar tutoring session

3:30-9 p.m. / The Library / 624 S. Michigan Ave. / FREE

#### THURSDAY April 4

##### Fifth Period Recess

Noon-12:35 p.m. / Grant Park / FREE

##### Alpha Beta Skinny Jeans Thirsty Thursday Celebration

8 p.m.-3 a.m. / The Haus / 623 S. Wabash Ave. / Free for members, \$35 for students

#### FRIDAY April 5

##### Kappa Cannabis Kappa Presents: How to roll the perfect "cigarette"

1-5 p.m. / The University Center / 525 S. State St. / FREE, BYOW

##### Fox News Presentation

1 p.m. / Second Floor / 33 E. Congress Parkway / FREE

#### SATURDAY April 6

##### Caturday

All day / Anywhere you can find a cat / FREE



STOCK PHOTO

Fur-furz McWhiskers, sophomore interactive arts and media major, stresses out during midterms while studying in the 4th floor of the Library, 624 S. Michigan Ave. So far, McWhiskers missed three of his Writing and Rhetoric II classes this semester, bringing his grade down to an A minus.

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Views expressed in this publication are those of the writer and are not the opinions of The Chronicle, Columbia's Journalism Department or Columbia College Chicago.

Letters to the editor must include full name, year, major and phone number. All letters are edited for grammar and may be cut due to a limit of space.

The Chronicle holds the right to limit any one person's submissions to three per semester.

Letters can be faxed to (312) 369-8430, emailed to [Chronicle@colum.edu](mailto:Chronicle@colum.edu) or mailed to:

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MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2013

THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE



## War of the words

Photo Illustration James Foster THE CHRONICLE

Allen Richards (left), a senior journalism major, and Marcus Fisher, a junior English major in the Creative Nonfiction program, had a heated fight March 3 in the library, 624 S. Michigan Ave., when Richards told Fisher he had a "moronic concentration."

### Journalism, creative nonfiction students fight over concentration

by Tyler Eagle  
Assistant Campus Editor

**AN ARGUMENT BETWEEN** an English major in the creative nonfiction program and a journalism student sparked an epic smackdown between the departments March 3 when the longtime tension between the programs finally erupted in physical violence.

The two students were having a casual conversation in the library when Allen Richards, a senior journalism major, claimed that Marcus Fisher, a junior English major who studies creative nonfiction, had a "moronic concentration."

Richards' words prompted con-

frontation that escalated quickly into fisticuffs. Library staff members said several books, catalogues and shelves were damaged in the altercation.

According to a Campus Safety & Security officer, both students were sedated and immediately removed from the library.

"It was so vicious and scarring," said Amelia Johnson, a senior music major who witnessed the event. "One student was hurling adjectives like knives while the other wielded statistics quicker than a bat."

Following the fight, students in the creative nonfiction program and the Journalism Department organized attacks against each other.

When The Chronicle's website was hacked March 4, some suspected foul play. The hack redirected users to an infectious webpage that

downloaded malicious hardware to the person's computer. Chronicle webmasters soon determined that the hacking originated in Turkey; however, journalism students remain leery about whether that is true.

The hacking of the student newspaper's website was not the only "attack" on journalism student media. Metro Minutes' weekly broadcast was interrupted March 9 with a continuous loop of Rick Astley's "Never Gonna Give You Up." Members of the IT Department attempted to fix the broadcast, but the video continued to repeat.

"It's really stressful trying to fix the problem when that video continuously blares," said Geneva Morris, an IT worker. "No one comes to work thinking they are going to get 'Rick Rolled.'"

Journalism students wasted no time retaliating, according to Kyle Winchester, a senior English major in creative nonfiction. According to Winchester, several prominent students in his concentration suffered critical injuries to their "typing hands" directly following what Winchester described as a "sneak attack" on creative nonfiction students outside of a classroom in the 33 E. Congress Parkway Building on March 15.

"Journalism students are connected and know how to screw with people's lives," Winchester said. "In response to these pranks, they've taken things to a cruel level."

Student representatives from each program have agreed to meet at a summit April 2 to discuss a cease-fire, according to Sam Jones, a junior journalism major

and negotiation leader for his department. The talks began prior to spring break and will continue through mid-April, he said.

"[The journalism] students are still flinching every time a television is turned on following the Metro Minutes debacle," he said. "The negotiation team will try to create a less hostile environment."

Karla Fields, a junior English major and negotiation leader for the creative nonfiction students, echoed similar sentiment, stating that her group is desperately hoping for a truce soon.

"We trust that the journalism students will act with the utmost decorum," she said. "We just want to make sure that no more of our students are unjustly harassed."

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## Puppy, nap room causes chaos

by Alexandra Kukulka  
Campus Editor

**AFTER PROPOSALS TO** build both a nap room and a puppy room to help students deal with stress, Columbia decided March 18 to combine the two options into one.

The far-right corner of The Loft in the 916 S. Wabash Ave. Building has been converted to a "Pup 'n' Nap" room, where students have the option to sleep or play with puppies after class. The college had to combine the two ideas because it could not afford to build two separate spaces, said Alicia Berg, vice president of Campus Environment.

"After the prioritization process

last year, we thought it would look bad if we gave the students two rooms to relax in," Berg said. "We didn't want to upset departments that have lost resources, but we still wanted to accommodate students."

There are currently 10 black Labrador puppies in the Pup 'n' Nap room and the college will bring in 10 additional puppies during finals week, Berg said.

The student workers in The Loft will be responsible for feeding, walking and cleaning up after the dogs, Berg said, adding that other students are allowed to help the workers take care of the puppies.

Hatie Jones, a sophomore fiction writing major and student worker

in The Loft, said she looks forward to playing with the puppies but not taking care of them.

"I am so excited to play with the puppies and to relax between classes," Jones said. "I just don't want to have to pick up the 'surprises' they leave behind."

According to Berg, the room will also include eight beds that students can reserve for up to one hour with their campus card. The beds will be similar to those provided in the University Center dorm rooms and are furnished with pillows, sheets and blankets, Berg said.

"Unfortunately, we couldn't fit more beds in the space because The Loft still needs to serve its purpose as a gathering space," Berg said.

However, James Buds, a junior arts, entertainment and media management major, has used the room for napping and said he did not enjoy the experience. Buds said

the beds were uncomfortable and the puppies smelled bad.

Buds questioned the college's decision to create one room for "two opposite concepts."

"I can understand why students should have a nap room and a puppy room, but whose idea was it to combine the two?" Buds said. "That was not a responsible choice."

The room layout has also raised concerns, according to Julia Stein,

a freshman music major.

Stein, who was a part of the Occupy Columbia movement, said she plans to gather students in coming weeks to protest the puppy room.

"The room is inhumane," Stein said. "Columbia would do this. They trap all their students here with high tuition and now they are trapping innocent animals."

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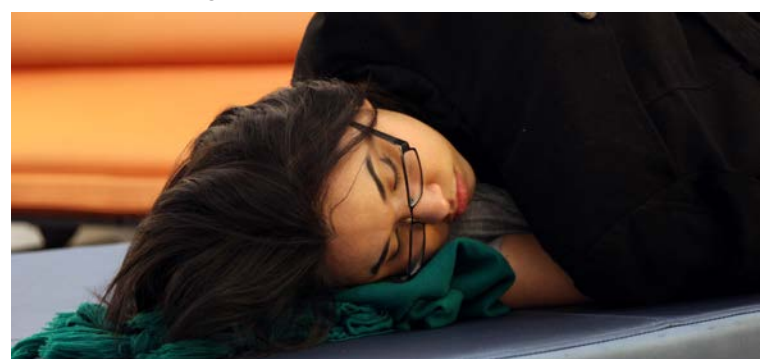


Photo Illustration Carolina Sanchez THE CHRONICLE

James Buds, a junior arts, entertainment and media management major, naps before a midterm.



THE APRIL FOOLS' EDITION

# President Carter inspired by Walt Disney

by Lisa Schulz  
Copy Editor

**WARRICK L. CARTER** has announced that he will step down from his 13-year term as Columbia's president to enroll in the college's Film & Video Department next semester in an attempt to become what he described as "the next Walt Disney."

Before his time at Columbia, Carter spent four years as the director of entertainment arts for Walt Disney Entertainment. Prior to Disney, he spent 12 years at Berklee College of Music in Boston rising from dean of faculty to provost and vice president of Academic Affairs. But now, he has plans for an amusement park and movie.

"When I feel nostalgic for the magic of Disneyland, I wear my Mickey Mouse ears," Carter said, referring to a souvenir he obtained from the Mickey Mouse Club, a TV show that featured child performers, when he was 10 years old. "That's because directing art programs at Disney was like creating a whole new world—a world where animated characters were real and dreams came true," he said.

Carter said he made his decision to become the next Disney after identifying with Rapunzel from the contemporary Disney film, "Tangled," which rekindled his love for computer animation.

Carter said he admires Disney, who was a high school dropout because he didn't need an expensive education to make a fortune. Disney's first sketches of the immensely popular Mickey Mouse were made during a boring train ride. Yet Carter, who has a Ph.D. from Michigan State University, says he finds "some" value in education and thinks taking classes at Columbia would put him on "the fast-track" to replicate the success of the self-educated Disney, an important consideration given his age (70).



When I feel nostalgic for the magic of Disneyland, I wear my Mickey Mouse ears."

— Warrick L. Carter

"If I took animation classes, I would possess the necessary tools to unconsciously create the next Disney hit while waiting in Chicago traffic," Carter said. "It's all about believing in your imagination. First and foremost, the imagination needs fueling and training. Next to Disney Studios, there's no place better than Columbia to do so. That's why I plan to return here."

Carter noted that in spite of his

\$600,000 salary as Columbia's president, he has qualified for financial aid and has been awarded a Presidential Scholarship. He said he will also live in one of the Columbia dorms but is making what he called a "minor alteration" to his living space. It will now include a wine cellar and a state-of-the-art gourmet kitchen to be manned by his personal chef.

Carter said that in anticipation of becoming the next Disney, he is actively brainstorming new anthropomorphic animals which his new studio will feature.

Mice, ducks, and bunnies have been used already, so he considered featuring a cockroach named Archy but found out that that had already been done too. In the name of originality, he has now created a cartoon blowfish named Hootie.

Carter said that his long-term plans involve creating a theme park in Chicago to rival Disneyland and Disney World. He hopes to interest Mayor Rahm Emanuel in such a project and thinks his chances are good since Emanuel, like many cartoon characters, only has four fingers. (For the mayor's attempt to regain five fingers, see the Front Page).

Because of his college leadership history, Carter tested out of Columbia's management classes.

Instead, to prepare himself for

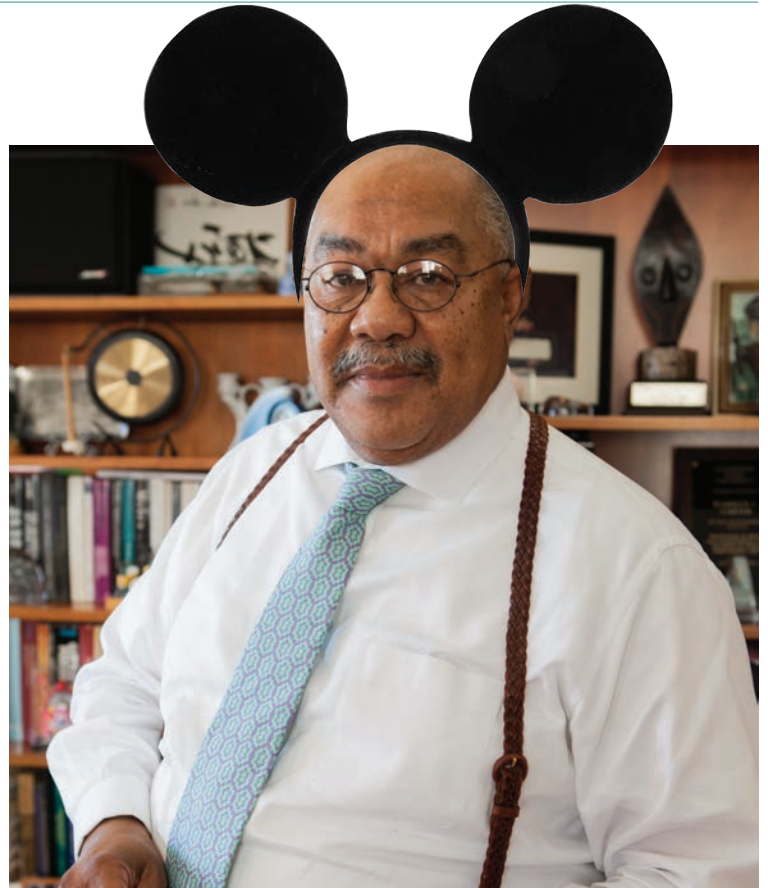


Photo illustration Michael Fischer THE CHRONICLE

President Warrick L. Carter, who has spent 13 years as president, has stepped down from the position to pursue an education in the college's Film & Video Department.

student life again, Carter enrolled in an Oral Expression course for the Spring 2013 semester.

According to sources, Carter showed up to class for his first speech accompanied by college spokeswoman Diane Doyne. Carter said Doyne was just there to take notes; however, she was giving Carter cues during his presentation, sources said.

At the end of Carter's speech, other students were allowed to ask questions, sources said, and one of them inquired about Doyne's

presence, blurting that it was unfair that Carter was allowed to have a speech coach. Flustered, Carter shouted "Oh, shut up," according to sources. It was learned that he later apologized to the student for losing his cool and blamed the stressful environment of student life.

"Being a student again is going to be tough, but I'm looking forward to what will follow," Carter said. "I'm completely certain I will live happily ever after."

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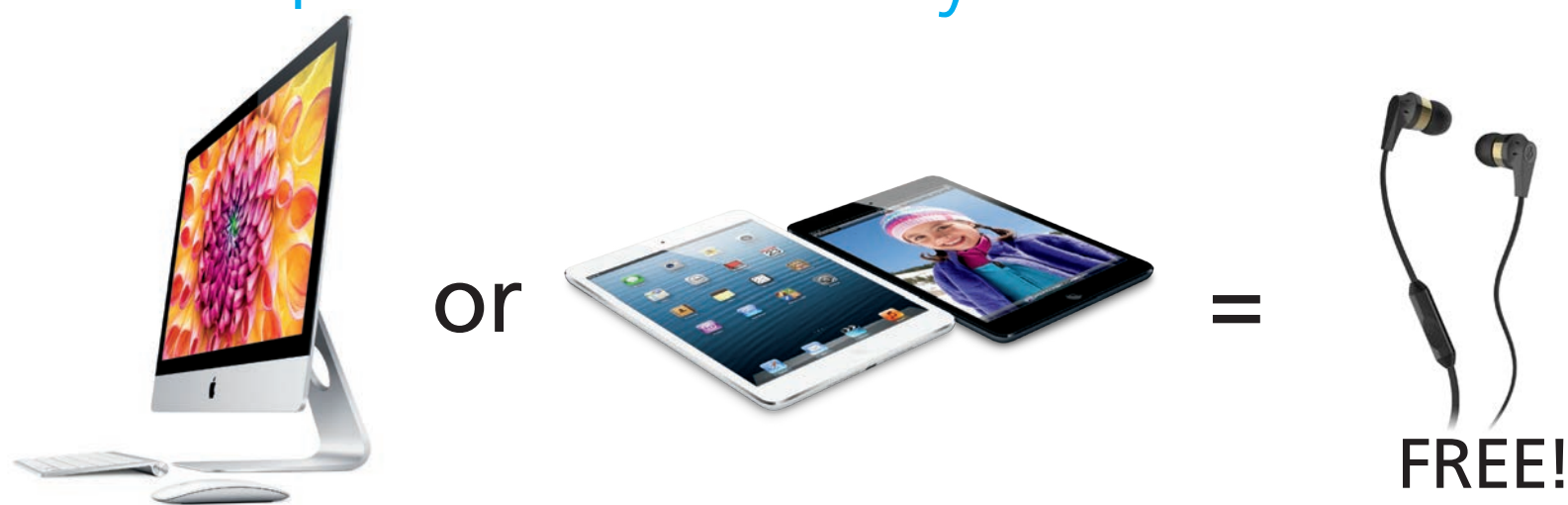
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## Columbia

COLLEGE CHICAGO

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Cash and starter checks not accepted.



# Chronicle issues new newsstands, administrators grateful

by Heather Schröering  
Editor-in-Chief

**IN RESPONSE TO** several complaints from administrators who have had trouble locating the campus newspaper, The Columbia Chronicle installed new newsstands throughout campus in every building and on most street corners in the South Loop, according to Editor-in-Chief Heather Schröering.

The stands are actually just the old stands that were collected during the week of spring break, painted hues selected from Columbia's color palette and redistributed in their old locations, Schröering said.

"Almost every week, The Chronicle receives phone calls from people on campus inquiring about where to pick up the newspaper," she said. "But, look no more. I think the new color palette will really do the trick."

Schröering added that the new newsstands also feature a speaker and a motion-activated sensor that detects passersby and vocally offers them a newspaper.

"Other newsstands, like The Tribune and The Redeye, don't have [this feature]," Schröering said. "But with so many on campus completely oblivious to where to pick up a newspaper, we're doing the work for them."

In further efforts to draw attention to the newspaper, Mark Kelly,

vice president of Student Affairs, said the new painted newsstands will be integrated into the college's latest endeavor, the Wabash Arts Corridor, which will transform the seven blocks of buildings on South Wabash Avenue between Congress Parkway and Roosevelt Road into a gallery of student work.

Kelly said he hopes the new newsstands will build momentum for The Chronicle.

"The Chronicle is the spine of our campus; that's really where students live," Kelly said. "Fifteen years ago, it was an anonymous newspaper. It didn't feel like a newspaper—it felt like a sad urban newspaper."

According to Allen Turner, former chair of the board of trustees, The Chronicle's newsstand initiative is groundbreaking.

Turner said looking for a Columbia newsstand is like a box of chocolates because people don't know what to expect.

"The Chronicle's new strategic placement on street corners next to other newsstands as well as in every campus building is just a superb idea," Turner said. "It's really unheard of, honestly."

Schröering said The Chronicle can be found at 26 South Loop locations and 400 additional locations across the city.

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Photo illustration Kevin Gebhardt THE CHRONICLE

# Students confuse Columbias, administrators take notice

by Alexandra Kukulka  
Campus Editor

**JESSICA PEREZ**, a sophomore music major, said she has always had a passion for playing the piano. Her mother had to take away her bench cushion just so she would quickly become uncomfortable and play for shorter amounts of time, she said.

After earning a bachelor's degree in music from Indiana University-Bloomington, Perez wanted to obtain her Master's degree from Columbia University. Expecting her flight to only make a layover in Chicago, Perez said she thought the airline made a mistake when the plane landed and stayed in the city.

"Once I made a fool of myself yelling at the ticket agent, I realized that he was right," Perez said. "I really applied to Columbia College, but I could have sworn I applied to Columbia University."

This is not the first time a mix-up of this nature has happened, as students frequently confuse the two Columbia institutions, according to Louise Love, interim provost and vice president of Academic Affairs.

"I don't know what it is, but students just get us confused with the university in New York," Love said. "This is one of the greatest institutions in the country, and it is unfortunate that confusion occurs."

Most recently, the college admitted 20 Chinese students from the Shandong University of Art & Design after several years of trying to boost international student enroll-



Photo illustration Zach Stemerick THE CHRONICLE

ment. Students, faculty and administrators gathered March 20 in The Loft, 916 S. Wabash Ave., to greet and welcome the students.

When the Chinese students arrived, however, they were not excited about where they landed.

"I don't even want to study art," said Zhang Li, a senior law major.

Upon entering The Loft, the international students smiled and waved at those present, while whispering to each other about how disappointed they were to have arrived at the Chicago arts college, Li said.

According to Li, the groups were expecting to study in the Chemical

Engineering and Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics departments at Columbia University.

All the students were unhappy about the situation and Chen Xu, a sophomore chemistry major, said he called his parents about the mix up, to ensure a return to China with a full refund.

"My parents are not pleased with where I ended up," Xu said. "They never supported my leaving, and after this mess-up, I will have to return. I am upset because this isn't where I wanted to go."

Several other international students have traveled to the college

from around the globe expecting to attend Columbia University, according to Love. Three years ago, she said Polish students from the University of Kraków accidentally arrived at Columbia when they applied to Columbia University to research stem cells.

Love said she recalled the previous incident and tried to remind the exchange students that Columbia is still a high-ranking institution.

"[Columbia] is by far the greatest institution in the nation, with a diverse population of faculty and staff," Love said. "The Chinese students should stay because they can

form a creative posse and contribute to the Wabash Arts Corridor, which, by the way, is going to just explode with creativity."

President Warrick L. Carter, who worked hard with administrators from SUAD, said he was disappointed in the Chinese students' reaction to Columbia. Carter said he did not know where the confusion stemmed from, but he believes the students should reconsider their decision to leave.

"Columbia is a fine institution, one that I am very proud of," Carter said. "I wanted to go to China to gather more students for Columbia because that is where the people are. But you know, the confusion is still helping us get recognized."

In an effort to persuade the Chinese students to stay, Love took them on a campus tour to show them "everything Columbia has to offer." She decided to first show them the 624 S. Michigan Ave. Building, where they waited for three hours for an elevator.

In an effort to stop these kinds of events from happening in the future, Love said she is seeking ways the college can better set itself apart from Columbia University.

"The college has to think of a new way to distinguish itself from other universities around the nation, particularly Columbia University," Love said. "At our next administrative meeting, I will propose changing Columbia's name to something that will stand out, like Harvard."

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## » GREEK

Continued from Front Page

whose parents cut them off.

According to Kron, the Skinny Jeans will only allow pledges who are savvy about denim leggings and it has developed a rigorous selection process, he said, which will require pledges to pass several tests.

Potential Skinny Jeans will first need to show proof of ownership of at least three sets of multi-colored suspenders, a rotation of enough button-up plaid shirts to last two weeks without repetition and skinny jeans in a "ROYGBIV" spectrum.

"What will really set pledges apart is how they rock the outfit," Kron said. "[The Skinny Jeans] are really looking for people who know now to combine metrosexuality with a fashion sense inspired by a more androgynous Chloë Sevigny."

Kappa Cannabis Kappa will have a simpler recruiting process, according to Kappa Cannabis Kappa President Zeke Smith, a third-year senior music major.

In order to join the Kappas, students will have to attend an informational clam bake, which potential members can locate by roaming Columbia's dormitories until they find the group's signature smell wafting from a dorm, Smith said.

"The cost of admittance to informational meetings are brownies with everything in them," Smith said with an exaggerated wink. "If you don't know what that means,

then you're probably not what we're looking for."

The new "hip" Greek system will offer students a chance to stand united, said Lisa Wong, a senior poetry major and president of Sigma I Swear It's A Legitimate Major Epsilon. According to Wong, many current Columbia students, especially those with nontraditional academic tracks, face ridicule and harsh criticism when they disclose their majors to friends and family.

"People just don't understand why I want to spend \$40,000 a year on tuition and housing to study the art of poetry," Wong said. "Now, I have the chance to be able to talk about these struggles with other students going through the same issues I face."



**What will really set pledges apart is how they rock the outfit."**

- Ryan Kron

According to Wong, four out of five Columbia students have non-traditional majors. The looming stress of finding a job, filing for government financial assistance and bankruptcy procedures can lead to severe mental breakdowns, she said, adding that Sigma will host workshops and group therapy sessions to combat that problem.

However, Greek life is often accompanied by hazing rituals that one must perform to be initiated into a group. Though Kron said he does not condone hazing, a recent incident involving Alpha Beta Skinny Jeans suggests otherwise. According to a student who requested anonymity, several potential pledges gathered in a Starbucks and were blindfolded. They were then dispatched to an undisclosed location where their hair was dyed a natural color after they were forced to put on clothing they were told was purchased from a suburban Wal-Mart, the student said.

"There is nothing more painful or binding than the texture of Wal-Mart brand clothing or a blasé salon experience," he said.

Pledges of Chi Didn't Want to Leave Chicago Tau are looking forward to the community that the system will bring the college.

"Students who take the strenuous commute back and forth to Chicago's 'burbs every weekend needed the system," said Mary White, a junior fiction writing major and pledge of Chi Didn't Want to Leave Chicago Tau.

White also said system will bring more diversity to the college

"It's nice to see Columbia acquire groups where students exercise conformity in a way they can't within typical, boring artistic groups, like Christian Filmmakers Club or One Tribe," she said.

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## » POLL

Continued from Front Page

"Yeah, I've seen a poll like this before and it makes sense that they would want me to take it first," said Alfred Franklin, a junior photography student. "Don't forget, I was the first one to lace up a pair of Toms, so I think I know what's going on."

The results of the poll explain a few increasingly bothersome incidents that have disrupted the flow of campus activities.

Last fall, Joe Harrison, a 15-year employee of DreamWorks Pictures gave a lecture in the Film Row Cinema, 1104 S. Wabash Ave., to three first-year film classes on the future of the country's film industry.

However, he became enraged after most of the students in the audience left 20 minutes into the presentation he prepared.

"These kids have made up their minds that they already know everything about this industry," Harrison said at the lecture as he angrily kicked over a microphone. "Since my work here was done before it started, I have no reason to stay here."

Before the students' mass exodus, one stood up and stated, "We already heard that one."

"I mean, I watched 'Jurassic Park' when I was like 5 and read a book here and there so I feel pretty experienced," an anonymous student said. "Plus, nobody can actually teach post-experimental avant-

garde animated filmmaking."

Last week, Columbia's Story Week festival was marred by an incident between an author and a student. Author Maggie Richardson had recited three pages of her memoir before being rudely interrupted, according to Sandy Montgomery, an onlooker and junior fiction writing major.

"The author was telling personal stories of her life and a student had claimed to have read that story before and went as far to accuse the author of stealing his personal work, even though his only finished piece was a Haiku published on his Tumblr," Montgomery said.

One incident in the Plymouth Court residence hall culminated in violence and the arrest of two 18-year-old freshmen after one student punched another in the neck during a heated argument over who heard of The Beatles first.

"These two kids were trying to trump each other claiming to hear of stuff from before they were even born," said Mary Oakes, director of Residence Life. "Before the first punch was thrown, one of the boys claimed he was at Woodstock."

The survey also showed that 15 respondents predicted that this article would be printed on the Front Page of The Chronicle.

"I can predict life, including what will be on the front of The Chronicle," Franklin said. "It's actually quite simple, really."

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# Smarty pants

## New app underwear causes stir



Photo illustration Marcus Nuccio THE CHRONICLE

by Hallie Zolkower-Kutz  
Assistant Sports & Health Editor

IT'S EASY TO become desensitized to vast technological advances, but Howard Leavitt, researcher at CompuWear, a technology and science startup specializing in wear-

able computers, said he is warning technophiles not to miss the debut of the world's first smart underwear, which he said will change the world.

At a March 1 technology conference in Las Vegas sponsored by Electronic Alliance, a nonprofit

organization that provides grants to innovative thinkers, Leavitt unveiled the iBriefs, a wearable computing device built into a pair of underpants that runs all the applications a smartphone can.

According to Leavitt, the briefs can connect wirelessly to any

handheld smart device, and several apps have already been created to uniquely suit it. Leavitt said the most promising include Sweatygram, which monitors sweat levels in one's nether regions, ChafeHub, which alerts the wearer of the possibility of chafing and, Smellify, which allows the iBriefs to sense if the user is especially flatulent and releases more pleasant odors such as chocolate cake, daisies and cinnamon buns, which are available in cartridge-form.

Amid rumors of an Apple smartwatch, the iBriefs mark an enterprising step in wearable computers, according to Kathleen Wilcom, technology forecaster at George Washington University.

"This product will completely revolutionize the industry of wearable electronics," Wilcom said. "Soon, you will be able to buy smart underwear at any store. They'll be selling them in packs."

Currently, the iBriefs are only available as single units and cost between \$2,000 and \$2,500, according to Leavitt.

CNET Tech Expert Stan Copeland said he was not entirely satisfied with the iBriefs when he tried them at the conference.

"The elastic is so loose they barely stay on," he said. "Also, you can just tell by looking at them that the fabric will shrink in the wash, and then what will you do?"

But Leavitt said the iBriefs he brought to the Las Vegas confer-

ence was a very early prototype.

"We have already fixed bugs that appeared when the briefs were released," he said. "There are no longer any problems with burns caused by the warmth of the device, and all pairs manufactured after February have been double-stitched so no one has to worry about them spontaneously falling apart anymore."

Leavitt said he was inspired to create the iBriefs when he realized that having his laptop, smartphone and iPad just in his hand, was simply not enough.

"I had a desire to literally feel a smart device at all times," he said, then paused as his crotch began to vibrate.

Wilcom said she would snatch up a pair of iBriefs as soon as they become more available to the general public. She said she only has one complaint: how the briefs look.

"They are ... definitely a statement piece," Wilcom said.

Copeland didn't put it so delicately. He said he thinks Leavitt didn't focus on the aesthetics of his project at all.

"They are ugly as sin," he said. "I wouldn't be caught dead in them."

Leavitt disputes criticism about the way the iBriefs look. He said he is trying to prove that something ugly can be something beautiful.

"When was the last time granny panties could actually call Grandma?" he said.

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# Men may enjoy sex, study shows

by Hallie Zolkower-Kutz  
Assistant Sports & Health Editor

A RECENT STUDY published in The New England Journal of Medicine found that men may experience pleasure during sexual intercourse. The comprehensive research, published April 1, studied the daily habits of men across the country, occasionally subjecting them to MRI scans. The researchers kept careful data of behaviors that could suggest an inclination toward sex. The data collected took 11 months to analyze, according to Paul Weiner, head researcher of the study.

"We really wanted to go where other research has never gone before," Weiner said. "So we collected an enormous sample size, over 5,000 men between the ages of 15 and 55, and found an enormous amount of data. The results were staggering."

Weiner said he found that 99.9 percent of men had on average at least 57 mild sexual thoughts daily. More than 90 percent of men stud-

ied had a slight to severe physical sexual reaction to some sort of external stimuli, whether sexual or not, during the time of the study.

Weiner also said that because such a high number of men responded "yes" to the question of whether or not they enjoy sex, the results were reevaluated by an independent research group called PenileSearch to assess the validity of the results.

"We don't often see 100 percents in this field," said Norman Hollander, researcher at PenileSearch. "So it was understandable when [Weiner] approached me about evaluating his study. Accuracy is key."

In addition to evaluating sexual thoughts and physical reaction, researchers measured the endorphins released when a sexual thought enters the brain.

"We found that men actually received a fair amount of pleasure associated with these sexual thoughts," Weiner said.

The results were particularly surprising to Ellen Levine, another

researcher of the study.

"We knew we were going to find evidence of sexual thoughts and behaviors," she said. "But the instances were so frequent, we were finding them far more than once a day. We never expected it."

To find participants, researchers looked to places that would support a large population of male subjects.

"We mostly recruited at Hooters, Buffalo Wild Wings and the YMCA," Weiner said.

Dick Blackwelder, a study participant, said he felt as though he was contributing to a huge turning point in medicine.

"I was relieved to see the results and know I'm not the only one," Blackwelder said. "Finally, they are focusing on men for once."

The implications of this study are vast, said Jeremy Leahy, professor in the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University.

"I think the results of this study could have a huge impact on the way we talk about men having sex in popular culture," Leahy said.



Photo Illustration Michael Scott Fischer THE CHRONICLE

"Perhaps now there won't be so much of a stigma against discussing male sexuality."

Dr. Lillian Wilson, a physician specializing in homeopathy and sexual health, said she is not convinced by this research and needs to see the results presented in a more convincing manner, such as with charts or graphs.

"I'll admit, the study is a novel idea, but I just don't buy it yet," Wilson said. "I'm someone who needs to see the proof right in front of me before I believe something so out

there. Not that I would really understand or even read the charts, I just need to know they're there."

Weiner said he hopes to propel the findings into a future study investigating the effects of long periods without sex on men.

"I think that could be an interesting direction to go," he said. "I mean, who knows what would happen?"

When asked if he would participate in the future study, Blackwelder declined to comment.

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## Name changer

NOW THAT THE Renegades have finally become something more than an excuse to play recess games with the college's pocket change, it's time for a new name.

The moniker "Renegade" is flighty and, frankly, makes Columbia look like a bunch of heathens.

Representing our mighty, history-making sports organization with a name that implies delinquency is counterproductive. If our campus is to have a strong sense of community, we must have a unifying mascot—the unicorn.

The unicorn embodies three qualities that sum up the majority of our student body: majesty, mysticism and pretention. Majestic in that most Columbians are absolutely fabulous and leave a glittering rainbow wherever they prance around campus, mystical because we are a strange bunch with obscure visions that outsiders never seem to understand and pretentious because, let's face it,

we all are.

Admit it, you think you are cooler than everyone else and so does the unicorn.

Naming a sports organization holds more importance than one may think. Has anyone considered why the Renegades have

performed so lackadaisically in the past? Oh, perhaps it's because "renegade" signifies a slacker attitude. With the unicorn, magic happens quite literally. Columbia's once puny art-school-jock-wannabes will transform into beasts of mythical proportions.

Imagine the Unicorns entering the college's new home game venue, the United Center (which, despite containing the prefix "uni," should also have a name change to Rainbow Kingdom), in their new designer outfits complete with the glorious one-horned beast, ready to dominate the competition.

Team members of the newly formed sport Compelling Spelling, as reported by The Chronicle below, will mesmerize the crowd

### THE UNICORNS



by spewing sparkling slam poetry and spelling words like "supercalifragilisticexpialidocious" without batting an eyelash. The Unicorn's men's basketball team will soar above the competition, thanks to fairy dust, as they shatter the glass of the backboard. The women's volleyball team will have no problem spiking the ball, horns held high. Enchanted enchantment will be bestowed on whatever other sports they play that I haven't heard of—because, I'll be honest, I only found out Columbia had a sports organization last week—I'm sure the name will give the Renegades the burst of respect they deserve.

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## Renegades go pro



Photo illustration Marcus Nuccio THE CHRONICLE

by Nader Ihmoud & Doug Pitorak

Sports Web Editor & Sports & Health Editor

**PRESIDENT WARRICK L. Carter** announced April 1 that Columbia will apply for accreditation as an NCAA Division I competitor.

The news comes nearly two weeks after DePaul University declared that its Men's Basketball team, which is in search of a new home court, will not accept the United Center's offer to play there, as reported by the Chicago Tribune March 19.

Carter said he could not comment on speculation that Columbia will seize the opportunity to play at the house Michael Jordan built.

"At this time, I cannot discuss any details about locations we're looking at to serve as home court for our teams," Carter said. "What I can tell you is that we've only looked at one location, and we just signed a 10-year contract with that venue today and it's the United Center. Our first game there will be April 8."

Abby Cress, president of the Renegades and a senior fashion studies major, praised the initiative taken by Carter, whom she said has been working on the deal since Jan. 2012 when Roosevelt University began construction on the two-story Lillian and Larry Goodman Center, 501 S. Wabash Ave.

Cress, who spoke openly about the deal with the United Center, said the new facility will not only accommodate existing Renegades teams but will allow for the implementation of lacrosse, badminton and an innovative sport called compelling spelling, a hybrid of spelling bees and slam poetry.

Carter said he made the decision to take sports more seriously after listening to student concerns. The last two Renegades events had nearly 15,000 people attend, although 90 percent of them had to be turned away from the South Loop Elementary School Gym, 1212 S. Plymouth Court, which can only host 300 spectators.

"Of all the pleas made by our student athletes to make sports a

prominent aspect at Columbia—that they make the school money, that they get students active and unite the school—only one thing convinced me," Carter said. "Students said they were sick of telling others that, yes, Columbia is a legitimate school. Sports will solve that problem."

NCAA sports will help students in all programs, Cress said.

"Though it may take a couple centuries to build a sports program that can compete, the Renegades will look the part immediately," Cress said. "Our fashion design students are dedicated to creating the hottest uniforms for the Renegades—so hot that you can expect to see our student athletes on runways as frequently as you will see them on the field."

The new Renegades uniforms will be unveiled when the basketball team takes the court against the Northwestern University Wildcats April 8.

Tickets will be available via Ticketmaster once the deal is official. Columbia students with proof of ID will only be charged \$5 to attend.

Music students will be involved too, Cress said, explaining that a marching band will be implemented that will only play 20th century atonal music.

In related news, Columbia's cheer team will finally have something to cheer for, according to captain Rebecca Christen, a junior art & design major.

"It will be great to finally see our hard work pay off," Christensen said.

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### Derrick Rose's Knee, Left

Age: 24 College/Team: Chicago Bulls



Photo illustration Marcus Nuccio THE CHRONICLE

by Nader Ihmoud & Doug Pitorak

Sports Web Editor & Sports & Health Editor

**BULLS GUARD DERRICK** Rose was forced to take a break from basketball to nurse his ailing knee back to health after he injured it almost a year ago. His knee has since recovered from its ACL tear, but it said Rose refuses to return to the court because he is still too emotionally fragile after having to sit out while rival team, the Miami Heat, made fools of every other team in the league.

Rose's knee has been quiet for most of the time it's spent rehabbing, but recently the knee granted The Chronicle an exclusive interview to discuss its issues with Rose, trade rumors and which athlete's body he'd rather be a part of.

**The Chronicle: Is there any truth to the rumors of a rift between you and D-Rose?**

**Derrick Rose's Knee:** You know, all I'll say is that we always hear about conflict between the head and the heart, but no one ever cares what the knee has to say. I'm telling you, I'm ready to play and help my team, but Rose says he's waiting until he can dunk comfortably off of me. We're saying two different things, so you tell me if there's a conflict.

**How have you been spending your time off?**

The first two months were pretty tough. I couldn't really bend, so I sat in bed and watched Key & Peele videos all day. Those guys really eased the pressure that comes with breaking the hearts of fans across my hometown of Chicago. After the sting wore off—I was still sore, but I mean the emotional sting—I actually went swimming a lot. I hear it was therapy, and I guess you could call it that, but it was just

really fun. It felt good to cool off and get out of that brace.

**How are you feeling today?**

Today I feel great—100 percent. But you know, I've been listed as day-to-day on the injury report for like a month. I really don't know when that's going to change.

**What's your rush to get back?**

Rush? Please. [Minnesota Vikings running back] Adrian Peterson came back from his ACL injury in less than a year and won league MVP. I understand being cautious because of the long-term risk, but this season is almost over, and, to be honest, I hate LeBron James' knees and really want them to stop winning. Plus, I miss the Luvabulls and I can't see them from behind these sweat pants. I can only see them when I'm in my shorts.

**Can you comment about the trade rumors?**

Of course! I'm glad the news is public. I want to be traded to a new body right away—think Chris Rock in "Down To Earth." That guy dies like twice and gets a new body both times. I'm alive and well and haven't done anything wrong. If D-Rose is waiting until he can dunk, then send me to Kyrie Irving. He doesn't dunk, and he could use a fresh, recently surgically repaired knee anyways before he blows one out and makes Cleveland more miserable than it already is. It would be a win-win.

**What about Chicago, your home?**

At the end of the day, my ability is being questioned. I'm The Knee. That is disrespectful and just to think, I had hopes of bringing greatness back to the Mad House. I mean, it's in my genes. My great uncle was Michael Jordan's knee.

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# Columbia painting grad gets hired

by Emily Ornerberg  
Arts & Culture Editor

**COLUMBIA FINE ART** alumna Katie Jackson has experienced many firsts in her life. She was the first woman to help design and complete a mural in Wicker Park, the first winner of Lincoln Park's arts festival "Fullerton Art Days" and is the first painter from Columbia to get hired for an actual job in her desired field.

After working full-time as a Starbucks barista since graduating in 2010, Jackson was hired March 31 as lead painter and mixologist at a local Home Depot, 4555 S. Western Blvd.

"I've worked very hard to get where I am today," Jackson said. "After spending five years at art school and mastering my barista skills, I'm ready to do something with my education."

According to Home Depot man-

ager Ky Newton, Jackson's new job mainly involves painting bathrooms. She will also mix all of the paint for customers, as well as assisting paint companies during weekly color-naming meetings, Newton said.

"I'm most excited to name paints," Jackson said.

Newton added that Sherwin-Williams will give Home Depot 10 percent off if its employees help the company come up with names for new color shades every month.

"There are infinite shades of light green, but it's pretty tricky constantly coming up with infinite ways to say 'light green,' and we're excited to get an art student in here to help out with that to keep the discount going," Newton said.

Since her internship at Giftland, 2212 S. Wentworth Ave., which involved painting touch-ups on miniature cat and dragon figurines sold in Chinatown, Jackson said

it was hard to find paid work as a professional painter. Now, Jackson said she is thrilled to start painting bathrooms at a starting hourly rate of \$9.

Kevin Larson, junior fine art major, said he can only hope to be as successful as Jackson.

"I could only dream of painting bathrooms for suburban mothers," Larson said. "The legacy of Katie Jackson will live on in Columbia's Fine Arts Department forever."

However, Kellan Dash, senior art & design major, disapproves of Jackson's job offer. Dash said he thinks Jackson sought out a more commercial lifestyle by doing what most starving painters eventually do—get a job.

"She definitely sold out big time," Dash said. "The only way to remain a true artist is to never get paid for your art."

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STOCK PHOTO

Katie Jackson, 2010 Columbia alumna, was finally hired after working at Starbucks for three years.

## Monumental art piece wins contest; still doesn't make any sense



STOCK PHOTO

Robert Ashland, organizer of the event, has no understanding of art, despite his pretentiousness.

by Kyle Rich  
Social Media Editor

**IT'S A BIRD!** It's a plane! It's a deformed gargoyle with deer horns holding a bowl of old cereal while balancing on top of a kickball? Or to an outsider, just another piece of art exhibited at Columbia.

Winners of Columbia's third annual "Release Your Inner Exhibit" contest were announced March 22. A total of 20 entries were displayed in the Quincy Wong Center in the 623 S. Wabash Ave. Building.

The contest is open to all students. To utilize students' optimal artistic abilities, the contest had no guidelines, no major requirements, and required no real concept or understanding of art, according to Robert Ashland, a First Year Seminar instructor at Columbia who organized the event.

"There's no reason to limit an artist with a concept," Ashland said. "Limiting an artist with rules and regulations is like telling a plant to stop being green, or something like that."

Each year, one winner is selected by a panel of three Chicago-based artists, to win an undesired sense of self-importance. This year, Columbia kept it interesting by blindfolding the judges and only letting them feel the art.

Timothy Williamson, 31, who resides in Bucktown and makes his living as an adult finger painter, selling overpriced pieces to only the most pretentious art collectors, ex-

plained that vision is actually one of the least important senses when it comes to recognizing good art.

"Art isn't something you merely see," Williamson said. "You have to feel it, you have to smell it and you even have to taste it. Does it ever taste bad? Yes, sometimes extremely—however [the winner's art] resonated on my palate well, blindfold or not."

According to Williamson, the piece felt like it was run over by a car and put back together with marshmallow fluff. Some other noted materials were dried grass, an old watch, pencil shavings, an empty can of Chef Boyardee, an old Limp Bizkit vinyl and candle wax.

Fred Gordon, a third-year senior in the fine art program said the piece was inspired by intoxication.

"I drank four bottles of Chablis just to get in touch with myself, then a vino followed by half a box of that red Franzia mess," Gordon said. "Then I could really go to work. Before I knew it, I woke up with my cat, Claude Monet, licking up my vomit, and when I looked up, the piece was complete. So I just rolled with it."

Gordon's teacher, Ashland, who takes credit for all of his former students' success, described what he felt upon viewing the painting/mural/diorama/sculpture.

"To me, it represents the trials and tribulations of man," Ashland said. "It makes you think of how the shackles of society bind us, and you know, all the other bad stuff,

like long lines at Chipotle. It's basic human suffering."

Although Gordon could not remember the process behind his creation, that didn't stop him from giving a pretentious interpretation of its meaning.

"It reminds me of freedom," Gordon said. "Just like an eagle flying first class on United and just spreading his wings. It reminds me of when I look into the sun for hours, then realize I've been staring at the sun for hours and have to take a long nap to regain my composure after taking in all that beauty."

Gordon's work was so well-received that an onlooker dressed in a chinchilla fur coat and a Batman T-shirt, who went only by the name "J," offered him \$20 and a half-filled punch card to Cafe-cito for his work, which Gordon graciously accepted.

"If the Grim Reaper, Lady GaGa and Johnny Depp were together sharing a condo, this is only what I could imagine their place would be decorated with," J said. "It's really beautiful and deserves a spot in my gallery."

Although Ashland has forgotten why he even started the contest, he hasn't forgotten the memories of past exhibits.

"One year a kid set himself on fire; Although there is apparently some code against it, it made for true expression," Ashland said. "I can't forget the lemurs either."

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# The **DEVIL** wears sweatpants

by Lindsey Woods, Managing Editor

## Sweatpants are a girl's best friend

ONE OF THE best aspects of fashion is its uncanny ability to be perpetually cyclical. It rewards my tendency to hoard regurgitations of the same trends year after year, allowing me to wear the clothes I've packed away in boxes long ago while still being extremely chic.

But there are always items in my closet that remain season after season and never go out of style. Items like little black dresses, basic cotton V-neck T-shirts and a pair of perfectly fitting jeans will be forever fashionable. But there is one staple of my wardrobe that fashionistas frequently flog—my beloved sweatpants.

Hold your scoff and hear me out. Sweatpants are the most versatile of butt covers, for they come in every color and can be dressed up with rhinestones or dressed down with sports logos. They are also season-

less, keeping your bottom half warm in the winter and can be rolled up or cropped for a breezy and bare summer look when the weather gets warm.

Sweatpants are also great for expressing yourself or your loyalty to a certain brand. Printing words such as "hot," "sexy" or "angel," across your derriere is a great way to advertise your most prized attributes. They are also a great way to help your favorite company capitalize on every available advertising space, including your booty, by donning their brand on your behind. Your ass looks, "Juicy," and the brand you love gets a free promotion. Win-win!

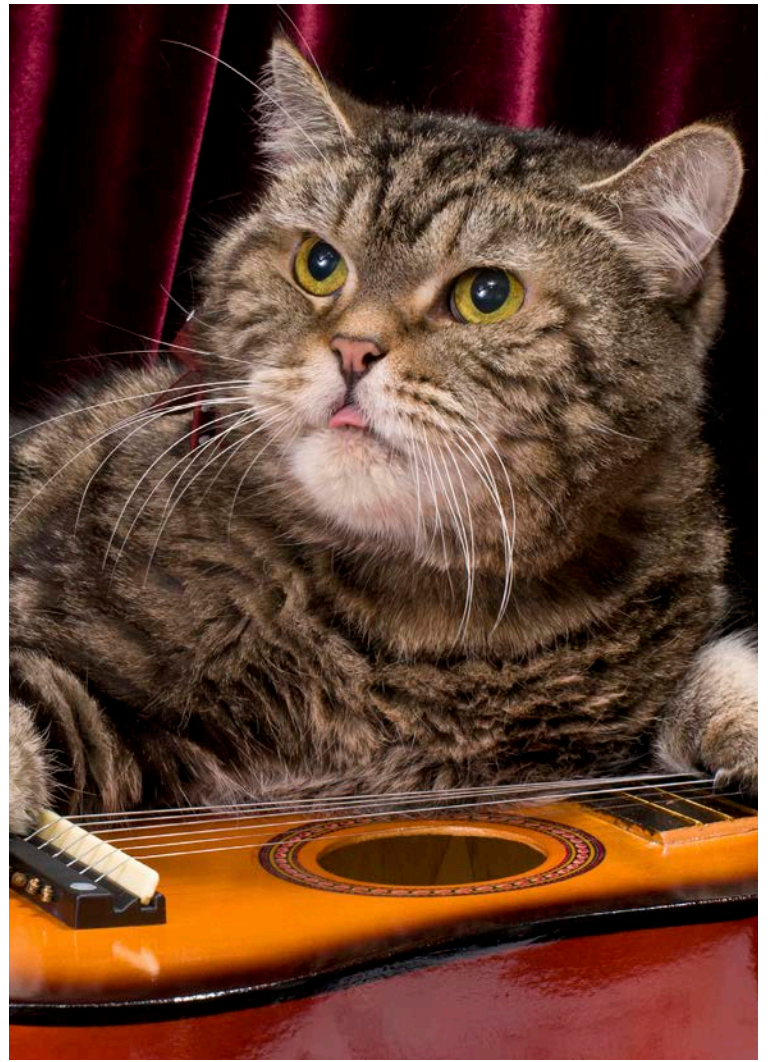
Most importantly, sweatpants exemplify my fashion motto, "function over form." They are a cozy alternative to restricting tights and



skirts that squeeze. Versatility also plays into function; they can be worn anywhere and for any occasion. Do you have a 9 a.m. class on Monday? Those baggy black sweats will do just fine and cover up your weekend bloat to boot. Got a Friday night date? Match those bedazzled booty-huggers to their hoodie companion and you're good to go. And don't worry about eating too much at dinner because your trusty sweatpants will expand along with your stomach. Perfect.

Some will stigmatize sweatpants as shapeless and lazy, but I say they're the smartest fashion choice one can make. Just think of them as harem pants for the functional fashionista.

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STOCK PHOTO

Backstage after a rough night of indulging in Catnip and Fancy Feast, Skempus the Cat, lead singer of The Cat's Meow, shows off his acoustic skills during the harmonic track "Scratch My Tummy."

Sweatpants are also great for expressing yourself or your loyalty to a certain brand.

# Check Meow



**Snoopy Coleman**  
senior journalism major  
favorite place to sleep: "on my owner's face"



**Colonel Fischer**  
senior art & design major  
favorite place to sleep: "on top of my owner's keyboard"



**Bub Ornberg**  
junior journalism major  
favorite place to sleep: "nowhere near my owner"



**G.C. Valera**  
junior journalism major  
favorite place to sleep: "in a warm, sunny window"





THE  
APRIL FOOLS  
EDITION

Top



Kanye West // Badass Emcee



The Brown Line El Train // Railcar



The Office Unicorn // Creature

### Reasons I never went to Columbia

**Whatchu think I look like?:** Errbody be thinking I attended and dropped out of Columbia, but nah B, never happened. Look, I'm one of the best dressed on the planet, there ain't no disputin'. But you wouldn't catch me dead goin' to class in medieval garb or wearin' one of those cat hats with the sides droppin' down to my shoulders. You trippin'. But when I wear leather kilts on stage? That's fresh, B.

**I don't do anything other rappers do:** Look, Common is my boy, colleague and one of the best on my label, but I'm Kanye West. You think I could do what another rapper has done? C'mon, son. Common went to Columbia and dropped out. You think I'm a about to do the same? That's what we in the music industry call "played out."

**No scholarships, son is you serious?:** The American Academy of Art threw me a bone and gave me a scholarship, but Columbia couldn't even give Kanye a free paint brush?! My presence is a present! Even if I wasn't famous at the time, I'm sure being on campus would have boosted morale and made this place a top-notch institution.

**Cafeteria menu:** Son, did you forget who I am? I eat numerous lobster tails a day, even a dinosaur egg on occasion. You can't find that in the University Center. What the hell is a burger anyway?!

**I'm Kanye West:** G, I didn't drop out of college. College dropped out of me.

### Things that piss me off

**Customers who complain about construction:** Come on! Can't a guy get a break? I work 22 hours a day, seven days a week! And you're upset that for nine days, I'm not going downtown? Get over yourself. You try carting around a bunch of bitter commuters day in and day out. I deserve a little vacation.

**Delays:** Passengers love to complain about delays. I get it. Delays suck. But there's nothing I can do, OK? Sometimes I just have to wait for signal clearance. Enjoy the view of the city for a second and I'm sure I'll be moving again shortly. People's attention spans are so short these days.

**The announcer:** You don't need to tell passengers that the doors open on the right at Harold Washington Library/State and Van Buren. They'll figure that out, probably when the doors actually open on the right at Harold Washington Library. I'm so sick of that guy. What a know-it-all.

**The Loop:** It's so busy down there. There are trains everywhere. Too much hustle and bustle for this train. I prefer the peace and quiet of the Rockwell stop. It's a nice little area.

**People who play music on the train without listening to headphones:** Yeah, I hate it too. Everyone hates it. Cell phone speakers were not designed to play in public. What are those people thinking? We are all in this together; let's be courteous.

### Reasons being a unicorn is awesome

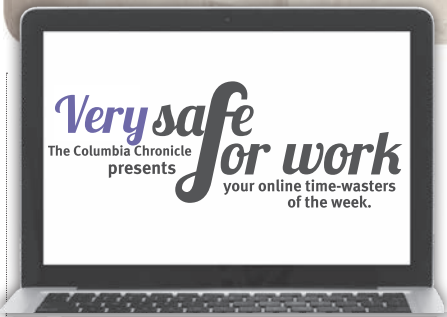
**I have healing powers:** If you've read a single Harry Potter book, you know that Unicorn blood has the power to heal any wound. But don't forget about my horn! Need your poisoned water made drinkable? No problem. Got a wound that needs healing? I got you.

**I have the best back-scratcher ever:** My horn is way longer and more efficient than any backscratcher you can buy at Pier 1 Imports. I used to have a job as a professional back scratcher that paid \$35 an hour. Think you could do better than that as a measly human? I think not.

**I can be friends with a narwhal or swordfish:** Generally regarded as unapproachable and elusive, swordfish and narwhals will occasionally come to the surface to converse with their long-horned brethren: the unicorn. We normally chat about acceptable headwear, but occasionally we delve into the deeper issues facing our dwindling species.

**We look sweet but we are actually deadly:** Just because we are the most gorgeous, magnificent and majestic animals on earth doesn't mean you can mess with us. Unicorns are deadly. I mean, come on, we have a huge spike right on our foreheads.

**I totally exist:** How many other creatures can say that people fight over their existence? Me, Bigfoot and the Minotaur have poker night every Friday and just laugh about how people can't believe what's right in front of them.



blog

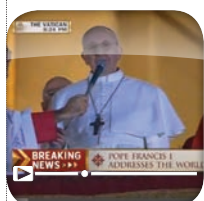


#### Facebook

What better way to spend a 9-to-5 than seeing vacation photos from that one girl you used to work with at that movie

theater in high school or denying an invitation to your ex's kegger this weekend? Facebook.com is designed to work like a time warp, sucking you in to gaze at the people you never really cared for in the first place.

video



#### Pope Francis' first speech as a Latin American Jesuit pontiff

The riveting speech that took place after Pope

Francis was announced is easily the most lively thing on YouTube. The speech, which took place after Francis was elected, included a blessing for the diocesan community of Rome and even a prayer for our Bishop Emeritus Benedict XVI.

## Nicholas Cage contorts his face, yells in 'Season of the Witch'

by Sam Flancher  
Film Critic

NICOLAS CAGE HAS long been one of American cinema's national treasures. Boasting an intimidating filmography unrivaled in the history of the medium, Cage stands alone atop the pantheon of film's greatest stars. Though selecting a standout from his personal stockpile of unquestionably great performances is difficult, recent critical debate has poised his 2011 effort, "Season of the Witch," for modern appreciation.

The film, set in the 13th century, follows Behmen von Bleibrock, played by a bravely greasy-haired Cage, as he and his best friends trek across the nasty medieval countryside to dispose of a woman accused of witchcraft. Along the way, Behmen is haunted by frightening visions incited by the witch's maniacal gaze. Superb scripting and excellent, uncredited direc-

tion from the legendary Brett Ratner ("Rush Hour 3," "Tower Heist") compliment Cage's canonical performance to produce a film of unquestionable depth.

The key to Cage's performance lies in his unique ability to manipulate his face. When the camera pulls in for a closeup, Cage is ready with a bevy of facial contortions bent on interpreting the feelings, emotions and ideas of Behmen von Bleibrock. His ability to furrow his brow, narrow his eyes, open his mouth, flare his nostrils and blink within the same frame communicates an unheralded grasp of Behmen's existential struggles. His method is revelatory—rather than simply using his normal facial expressions, he adopts those of Behmen for the entirety of the film.

Secondary to Cage's domineering control over his facial muscles comes his ability to add inflection to his voice. Rather than speak-

ing his lines as he would in real life, Cage forces the timbre of his voice to rise and fall in accordance with the emotions of his character. This results in something of a breakthrough in acting techniques. When the emotion of the scene calls for Behmen to yell,

Cage yells. When the scene calls for Behmen to refrain from yelling, Cage almost always refrains from yelling. This breakthrough of vocal manipulation assures Cage's place among the all-time greats.

The film's final scene offers perhaps the most poignant moment



"Season of the Witch," is a film set in the 13th century about a character named Behmen von Bleibrock who sets out with his friends to kill a woman accused of witchcraft.

of Cage's entire oeuvre. He yells, screams and moves his face all while fighting a giant CGI demon. His pure ability allows him to juggle an incredible volume of facial contortions and vocal inflections. He slashes the monster with his sword and the audience's heartstrings with his smile.

While I originally wrote off the film as a piece of self-indulgent slop solely constructed to satisfy the pleasure-centers in the brains of pre-pubescent middle school boys, a re-appraisal of Cage's performance finds the film to number among the greatest of the past decade. It stands as further proof of Cage's ability to move his face, memorize his lines, change his voice and ultimately pretend he's somebody other than Nicolas Cage for almost an entire feature-length film.

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# Chicago DJs original, unique

by Emily Ornberg  
Arts & Culture Editor

FORMER COLUMBIA ART & design majors Tanner Vanderbelt and Victoria Evans never planned to be musicians. In fact, Vanderbelt said with their extensive knowledge and deep appreciation for design, the hometown besties hailing from Miami originally shared the goal of re-branding Cheerios.

However, Evans said after a friend dared the duo to enter a disc jockey contest at a party in Hum-

boldt Park last February, Vanderbelt and Evans decided to ditch In-Design for ProTools to become the DJ pair KittenLust!

"We really enjoy wasting our parents' money," Evans said. "So we figured the only way to ensure zero income, aside from studying graphic design, is to pursue deejaying."

Releasing their inaugural EP, "Insømi@x," April 1 and opening for STRFKR at the Metro, 3730 N. Clark St., on April 6, the self-proclaimed "glitter-core" DJs are making their mark with a sound

they describe as "post-funk-meets-acid-house."

The Chronicle sipped low-fat sugar-free mocha-Xanaxfrappuccinos with KittenLust! in their Michigan Avenue penthouse (funded by their parents) and talked about their inspiration, live shows and future goals.

## The Chronicle: What inspired the sound on your first EP?

**Vanderbelt:** The screeching sound of the el track near Wabash and Balbo [avenues] was really the driving force behind "Insømi@x." Besides that, we really admire DJs "\$\*\$," Lindsay Lohan, Jesse Jackson Jr. and the Insane Clown Posse.

**Evans:** I try not to have anything inspire me because I'm really unique. So, I guess, I inspire me. Also, The Beatles.

## What are your live shows like?

**Vanderbelt:** Usually we take about an hour to move cords around and make sure the party has the right vibe. Then we usually mix our beats on the spot, sometimes pressing as many as two keys per second. But we try not to pre-plan anything since we are totally original.

**Your album includes samples ranging from Disney soundtracks to Irish bagpipes. What was the**



## reason behind choosing them?

**Vanderbelt:** Walt Disney truly understands the real meaning of all things and is quite possibly the best filmmaker of our time.

## What are your future goals?

**Evans:** Hopefully, by the time we play Lollapalooza this summer, we'll be so obscure that the font

size of our name is no larger than 10-point.

## Any upcoming shows we should be looking for?

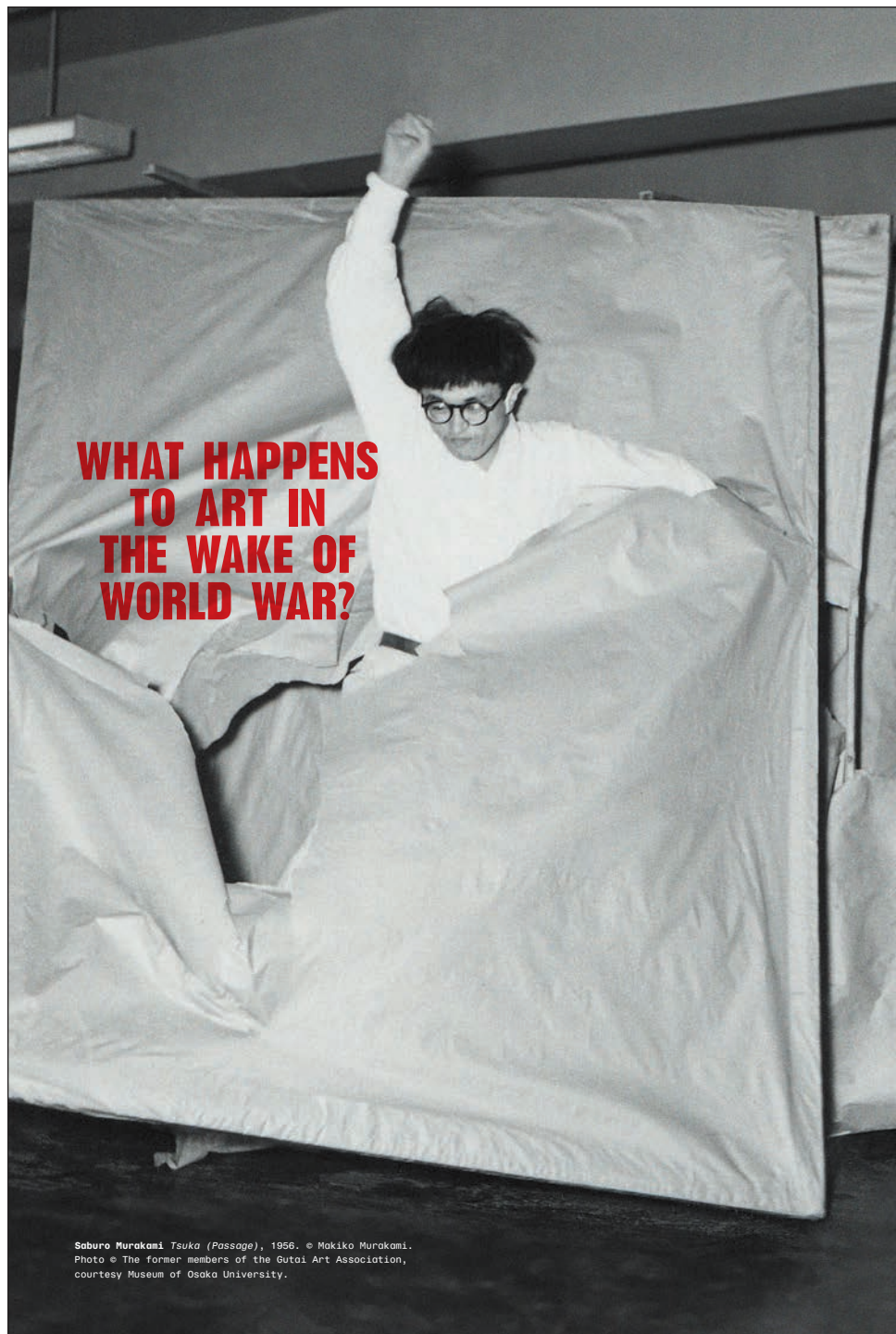
**Evans:** I brought a child's xylophone and a snare drum if you want me to play an excerpt for you right now.

eornberg@chroniclemail.com



Photo illustrations James Foster THE CHRONICLE

Ex-Columbia students and disc jockeys Tanner Vanderbelt and Victoria Evans spend their time wasting money.



WHAT HAPPENS TO ART IN THE WAKE OF WORLD WAR?

Saburo Murakami Tsuka (Passage), 1956. © Makiko Murakami. Photo © The former members of the Gutai Art Association, courtesy Museum of Osaka University.

# DESTROY THE PICTURE:

# PAINTING THE VOID,

# 1949—1962

Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago

February 16—June 2

[mcachicago.org](http://mcachicago.org)

*Destroy the Picture: Painting the Void, 1949-1962* has been organized by Paul Schimmel, former Chief Curator of The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, in association with the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago.

Lead support for the Chicago presentation of the exhibition is provided by Kenneth and Anne Griffin, Donna and Howard Stone, and Helen and Sam Zell.

Major support is provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art, Neil G. Bluhm, Stefan Edlis and Gael Neeson, and Andrea and Jim Gordon.

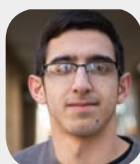
Additional generous support is provided by Barbara Bluhm-Kaul and Don Kaul, The Estate of Edward Anixter, Gagosian Gallery, Anne and William J. Hokin, Agnes Gund, Julie and Larry Bernstein, The Axel and May Vervoordt Foundation, Barbara Bertozzi Costelli, Judith Neisser, Sara Szold, and two anonymous donors.

TERRA FOUNDATION FOR AMERICAN ART

American Airlines Official Airline of MCA Chicago



## Do you know what your major is?



I have no idea. I have been taking a little bit of everything. I should probably figure that out soon, seeing as I am graduating in May.

Oscar Santiago senior, undeclared

I am a screen writing major. Yeah, I think that is what it's called. I will make sure to Google the proper name.



Stephanie Jones freshman film & video major



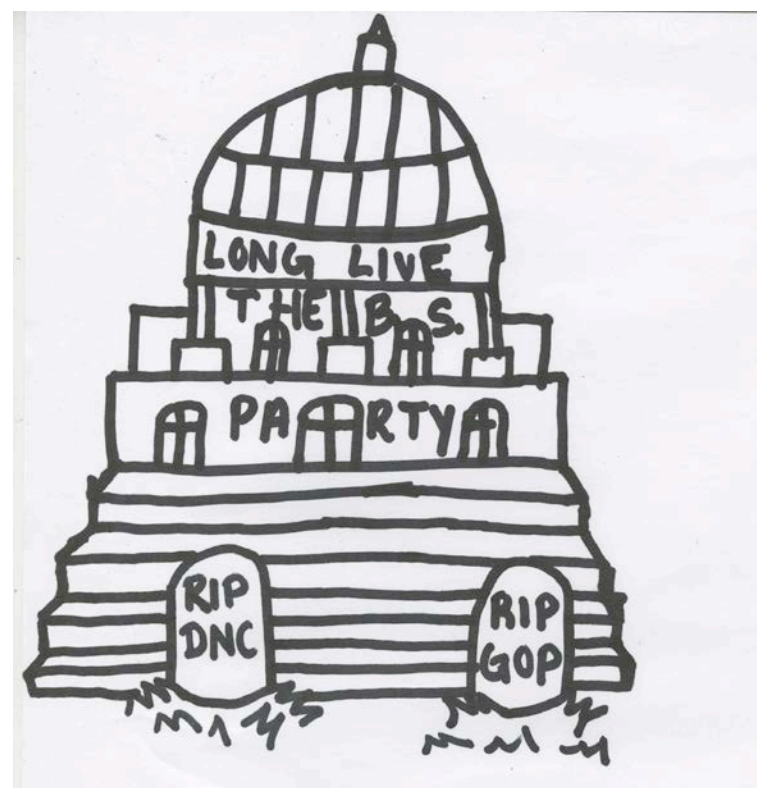
None of the majors here really fit my artistic vision, so I created my own. It's half game design, half dance, with a minor in poetry writing. I am my own artist.

Joseph Johnson sophomore interdisciplinary major

### EDITORIAL CARTOONS



Erik Rodriguez THE CHRONICLE



Tyler Eagle THE CHRONICLE

## Gun control law violates rights of evildoers



by Evil Tyler Davis  
Evil Commentary Editor

**ILLINOIS SENATORS MARK** Kirk (R) and Dick Durbin (D) are co-sponsoring a gun control bill that makes it difficult for people to legally buy firearms and sell them to criminals. This is one of many bills currently being considered by Congress that would burden illegal gun owners with unnecessary red tape.

Legal gun buyers, or “straw purchasers,” are a major source of

guns for wrongdoers, and this bill would unfairly limit their abilities to put firearms in the hands of the mentally unstable and others banned from purchasing guns. We cannot let our emotional reactions to a series of shootings allow us to infringe on the Second Amendment rights of people who could harm society.

This piece of legislation is just the latest in Washington’s agenda to oppress the evil elements within American society. People who are dangerous, unstable and downright evil have been dealt the short straw for far too long in this country.

There’s even talk of federally mandating background checks for all gun purchases and closing gun-show loopholes that allow for gun purchases without paperwork. Background checks unfairly affect sinister people in our society, most of whom have a criminal record. Keeping dangerous guns away from hard-working criminals is discrimination.

Deeply disturbed maniacs and

truly evil villains have been marginalized by a society that attempts to destroy the cultural values on which evil is based. Gun ownership is a form of self-defense against people who wish to eradicate evil from the world.

Also being considered is a ban on assault rifles and large ammunition magazines. This is the most egregious example of Congress’ unfair treatment of the forces of evil. By trying to ban the weapons that are most effective for horrible crimes, and least necessary for self-defense, legislators are blatantly insulting the good, honest Americans who wish to create chaos and destruction.

In the fight between good and evil, it seems that Congress has unfortunately decided to side with good for once. We used to be able to count on this country’s lawmakers to be corrupt and immoral, and hopefully this bipartisan attempt to make real change that benefits the country is a one-time occurrence. Congress needs to show that it supports America’s evil community by killing any proposed gun control legislation.

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### COMMENTARY

## Women were oppressed for a reason



by Kaley Fowler  
Woman

**WITH THE SIXTH** season of “Mad Men” starting April 7, it’s only right to address a common criticism of the show: its portrayal of women. Many have condemned the series and its mostly female writing staff for representing women characters as oppressed housewives who rely on their husbands—but “Mad Men” actually provides insight on how women want to be treated.

Marriage for a woman today should be like it was in the 1960s. A woman should be required to trade her independence for a bread-winning husband who grants her the privilege of spending every day in the home, where she cooks, cleans and cares for the children. Women are naturally inclined to perform these caretaker duties, so pursuits outside the house shouldn’t be encouraged.

For women who, for whatever reason, choose not to marry and satisfy their inherent urge to be mothers, 1960s standards should still apply. Equal pay is unrealistic, sexual freedom is unladylike and aiming for employment outside the secretarial field is a lofty ambition at best.

Women who are employed shouldn’t be charged with too much responsibility. They are only 70 percent as intelligent as men, which means they really only deserve to be paid 70 percent of a man’s salary, if that. Not to men-

tion, women are way too hormonal to handle the work environment. Dealing with females in the workplace involves too much drama, illustrating why men, who are the more rational sex, should be dominating the workforce.

Women are natural caretakers, while men are more ambitious go-getters. Genetics determine one’s ability to perform certain tasks, and women need to accept that genes simply favor men. But women are far too illogical and emotional to understand the concept that men are mentally superior.

Today’s women must come to the realization that they are leading their lives entirely wrong. Nature intended for women to be submissive and subservient to men, a truth society has lost sight of. It’s time for men to assert their Y-chromosomes over women and banish them back to the kitchen where they belong.

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MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2013

THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

# Illinois legislators vote to ignore pension crisis

by Tyler Davis  
Commentary Editor

**THE ILLINOIS GENERAL** Assembly unanimously passed comprehensive legislation April 1 to officially establish the state government's position on the looming pension crisis as one of complete denial.

"I'm not sure what you are referring to," said House Speaker Michael Madigan (D) when asked about the pension legislation. "What's a pension?"

Although a January Moody's Analytics report estimated the state's unfunded pension liability at \$97 billion, the state government's official position is that "so-called pensions" don't exist. State legislators are continuing to allocate money originally meant for pension funds to other projects.

"We might even have enough money for a raise in congressional

salaries," said Senate Republican leader Christine Radogno.

Members of the state legislature said they were happy to formalize their longstanding policy of ignoring this major issue.

"We could have argued about how to solve the state pension problem forever," said Senate President John Cullerton (D). "Finally we were able to gather enough votes to officially ignore this whole thing once and for all."

A search for "pension" on Illinois.gov leads to a 404 error, meaning that no such web page exists.

Sources close to Madigan said all documents containing the word "pension" were shredded and will be used as confetti at a state-funded party celebrating Illinois' balanced budget.

Gov. Pat Quinn admitted that the massive pension shortfall could still have disastrous effects on Illi-

nois' economy and credit rating.

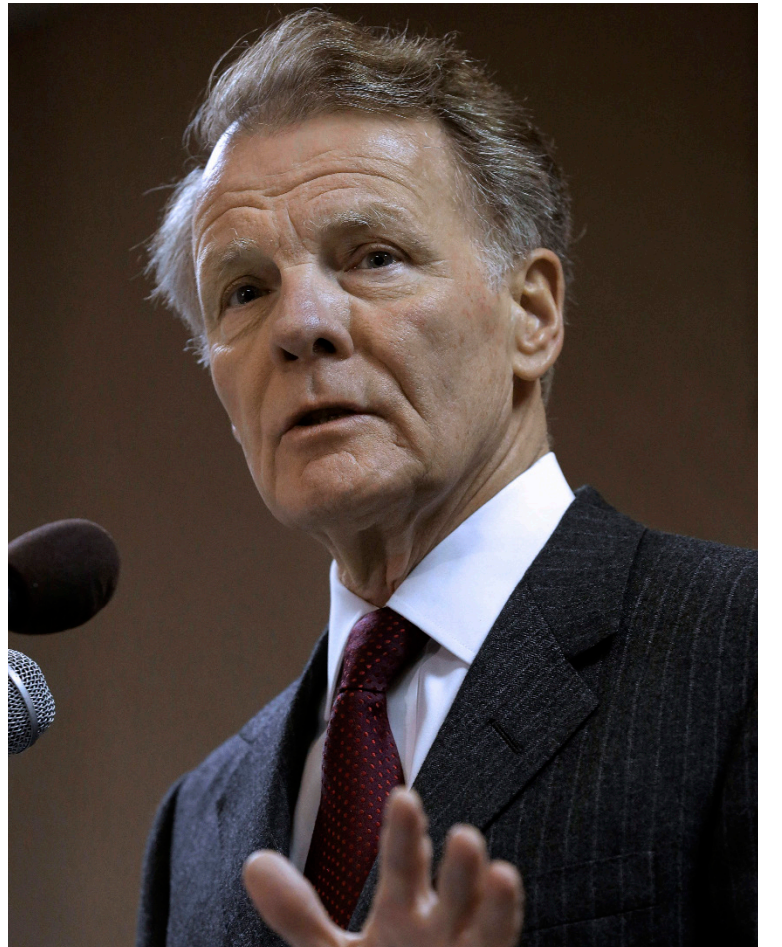
"You may be right that the state would need to enact a series of spending cuts and tax increases to get the pension situation under control," Quinn said. "That would only be true, however, in a world where pensions existed."

When asked to comment further, the governor stuck his fingers in his ears and went "la la la."

Mayor Rahm Emanuel didn't have much to say about the legislation and said he had never before heard the term pension and therefore couldn't speak to the specifics of the bill.

"I do hope that this city can use the same strategy that they did in Springfield to ignore some of our pressing issues like gun violence and poor school performance," Emanuel said.

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Associated Press  
Illinois House Speaker Mike Madigan (D) insisted during an April 1 press conference that he had never heard of "pensions," and therefore would not be pursuing any sort of "pension" reform.

# New rail cars designed to spark social interaction

by Will Hager  
Metro Editor

**AFTER RECEIVING MUCH** flak from train riders who are displeased with the lack of seating on updated el trains, the Chicago Transit Authority introduced a new fleet of rail cars March 27 with face-to-face "speed dating" seating and intimate background music.

The series 6000 car, designed by Swedish hamster cage engineers, passed all the safety inspections and met the city's five-tiered guidelines for new rail equipment. The CTA will install 1,000 of the new rail-cars by spring, nixing the current cars introduced in 2011.

The new seating configuration is intended to encourage passenger interaction and promote unity within Chicago's diverse population, according to Michael Clive, a CTA spokesman.

"How many times have you gotten on the train, only to sit next to someone poking at their phone?" Clive asked. "It's disrespectful and not conducive to a friendly environment. Hopefully Chicago will rise to be known as the world leader in small-talk."

The arrangements mark the latest in Mayor Rahm Emanuel's 2013 GO ME initiative, a 20-page plan to draw attention to himself. The cars will feature 32 seats paired in one-

on-one arrangements, along with an upgraded intercom system that will play smooth listening tunes from artists such as Lionel Richie, Keith Sweat and Erykah Badu. In addition to promoting unity, Clive said the layout will eliminate crime.

"This arrangement will make it easier for passengers to start conversations, not to mention share personal anecdotes," he said. "We've seen studies that have indicated crime is less likely to happen when the assailant knows something about you, even if it's just your name. It humanizes you."

The CTA tested several seating layouts before deciding on the approved design. Some of the

alternate options included a bar room configuration, stadium seating excavated from U.S. Cellular Field and a completely open floor space plan.

Erik Mikkelsen, design manager of the Series 6000 and CEO of the Stockholm-based hamster home supplier Nibblez Inc., said the seat design was inspired by a spread he saw in a luxury hamster cage magazine.

"It all seemed so elegant, so perfectly casual," he said through a translator. "The face-to-face design, in particular, represents us all coming to the table, us all having a seat at the American dream. We are in a season of love."

The CTA held a test implementation of the new cars to gauge customer reactions. Passengers showed a positive response, with some even exchanging phone numbers after the session. Elizabeth Poodle, a frequent CTA customer, said she started dating a man she sat across from during the trial run. Poodle said she felt an immediate difference in the new seating.

"It was mostly his eyes," she said. "There was music in the background and everything was swirling around us. It made me wonder: Is this what I was missing all these years?"

whager@chroniclemail.com

the  
**LOVE**  
train

STAGE 1

Enter the train as a single loveless soul searching for that special someone that isn't one of your cats.

STAGE 2

Upon entering the train, pop a squat across from somebody that triggers your fancy in a special, cute kind of way.

STAGE 3

Unicorns and hearts fly upon eye contact and you know immediately who will be holding your heart forever.

Michael Scott Fischer THE CHRONICLE



Generously written for our readers by

### The Chronicle Staff Oracles

**ARIES** (March 21–April 20) Considering the way things have been going, maybe you should listen to those voices in your head.

**TAURUS** (April 21–May 20) Judge not thy fellow man, you have screwed up much worse.

**GEMINI** (May 21–June 21) It is usually unhealthy to stay emotionally bottled up, but with your track record of excessive whining, it's probably best if you do.

**CANCER** (June 22–July 22) Your life will be turned upside down this week when you realize quitting your job to start a salon for cats was a very, very bad idea.

**LEO** (July 23–Aug. 22) It's time for you to branch out and make new friends. Your current group has grown weary of your incessant celebrity impressions.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23–Sept. 22) You will be surprised how much that new upgrade from Adobe Reader will improve your mental well-being.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23–Oct. 23) Slashed tires are the universe's way of telling you you're a intolerably self-centered jackass.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24–Nov. 22) Sleeping your way to success is never ethical, unless you are in a napping contest.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23–Dec. 21) Lower your expectations. You will be disappointed less often.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22–Jan. 20) Your career path takes a sudden turn into a ditch when you ask your HR person on a date.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21–Feb. 19) You will benefit from a financial transaction this week, although it is just your measly paycheck.

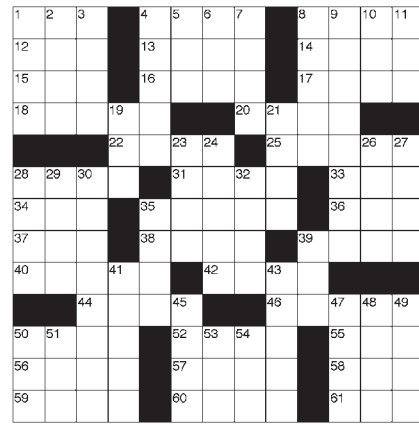
**PISCES** (Feb. 20–March 20) Prepare to learn a valuable lesson about drinking and texting.

**ACROSS**

- 1 Compass direction
- 4 Bedouin headband cord
- 8 Short takeoff and landing (abbr.)
- 12 Sound perception
- 13 Bowling alley
- 14 Fertilizer ingredient
- 15 Slugger's stat
- 16 Killer whale
- 17 Earth
- 18 Neckwear
- 20 Wisp of smoke
- 22 Irish exclamation
- 25 Mede
- 28 Seven (pref.)
- 31 Broth (Scot.)
- 33 Pool rod
- 34 Land measure
- 35 Winch
- 36 Pounds (abbr.)
- 37 Mountain on

**DOWN**

- 1 Bondsman
- 2 Babist
- 3 Viking
- 4 Verbally

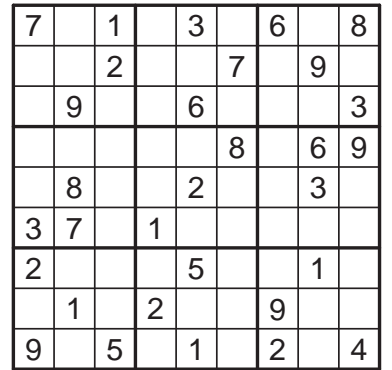


**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE**

SAIGA ACH GRO  
 LINOS BRA LAB  
 ANGUS BES UNO  
 TEETER STATAL  
 SESTET  
 ALT SAP NICHE  
 LOLL LIL CABA  
 LICIT RAP BON  
 ARIOSO  
 RATOON HOMAGE  
 AAA PTA RABAT  
 ARA HRS LHASA  
 DEL YAH YASHT

- 5 Alligator fish
- 6 Ancient (abbr.)
- 7 Plant growth
- 8 Perspiration
- 9 Three-wheeled vehicle
- 10 Poetic contraction
- 11 Latitude (abbr.)
- 19 Cloche
- 21 Freedman in Kentish law
- 23 Father: Arabic
- 24 Bore
- 26 Alb (arch.)
- 27 Headland
- 28 Filament
- 29 Mother of Brunhilde
- 30 Placid
- 32 Son of Isaac
- 35 Red deer
- 39 Zero population growth (abbr.)
- 41 Between (Fr.)
- 43 Customs
- 45 US dam
- 47 Gangster
- 48 Field
- 49 Lady's title
- 50 Banned pesticide
- 51 Equal opportunity employer (abbr.)
- 53 Romanian money
- 54 Modified Esperanto

**SUDOKU**



**ARCHIVE**



April, 1 1991

**THE TOP STORY** in The Chronicle on this day in 1991 reported that Columbia purchased the Sears Tower. The article was in the April Fools' Issue, titled "The Columbia Comical."

# Comedy Issue

# News Issue



» A man in St. Charles, Missouri was arrested for robbing a church of ice cream, NBC5 Chicago reported March 21. The man called himself an "ice cream junkie" during an interview with police, who judged him to be highly intoxicated and jailed him on \$30,000 bail. He robbed another church in 2010.

» A Northwest Territories man found a 2.7 inch knife blade in his back nearly three years after the original stabbing, according to a March 22 report from the Associated Press. He got into a fight after an arm-wrestling competition at a birthday party in April 2010 and was stabbed five times.

» During the week of March 22, 16,000 dead pigs and 1,000 dead ducks were found in rivers in Pengshan County, China, according to a GlobalPost report from the same day. The rivers feed drinking water to Shanghai, but authorities have cleared the water as safe to drink.

**TWEETS OF THE WEEK**

- BUB** @IAMLILBUB8  
BrrRRp..spTttl.
- ANDREW WK** @AndrewWK  
Ego-death is one of the best things about partying.
- Patton Oswalt** @pattonoswalt  
I really need my bowels to be a twee mumblecore drama, but right now they're a Uwe Boll film.
- cashachusetts** @cashachusetts  
Elbow drop a security guard in the face

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James Foster THE CHRONICLE

Chicago Public Schools students picket outside the Congress Plaza Hotel, 520 S. Michigan Ave., on March 18 in support of Unite Here! Local Union 1, which represents hotel service workers. As of June 15, the union will have been on strike for 10 years, demanding better wages and healthcare, among other requests.

IN OTHER NEWS

**They're just leaves, honest**

A border protection dog sniffed out four stashes of opium at O'Hare International Airport worth a combined \$500,000, according to a March 19 report from DNAinfo.com. Shadow, an 8-year-old Belgian Malinois, discovered nearly 15 pounds of opium hidden in twigs, wood shavings and decorative cloth bound for Minnesota and Wisconsin.

**The ninja did it**

A 17-year-old Maywood, Ill. boy who police said shot himself in the groin blamed ninjas for the injury, according to a March 17 report from NBC5Chicago.com. Loyola Hospital personnel assessed the angle and determined that it was self-inflicted. Later, the victim confessed to police he had been playing with a gun in the car when it discharged in his lap.

**Just tryin' to make a buck**

The CEO of Sears Holdings signed a contract for a yearly salary of \$1, according to a March 21 CBSnews.com report. Edward Lampert, the CEO of the Hoffman Estates-based retail company, could receive up to \$2 million in bonuses. CEO's often sign \$1 contracts to express support for a business turnaround, the article said.

**Arrrh, Kelly**

No bids were placed on Chicago singer R. Kelly's Olympia Fields, Ill. mansion, according to a March 18 DNAinfo.com report. His bank foreclosed on the 22,000-square-foot mansion, which was listed for \$2 million less than the appraised value. Kelly originally bought the lot for \$1.5 million, had the existing house torn down and erected the mansion instead.

off the **BLOTTER**

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



**1**

**See Spot punch**

During a March 13 argument concerning his dog, the owner punched a man in the face in the 700 block of South Financial Place. The owner fled the scene and the man who was punched took an ambulance to Northwestern University's hospital.

**2**

**Don't forget your purse!**

A woman struck another woman several times over the head with a padlock March 15 at the Roosevelt CTA platform, 22 E. Roosevelt Road. The attacker fled the scene, but police found her purse and state ID, leading them to her house where they arrested her.

**3**

**Dump her**

A man was mugged March 13 in an alley near 59 W. Congress Parkway. After he described to his girlfriend what happened, she told him she spoke to the attacker outside the University Center earlier, where she got his number. Police have not identified the attacker.

**4**

**Bad karma**

A man broke into Bikram Yoga, 47 W. Polk St., March 16 and stole a woman's wallet. When police arrived, there were scratch marks on the back door where the thief broke in. Combing the crime scene was useless because of the foot traffic, police said.

## » FARMS

Continued from PG. 25

The city invests \$750,000 annually in job programs for low-income and inexperienced workers in the urban agriculture field, according to the March 15 press release.

In 2006, the city donated two-thirds of an acre of vacant Englewood land to urban agriculture organization Growing Home to develop Wood Street Urban Farm, the first urban farm to use city-donated land. The farm grew and sold more than 13,000 pounds of organic produce in 2011, generating more than \$70,000 in revenue, which made it a pilot for cooperation between the city and local organizations, according to Harry Rhodes, executive director of Growing Home.

Rhodes said his organization recruits prospective farmers with little work experience from social service agencies, and 75–80 percent of trainees at the Wood Street Urban Farm have criminal backgrounds.

“We really see urban agriculture as a huge potential catalyst for change and economic development in a community that’s been very marginalized and has struggled with a lot of issues, especially poverty and high crime rates,” Rhodes said.

However, opening the Wood Street Urban Farm came with a variety of setbacks, including obtaining permits, preparing land, environmental testing and disinfecting soil, according to Rhodes. The mayor’s support of urban agriculture would help streamline the process for future urban farmers

by getting them into farms sooner, he said.

Debbie Hillman, co-founder of the Illinois Local Food, Farms and Jobs Council, said the increased presence of urban farms in Illinois is a product of understanding the food system as a whole. Lack of a complete knowledge about how food is made, processed and distributed is one of the biggest hindrances in making lasting widespread progress in urban agriculture, she said.

“The problem is food is a basic need, but the American population is completely ignorant of the food system, 100 percent,” Hillman said. “Even farmers are not educated about the food system. This is a learning curve for everybody.”

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## » RAIL

Continued from PG. 25

transportation have been working since 1996 to develop the rail and released a four-page summary of its benefits. A high-speed rail network would reduce interstate travel times by up to 50 percent, create 2,000 permanent jobs and serve 90 percent of the region’s 60.3 million residents.

The project cost would surpass \$7.7 billion, but all corridors are expected to generate enough revenue to cover operating costs by 2025,

the project’s expected completion date, according to the report. Under the Midwest plan, the U.S. government would supply 80 percent of the funding, with 20 percent coming from the states. Eileen Norcross, senior research fellow at George Mason University in Virginia, researches federal spending and said the cost of large transportation infrastructure projects is often underestimated.

“A transportation project that’s going to primarily benefit residents should be managed and funded as close to the local level as possible,” Norcross said. “Otherwise, you

have too many opportunities for the money to be misapplied or not spent wisely.”

Virginia Miller, a spokeswoman for the American Public Transportation Association, said the rails would easily accommodate people traveling 100–600 miles, reducing air traffic congestion, she said.

“At a time when we’re very concerned [about] our dependence on foreign oil, high-speed rail would be another piece of the puzzle that would help us reach energy independence,” Miller said.

whager@chroniclemail.com

## » TECH

Continued from PG. 26

according to Rahman, with the presence of bigger companies like Groupon Inc., which has received national press for its rapid growth and widespread use, even though the company has recently begun to decline in stock value and popularity. The businesses in the shared workspace of 1871 Loft, 222 W. Merchandise Mart Plaza, are looking for new models to adapt to the changing business landscape, he said.

“It’s not like everyone at 1871 sits around and looks at Groupon and says, ‘I want to be them,’” Rahman said. “It’s not a knock on Groupon by any means, but it allows the entrepreneurs who follow in their footsteps to see the things they did right and the things they didn’t do as well from our perspectives.”

In addition to the push for technology entrepreneurs, the mayor’s initiative focuses on restaurants through the Restaurant Start-up Program, which launched in June 2012, according to the March 7 announcement. However, according to David Kirshner, executive director of SCORE Chicago, a nonprofit business counseling service, starting a restaurant is difficult even without existing licensing issues. Most new restaurants close within a year because of the intense competition in the city and unforeseen

expenses, Kirshner said.

“A lot of people think it’s really sexy to be in the restaurant business, and that’s because they don’t know the restaurant business,” Kirshner said. “They think just because they can cook, they can run a restaurant.”

Kirshner said SCORE works with both established businesses and all kinds of startups, but the new entrepreneurs have a harder time finding startup capital because they do not have established credit to apply for business loans, while established business owners who want to open another store or modify an existing establishment have an easier time obtaining loans. SCORE does not work with the technology industry, however, because the tech startups go to incubators, which specialize in technology industry counseling, he said. The 1871 space, which hosts Pangea, also functions as an incubator.

Rahman said he thinks Chicago has reached a point where investors see more successful technology startups and are more willing to fund them, which makes the city more friendly for entrepreneurs because businesspeople are willing to help foster the industry.

“I could not have asked for a better place to build a company,” Rahman said. “I felt like everyone is just very excited if you’re a tech entrepreneur in Chicago.”

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# Tech startups climbing

by Elizabeth Earl  
Assistant Metro Editor

UNDER THE CITY'S small business licensing initiative announced March 7, Chicago entrepreneurs will be able to start up sooner, tipping the balance of the city's attractiveness toward tech entrepreneurs.

The initiative is intended to cut down startup times so entrepreneurs do not have to wait weeks or months without income before they can open, according to a March 7 press release from Mayor Rahm Emanuel's office. Emanuel announced that the city will streamline the small business licensing process, narrowing the number of licensure criteria from 117 to 49 and providing applicants contact liaisons within the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection to help them throughout the process.

Previously, businesses had to apply for several specific licenses in order to operate. For instance, a business might need separate licenses to occupy a space and sell a product out of it. For technology startups, this is the latest in a series of efforts from the administration to woo them into headquartering in the city.

"There have been long-standing bureaucratic issues with small businesses and the city," said Su-

zanne Keers, executive director of Local First Chicago, a small business network. "Hopefully, [the initiative] is a real move on the city's part to provide more support to local businesses, but one doesn't know until it actually goes to work."

Keers said the initiative is in its infancy, so it is hard to see any significant changes, but it is a positive step nonetheless. The licensing initiative falls in line with Emanuel's attempt to surge Chicago's technology industry, as reported by The Chronicle Feb. 11.

"You couldn't have done what we're trying to do five years ago, but you can do it now," said Rahier Rahman, founder of tech startup Pangea. "Chicago has a lot to of-

fer ... the city has galvanized itself around startup technology, and it's really happened in the last few years."

Rahman said he founded Pangea because he saw a need for innovation in the money-transfer industry. Money transfer, which has been mostly run by organizations like MoneyGram, impacts Chicago heavily because of its large immigrant population who send money back to their home countries. He chose to headquarter the company in Chicago because of his professional network in the city and the welcoming attitude of established businesspeople toward technology entrepreneurs, he said.

The technology industry has grown significantly in recent years,

» SEE TECH, PG. 27



Courtesy RAHIER RAHMAN

Rahier Rahman, founder of tech startup Pangea, said he chose to headquarter the company in Chicago because of its welcoming attitude and established business community.

# Railway to heaven

High speed track construction underway from Chicago to St. Louis

by Will Hager  
Metro Editor

THE CHICAGO TO St. Louis Amtrak high-speed rail is continuing progress after exceeding expectations in an October 2012 test run, but supporters are calling for a faster travel time.

The federal government contributed \$1.1 billion to the implementation of a high-speed rail from Chicago to St. Louis, an investment that would cut 90 minutes from the 5 1/2-hour drive, as reported by The Chronicle Jan. 17, 2012. Illinois has committed \$400 million to the project, an investment expected to create more than 6,000 jobs, according to an email from Mike Claffey, an Illinois Department of Transportation spokesman.

Richard Harnish, executive director of the Midwest High Speed Rail Association, said he is hesitant to call the train "high-speed" because it still entails a 4 1/2-hour travel time.

"The rest of the world has already built new tracks that allow travel times like Chicago to Detroit in two hours, Chicago to St. Louis in two hours, Chicago to

Cincinnati in two hours," Harnish said. "We are incredibly behind because we haven't really begun this process yet."

The Chicago to St. Louis line is set to be fully operational by 2015, Claffey said in an email. Illinois rail ridership has grown more than 92 percent since 2006, and ridership in the Chicago to St. Louis corridor increased by 224 percent, according to Claffey.

Some also argue that the new rail system is about more than travel time. Uptown station was constructed in Normal, Ill., one of the stops along the Chicago to St. Louis corridor, in July 2012. It is Illinois' second busiest stop next to Chicago according to Wayne Aldrich, Uptown development director. Since the station opened, Normal has experienced an economic boost in sales tax and motel and hotel tax from the influx of people in the city's central business district, Aldrich said.

"Property taxes have been on the rise in this area, close to the transportation center, whereas townships they are not going up, they are leveling off or going down," Aldrich said. "All those are indicators that we look at that there is economic benefit [from the center.]"

The high-speed train to St. Louis is part of a larger push to create the Midwest Regional Rail Initiative, a 3,000-mile high-speed rail system. Nine states' departments of

» SEE RAIL, PG. 27

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# Downtown Chicago population expanding

by Elizabeth Earl  
Assistant Metro Editor

**THE LOOP'S POPULATION** is growing rapidly, and surrounding neighborhoods are preparing for changes resulting from the downtown area's expansion.

The downtown area gained population by 36 percent from 2000-2010, or about 48,288 people, the largest gain of any U.S. city's downtown area, which is defined as the two-mile radius around a city hall, according to the 2010 U.S. Census Bureau data. The Loop is the colloquial name for Chicago's downtown neighborhood, which stretches south from the Chicago River to Roosevelt Road, as defined by the city's community area map.

"A lot of what we see with [population growth] is quite positive," said Marisa Novara, program director for the Metropolitan Planning Council. "If you think about that, that's 48,288 more lunches being eaten, more errands being run locally, more coffee being drunk, more dinners being served. And that's 96,576 feet pounding the pavement demanding more services in the city to get their needs met."

Novara said many businesses are also moving to the Loop area to compete with other businesses for visibility to the rising number of downtown consumers.

Despite the growth of the downtown population, the Chicagoland population, which includes the surrounding suburbs, is the slowest growing of the nation's major metropolitan areas, according to 2011-

2012 population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau. The Chicagoland area only gained 26,715 residents, while Dallas gained roughly 132,000. Los Angeles came in second with a population gain of about 107,800 and New York City was third with approximately 102,000. The rapid growth of the downtown area but decline in the Chicagoland area may mean residents are coming from elsewhere in the region and relocating to downtown. According to Novara, this could be because people want to be close to amenities and within walking distance of work.

While the entire downtown area is expanding, the Loop has gained more residents than any other community area, according to the City of Chicago data. One concern several community organizations have about the Loop's increasing population is the possibility of an expanding business district and construction of more high-rise buildings that would compromise the atmosphere of the existing neighborhoods, as reported by The Chronicle March 11. Citizens of the West and South Loops have voiced concerns at community meetings about the tall buildings changing the look of the areas.

"I think residents have to be involved and provide their feedback into what comes in and how things are developed," said Jeanette Johnson, human resources manager for the Greater South Loop Association.

The two main neighborhoods in the Loop are the South Loop and

River North. Both have changed greatly over the years and are big contributors to the Loop's burgeoning population. Currently, the South Loop, which is classified by the city as the Near South Side, is split between the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th wards, but in 2015, the area will be redistricted to span the 3rd, 4th and 25th wards, according to Johnson.

Commuting is a major concern for most people in an urban environment because of the lack of parking and the congestion, Johnson said. One of the concerns residents have raised is the cost of parking and the reduced availability of street parking, but the expansion of Chicago Transit Authority service through the Bus Rapid Transit system and the Green Line stop planned at Cermak Road could help defray the issue, he said.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census data, approximately 31 percent of Loop residents took public transportation, 33 percent drove and 18 percent walked the majority of the time. Most of the draw to living near to the Loop is the ease of commuting and access to areas like the Museum Campus on East Roosevelt Road, according to Johnson. The Loop has a lot of attractions, but the surrounding neighborhoods have their own charm and character, she said.

River North, classified as the area north of the Chicago River and south of Old Town, used to be an industrial area before businesses moved out in the 1960s and young residents converted the old build-

ings into lofts, according to Sharon Romack, president and CEO of the River North Business Association. The area is attractive to both residents and businesses because it's clean and convenient, according to Romack. Previously, the Loop was a business district and until recently did not have much residential space, she said.

"Business is booming in River North right now," Romack said. "As tech firms move in, as more communications and design firms move in, it spurs more businesses to take care of those employees, so to speak. So we've had a large growth in our restaurants."

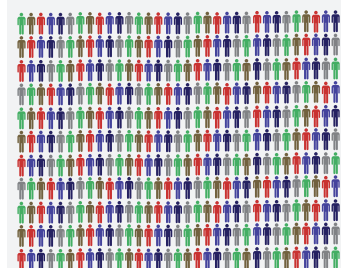
Romack said the availability of nightlife, amenities and activities in the surrounding areas may have spurred a desire to live near downtown, but there are still differences between River North and the Loop, like the availability of night life and the number of businesspeople.

She said the neighborhoods are developing, and though residents have been adapting to coexistence with booming business districts, it is an adjustment in progress.

"For a long time, there was no reason to stay downtown in the Loop late into the evening," Romack said. "River North was more eclectic, and there were reasons to stay here into the evening. That's how the two were different and continue to be different, even though the Loop now has more residential units coming in."

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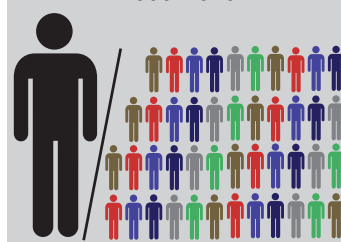
2,695,598  
people lived in Chicago 2010



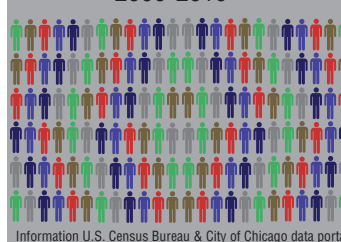
29,283  
people lived in the Loop in 2010



36.2 percent  
population growth downtown  
2000-2010



48,288  
person increase downtown from  
2000-2010



Information U.S. Census Bureau & City of Chicago data portal

Michael Scott Fisher THE CHRONICLE



James Foster THE CHRONICLE

Karen Weigert, the city's chief sustainability officer, helped draft Sustainable Chicago 2015, which aims to encourage environmentally safe and energy efficient practices.

# Gardens bloom in vacant lots

by Will Hager  
Metro Editor

**ABANDONED RAIL YARDS** and vacant lots are scattered in neighborhoods across the city, but some residents could soon see them filled by urban farms.

Farmers for Chicago, a three-year city initiative to transform five acres of vacant city property into urban farming areas, was introduced by Mayor Rahm Emanuel in a March 15 press release. According to the press release, prospective farmers are currently being trained to fill 20 paid organic farming positions.

The city has not yet determined which city-owned lots will be allotted to farmers, according to Karen Weigert, the city's chief

sustainability officer. Weigert said Farmers for Chicago helps local groups pool resources to tangibly improve the community and combat food deserts, areas with limited access to healthy, fresh food.

"You typically have in those areas a lack of employment opportunities, and you could overlay food desert challenges," Weigert said. "If you're thinking about potential transformation in spaces, you've got job creation potential [and] use of space in a positive way. You've got healthy local foods, and often that gives great partnership opportunities for community engagement."

The city partnered with a variety of agriculture advocates for the initiative, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the

Chicago Botanic Garden and urban agriculture organizations like Growing Power, according to Weigert. Local groups will help install farm equipment, train workers and distribute the produce to local markets, grocery stores and restaurants, according to the March 15 mayoral press release. The city and its partners will also help farmers attain Good Agricultural Practices certification, which addresses soil and water health before allowing businesses to sell retail produce, the release said.

The Farmers for Chicago program is in line with Sustainable Chicago 2015, a short-term plan to promote environmentally responsible businesses and city practices.

» SEE FARMS, PG.27

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# Appreciate NHL competitiveness



by **Corey Stolzenbach**  
Copy Editor

THE NHL'S STANLEY Cup Playoffs begin April 30, so let us all be thankful for that, and not only for the opportunity to grow the best playoff beard possible. We should be grateful because the NHL play-

offs offer something MLB, the NFL and especially the NBA do not—parity, or the chance for different teams to be successful.

Parity is good for sports when it exists because unless it's a team you root for, no one wants to see the same squads duking it out in the tournament year after year. That's what the NHL does so well. No team has won back-to-back Stanley Cups since the Detroit Red Wings in 1997 and 1998. Since 2001, they are also the only team to have won Lord Stanley's hardware multiple times, in 2002 and 2008.

Low-seeded NHL teams can advance in the playoffs unlike most other sports. In the past decade, eighth-seeded teams have twice appeared in the Stanley Cup Finals: The Los Angeles Kings, which won in 2012, and the Edmonton Oilers,

which played in seven finals games against the Carolina Hurricanes in 2006. The seventh seeded Mighty Ducks of Anaheim and Philadelphia Flyers made the finals in 2003 and 2010, respectively.

Now, what about the other sports? Only one eighth-seeded team has ever made the NBA Finals: the 1999 New York Knicks, which was quickly defeated by the San Antonio Spurs in five games. Since then, the Spurs also won the championship in 2003, 2005 and 2007. The Los Angeles Lakers have won five titles since 2000 and the Miami Heat has won two. These teams' dominance proves that the NBA lacks postseason parity, which makes the playoffs less exciting to watch.

MLB and the NFL demonstrate more parity than the NBA but still less than the NHL when it comes to competition. Although no team has been a repeat World Series Champion since the New York Yankees won three World Series Championships from 1998–2000, other teams have won two championships in the last decade, the San Francisco Giants in 2010 and 2012,

the St. Louis Cardinals in 2006 and 2011, and the Boston Red Sox in 2004 and 2007.

In recent years, the NFL is the second best in parity. Except for the 2007 and 2011 New York Giants, the NFC has sent a different team to the Super Bowl every season since 2001. But in that same time, the New England Patriots, Pittsburgh Steelers and Indianapolis Colts represented the AFC every year except when the 2002 Oakland Raiders and 2012 Baltimore Ravens slipped in.

Consistency in the AFC aside, no team has repeated as Super Bowl Champions since the Patriots did it in 2003 and 2004, and no team has ever won three straight Super Bowls. The NFL gets another parity point for the bottom sixth seed having won the Super Bowl twice: the Steelers in 2005 and the Green Bay Packers in 2010.

But what could be the driving force behind parity in the NHL? It is often a talking point for sports fans that the Stanley Cup is the hardest trophy to win even though the NHL and NBA have identical formats. Both leagues play 82

games during the regular season, and any team after the championship title must win four best-of-seven series during the playoffs.

It could very well be because of how physically demanding hockey is, which can take its toll on the higher-seeded teams at times. Let it be known that since the 1985–86 season, the Presidents' Trophy has been awarded to the team with the NHL's best regular-season record, yet only seven teams that won the Presidents' Trophy went on to win the Stanley Cup.

Technically, all sports are unpredictable, but the element of surprise is especially prevalent in the NHL because any team can be on its game one night and flat on its face the next. It is often said no lead is safe in the NHL, and outcomes can change so much.

Nobody will know until June who is skating around with the Stanley Cup or who will win the NBA title, but for now, the NHL leads the four major sports organizations in parity, and sports fans should appreciate that.

cstolzenbach@chroniclemail.com

No one wants to see the same teams win championships every year.

Do you believe Republican Senator Rob Portman should have supported gay marriage sooner?

STUDENT POLL



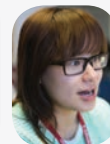
I do believe he should have supported it sooner. If his son came out that long ago with being gay, he should have automatically supported it. That is his son.

**Christina Riemer** junior arts, entertainment & media management major



I do think that he should have acknowledged it a lot sooner. Two years is very long in my opinion.

**Leina Kameyama** senior fashion studies major



Yeah, he should have supported his son sooner. But at least he is supporting his son now and the gay rights movement.

**Jai Wen Woo** senior dance major

## Keep your comments to yourself



by **Elizabeth Earl**  
Assistant Metro Editor

GIRLS ARE TAUGHT from middle school onward to tolerate a low level of sexual harassment on a daily basis by interpreting it as flattery, usually disguised as catcalls, awkward compliments and inappropriate commentary from total strangers.

Most people have stories about a creepy stranger hitting on them on the street. Ask friends what the weirdest pickup line they've ever heard is, and they may blush or laugh awkwardly before telling you something slightly shocking or just plain weird. The fact that a perfect stranger directed that missile at

them on the street is disturbing, but nearly everyone experiences it at some point, especially in a highly populated urban environment like Chicago.

The Equal Employment Opportunities Commission defines sexual harassment as "unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical harassment of a sexual nature," but look a little further and you find the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's sexual violence webpage, which lumps together the inappropriate behaviors that lead to rape and the suggestive behaviors on the street that make passersby feel uncomfortable. Check Columbia's definition of sexual harassment in the student handbook, and the segment is somewhat more detailed than the previously mentioned definitions, extending it to include sexually demeaning jokes, comments, observations and gestures and display of inappropriate pictures or text.

When someone spots you on the street and says something overtly sexual at or about you, it's not funny or flirtatious. It's demeaning and inappropriate and a form of sexual objectification with serious

repercussions. According to a Jan. 1, 2011 study from The Counseling Psychologist, as this objectification progresses over time, victims can start to internalize those standards and behaviors, resulting in "self-objectification." This can increase anxiety, depression, likelihood of developing eating disorders and sexual dysfunction and spur psychological disturbance. More than just that, it can set victims up for a lifetime of insecurity and misconceptions about themselves.

With the recent renewal of the Violence Against Women Act, the national stage is set for attention concerning sexual violence against women, but the root of the problem is still buried. The real purpose of VAWA is to respond to cases of sexual assault as they break out and raise awareness of the issue, but it does not offer any long-term, applicable solutions. And even then, the very name of it leaves an enormous blank: Where is the Violence Against Men Act?

After the sexual liberation of the mid-20th century, many women are just as sexually predatory as men. They're not just victims. There is a stigma preventing men from admitting that they have

been sexually harassed by either a woman or another man, for fear that they will appear weak or gay.

The case of a Maine West High School student in Des Plaines, Ill., who was sexually assaulted during a hazing incident by other male soccer players, came to the city's attention in November 2012, and the head of the athletics department and several coaches were fired. However, unreported incidences had apparently been happening for years, according to accounts from other victims. In another case, an Arizona steakhouse settled a lawsuit over a head chef hazing his male employees by frequently groping them from behind or pinching their genitals. The managers apparently knew but did not say anything because they perceived it as workplace hazing.

According to a January 2013 report from the Society for Human Resource Management, 16.3 percent of the total sexual harassment charges filed in 2011 were reported by men. Unwanted advances from a female coworker or sexual hazing from a male coworker are two common situations men face. The report says the reason for the spike is that men might be more comfort-

able with reporting the incidences because activists are raising awareness about the issue and the rising equality of men and women in the workplace.

While women's stories about inappropriate comments on the street can be disturbing, men are also the subject of catcalls and sexual remarks. It's not just in the workplace; men can also be objectified, sexually harassed and sexually assaulted anywhere. Breaking the perceptions and stigma against these facts is our responsibility because the victims often can't or won't speak for themselves.

Objectification is not admiration, no matter what gender it is directed at. Until we take the steps to teach both children and adults to respect and value each other's comfort, we'll continue to hear these stories of sexual harassment and be unable to do anything other than say, "That's terrible." Instead, we need to treat each other as equals. Men are just as vulnerable as women, and above all, the victim can be anyone—even the person you don't expect. Let's try teaching others to value themselves enough to report the situation when they can. Maybe if the idea gets far enough, we won't even have to listen to any of these awkward stories anymore.

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## NATIONAL EDITORIAL

## Senator's selfish motive for backing gay marriage shouldn't matter

**SEN. ROB PORTMAN** (R-Ohio) became the first Republican senator to publicly stand in support of gay marriage, a decision he made after his son came out as gay two years ago, according to a March 15 op-ed the senator wrote for the Columbus Dispatch.

Reactions to his announcement have been mixed. Matthew Yglesias wrote in a March 15 Slate.com blog post that Portman's son's influence on the decision is a form of political narcissism, and the New York Times' Paul Krugman wrote in his blog the same day that Portman should also think about "other people's children," rather than just his own.

Obviously, Portman's announcement is a little opportunistic and a bit selfish. Ideally, politicians would be able to empathize with the issues facing the LGBT community without having a personal connection to it. But often it takes a personal experience to change the minds of people who hold strong opinions. According to a 2009 Gallup poll, 72 percent of people who don't know someone who identifies as gay are against same-sex marriage, while only 47 percent of people who do know someone gay oppose it. The same poll found that 40 percent of adults nationwide support equal marriage rights.

Regardless of whether he is changing his mind for the right reasons, marriage equality advocates should be happy to have

Portman on their side. Portman was considered for the vice presidency on Mitt Romney's ticket, so his siding with equality might give the issue more positive national attention among conservatives.

Portman's change of heart may actually be more courageous than the pluck shown by Democrats who have announced their support for marriage equality in the last few years, considering that only 30 percent of Portman's party favors same-sex marriage, according to a Gallup poll published Dec. 5, 2012. But regardless of why he changed his mind, he joins a long list of politicians who took too long to take a stand.

With the Supreme Court considering two cases that could rapidly legalize same-sex marriage, anyone just now announcing their support of marriage equality—Republican or Democrat—is doing it a little late in the game.

Having a conservative senator on the side of marriage equality will tip the scales in the right direction, so it shouldn't matter why Portman changed his mind. There are plenty of politicians on both sides of the aisle who haven't had the courage to admit that their stance on this issue was wrong. Many politicians don't support same-sex marriage because they believe it would harm their reputation, so perhaps personal experiences are one of the few ways to change their minds.

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

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

—The Columbia Chronicle Editorial Board

## CITY EDITORIAL

## City utilizes empty spaces for community benefit

**MAYOR RAHM EMANUEL** announced a partnership with local agricultural nonprofits to turn five acres of city-owned vacant lots into urban gardens. The initiative is an attempt to better utilize open spaces, create jobs and provide healthy produce for food deserts, or areas where access to healthy food is limited, according to a March 15 press release from the mayor's office.

There are more than 15,000 vacant properties owned by the city, according to the Chicago Data Portal, adding up to 2,679 acres. This new partnership, called Farmers for Chicago, uses just five acres, or .02 percent of city-owned vacant property. Although this is an insignificant portion of the unused lots, the gardens will mean a lot to the individual communities in terms of employment and food access.

The city will identify locations that could best utilize the space to deal with food access and employ-

ment issues, according to the press release, and 25 urban farmers will be recruited and trained to operate the lots and distribute food to local retailers.

The first urban farm using land donated by the city was in Englewood in 2006 (see Page 17). Englewood has 1,922 city-owned vacant properties, the most of any community area in the city, according to the Chicago Data Portal, making it the perfect neighborhood for even more gardens.

The city is partnering with Growing Home, Heartland Human Care Services, Angelic Organic Learning Center and the Chicago Botanic Garden to train people and create the gardens, according to the press release.

Growing Home focuses on hiring trainees with criminal backgrounds to give them an opportunity to have a second chance.

As part of an initiative to eliminate gang activity in abandoned

buildings, the city demolished more than 250 buildings in 2012, according to a Dec. 27, 2012 mayoral press release. The side effect, however, is those neighborhoods are left with even more vacant lots. It is nice to see the city using these empty spaces to strengthen communities and send a positive message. To keep up with the rate that buildings are being demolished, more programs like this need to be implemented.

The city should continue to partner with nonprofits to use city-owned vacant property productively. In the same way that gardens are being put in food deserts, homeless shelters could be built in neighborhoods with high levels of homelessness, job-creating businesses could be built in areas with high unemployment and so forth. Using these five acres is a great first step, but there are still more than 2,000 vacant acres that could be used to improve communities.

## CAMPUS EDITORIAL

## For-profits, against students

**THE PROTECTING FINANCIAL** Aid for Students and Taxpayers Act, introduced to the U.S. Senate on March 12, would ban colleges from using federal aid money for marketing and recruitment.

The proposed legislation, co-sponsored by Sens. Kay Hagan (D-N.C.) and Tom Harkin (D-Iowa), targets for-profit colleges, many of which engage in aggressive marketing strategies using large amounts of taxpayer money. Some problematic for-profit colleges put profits above student success, and aggressive and deceptive recruitment is a big part of the problem.

In 2009, for-profit colleges received, on average, 86 percent of their revenue from federal aid money, according to a July 30, 2012 report by the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. The for-profit college industry also spends more on attracting students than they do actually teaching them, according to the report. On average, 22.7 percent of for-profit college revenue, or \$4.2

billion, was spent on advertising and recruitment in 2009, while only 17.2 percent of revenue was spent on academics.

Many of these colleges stay profitable by attracting large numbers of students, allowing them to collect federal aid money on those students. Institutions are allowed to collect federal aid as long as no more than 90 percent of their funding comes from federal money, according to FinAid.org. For-profit colleges account for six of the 10 institutions that receive the most military tuition aid, which some of the institutions target because money is largely available to students from the military, according to the legislation.

The attorney generals of 13 states have sent a letter to members of the congressional committees on Veterans Affairs and Health, Education, Labor and Pensions in support of the legislation. Several of the attorney generals authoring the letter have already taken action against colleges

that have possibly violated consumer protection laws, according to the letter.

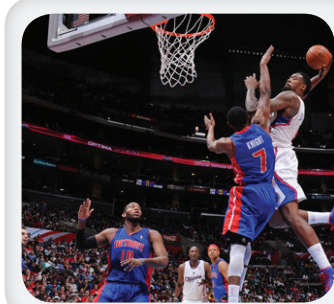
The bill would affect nonprofits and for-profits alike but is specifically targeted at the marketing practices of for-profit colleges. According to the HELP Committee report, some for-profit colleges have recruitment quotas for admissions staff, meaning that meeting profit goals is more important than finding students who fit the institution and will succeed there. The report also found that recruiters are often told to intentionally mislead potential students about the cost of tuition.

Recruitment is a key element of any college's success but instruction should be more important. If a college wants to receive federal money, it's only fair that they use that money appropriately. This legislation would go a long way in curtailing the deception that many for-profit colleges use to attract students and the federal money that accompanies them.



# Reviews

## Screen



### DeAndre Jordan dunking on Brandon Knight

If you haven't seen the video of DeAndre Jordan dunking over Brandon Knight, what are you waiting for? Jordan completely posterized Knight into oblivion. I stared in pure amazement when I first saw it. If that is not the best dunk of the season, I don't know what is. —C. Stolzenbach



### "Mad Men" Season 6 preview

A preview video for "Mad Men" season 6 with an interview with Matthew Weiner has been circulating. I hoped there would be some revealing details exposing the inevitable scandals to come, but instead, fans are left with even more questions and blue balls on April 7. —M. Fischer



### "Archer" season 3

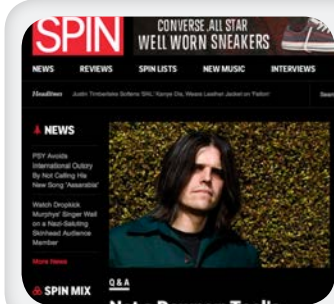
Season 3 of "Archer" is now on Netflix, and witty, action-packed hilarity prevails. All the character's quirks are played up even further, as team ISIS remains totally lovable. I'd be lying if I said I didn't sit down with a six-pack and watch most of the season in one sitting. —M. Nuccio



### "Scandal" season 2

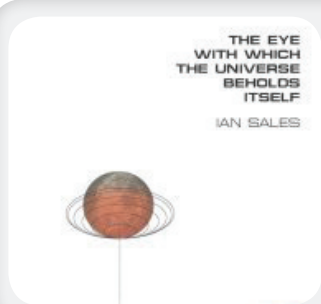
Shonda Rhimes has outdone herself in the second season of her political thriller. Unlike her other show, "Grey's Anatomy," "Scandal's" subject matter offers infinite juicy plot lines and never fails to deliver original, giggle-worthy one-liners. Waiting a week for another episode is almost unbearable. —T. Eagle

## Print



### SPIN Magazine's Q&A with Adam Jones

After learning Tool is re-releasing its debut album "Opiate," the Q-and-A finally answered my burning question of why the album art (which comes with viewing goggles) is so strange. Tool guitarist Jones speculates about making comics and gushes about Facebook friend-requesting an artist. —L. Schulz



### "The Eye With Which the Universe Beholds Itself"

Science fiction tends to be either ridiculously complicated or just plain unbelievable. Ian Sales book falls in between, and will stand as one we will remember and love. Sales ties complex plot points together into a story that makes us question what we are and where we're going. Oh yeah, and it's in space. —E. Earl



### Cafecito menu

The menu at Cafecito is really the only thing that I've had time to read outside of class. I mean, seriously, it's the middle of the semester, and if it's not assigned or scrolling at the bottom of a news-cast, I just haven't read it. Talk to me in six weeks. —J. Foster



### Brian Cazeneuve's "The Franchise that Brought Hockey Back"

The article in the March 18 issue of Sports Illustrated details the Chicago Blackhawks and their historic start of 24 straight games without a regulation loss. It is a must-read for any Blackhawks fan out there, as this team has been able to put it all together. —C. Stolzenbach

## Music



### "Immortal" by Kid Cudi

"Immortal" is the third single off "INDICUD," Kid Cudi's third studio album set to be released April 23. The melancholy alternative hip-hop that defines his sound returns in this song. It's not unpleasant to the ear, but it wouldn't hurt the Cleveland artist to be a bit cheerful now and then. —D. Pitorak



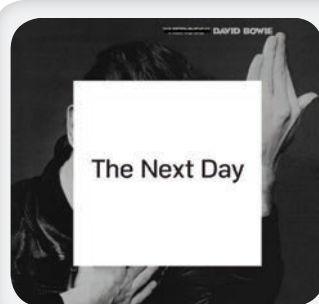
### "Everything Must Go" by Jhene Aiko

This song has a simple, yet significant message: Make the most of your life. Jhene's new song reminds listeners to enjoy your life while bringing them back down to earth for a little longer than 3 minutes. If you're looking for a fresh face in R&B, start with Jhene. —T. Walk-Morris



### "The 20/20 Experience" by Justin Timberlake

Taking a soulful spin on classic JT R&B sound, the boy-band heartthrob's newest album is the best I've heard all year. Each track is delectably endless and oozing with sexiness, with only a touch of Timberlake dorkiness. I hope my neighbors enjoy hearing it blasting at full volume as much as I do. —E. Ornberg



### "The Next Day" by David Bowie

After nearly a decade of keeping quiet and calm after his last album and heart attack, Bowie kept recent recording sessions secret. On March 8, he released an extraordinary album that shows a confident and youthful sounding artist. It's his best album in 33 years. —K. Gebhardt

## Random



### Leaving San Francisco

Spring break is over and I want to cry. It's still freezing and gloomy, and I am completely aware of why Chicago ranks as one of the saddest cities in the U.S. San Francisco was beautiful. The sun was shining, the seafood was delectable and I got to see my sister. Remind me again why I live here? —S. Coleman



### Jalapeño Krunchers

If you love spicy chips, Krunchers are for you. The highly addictive greasy goodness is your way to go for a late night snack or after a night of partying. The only bad thing about these chips is that when the bag opens, everyone can smell them, but they are worth it at the end. —C. Sanchez



### High schoolers

I like how they manage to take up the entire sidewalk when they walk. I like it when they decide to suddenly stop and look up at whatever they're looking at. My favorite, though, is how obnoxious they act when riding the CTA. Just kidding. I hate all of it. —D. Valera



### March Madness bracket pools

Successfully predicting tournament brackets is about as hopeful as swimming in a tub of battery acid. Don't be upset that you picked Belmont to win it all because you liked their colors. Just remember that the \$5 you spent entering your office pool is better spent, like buying a foot-long at Subway. —W. Hager

Top



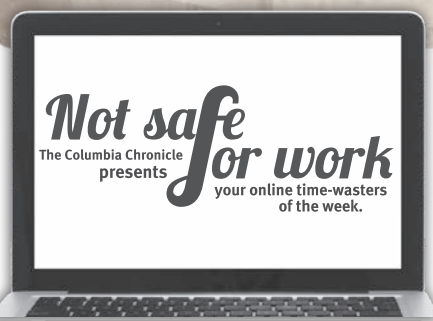
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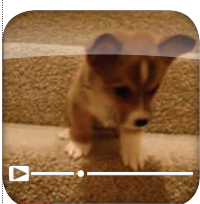


blog

**PassiveAggressiveNotes.com**

Sometimes, there are moments where we just can't seem to muster the courage to tell that roommate to clean up their toenail clippings (again). Leaving passive aggressive notes is the best way around situations like these. Passive-AggressiveNotes.com displays some of the best politely angry notes.

video

**Butterball goes down some stairs**

Butterball, the puppy Pembroke Welch Corgi, attempts to go down the stairs, crying throughout the entire process. Hopping one stair at a time, the most adorable portion of the video is when Butterball eventually learns how to gracefully descend a flight of stairs after a minute and 44 seconds.

**Reasons I'm ready for summer in Chicago**

**New Music Mondays:** Starting May 27, Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park will have some of today's newest and best artists perform for free. Every summer, I make countless memories listening to the sweet tunes of some of my favorite artists. Knowing you didn't have to pay half of your paycheck to see them makes the music sound even sweeter, I promise.

**The beach:** Playing beach volleyball, soaking up the sun on the sand, taking a dip in water that looks clean even though it's definitely not and boozing up at Castaway Grill and Shipwreck Bar... these are a few of my favorite things.

**The festivals:** If you've ever spent a summer in Chicago, you know that it's nearly impossible to avoid attending one of the city's many festivals. Whether it's Peace Fest, Pride Fest, Market Days, The Taste or many of the street festivals in different neighborhoods, it's an excuse to get crazy in the streets and get free swag from sponsors. Count me in.

**The farmer's market:** I live in Logan Square, which has a fantastic farmer's market every Sunday starting in June, where close to 100 distributors set up their tents and sell their products for a great price. It's a beautiful sight watching a community come together to support local farmers. Plus, I always get the best strawberries. Yummm.

**The heat and humidity:** Let's face it, I'd rather be able to cut the air with a knife because of the extreme humidity than deal with this bone-chilling cold weather any longer.

**Reasons my life is a romantic comedy**

**I have a Judy Greer:** Shout-out to my girl Natalie Shaver! We've done it all—had lunch and coffee dates at Panera and other cafe-like places, had brunch with mimosas, danced to Britney Spears with vodka cranberries at a bar and cried about our love lives on the phone at 2 a.m. Love ya, girl.

**I fall or trip. All. The. Time.:** Slipped down the steps of the bus? Yep. Tripped over something on my kitchen floor while cooking? Check. Just stumbled all of a sudden while walking on the sidewalk? Done it. This is pretty dependent on the weather, so if it's raining or snowing, watch out y'all.

**My love life is a hot mess:** I've been single for the past couple of years, though I've had a string of partners here and there. I've had a huge number of terrible and awkward first dates, some of which were set up by friends. Lastly, I've been stood up my fair share of times. It's in shambles, essentially.

**How I meet my "significant others":** I've met many candidates in typical rom-com fashion. From the overdramatic run-in while jogging on Lake Shore Drive to the simple bump-in at Starbucks, it's happened to me.

**I'm a journalist:** Look at a number of rom-coms and see how many main characters are journalists or have news-related jobs: "13 Going on 30," "27 Dresses," "How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days," to name a few. Surprised by what you see? Welcome to my life all the time.

**Arabic musicians you don't have to speak Arabic to appreciate**

**Fairuz:** This Lebanese singer and actress is known internationally and in the Arab world for her magical, heavenly voice. Her fans are not limited to a specific age. "Ya Tayr," "Badak Ala Bali," "Nasam Alina Al Hawa," "Salemla Aleh" and "Natarouna Ktir" are my sunrise songs.

**Le Trio Joubran:** This Palestinian Oud trio, which is comprised of three brothers Adnan, Samir and Wisam Joubran from Al Nasreh city, is known for instrumental music that brings both old and modern together in a unique and authentic way.

**Umm Kulthum:** This Egyptian singer, songwriter and film actress was known as "Kawkab al-Sharq" ("Star of the East"). Her music easily travels from one generation to the next. I've been to Egypt twice and nothing sounded better than her music near Al Neel River at sunset.

**Lena Chamamy:** Syrian vocalist Chamamy has a very strong and sweet voice. She's known for mixing classical with oriental jazz and Armenian music. While it's crucial to know Arabic to be able to connect with her music on a deeper level, I still think that her music could be appreciated despite the language barrier.

**Marcel Khalife:** Lebanese singer, composer and Oud player, Khalife is known for his revolutionary music and lyrics. His music is greatly appreciated by those in exile and refugee camps all over the world. It was a dream come true when I got to see his band perform live last year in Berkeley, Calif.

# 'Starbuck' a surreal tale of late maturation

by Sam Flancher  
Film Critic

"STARBUCK," A WARM, if unbalanced feature from Canadian director Ken Scott, tackles arrested development through its high-concept premise. Built around the likeable earnestness of its lead, Patrick Huard, the film offers heartfelt, uplifting emotional morsels counterbalanced with a nearly surreal narrative.

The film chronicles the emotional growth of David Wozniak, played by Huard, as he transitions from a slacker 40-something into a responsible adult capable of caring for his family and friends.

The film begins with Wozniak being informed by an attorney that he is the biological father of 533 children. These offspring—anonymous products of a slew of past sperm donations—are suing the sperm bank in hopes that they'll attain the true identity of the man

they know only as "Starbuck," the moniker Wozniak used when making his donations. Confronted by the idea of fatherhood, Wozniak obtains profiles of all of the children suing the sperm bank. Vowing to abandon his sloth-like ways for the world of adulthood, he begins to anonymously watch over these children without revealing his true relationship to them.

Though its concept is peculiar, "Starbuck" does well to ground itself in real, human emotion. The first two-thirds of the film utilizes its outlandishness as a means to an end—a way of examining the other facets of Wozniak's life. Suddenly confronted with the idea of responsibility, he walks the streets of Montreal in search of his children. These scenes are rendered with a light touch and depict his maturity as he parents his biological children, who are mostly in their early 20s, from a distance. He saves one child from drug over-

dose, enables another to audition for an acting job and watches one single-handedly win a professional soccer game.

His newfound sense of responsibility spreads to his personal relationships, which are firmly grounded in reality. He cares for his pregnant girlfriend and establishes a healthier bond with his siblings

and father while making strides to break out of his infantile state. The film constructs an emotional consistency between his acts of anonymous parenting and his "real life" responsibilities. These scenes achieve a sensitive exploration of a relatively well-drawn character.

Unfortunately, a sense of sweeping sentimentality takes over for the

film's final third. As his real world begins to intertwine itself with the hundreds of children searching for their father, the film spends too much time with the lawsuit attempting to reveal Wozniak's identity. He forms lasting relationships with these children while still remaining anonymous, and such relationships give way to clichéd dialogue about the importance of supportive family and positive human relationships. The film stops using its premise as a means to an end and begins to take itself too seriously.

Even though the film's final act caves under its own melodrama, the established warmth of the characters make its final moments redeemable. With skillfully understated performances from its lead actors, "Starbuck" strikes a human chord despite its eventual transition into schmaltziness.



"Starbuck" is a Canadian film about a perpetual adolescent who learns he has fathered 533 children as their sperm donor.

sflancher@chroniclemail.com

**Staff Playlist**  
Life-changing songs

"LIKE" THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE ON FACEBOOK TO LISTEN TO WEEKLY SPOTIFY PLAYLISTS

<p><b>EMILY ORNBERG, ARTS &amp; CULTURE EDITOR</b></p> <p><b>THE TWO OF US</b> // NSYNC <b>LOVEFOOL</b> // The Cardigans <b>SOUND IS VIBRATION</b> // Atmosphere <b>IN MY ROOM</b> // The Beach Boys</p>	<p><b>TATIANA WALK-MORRIS, ASSISTANT CAMPUS EDITOR</b></p> <p><b>MISS YOU</b> // Aaliyah <b>SMELLS LIKE TEEN SPIRIT</b> // Nirvana <b>POWER</b> // Kanye West <b>A CHANGE IS GONNA COME</b> // Sam Cooke</p>
<p><b>JAMES FOSTER, SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR</b></p> <p><b>CUM ON FEEL THE NOIZE</b> // Quiet Riot <b>TRIPPIN' OUT</b> // Curtis Mayfield <b>SKETCHES OF SPAIN</b> // Miles Davis <b>TIME OF THE PREACHER</b> // Willie Nelson</p>	<p><b>LISA SCHULZ, COPY EDITOR</b></p> <p><b>TO RETURN</b> // Chevelle <b>DEUCES (REMIX)</b> // Chris Brown <b>THE PROS AND CONS OF BREATHING</b> // Fall Out Boy <b>LIGHTS (BASSNECTAR REMIX)</b> // Ellie Goulding</p>

## Audiofile

## music downloads

Week ending March 19, 2013



**#1 Album**  
The 20/20 Experience  
Justin Timberlake

### Top tracks

- When I Was Your Man** • Bruno Mars
- Suit & Tie** • Justin Timberlake
- Just Give Me a Reason** • P!nk
- Feel This Moment** • Pitbull
- Harlem Shake** • Baauer

Source: iTunes

© 2013 MCT

# British brunette provokes pop

by Justin Moran  
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

**SURROUNDED BY A** calculated profusion of peroxide blondes, British brunette pop artist Charli XCX, aka Charlotte Aitchison, said she is pushing to challenge industry standards with the April 16 release of her debut album "True Romance."

Inspired by her early involvement with the London rave scene and a newfound punk energy in the music industry, she said "True Romance" infuses much-needed emotion into the club-driven genre of pop music. Her dark and textured, synth-heavy tracks have sonically married mainstream sounds with an underground edge. "I made a pop album, but on my own terms," Charli XCX said. "I've done it from my own perspective."

The Chronicle sat down with Charli XCX to discuss her early music career, penning Icona Pop's Billboard-charting single, "I Love It," and what to expect from her debut album.

**The Chronicle:** When did you first decide to pursue music?

**Charli XCX:** I unintentionally fell into [making music], I suppose. About 6 years ago, I began making my own music using an old, beat-up Yamaha keyboard and posting [the songs] to MySpace. This guy, who was running raves in East London, randomly contacted me and asked me to play [his show]. So I went to London when I was 14 to play [at] this illegal rave, but had no concept

of what the scene was going to be like since I came from the countryside. He told me to get there at 10 p.m., but I ended up playing at 3 in the morning.

**Talk about the album's first single, "You (Ha Ha Ha)."**

The song samples a Gold Panda track called "You." I actually wrote it a long time ago when I was recording in Sweden. Although initially [the song] was meant to be released within a mixtape, I decided to make it an official [single] and shot the music video in October with [director] Ryan Andrews. We were inspired by Grindhouse movies and "The Pom Pom Girls," with kick-ass girls who were doing their own thing. [In the video], we were in a gun factory and I had girls dressed as my favorite film characters, like Wednesday Addams [from "The Addams Family"] and Cher Horowitz from "Clueless." But the twist is that we are turning bullets into lipstick.

**What emerging artists are currently piquing your interest?**

I'm a really big fan of [rapper] Brooke Candy, who I've collaborated with on a song called "Cloud Aura." She's going to be a superstar. I'm also a fan of [hip-hop artist] Mykki Blanco. His work is brilliant. It feels like there is this punk energy happening [in music] with people who are sprung out of the Internet. People aren't afraid to do their thing. They're just doing it.

**You wrote Icona Pop's chart-topping single "I Love It." How did this collaboration come about?**

I've always wanted to write music for other people. For me, it's real escapism to cross a song to different artists. For "I Love It," I was working in Sweden with producer Patrik Berger, who sent me the track to write over. So, in my hotel room, I first [wrote] what is now the Icona Pop song, but couldn't decide if it was anything more than just a gay club anthem. The more Patrik and I listened to it, the more we fell in love. But I just felt it wasn't for me. When the [Icona Pop] girls heard it, they were like, "this is so us." So, Patrik got us all singing on [the track], and I think they're smashing the s--t out of it.

**What can we expect from your new album, "True Romance?"**

Half of the album is very magical, emotional and passionate, with songs like "Nuclear Seasons" and "Stay Away." [These songs] are like melancholic raps over hip-hop beats. And then there is also more interesting, freaky s--t that goes on. Some songs I wrote when I was 14 years old, which is cool in the way they stood the test of time. But I think the entire album sounds very lush.

Charli XCX will be performing May 20 at The Vic Theatre, 3145 N. Sheffield Ave. Visit [www.CharliXCXmusic.com](http://www.CharliXCXmusic.com) for more information.

[jmoran@chroniclemail.com](mailto:jmoran@chroniclemail.com)



Courtesy PETER CARR

British pop songstress Charli XCX plans to challenge industry standards with her debut album "True Romance," which will be released April 16. The first single, "You (Ha Ha Ha)" is available now.

THE DEPARTMENT OF ASL – ENGLISH INTERPRETATION PRESENTS:

# CEIL LUCAS

“THE HIDDEN TREASURE OF BLACK ASL: ITS HISTORY AND STRUCTURE”

## THE HIDDEN TREASURE OF BLACK ASL

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**CEIL LUCAS** was raised in Guatemala City and Rome, Italy. She is Professor of Linguistics at Gallaudet University, where she has taught since 1982. She is a sociolinguist with broad interests in the structure and use of sign languages. She has co-authored and edited many articles and books, including **The Linguistics of American Sign Language**, 5th ed. (with Clayton Valli, Kristin Mulrooney, and Miako Villanueva, 2010).

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## Chicago gathers at the table for 'Fête'

Courtesy NATHAN MICHAEL

by Mariah Craddick  
Contributing Writer

**BY DAY, ROOM 1520** at 1520 W. Fulton Market is an elegant but empty two-story loft that doubles as an event space and studio for photographer Stephen Hamilton. But on the evening of April 4, the West Loop space will be transformed into a pop-up nighttime festival.

The catalyst for the transformation is an event titled *Fête*, the French word for “feast” or “festival,” a weekend-long gathering of Chicago’s food and design culture. It offers an evening shopping market open to the public to sip, sample and buy anything from vintage kitchen tools to craft beers.

The first *Fête* on Dec. 6, 2012, included about 30 vendors selling

mostly holiday items and drew a crowd of nearly 700 people, according to co-founder Jessica Herman, freelance writer and contributor to *Time Out Chicago*. For the April event, she said *Fête* will not only expand its roster, but will also be extended from one night to four. After the market on April 4, there will be tours and talks with selected chefs and artisans from around the city, offering an in-depth, behind-the-scenes look at their work, she said.

Co-founders Heather Sperling, Emily Fiffer, Chicago editor of daily newsletter and website *DailyCandy*, and Herman created the event after working as curators at *Dose Market*, a monthly marketplace of local food and fashion they began in 2011 with April Francis, stylist and Columbia fashion department adjunct professor. *Dose* runs year-

round at the River East Art Center, 435 E. Illinois St.

With the dream of expanding beyond the purely commercial exchanges at *Dose*, the three ventured off to create what they call a “toast to the city’s creative, artistic pulse.”

“The idea behind *Fête* was to bring together designers and vendors from all around the city—and from outside of the city as well—to give them a platform to sell, connect with people and really stimulate conversations,” Herman said.

There are two levels of ticket pricing for the market: \$5 at the door and \$15 advanced purchase. The \$5 ticket gets a free beer, while the \$15 gets you two cocktails from Longman & Eagle. Tours and discussions are ticketed separately. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the nonprofit *Fresh Moves*, the

CTA-bus-turned-produce-market on wheels, according to Herman.

Herman explained that the *Fête* extension was put in place to further educate attendees and strike up new conversations concerning the arts community.

“[We’re trying to] inspire people to be creative and support these local artisans and chefs,” she said.

Chef Matthias Merges of yakitori restaurant *Yusho*, 2853 N. Kedzie Ave., and chef John Manion of Brazilian restaurant *La Sirena Clandestina*, 954 W. Fulton Market, will discuss the foreign cuisines they have adopted into their menus on April 5, according to the event listings on *Fête*’s official website. Another event on April 6 will include a tour of *The Plant*, 1400 W. 46th St., an urban aquaponics farm housed in a former meatpacking plant, led

by its founder John Edel. A studio tour with tableware designer Martin Kastner led by Kevin Henry, Columbia College associate professor of product design, will also take place April 6, and is already sold out.

Merges said he is excited about the festival, praising not only its uniqueness but also its objective of bringing the community together.

“There are just so many exciting things happening, even with the small restaurants in the neighborhood,” he said. “[*Fête*] is a great place to come together and think about different ideas and explore them.”

Some of the highlights at the April 4 kick-off event at Room 1520 will include a pop-up ramen shop from *Trenchermen*, gourmet doughnuts from *Firecakes* Donuts, adult and children’s readings from *City Lit Books* and handmade ceramics and paper *mâché* from *Up in the Air Somewhere*, a local dishware line.

While Herman said they are planning more similar markets in the future, they want to keep *Fête* a seasonal event.

“We’re looking for people who are curious to learn more about the food and design world to just engage with the cultural community of Chicago,” she said.

For a full list of vendors and more information about *Fête* visit [ComeFete.com](http://ComeFete.com)

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# Chinatown newcomer finds strength in simplicity

## Restaurant Review

by Justin Moran  
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

CHINATOWN HAS ALWAYS served as the closest and most inexpensive escape from the often-exhausting South Loop. From the towering buildings and power-walking students of downtown to Chinatown's intimate hole-in-the-wall shops and leisurely strolling locals, this small community has the unique strength of sparking spiritual renewal. After weeks of battling cold winds and endless CTA construction, such rejuvenation is long overdue.

The embodiment of this relief is in the neighborhood's first Korean restaurant, Ahjoomah's Apron, 218 W. Cermak Road, which has been standing out among nearby competition since its opening on Feb. 6 for reasons beyond its cultural origin.

Chinatown's charm arguably lies in its uncalculated and authentic nature. Dated neon signs brand its street-side shops and kitschy decorations and DIY advertisements engulf the sidewalk window displays. But in the midst of such dissonance, the neighborhood desperately needed a spark of simplicity to create balance. Ahjoomah's Apron answers this need with its modern, slick concept and intelligently designed atmosphere and cuisine.

Refinement is its central inspira-

tion, as bold, slate walls envelop the space with an array of silver metal light fixtures. While its Chinese neighbors arguably aim for cluttered coziness, Ahjoomah's Apron asserts itself in the opposite light with industrial openness. Booth-style seating with backless benches keep the space unified and provoke a sense of community among diners. Enormous images of common Korean dishes—like Yukgaejang, a spicy, shredded beef soup—with English descriptions spread across the walls to make the experience inviting for diners. It's clear that Ahjoomah's Apron aims to amicably celebrate its Korean origin while educating guests. It's considerably working to diminish any trepidation new customers may feel toward eating Korean food—a brilliant effort to attract first-time Korean food diners.

On the evening of my visit, the restaurant, which played punchy K-pop tracks, drew a younger crowd. The large number of seated guests suggested a promising future for Ahjoomah's Apron but didn't overwhelm its smaller space. While the atmosphere felt like a fresh reflection of modern culture, its Korean authenticity was thankfully still present. A focused elderly woman, who was perhaps the owner, ceaselessly surveyed the space like a mother hen watching her chicks—an example of the restaurant's seemingly classic approach to Korean dining.

The menu was limited to eight sections—a strategic move for such a new restaurant. The small number of selections suggests the kitchen's confidence in its strengths. Unlike neighboring Chinese restaurants that give guests what feels like a 30-page novel to leaf through before ordering, Ahjoomah's Apron makes the process of selecting dinner much less of a chore.

Prior to delivering the order, the perky waitress presented a spectrum of on-the-house dishes to whet the appetite. In a minimalistic presentation with sleek, separate bowls, the table received a small taste of tofu, cucumber, kimchi, potato, carrot and black bean—a kind gesture and clever touch. Collectively, the flavors were strong and boldly showcased, the delicious, natural notes of each raw ingredient used. This fresh array gives guests a brief yet refined introduction to Korean culture.

The menu's most American-sounding dish, Fried Vegetable Dumplings, keeps the tasty streak of success alive with a perfect balance of textures. Wrapped in a crispy shell, its blend of crunchy vegetables and moist tofu made for a keenly dynamic dish. Although this appetizer was arguably a safe selection, the tofu was so dangerously flavorful it led the vegetarians at the table into a panic, believing the dumplings contained real meat. The tofu—an often-bland substitute for meat—was impres-



Carolina Sanchez THE CHRONICLE

Ahjoomah's Apron brings Korean cuisine to Chinatown with a refined approach and bold flavors.

sively cooked to eliminate its flavorless nature.

The visual presentation for one of the chef's specials, La Bokki—a spicy stir-fried dish—was surprisingly restrained in comparison to the typically chaotic Chinatown cuisine. In a beautifully modern white bowl, the tangy dish is a myriad of Korean rice cakes, fish cakes, ramyun noodles, boiled eggs and red and green peppers. The creamy, orange sauce was unexpectedly spicy, providing a precisely pungent backdrop to showcase its neighboring flavors. Likewise, the rich fish cakes were thin enough to not overpower the dish, as fish often does, but still had sufficient flavor. The La Bokki was successfully

bold, focused and well balanced—a refreshing debut of Korean cuisine, perfectly priced under \$10.

New restaurants often make the mistake of showcasing everything they're seemingly capable of creating. Ahjoomah's Apron, however, has intelligently narrowed its strengths to create an atmosphere and collection of dishes founded on fashionable simplicity. Korean cuisine has the power to provoke a buzz of intimidation for those who have not yet indulged in its food, but this Chinatown newcomer has successfully made the culture approachable—a strength worthy of applause.

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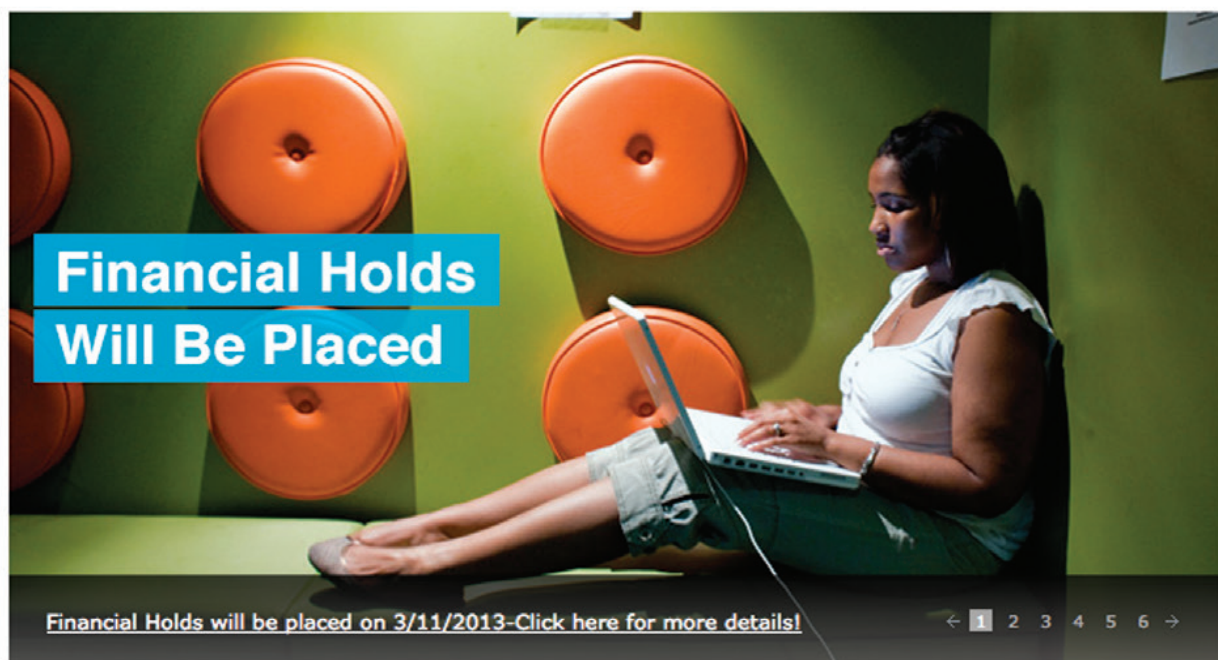
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# The DEVIL wears sweatpants

by Sophia Coleman, Managing Editor

## Gwen GOOP stinks

THANK GOD. GWYNETH Paltrow has released her must-have fashions for spring, and let me tell you, they are absolutely breathtaking.

And by breathtaking I mean asthma-inducing, because I can't fathom how this lady thinks it's normal to spend half-a-million dollars on a spring wardrobe. From Jimmy Choo pumps (\$575) to a Temperley London maxi-skirt (\$1,615), Paltrow manages to make a bigger (flat) ass out of herself than she already has.

In her March newsletter from GOOP, the lifestyle website she uses to project her pretention, Paltrow released her third-annual Spring Edit because apparently, "you asked for it." She describes the collection as fashion inspiration for "all aspects of life" that features "investment pieces."

First of all, Gwen, I'm not sure who asked for this, perhaps other than the equally arrogant Anna Wintour. Second, these aren't investment pieces. In total, the collection's price tag amounts to enough to purchase a house on the sandy beaches of Barbados.

I suppose I should remember that this delusion is coming from a woman who told Elle UK in 2009, "I am who I am. I can't pretend to be somebody who makes \$25,000 a year." And she added that she would rather die than let her kid eat a Cup-A-Soup. Girl, I eat Cup-A-Soup at least once a week, and I make significantly less than \$25,000, but I'm still a fashionista.

Paltrow's ego is in serious need of a make-under. Though she is certainly past the age where she is considered a style icon for the younger, ahem, poorer generation, she must realize that her absurdly expensive taste eventually trickles down, making those less-fortunate feel like what I imagine she would call "peasants." To be a successful fashion icon, one must also be accessible. However, I'm sure she's much too busy banning her children, Apple and Moses, from eating carbs and getting rid of her nonexistent batwings through her "Metamorphosis" workout.

Because of her snobbish antics and overall perceived perfection, Paltrow has become a celebrity



most love to hate. She continually presents herself in an elite light—whether it is through recipes or million-dollar wardrobes—and has yet to make an attempt to bear the flaws that lie somewhere within her glowing skin, designer outfits and sparkly-clean colon. Perhaps the day will come when she finally admits she farts in public, but until then, I leave you with this insightful quote from Gwen in the April 2013 issue of Self magazine:

"Back in America, I was at a party and a girl looked at me and said, 'Oh, my God! Are those Juicy jeans that you're wearing?' And I thought, I can't stay here. I have to get back to Europe."

Go on then, Gwen. And stay there.

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James Foster THE CHRONICLE

The Muntu Dance Theatre of Chicago performers rehearse on March 18. The theatre troupe is an internationally renowned troupe that performs historical African dance and original works that are based on traditional African and Caribbean dances.

# Check Me Out

Photos Rena Naltsas THE CHRONICLE



**Nicole Mizgalski**  
junior art & design major  
winter item most excited to ditch: Socks



**Chris Colvin**  
senior photography major  
winter item most excited to ditch: Coats



**Denita Richardson**  
junior marketing communication major  
winter item most excited to ditch: Everything



**Mike Nardone**  
senior audio, arts & acoustics major  
winter item most excited to ditch: Socks







# Uncovering Chicago's neighborhoods

Throughout the semester, The Chronicle will be digging into the history and culture of some of the city's neighborhoods. Visit [ColumbiaChronicle.com/Multimedia](http://ColumbiaChronicle.com/Multimedia) for additional video coverage.

This week: **Logan Square**

by Emily Ornberg  
Arts & Culture Editor

**HAIRPIN LOFTS**, A six-story flat-iron building in the heart of Logan Square, sat vacant for nearly two decades as its marble-speckled terrazzo flooring collected dust and its 1930s grandeur diminished to an eyesore at the six-corner intersection of Diversey Parkway and Kimball and Milwaukee avenues.

The city purchased and restored the building in 2007. It now houses 28 apartment units, a Payless Shoe Source and the Logan Square Community Arts Center. It has also become a sanctuary for other arts organizations, including Voice of the City, Elastic Arts, Chicago Ballet and Intimate Opera.

Originally built in 1930 by Sol Goldberg, who made his fortune by redesigning the hairpin, the building became a Morris B. Sachs Department store in 1947 but closed in the 1960s, according to Dawn Marie Galtieri, executive artistic director of Voice of the City. In 2005, contractor Gary Poter bought the building and planned to turn it into condominiums and affordable housing. But a year later, an employee who was upset over a bad performance review killed Poter, Galtieri said.

Through April 12, the Logan Square Community Art Center is hosting Springfield, Ill.-based multimedia artist Matthew Schultz's solo exhibit, titled "The History of Division." Exhibit curator Jane Michalski said it is structured as a museum-esque exhibit that describes a fictional Freemason-like fraternal order called "The Division."

"Matt has constructed everything in the exhibition, including sculpture, graphics [and] multimedia," Michalski said. "It's a fascinating play on how we've taken information and learn about things in our lives."

Faux antique life-size wax figures and dioramas, historical artifacts, ceramics and sculptures, such as an anthropomorphized crow are just some of the pieces in Schultz's exhibit. The items are displayed as artifacts with fake deterioration and tagged with a red cross to represent "The Division," said Michalski. The exhibit attempts to challenge viewers' faith and belief systems.

Michalski said she moved to the neighborhood in 1986 and appreci-



(Top) Springfield, Ill.-based multimedia artist Matthew Schultz's "The Trickster Crow" will be displayed at the Logan Square Community Arts Center on the second floor of the Hairpin Lofts as part of the artist's "The History of Division" exhibit through April 12. (Bottom) Schultz's "Unknown Soldier" piece is just one in the exhibit, which portrays a fictional Freemason-type group called "The Division." (Right) The Hairpin Lofts Art Center is located on the second floor of the Hairpin Lofts at 2800 N. Milwaukee Ave. in Logan Square.

ates how organizations like the Logan Square Chamber of Arts have helped keep the neighborhood rich with culture.

"One of the things that I still love about Logan Square is that it is culturally diverse," Michalski said. "Especially [seeing] the presence of the Latino community, the Polish community as well as other residents that have been here for a long time."

Galtieri said that before the early 2000s when Logan Square became an artistic hub, the neighborhood's artists were more underground because many people blame low-income artist populations for over-inhabiting and sparking gentrification in neighborhoods, similar to what happened in nearby Wicker Park.

"I think there were many pioneer residents here who had bought housing when it was really inexpensive, and it was a little shakier in the community," Galtieri said. "Some of [these pioneers] were art-

ists, and I think the fear was always that gentrification would be on the backs of artists."

Christopher Ellis, associate artistic director of Voice of the City, said gentrification in other neighborhoods often happens in predictable patterns. He said it always begins with a stable, lower-class community that gets invaded by a student population searching for affordable rent, which makes it safer for artists to move in.

"Artists start creating their space within that community, and then it becomes a hip place to live," Ellis said. "And after it becomes a hip place to live, there's a commercialization of that hipness."

Ellis said, from there, commercial retail begins to show up in the neighborhood, suddenly driving up real estate costs, forcing out those who initially populated that neighborhood.

However, Galtieri said Logan Square has avoided such gentrification, due in part to the election of



Rena Naltsas THE CHRONICLE

Alderman Rey Colon (35th Ward). She said after the implementation of the neighborhood's new communities program, which was part of a redevelopment initiative for 16 of Chicago's West Side neighborhoods, the alderman made it a priority to heavily integrate the arts throughout the neighborhood.

"When [Colon] came in in 2004, he ... was very committed to arts and culture," Galtieri said. "And his office was very much helping arts organizations land in Logan Square ... It became clear that we needed a stronger body to really be responsible for how arts were being implemented."

Colon said growing up in Logan Square inspired him to encourage arts in the neighborhood. He said integrating the arts in the 35th Ward was part of his plan prior to becoming alderman.

"Once I became alderman, one of the things that I really wanted to do to get our neighborhood on the map was to start having art events in the

community," Colon said.

Colon said he worked with the city of Chicago to help redevelop vacant storefronts along Milwaukee Avenue, adding that the most compelling building that needed redevelopment was the Hairpin Lofts. Colon put in a request for proposal to redevelop the building and make the second floor into an arts center, with a goal of providing workspace for the creative community and making an exhibit and center available to the neighborhood.

"It was important, not just making art a trend of the neighborhood, but in trying to create a more permanent infrastructure with housing and performance space and gallery and exhibit space," Colon said. "[The Hairpin Lofts] was a historic building we wanted to preserve, and my instinct was to make that building a lightning rod for the neighborhood."

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» **APP**

Continued from PG. 9

a job at Zendesk, maker of cloud-based customer service software, only a month after finishing the program.

“Within a couple weeks I was already doing contract work,” she said. “A few weeks after that, I started running into other people in meetups and things around San Francisco, so only a couple weeks after that I decided to give up contracting and work full-time [at Zendesk].”

The programming and software design industries are teeming with jobs, according to Janell Baxter, associate chair of Columbia’s Interactive Arts and Media program.

Baxter said many companies are looking for people to build their online presence, design customized software or streamline their businesses, and programming knowledge is essential in providing that to prospective employers.

She also mentioned, however, that learning to program while gaining proficiency in other creative areas can be the best way to learn, and App Academy is providing a very different experience by focusing solely on programming.

“For a student that is really passionate about storytelling, if they find that programming can make their story come alive, [then] all of a sudden programming is fun and much easier to learn,” she said.

Baxter said Columbia incorporates art and science concepts into programming, teaching students by having them create programming pieces with content and substance related to their major.

She said more robust programs that teach students to code, such as Columbia’s, may be better for students who have not yet obtained a degree because it combines the technical aspect of programming with content, like

gaming, to keep it relevant.

Auravide said she created several projects during her time at the academy.

“I made a mobile app for checking in with your mood by location, kind of like Four-square,” she said. “You can send in a little [emoticon] and see all of them spread out on a map.”

Baxter said a short boot camp, such as App Academy, might be better for people who are switching careers or looking to brush up on coding because programming is such a vast field that it cannot be taught in such a short time.

“Programming is one of those fields that can be going deeper and deeper, and you don’t know what you don’t know until you come across it,” Baxter said. “I know a lot of companies will ask for someone with 3-7 years of experience because a lot of times it just takes years before you really feel comfortable and know what it means to be an agile programmer.”

App Academy students are mostly college graduates or career switchers, and the average age is 28, according to Patel. He said those looking to change careers often enroll in the academy with degrees in fields like biology, math and philosophy.

The academy’s student acceptance rate is a little below 10 percent, according to Patel, making it extremely competitive. He said App Academy must have a high admissions standard if it is going to invest so much time in a student.

App Academy has been successful so far, but it is only in its beginning stages, Patel said.

“There’s a demand for students and it looks promising, but it’s still a traditional startup in that we don’t know what will happen yet,” he said.

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» **DARTS**

Continued from PG. 10

is to be the first player or team to reach zero. Numbers circle around the dartboard in the outermost ring, and depending on where a dart lands, the point value is subtracted from 301 or 501 and could be double or triple that of the surrounding numbers. In cricket, the challenge is to be the first to place three darts in specific spots of the dartboard and to place three darts in the bullseye, Kincinas said.

The social aspect of the game is definitely an appealing part of darts, but the competitiveness of the league is also a prime motivator, Kincinas said.

“The competition’s actually really great

too,” he said. “I used to play with my wife, and she’s not very good at darts, and I would win very easily, and she would get frustrated. So it’s kind of nice to play somebody that has a similar playing capability.”

Danielle Hylaszek, the bar manager at Chuck’s Southern Comfort Cafe in Burbank, Ill., said hosting the weekly darts games for the Just Darts Dart League brings business to the bar on a night that would usually be slow.

“They come in, they order food, they order drinks for the few hours that they’re here, versus a normal Sunday [when] there would probably be less people in the bar,” she said.

The Athletic Alliance of Chicago Darts League meets at bars on Chicago’s North side, according to AAC President Kevin Hansen. He said the league serves the LGBT community and has existed since the 1980s under the Windy City Athletics Association, which was essentially replaced by the AAC in November 2010.

Hanson said there are often tournaments around the city where dart players from various leagues can compete against each other. A team must pay \$500 for a full 17-week season, he said.

There are five teams in the competitive bracket and 17 teams in the recreational bracket, with each having 6-8 players this season, according to Hanson.

Although professional dart leagues exist, Huffman said very few players advance to that level, which makes the amateur game thrive.

“You have some people at the very top—just a handful—and everything else is kind of like medium range,” she said. “So quite frankly ... you can beat somebody anytime, and they can beat you.”

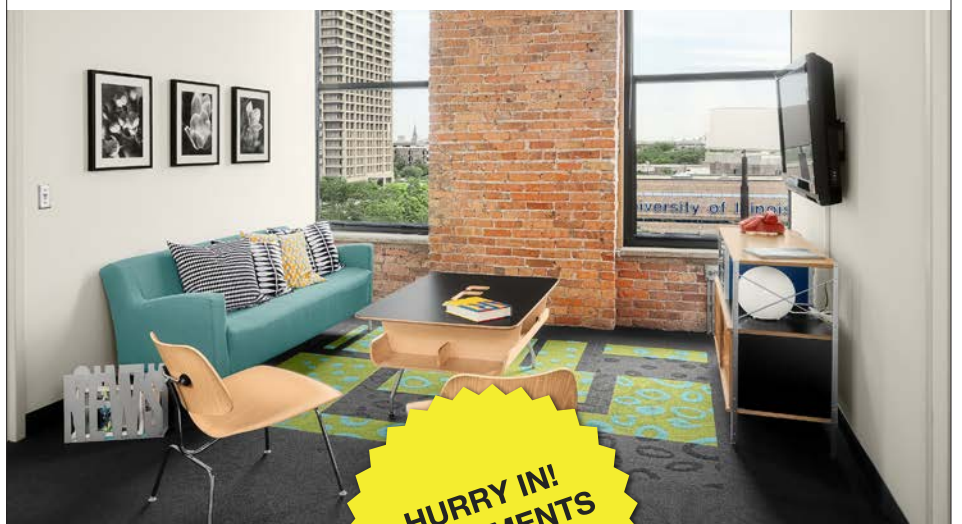
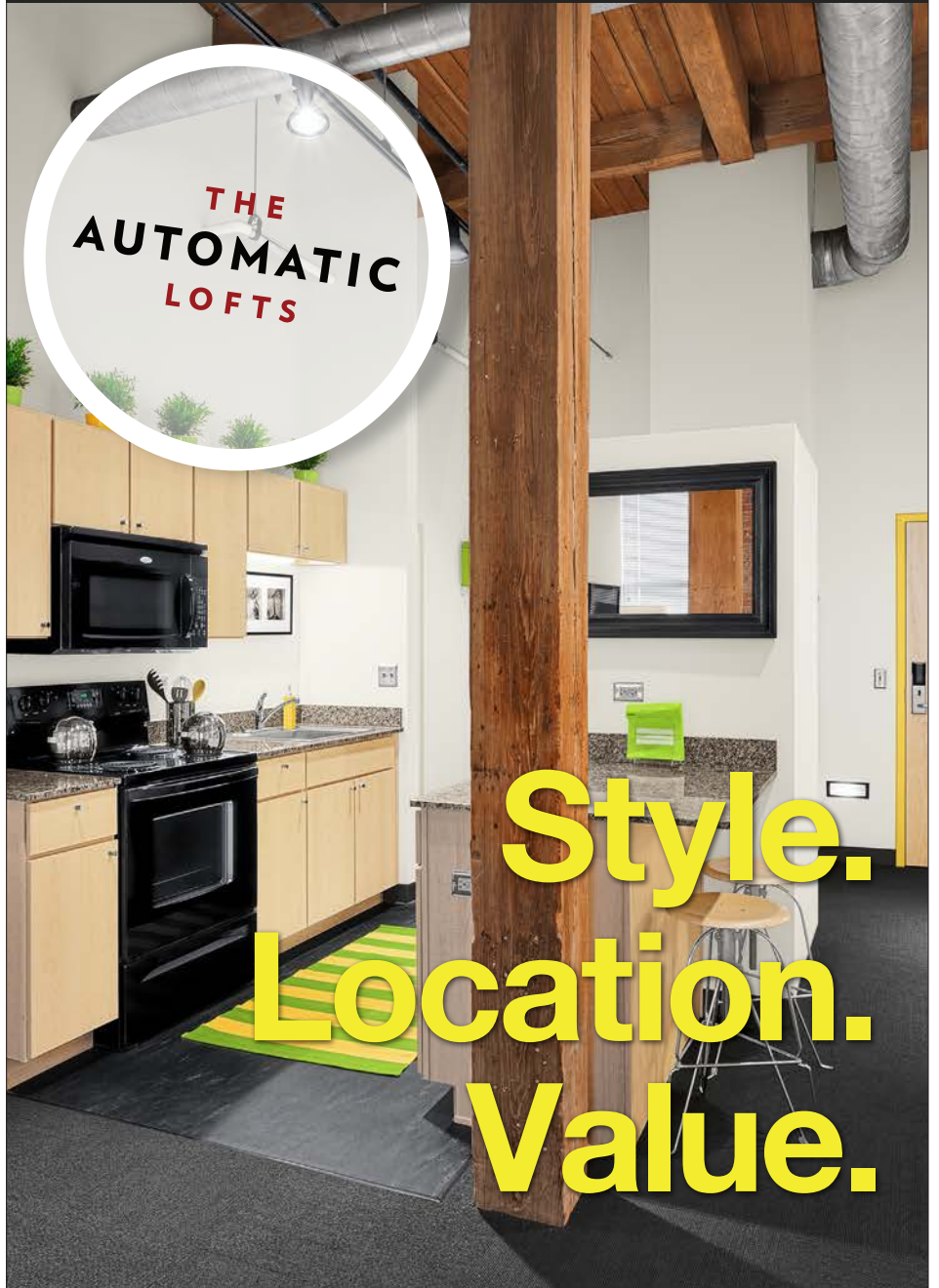
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Carolina Sanchez THE CHRONICLE

Steven Bruen, member of the Southside Dart League, eyes the target and prepares to throw his dart March 20 at Cullinan’s Stadium Club, 11610 S. Western Ave.

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» **RENEGADES**

Continued from Front Page

must lose twice to be eliminated—according to Cress. To participate, players need to simply show up and can form teams the day of the tournament.

In addition to the more than \$200 the Renegades spent on the tickets they also had to pay for the gym time, Cress said.

According to an email from Chicago Public School Deputy Press Secretary Dave Miranda, the cost to rent a CPS gym like the South Loop Elementary's is determined on a site-to-site basis and could range from \$50 an hour to \$1,000 a day. He said the cost depends on which

gym it is, who is attending, the length of usage and what accommodations are required.

According to Cress, the Renegades are paying South Loop Elementary \$155 an hour, which also covers security. The Renegades dedicated 16 percent of their budget to renting out space for these tournaments and used one percent of it to pay for the Bulls tickets, Cress said.

The tournament will be free to Columbia students and faculty with a school ID. Non-Columbia students will have to pay \$5. All participants will have to sign a waiver absolving the Renegades, Columbia or South Loop of any responsibility for injuries, according to Cress.

XSport Fitness, 5-Hour Energy

and LA Boxing will have representatives at the tournament giving out promotional products to random participants, according to Marquez.

Representatives from 5-Hour Energy will pass out drinks and XSport reps will give away several free one-month memberships. The Renegades will enter the basketball players into a raffle to win the prizes using the signed waivers, he said.

Marquez said LA Boxing gave away a one-month membership to the most valuable player of the volleyball tournament, and will give out the same promotional prize at the basketball tournament, but the Renegades have not decided how it will be awarded.

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» **WOOD**

Continued from PG. 9

According to Sprague, the report aims to demonstrate that Green's plan would work.

"The goal is to have the structural system reach the mainstream market and be a competitor with steel and concrete buildings," Sprague said.

The potential environmental benefits of wood-based buildings is a driving force behind the movement, Sprague said.

But Kim Koverman, an environmental science professor at Columbia, said the environmental benefits may not exist.

"If [tree removal] is not done sustainably, that's a really big issue," Koverman said. "On a small scale, I think it's a really good idea ... but I don't think that it's viable on a large scale; it's not something we can shift all of our building materials toward."

Koverman said forests would not be able to keep up with the demand for wood buildings and the issue needs to be addressed by those who favor the concept.

Sprague said the movement's focus is on fast-growth trees. The report suggests species such as birch, aspen and poplar grow quickly and should be the target of harvests for construction.

"The system really has to be developed in line with sustainable

forestry practice," Sprague said. "It has to be part of a conversation."

A hypothetical design by architect Michael Charters for a wood building in Chicago recently received attention and meets the eco-friendly guidelines outlined in the report, according to Ed Keller, director of the center for transformative media at Parsons The New School for Design in New York.

Charters was given an honorable mention for his entry in architecture magazine eVolo's 2013 design competition for his 30-story wooden complex designed to be built near where West Harrison Street crosses the Chicago River, according to Keller.

Keller, a member of the jury for the eVolo competition, also thinks the movement is practical but needs to address the issue of forest sustainability.

With the "Tall Wood" report easing age-old concerns about wood, such as its susceptibility to fire and durability, Sprague said architects and developers alike need to embrace a previously dismissed building material as a modern option.

"It's kind of like going back to that spirit of the first skyscraper, where all the different cities were starting to innovate and look at new technologies and reach new heights," Sprague said. "Now we want to go back to that spirit and look at that with wood."

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## Bear down and out

**FORMER CHICAGO BEARS** line-backer Brian Urlacher will not be returning to the team, despite being a key defensive player on its roster for 13 straight seasons.

Urlacher and the team could not reach a contract deal, and on March 20, he became a free agent. The Bears franchise maintained throughout the contract talks that they wanted to keep the eight-time Pro Bowler, but their negotiation strategy, or lack thereof, said the team had other intentions.

Urlacher's camp made several contract proposals, ranging from a two-year \$11.5 million deal to a one-year \$3.5 million compromise, according to a March 20 article on ChicagoTribune.com. The only offer the Bears made was for one year and \$2 million, an offer Urlacher told the Tribune, "wasn't even an offer, it was an ultimatum." Last season, Urlacher made \$7.5 million, according to the Tribune article.

The team's unwillingness to negotiate makes it clear that they did not want to fight for Urlacher, a player who has fought for them on the field for 13 years, regardless of what their public statements say.

Obviously they clung to the popular opinion that Urlacher, at the ripe old age of 34, is too old to be a valuable football player.

Urlacher's departure is incredibly unfortunate, but ultimately he made the right move. If the Bears don't want to pay him what he is worth, it makes sense to go elsewhere, no matter how hard that decision may be. After all, sports is a business.

But right move or not, it's still sad to see that Urlacher's loyalty wasn't worth enough for the Bears to offer him a fair contract. He leaves behind not only big defensive cleats to fill but also an invaluable leadership role. The Bears have essentially bet on quarterback Jay Cutler stepping into that role, but I don't see leadership as one of his strong points.

More importantly, the whole situation exemplifies the league's blatant dismissal of loyalty as a virtue. Even in business, loyalty is valued, and the Bears should have reflected that in their contract offers to the surefire Hall-of-Famer.

But Urlacher isn't the first player to break team ties over contract ne-



gotiations. Recently, wide receiver Greg Jennings defected from the Green Bay Packers to join the Packers' biggest rival, the Minnesota Vikings. Former quarterback Brett Favre did the same thing after playing for the Packers for 15 years. Urlacher's break was swift but might not be painless.

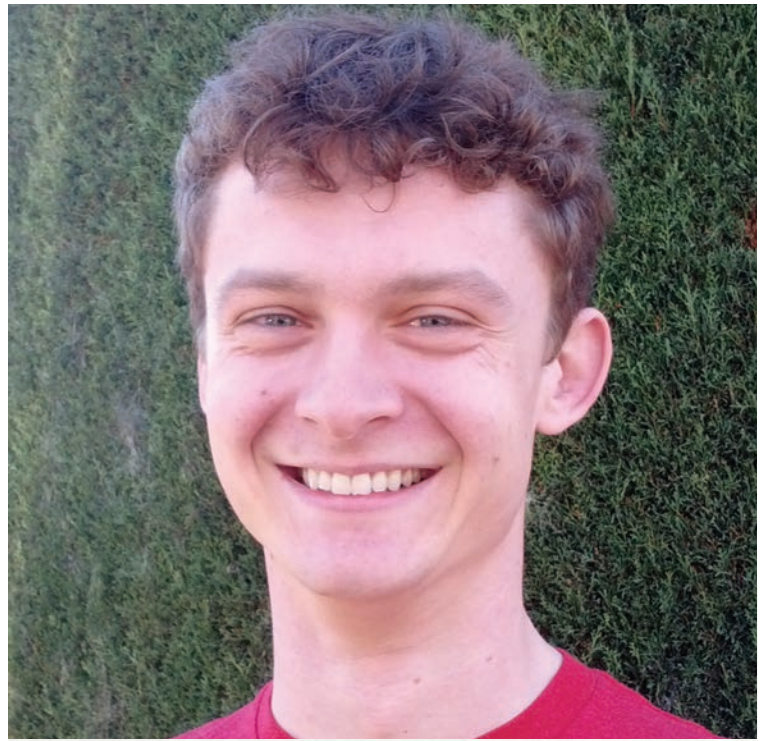
Ultimately, we will have to wait until the season starts to assess the damage of Urlacher's departure. His presence was a key force in the Bears' dominating defense last season, and with a shaky offensive performance last year, fans better hope the newly hired Head Coach Marc Trestman can instill some consistency in Cutler.

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### Mikhali Markine

Age: 27 College/Team: Skydive Chicago Rhythm XP



Courtesy MIKHALI MARKINE

by Doug Pitorak  
Sports & Health Editor

**MIKHALI MARKINE WENT** pro last January in something that many people consider a one-time activity reserved for bucket lists—skydiving.

Markine, 27, joined Rhythm XP, the No. 2-ranked professional four-way formation skydive team in the nation that trains at Skydive Chicago in Ottawa, Ill. According to Markine, the team finished fifth out of 16 teams in a March 16 meet in DeLand, Fla., and is gearing up for the 2013 United States Parachute Association Nationals, which will take place in Chicago in September.

Markine, a software engineer, said he has been jumping for seven years. Born in Russia, Markine has completed most of his skydiving training in the U.S., he said.

The four-way formation skydiving challenges a team of four to perform as many sequences of randomly selected formations as possible within 35 seconds of leaving the airplane, he said. He said he had been pursuing a formation team for four years.

Markine sat down with The Chronicle to discuss how he got into skydiving, how the team trains and any fears he has when airborne.

**The Chronicle: Did you start out skydiving competitively?**

**Mikhail Markine:** It was certainly a gradual change. I started skydiving just for entertainment value. As I started jumping more and building up skill ... I wanted to do something more goal oriented, something more structured.

**How does the team train on the ground?**

Mental preparation is a big element. We all spend time by ourselves as homework, visualizing the sky dives. A very big part of our training is wind tunnel training. It allows us to pack in many hours of flight into a single weekend or into a single 3-4 day camp. The environment is not perfect in a wind tunnel. We have walls, we have artificial references—in the sky we don't, so the training environment is a little different, but it certainly helps a lot.

**What's the scariest moment you've experienced?**

Skydiving is one of those things where [there is] part of the environment you can control [and] part of the environment you can't control. When we train, when we jump, it's not the fear of the skydive that's in our heads; If anything, it's performance anxiety—it's focus on the skydive we're about to perform. So with respect to scary moments, it's like driving. Sometimes things don't go as well as you like, something out of the ordinary happens [and] you get scared. The first time I had to use my reserve parachutes was obviously out of the ordinary, so you can say that [was scary].

**What was it about skydiving that inspired you to pursue it competitively?**

For me, competitive skydiving is almost like an endless opportunity to learn and grow and challenge myself. When you're in a meet ... you're completely immersed in it. That focus is a big piece of it, and again, kind of the endless road in the sport in terms of improvement and getting better and achieving higher levels of performances is very appealing.

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## Darts madness

by Doug Pitorak  
Sports & Health Editor

**SPORTS FANS WORLDWIDE** will undoubtedly turn up in bars to watch the Final Four of the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament battle it out, but some Chicago athletes have been packing the bars for another reason—competitive darts.

The Southside Dart League, founded in 1981, is a nonprofit organization made up of approximately 500 members and is gearing up for its four-week-long playoff tournament beginning April 8, according to the current league president, Sharon Huffman.

The league unites Chicagoans who play the underground sport. According to Huffman, 40-50 teams belong to the group, with an average of six players per team. A competitive division that has no gender regulations plays every Monday, while a less competitive co-ed division plays games on Wednesdays.

Huffman, a police officer, said she has played darts since she became a league board member in 1983, two years after the league's inception. She said once someone gets into the sport, it's hard to quit.

"For me, [darts] started out as a game for fun—kind of like bowling—but most people that play it, it's like they love it and they can't stop playing it," Huffman said. "It's almost like an addiction."



Carolina Sanchez THE CHRONICLE  
Marnie Coyne, a member of the Cullinan's Relics, a team in the Southside Dart League, prepares to throw a steel tip dart March 20 in a game at Cullinan's Stadium Club, 11610 S. Western Ave.

Largely because it is tradition, the league uses steel tip darts and dartboards made of synthetic fibers, which require someone to manually keep score, Huffman said. It costs \$75 per team and an additional \$10 per player to participate in a 12-week season, she said. According to Huffman, the money goes toward trophies, mugs, shirts and banquets.

The Just Darts Dart League, which was founded in 2004 and competes in South Side bars, is a nonprofit organization that uses lighter plastic tip-darts and an electronic dartboard that keeps score automatically, which most players favor, according to John Kincinas, the league's commissioner.

Kincinas said each player in the

league pays a one-time \$10 roster fee and the team pays a weekly \$25 fee. Its spring season wraps up with a banquet on June 16, he said.

Kincinas' league has 10 teams, each of which has 4-8 players, he said. The Just Darts Dart League hosts games on Sundays. Unlike the Southside Dart League, teams can win monetary prizes, but administrative costs are also covered by the fees.

Although the two leagues use different types of darts, the games they play are the same.

According to both Huffman and Kincinas, each match tests darters' skills in games called 301, 501 and crickets. The aim of 301 and 501

» SEE DARTS, PG. 12

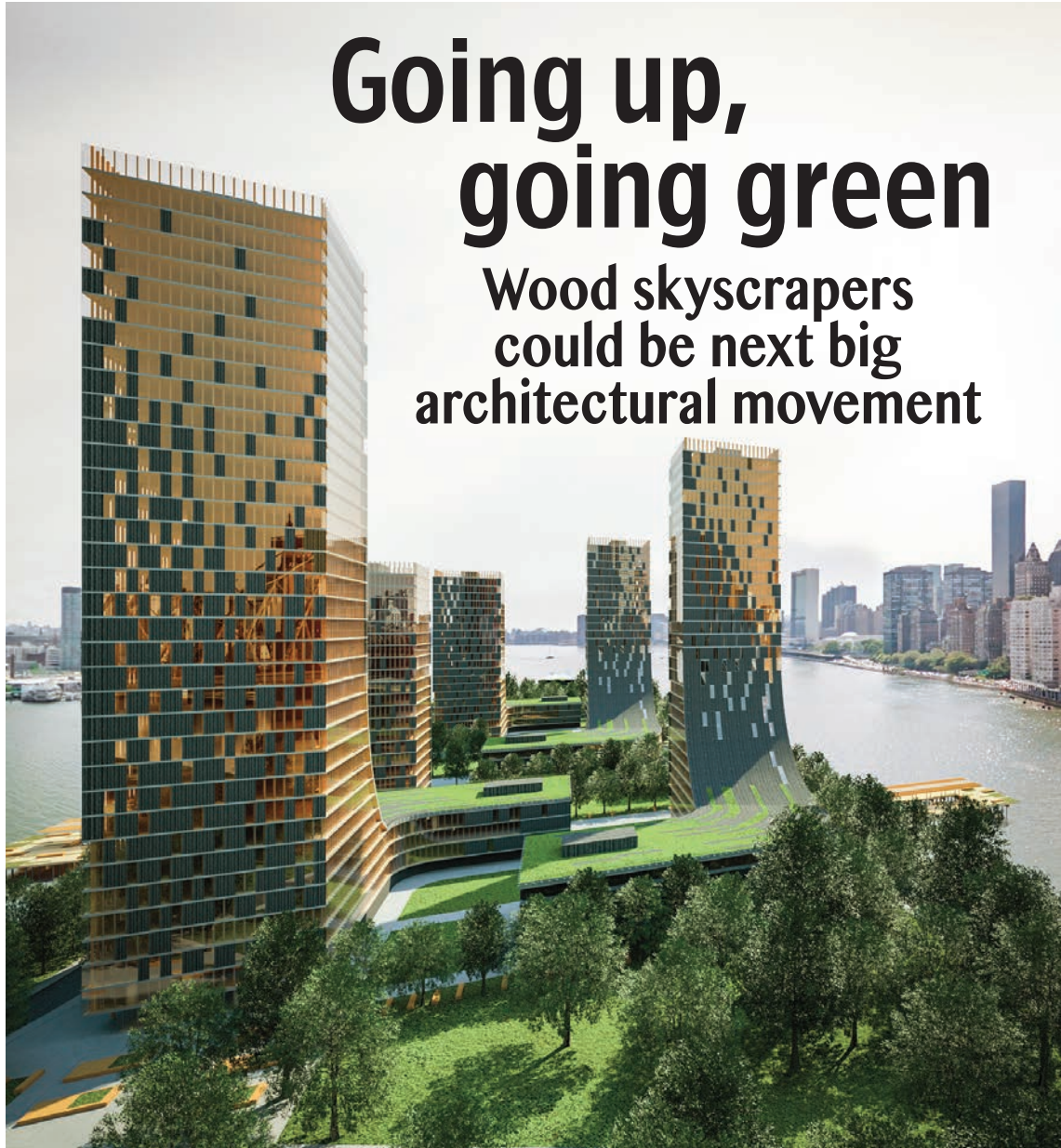


Photo illustration courtesy MICHAEL GREEN ARCHITECTURE

# Going up, going green

## Wood skyscrapers could be next big architectural movement

by Doug Pitorak  
Sports & Health Editor

IF THE THREE Little Pigs had modern architectural technology available to them, the Big Bad Wolf may not have been able to blow down their wooden house.

Michael Green is just one architect advocating that developers worldwide construct wooden skyscrapers, a movement largely motivated by the potential of such buildings to be more eco-friendly than their steel and concrete counterparts, according to Emily Sprague, designer, researcher and director of Michael Green Architecture's New York office.

She said wood buildings would reduce the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere because they absorb the greenhouse gas, as opposed to concrete and steel, which emit it.

At the center of the wood skyscraper movement are Mass Timber products, which are large wooden panels made up of multiple laminated pieces of wood that are held together in layers for durability, according to a report Green published Feb. 22, 2012 called "Tall Wood."

Mass Timber products are different than traditional construction material, light-frame wood, which usually comes in the form of 2 x 4's, according to Sprague.

Sprague said the movement is no

longer an idea but a viable option for construction, largely because of the information in the report.

"It's not conceptual," she said. "It's been developed with engineers and parts of it have been tested, like a lot of the fire proofing and that sort of thing have gone through a lot of rigorous, technical testing."

The 240-page report, which is peer-reviewed and available through Creative Commons, a non-profit website that offers authors a means of legally sharing their work, examines how such buildings relate to climate change, durability, building codes and forest preservation.

Jamshid Mohammadi, a professor of civil, architectural and environmental engineering at the Illinois Institute of Technology, said Mass Timber products are durable and environmentally effective. They also protect against fire, he said.

"There are several properties of wood that sort of lend itself to an effective material for high-rise buildings," Mohammadi said. "Surprisingly, one is the ability to withstand fires."

According to the report, the initial charring of the thick wood delays fire from burning the interior wood long enough to meet modern building codes.

» SEE WOOD, PG. 11

# Programming boot camp uses retroactive payment to motivate instructors

by Hallie Zolkower-Kutz  
Assistant Sports & Health Editor

NEAR THE COAST in San Francisco, a class of 30 twenty-somethings hunch over fully-loaded Mac computers, completing assignments for their free nine-week programming boot camp called App Academy

The program, which started in summer 2012, doesn't remain free, however. The students may complete an App Academy session for a \$3,000 refundable placeholder fee, provided they pay 15 percent of their first year's salary once they get a job in the field, according to founder Kush Patel, a University of Chicago alumnus. This payment

structure has been so successful that App Academy is expanding to New York in April, Patel said.

Patel said the entire App Academy team is excited about its unique payment structure, which he said puts financial pressure on instructors rather than students.

"I think it puts pressure on people in a good way," he said. "It says, 'Hey, I have to teach these people properly because the company would shut down if we don't.'"

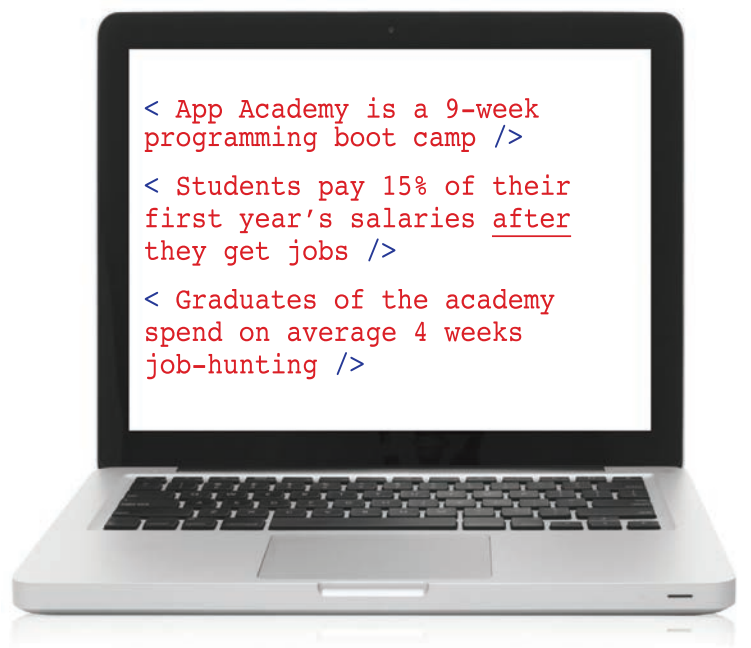
Patel said the pricing also opens up a completely different risk model for students. Other programming boot camps, such as Dev Bootcamp, also located in San Francisco, can cost around \$12,000 for the same

type and length of instruction, which about equates to what the average student pays for App Academy once they land a job, according to Patel.

Students generally get a job within four weeks of graduating, and their average starting salary is a little more than \$80,000 a year, Patel said. Of the first class of students who have graduated, 93 percent of the 19-student class, have found jobs, some at companies like Facebook and Silicon Valley startups, according to Patel.

Rose Auravide, an alumna of the summer 2012 class, managed to get

» SEE APPS, PG. 12



Marcus Nuccio THE CHRONICLE



April 2

Northwestern University Wildcats vs. University of St. Francis Fighting Saints

3 p.m.  
Rocky Miller Park, Evanston, IL  
Where to Watch: Northwestern online game tracker

April 3

Chicago White Sox vs. Kansas City Royals

1:10 p.m.  
U.S. Cellular Field  
Where to Watch: WGN

April 4

Chicago Blackhawks vs. St. Louis Blues

7:30 p.m.  
United Center  
Where to Watch: CSN-Chicago

April 5

Chicago Bulls vs. Orlando Magic

7 p.m.  
United Center  
Where to Watch: CSN-Chicago

» **STORY WEEK**

Continued from PG. 3

**Ray Bradbury: Tribute to a Visionary, March 19**

Sam Weller, assistant professor in the Fiction Writing Department, Story Week artistic director and author of "The Bradbury Chronicles: The Life of Ray Bradbury," asked fellow writers Audrey Niffenegger, author of New York Times bestseller "The Time Traveler's Wife," Joe Meno, author of "Office Girl" and winner of the Nelson Algren Short Story Award, and Mort Castle, a seven-time Bram Stoker Award nominee and editor of "On Writing Horror" from Writer's Digest books, to participate in the Ray Bradbury tribute event at the Harold Washington Library, 400 S. State St.

Niffenegger and Meno read stories from a book of contributed writings based on Bradbury's stylistic imagination and flair for horror. Panelists discussed the importance of Bradbury's "Fahrenheit 451," the story of a futuristic America that lacks free-thinkers and bans books.

"[Bradbury] was an absolutely fearless creator," Weller said. "His life mantra was simple and elegant: 'Jump off the cliff and build your wings on your way down.' I think it is something we can all take to heart today no matter what we're approaching in our lives."

**Conversation / Reading / Signing: Emma Donoghue, March 20**

Award-winning writer Emma Donoghue read from her book "Room," a story about a 5-year-old boy named Jack who is locked in a room with his mother by a captor.

Following her reading, Donoghue discussed the novel's inspiration and universal meaning.

She said "Room" was inspired by the Josef Fritzl case, in which Fritzl locked his seven children in a cellar and impregnated one of his daughters multiple times. Donoghue said she chose to set her book in North America because the Fritzl case took place in Austria and she wanted to set the book far away from its origin.

Donoghue also said the book has a widespread meaning, displaying the relationship between a parent and a child and how it changes over time. According to her, when a child is locked in a room, he or she matures more quickly as a result of the situation.

"What is universal is that your child moves from the tiny, enclosed world of babyhood to the big grown up world of adulthood," Donoghue said. "In most cases, it happens gradually, whereas in this case, it happens almost overnight."

**Literary Rock & Roll, March 21**

Literary Rock & Roll night kicked off at the Metro, 3730 N. Clark St.,

at 6 p.m. with personal readings from Jane Hamilton, Meno and Gillian Flynn.

Hamilton read a column she published in the New York Times called "Finding forgiveness in a Ziploc" based on the moment when she began screaming uncontrollably at her husband in La Guardia Airport while on vacation.

Though the original plan was to read from his latest book "Office Girl," Meno decided to instead reveal part of a story about two brothers and their dysfunctional relationship, after losing their father.

Flynn read from her book "Gone

Girl," a perfect love story that suddenly goes wrong on the couple's fifth wedding anniversary when the woman mysteriously disappears.

"If you go into any bookstore right now, ['Gone Girl'] will be displayed in the front," said Amber Ponomar, a senior fiction writing major. It's bestselling, it is really cool [to have Flynn here]."

The event ended with soul band The Right Now, and the rows of chairs on the ground floor were moved to create room for dancing and celebration as well as book sales and autograph opportunities for students.

**Chicago Classics, March 22**

Members of Chicago's creative community read passages from their favorite Chicago authors at the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St., during the final event of Story Week.

Author Rick Kogan introduced a series of Chicago's creative professionals who then gave readings of their favorite works written by Chicago authors that they believed contained hints of the city within the stories.

Samuel Park, author of "This Burns My Heart," read a passage from "The Time Traveler's Wife" by Niffenegger, and Coya Paz read the poem "Tour Guides" written by the Performance Poetry Incubator, a community-based literary organization supporting new voices and interaction such as live performances and readings.

Randall Albers, chair of the Fiction Writing Department and founder and producer of the festival, concluded the event.

"There is a great, almost spiritual, power in working with the imagination and if you didn't feel it tonight, you'll never feel it," Albers said. "I hope [Story Week] is great inspiration to you all [and] has left you sharpening your own vision just a little bit more and ... has inspired you to raise your own voice."



Photos Kevin Gebhardt THE CHRONICLE  
1. Gillian Flynn reads parts from her New York Times best-selling novel "Gone Girl" March 21 at Metro, 3730 N. Clark St. 2. Stephanie Berecz closes out the night with her soul band The Right Now.

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## » TRANSFER

Continued from Front Page

have their list of equivalencies completed by April 1 so they can be loaded into u.select to help potential transfer students decide whether they want to attend Columbia in the fall, Walters said.

The u.select program is an integral part of the transfer initiative, and the college is excited to be able to make it available in such a timely manner, Walters said, adding that 18 “feeder” colleges, which include the City Colleges of Chicago, such as Harold Washington, and suburban community colleges, like College of DuPage, will be the primary equivalencies listed.

Approximately 53 percent of Columbia’s transfers come from these nearby institutions, Walters said.

Another facet of the initiative is increasing Columbia’s presence at feeder schools to recruit students, according to Walters.

She recently visited Harper College with Columbia’s fashion studies program to try to entice more students.

“We are working with departments one by one by going to these colleges to let [the feeder schools] know we are eager to work with them,” Walters said. “We want to create clearer pathways between the colleges and Columbia’s programs.”

Kendall Klitzke, a junior television major and president of Co-

lumbia’s Student Government Association, recently viewed a presentation, along with the SGA senators, regarding the transfer initiative and said she believes it is an important part of improving campus life.

“SGA members think [the transfer initiative] is a really great idea and several members wish the tools had been available to them when they transferred, especially the online course tool,” Klitzke said.

In the future, Columbia will host students from community colleges on campus and market events such as Manifest to outside students to help increase transfer enrollment, Walters said.

According to Walters, the initiative also includes trying to identifying the college’s most transfer friendly programs. The goal is not to increase the number of these programs but to increase awareness of the existing ones and market them to potential students, she said.

Departments were directed to turn in transfer audits by April 1, which require them to examine the length of a program, the sequence of required courses and how long it will take to fulfill those requirements, Walters said.

“Most transfer students want to finish the degree in two years,” Walters said. “What the college needs to work on is how courses transfer to majors.”

A transfer-friendly curriculum is one that allows an incoming trans-

fer student to immediately take at least two courses required for a departmental major, according to Walters, who added that some majors require an introductory course that would limit students to taking one course when they first enter the college.

She said the college is emphasizing transferability of core major classes because transfers typically don’t enter Columbia with these courses completed.

Transfer students are more likely to succeed than students who begin at Columbia their freshman year, according to Walters. The graduation rate of freshman students is 41 percent, whereas the graduation rate of transfer students is 62 percent, she said, adding that these rates are similar to other colleges.

“It’s not a unique thing that’s happening at Columbia College, it’s happening across the country,” Walters said. “Transfer students come to Columbia understanding things that students require to be successful at college.”

Mark Kelly, vice president of Student Affairs, said he wholeheartedly supports the initiative. His department works to recruit transfer students by showing them the various programs Columbia offers.

“It’s very encouraging to see how quickly the college has moved on the issue of transfer enrollment and how much progress is being made,” Kelly said.

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## » P-FAC

Continued from PG. 3

In an emailed statement, Diane Doyne, associate vice president of Marketing and Communications, said the college respects the judge’s decision, but “does not agree with all of his findings.”

“The matters at issue are related to events in preceding years, and P-Fac and Columbia have made strides since then in the bargaining process,” Doyne said in the email. “Columbia is gratified that the judge found that it defended this case in good faith and indeed found in favor of the college on several important issues.”

As reported by The Chronicle on March 11, P-Fac had two weeks from the beginning of March to complete the contract negotiations if it wanted adjuncts to receive a 3 percent raise.

President Warrick L. Carter



Our goal has been to reach a contract that provides for job security, respect, due process, all the things we have been working for.”

- Nancy Traver

agreed to extend the offer until April 4, Traver said.

The raise was first proposed at the beginning of the fall 2012 semester, as reported by The Chron-

icle Sept. 4, 2012.

Since early 2011, Traver said the college has been using this “ploy” to get the union to sign a contract that would force it to give up the union’s right to due process.

The contract would have also waived job security, or the right for an adjunct to fight the college if he or she feels they were fired unjustly, Traver said.

With two upcoming meetings held after the April 4 deadline, Traver said P-Fac will continue negotiating with the college until an agreement is reached, even if the raise is dropped.

According to Doyne, the college is looking toward the future and working with the union to reach an agreement, as well.

“Columbia agrees with the judge that the parties have had productive and cooperative negotiations in the past and looks forward to continued progress in the future,” Doyne said in the email.

It is not known whether the college plans to appeal the ruling.

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# COLLEGE ADVISING

## COLLEGE ADVISING CENTER



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- Considering awesome electives
- Creating academic, personal or career goals
- Registering for classes in our computer lab

To help as many students as possible, College Advisors are not scheduling appointments until after April 19. Walk in between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday & until 5 p.m. on Friday.

The College Advising Center is located in suite 300 of the 623 S. Wabash Building.



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**Columbia**  
COLLEGE CHICAGO



# Columbia alumna runs for Congress

by Tatiana Walk-Morris  
Assistant Campus Editor

WITH THEIR ALMA mater lacking a political science program, most Columbia alumni may not find themselves pursuing careers in politics, but one alumna is doing just that by running in the Illinois 4th Congressional District race.

Alexandra Eidenberg, who earned a bachelor's degree in arts, entertainment & media management in '05 and a master's degree in arts management in '08, both from Columbia, will run her first political campaign as a Democrat against incumbent Luis Gutierrez in the March 2014 congressional election.

Though she currently lives in Portage Park and works in Albany Park in the 4th District, her ties to the district date back to her childhood when she attended Lane Tech High School, 2501 W. Addison St. She is a board member and chair of the education committee of the Small Business Advocacy Council.

Eidenberg advocates for wage

equality for women, healthcare reform, a stronger economy, small business support, education reform, veterans benefits and reforming senior entitlement programs like Social Security and Medicare.

Besides having graduated from Columbia, Eidenberg is the great-granddaughter and granddaughter of Columbia's sixth and seventh presidents, Norman and Mike Alexandroff.

She is also the niece of Norman Alexandroff Jr., current director of internal and external partnerships for the Dean of Students Office.

The Chronicle sat down with Eidenberg to talk about her upcoming congressional race, her Columbia experience and how her education has motivated her political goals.

## The Chronicle: What inspired you to run for Congress?

**Eidenberg:** When I originally considered running, I considered running for alderman, and I considered doing something much more local, but I knew I wanted to run against

somebody that wasn't in line with my own values ... from alderman to Congress is a big leap, and [supporters said], "You really need to make a difference. You're so passionate about that community. You grew up there. You know the area." What was going into be a very local aldermanic-type run coming up in 2015 turned into a Congress run for March 2014.

## If elected next year, what are your plans?

First of all, I'm fiscally conservative and socially liberal. So for me, I talk a lot about the unicorn. If I asked you what a unicorn was, you would be able to draw one and describe one, but you'd also know that it's not real. That is what equality is. Equality, unfortunately, does not exist in our nation. We're the land of the free, but we haven't created equality at the base level, which would be food, safety [and] education. That's the liberal in me who really wants to help people out and give them opportunities. But I'd also really want to cut back on all the spending we've been doing. We are driving ourselves broke, and I'd like to see, not only myself, but my children have an opportunity to have these benefits as well. Without reforming some of our entitlement benefits, like Social Security, Medicare [and] Medicaid, we're going to be at a really big, stuck point. We really need to see some change there.

## Tell me about your experience at Columbia. What did you appreciate most about the college?

I originally went to school at Western Illinois University [in Macomb, Ill.] and I was convinced that I needed to get out of town and go to one of the bigger schools [in the area]. I quickly realized that I was not meant for the lecture hall type of environment. My mom kept encouraging me the whole time to come to Columbia. And [returning to Columbia from Western Illinois University] was one of the best things I ever did. I love the smaller classroom sizes. It was also that all the teachers had hands-on experience with what they [taught].

## Did your family influence your political career?



Photos James Foster THE CHRONICLE

(Top) In her first political campaign, Columbia alumna Alexandra Eidenberg is running for Congress in the 4th Congressional District. (Bottom) Eidenberg is the granddaughter of Columbia's seventh president, Mike Alexandroff.

I grew up in a family where we were always politically involved. In the family, we were always focused on supporting the community, minorities [and] giving opportunities to people. My family was so involved in helping candidates, who we saw support the community [get elected]. We were always doing fund raisers and helping people campaign. But what I noted was that no one in my family was ever a candidate, and I thought that it would be cool to be a candidate. When I was younger, I would always say that I was going to be mayor of Chicago, which is very embarrassing for my family. They would say, "Don't say that in public. That's weird. You're four [years old]." From a very young age, I was interested in serving the community in a big way. As I got older, I got very involved in the small business community and the women's rights activism community, and I knew that I wanted to be in that type of role.

## Did you engage in any type of political activities at Columbia?

I was very involved [while earning my undergraduate degree]. I was involved with the [Student Government Association]. I was really just trying to be involved in as many activities as possible. Being around a school that is very politically active, comparatively to Western Illinois and other schools I've experienced, Columbia definitely has a voice, and it encourages its students to have a voice in the community. Interestingly enough, the degrees that I got at Columbia are not in the arts

... I'm a businessperson by nature. Any time you can better your communication skills, that's huge. And I learned a lot about event coordination, which later led me to being the director of an organization called E-Women Network, where I hosted 12-18 events a month. My small business degree that I got through the entrepreneurship program there, I use that every day.

## What about Columbia stood out the most to you?

The [instructors] are not just educators. They're also practicing in their industry. Learning from people who are currently, actively in the market is very different from learning from someone who did it 30 years ago and is now teaching. I respect teachers in general, but there's something special about hiring [adjunct] teachers. Columbia was at the forefront of doing that. [Hiring adjunct faculty] wasn't heard of back in the day. Now other schools do that and encourage that.

## What advice can you give Columbia students?

Education of any kind is the base level; it's like your trampoline. Whatever you get a degree in is just the footing you need to reach the next level. I think setting achievable yet high expectations of yourself is crucial. The biggest thing is don't quit. If you want to be that one in a million that becomes an actress, a ballerina or person working at the [Chicago] Tribune, whatever it might be, it takes drive.

twalkmorris@chroniclemail.com





# The Big Read: IN THE TIME OF THE BUTTERFLIES

A novel by Julia Alvarez

## Wednesday, April 3

2pm - 3:30pm  
Film Screening: *In the Time of the Butterflies*  
North Riverside Public Library  
2400 S. Des Plaines Avenue, North Riverside, IL

7pm - 8:30pm  
The Big Read Kickoff  
Columbia College Chicago Film Row Cinema  
1104 S. Wabash Ave, 8th floor

## Tuesday, April 9

7pm - 8:30pm  
Book Discussion  
North Riverside Public Library  
2400 S. Des Plaines Avenue, North Riverside, IL

## Thursday, April 11

12pm - 2pm  
Film Screening  
Benedictine University  
5700 College Rd., Lisle, IL

## Tuesday, April 16

6pm - 8pm  
Edible Books  
Columbia College Chicago Library  
624 S. Michigan Ave., 3rd floor north

## Wednesday, April 17

1:30pm - 2:30pm  
Book discussion  
River Forest Public Library  
735 Lathrop Ave., River Forest, IL

7pm - 8pm  
Book discussion  
River Forest Public Library  
735 Lathrop Ave., River Forest, IL

7:30pm - 8:30pm  
Book Discussion (ENGLISH)  
Cicero Public Library  
5225 West Cermak Road, Cicero, IL

## Tuesday, April 23

7:30pm - 8:30pm  
Book Discussion (SPANISH)  
Cicero Public Library  
5225 West Cermak Road, Cicero, IL

## Wednesday, April 24

6:30pm - 8:30pm  
Film screening: *In the Time of the Butterflies*  
Columbia College Chicago Film Row Cinema  
1104 S. Wabash Ave, 8th floor

## Thursday, April 25

3pm - 4:30pm  
Panel discussion  
Harold Washington College Library  
30 East Lake Street, Room 102, Chicago, IL

## Wednesday, May 1

3pm - 4:30pm  
Film screening: *In the Time of the Butterflies*  
Harold Washington College Library  
30 East Lake Street, Room 102, Chicago, IL

6pm - 8pm  
Film screening: *Code Name: Butterflies*  
Columbia College Chicago Film Row Cinema  
1104 S. Wabash Ave, 8th floor

## Thursday, May 2

12pm - 2pm  
Film screening  
Benedictine University  
5700 College Rd., Lisle, IL

## Wednesday, May 8

6:30pm - 8:30pm  
Film screening: *Tropico de Sangre*  
Columbia College Chicago Film Row Cinema  
1104 S. Wabash Ave, 8th floor

7pm - 8:30pm  
Film screening: *In the Time of the Butterflies*  
Cicero Public Library  
5225 West Cermak Road, Cicero, IL

## Friday, May 10

6pm - 7:30pm  
Keynote address featuring Julia Alvarez (live via video conferencing)  
Columbia College Chicago Ferguson Theater  
600 S. Michigan Ave, 1st floor

## Friday, May 17

All day  
Art + Activism: Critical Encounters/The Big Read at Manifest  
Wabash main stage area, Wabash Ave and Balbo

The Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest. This program is also made possible in part by a grant from the Illinois Humanities Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Illinois General Assembly.

### ON-CAMPUS EVENTS

All events are free and open to the public.  
The complete schedule for The Big Read is available  
at [www.colum.edu/bigread](http://www.colum.edu/bigread)  
and  
[www.neabigread.org](http://www.neabigread.org)

Illinois Humanities Council  
[www.prairie.org](http://www.prairie.org)

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ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE ARTS



THE BIG  
READ

PROGRAM MANAGED BY



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COLLEGE CHICAGO  
library

# Columbia film students receive Green Seal Award

by Tatiana Walk-Morris

Assistant Campus Editor

**THE CHAOS OF** producing a movie often leaves little time for film & video majors to think about their impact on the environment. But for two Columbia filmmakers, the ecosystem inspired the production of their award-winning movie.

"Uncle Evan," a six-minute film about family dysfunction, was produced by graduate film & video student Kazuko Golden and directed by graduate film student Joshua Garvin, who were the first students to receive Columbia's Green Seal Award March 18, according to John Wawrzaszek, the sustainability manager of the Campus Environment office.

"I've done a number of productions within the [graduate film & video studies program], but I noticed that I was really disturbed by the amount of waste produced on set," Golden said. "I decided in my next production that I was going to try and be as green as possible."

The Green Seal program is a waste reduction and education initiative sponsored by Columbia's recycling program, Wawrzaszek said. The award is not a monetary prize but rather a seal that can be placed in the final credits to promote Columbia's sustainability practices and show audiences that the film

was produced responsibly.

He said he hopes other students consider implementing recycling and other environmentally friendly production techniques outlined in Columbia's recycling program guidelines in their projects.



**I decided in my next production that I was going to try and be as green as possible."**

- Kazuko Golden

The steps Golden and Garvin took involved purchasing steel water bottles and metal cutlery for the cast and crew, using recycling bins on set, ordering the proper amount of food and purchasing fair trade coffee made in the U.S., she said. Any money the students save by recycling and using fewer materials can be invested in the project, Wawrzaszek said. Golden said she did not know the exact amount saved by implementing the techniques but added she would have taken the same precautions regardless of whether they saved money because of the environmental benefits.

"It all comes down to how much advance preparation you put in," Golden said. "Preparation is every-

thing. If you wait until the last minute, a lot of these things are not possible to do. If you're conscious going into a production, then you can plan for organizing carpooling, purchasing [supplies] and waste decisions."

Golden said she was inspired to make the film more environmentally friendly after attending a screening of "Future Weather," a coming-of-age film directed by Jenny Deller about an abandoned tween worried about global warming. When Golden learned the film was produced in an eco-friendly fashion, she decided to do the same

while producing "Uncle Evan."

"[Golden] is very passionate about [the project], and it was really great to see someone who is like, 'Hey this isn't something that has to do with the curriculum,'" Wawrzaszek said.

Wenhwa Ts'ao, director of the graduate studies program and associate professor in the Film & Video Department, worked closely with Golden and recommended Golden's future project, "The Song," for the Weisman award, an honor that supports the completion of arts and communications

projects. Ts'ao said she commends Golden for being environmentally conscious while producing "Uncle Evan" because filmmakers do not always consider environmental impact.

"Usually [filmmakers] are goal-driven about getting our shots, getting our stuff done and getting that one goal," Ts'ao said. "It's nice to see that she is conscientious enough to approach her production understanding that she could be the filmmaker she wants to be."

twalkmorris@chroniclemail.com



Courtesy KAZUKO GOLDEN

The production team behind "Uncle Evan," a short film about family dysfunction, was the first to receive Columbia's Green Seal Award March 18.

The Music Center at Columbia College Chicago  
1014 S. Michigan Avenue

## Concert Hall Events

### Monday April 1

Ricky Hughey Senior Recital 7:30 pm

### Tuesday April 2

Pop Rock Ensemble: Performance 3 in Concert 12:00 pm  
Hanna Ashbrook Senior Recital 8:00 pm

### Wednesday April 3

Wednesday Noon Guitar Concert Series\* 12:00 pm  
Hip Hop Ensemble in Concert 12:00 pm

### Thursday April 4

Kailey Rockwell Senior Recital 7:30 pm

### Friday April 5

Jazz Gallery in the Lobby\* 12:00 pm  
Jazz Forum\* 2:00 pm  
3CVJE & Stewartville High School Jazz Choir  
at the Conway Center 3:30 pm  
Sebastian Huydts and Larry Axelrod in Concert  
at the Sherwood 7:30 pm

### SAVE THE DATE:

### April 12

Todd Rundgren Residency Concert at the Music Center  
(SOLD OUT)

\*Events with an asterisk do not give recital attendance

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# P-Fac wins NLRB trial, adjunct raise in doubt

James Foster THE CHRONICLE

A National Labor Relations Board judge stated that Columbia engaged in multiple unfair labor practices while negotiating with P-Fac, Columbia's part-time faculty union. One of these charges includes the college suspending bargaining in February 2011.

by **Alexandra Kukulka & Tatiana Walk-Morris**  
Campus Editor  
& Assistant Campus Editor

**AFTER A MARCH 15** National Labor Relations Board court ruling in favor of P-Fac, Columbia's part-time faculty union, time is now running out on the college's offer of a 3 percent raise for adjuncts, conditioned on completing bargaining by April 4.

The union is willing to give up the 3 percent raise to continue to fight for due process and job security, said Nancy Traver, a P-Fac spokesperson and adjunct faculty member in the Journalism Department.

"Thus far, the college has not been willing to agree with us on [job security and due process]," Traver said. "We are not going to give up on those. Our goal, as always, has been to reach a contract that provides for job security, respect, due process, all the things we have been working for. We are just going to continue to look out for our members."

According to Traver, the union is happy with Administrative Law Judge Geoffrey Carter's decision, which faulted the college for suspending collective bargaining from February to June 2011, failing to comply with information requests and submitting a contract proposal that would have deprived

the union of well-established bargaining rights.

The 87-page decision also ordered the college to compensate Diana Vallera, P-Fac president and adjunct faculty member in the Photography Department, for not assigning her a second course in fall 2012 because of her union activities but found that the school was within its rights to not assign her a summer school course in 2012, as reported by The Chronicle Sept. 4, 2012.

The college did not violate the law by investigating Vallera's claim of surveillance by the school's legal counsel, but should not have contemplated disciplinary proceed-

ings against her for filing a police report that lacked factual support, the opinion stated.

According to the National Labor Relations Board, false and inaccurate employee statements are protected under the act unless they are knowingly false or otherwise maliciously made.

The judge also ruled that Columbia needs to bargain with P-Fac regarding compensation for adjuncts whose credit hours were reduced for 10 courses, including Accounting, Screenwriting Workshop, Directing I and Theory, Harmony & Analysis I and II.

While ordering the college to commence bargaining in good faith

over the contract and course reductions, the court declined to impose a range of penalties P-Fac requested, including granting of its bargaining conditions, payment of the union's legal fees, bargaining expenses and publication of the court order in The Chronicle.

"I do not find that [Columbia] has shown a proclivity to violate the [NLRB] Act," the opinion stated on Page 78. "Nor do I find that [Columbia] has engaged in egregious or widespread misconduct that demonstrates a general disregard for employees' fundamental statutory rights."

» [SEE P-FAC](#), PG. 7

## Story Week festival 2013 recap

by **Megan Purazrang & Jacob Wittich**  
Assistant Campus Editor & Contributing Writer

**THE 17TH ANNUAL** Story Week festival hosted by Columbia's Fiction Writing Department March 17-22 welcomed award-winning writers like Sapphire, author of "Push," which inspired the motion picture "Precious," Jane Hamilton, author of "The Book of Ruth" and Emma Straub, author of "Laura Lamont's Life in Pictures," as well as other established writers.

The week comprised of 18 events spread out over six days and included panels, lectures, book signing and readings. The week's events also gave students

opportunities to meet industry professionals. The Chronicle compiled a recap in case you missed any of the week's highlights.

### **Conversations With Sapphire, March 18**

During a lecture and Q-and-A, Sapphire discussed how Precious, the main character of "Push," represents the transition from a bad life to a more positive one. Sapphire said this contrasts with Abdul, the main character of her new novel "The Kid," and Precious' son, who was corrupted by the death of his mother, which left him in the care of a foster home, where he was gang-raped by a group of his foster brothers.

Abdul remained the main focus of the session, Sapphire explained how Abdul's love for sex and dance contributes to her commentary view on sexual abuse. According to her, Abdul's sexual nature contributes to his role as a sexual abuser, yet his passion for dance represents somebody who was sexually abused seeking to regain bodily control.

"Numerous heterosexual black writers and critics have bemoaned the portrayal of a one-dimensional portrait of the black man as a victimizer [in sexual abuse]," Sapphire said. "Few have had the courage to explore the obvious other end of the stick: the black male victim of sexual abuse."

» [SEE STORY WEEK](#), PG. 8



Kevin Gebhardt THE CHRONICLE

Sapphire, author of the book "Push," which was adapted into the award-winning film "Precious," hosts a book signing March 18 after a reading from her new novel "The Kid."

# Editor's note

by Heather Schröering  
Editor-in-Chief

## Transfer initiative comes too late

**CURRENTLY IN THE** works is a new transfer initiative that will be implemented in May to make life easier for students coming to Columbia from other colleges.

Students will soon be able to use a web guide called u.select to see how credits they earned at other colleges will transfer to Columbia (see article on Front Page). The program will also approximate the cost and time a transfer student will need to earn a Columbia degree with their prior credits.

The college addressing the issues with its transfer program is a giant leap in the right direction. Anything that benefits students is a good thing. Keri Walters, head of the initiative and assistant dean for faculty advising in the School of Fine & Performing Arts, said she was glad the program is coming in a timely matter. While it's excellent that the initiative is quick to get off the ground, it's certainly not timely in any other regard.

Students transferring to Columbia often run into problems getting their credits to transfer, resulting in additional expenses to pay for courses similar to those they already took. With Columbia students defaulting on their loans at a higher rate than in previous years, as reported by The Chronicle Feb. 22, added costs are the last thing they need.

Historically, Columbia has been late to the party on several occasions, and it most always causes students to foot the bill. For instance, Columbia has built and purchased two new buildings in the last five years, while the economic downturn was causing enrollment to decrease. Making up for those poor decisions are the students, who have seen a combined 9.6 percent tuition increase just in the last year.

Additionally, transfer enrollment is on the decline. In 2011, Columbia had about 1,600 transfer students, but that number has dropped to a little more than 1,200. When enrollment falls, tuition rises, and these negative effects on students are a result of poor planning, as Columbia administrators regularly only address situations once they are problems.

Another part of the transfer initiative is working with local and suburban community colleges to establish feeder programs, or schools with programs that lead into programs at other schools. More than 50 percent of transfer students come from the 18 colleges Columbia hopes to connect with.

Again, this is a smart move on the college's part, but plenty of other institutions have been doing this for years. For instance, the College of DuPage offers a program



called the "Engineering 2+2 Program" that guarantees admission to the more advanced engineering program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Walters also said the college is not looking into increasing transfer programs at this time but to assess those that are already transfer-friendly.

Hopefully, the college will work at creating more transferable programs to help lower the cost of earning a degree by allowing more students to come in with credits from cheaper community colleges.

It's great that Columbia is finally working to be more flexible with transfer students, but college isn't getting any cheaper. Columbia should be doing anything it can to benefit students, especially if it saves them money.

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# THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

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James Foster THE CHRONICLE

On March 20, Jackie Spinner, an assistant professor in the Journalism Department, helps a student into a flak jacket she used while reporting from Iraq. On this day 10 years ago, the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq began. Spinner is a former Baghdad Bureau Chief for the Washington Post.

## CORRECTIONS

In the March 18 issue, an article on St. Patrick's Day festivities headlined, "ShamROCK shenanigans" mistakenly identified Bridget Fitzgerald as queen of the 2013 South Side Irish Parade. The queen of that parade was Margaret McGann, 24, of Palos Heights, while Fitzgerald was queen of the Downtown Chicago Parade. The same story should have stated that the South Side parade was shut down in 2010 and 2011 after rowdiness in the 2009 parade, that it was reinstated in 2012, and that the City Council approved stricter fines for such rowdiness Feb. 13. The article titled "New chair takes reins of board of trustees" should have said Richard Kiphart, the new chair of the Columbia board of trustees, is a current life trustee and former chair of Erikson Institute's board. The Chronicle apologizes for these errors.



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**Commentary:**  
Flirting vs. harassment. See pg. 23



Behind the Columbia Compliments Facebook page [Online exclusive video](#)

6 WEEKS LEFT SPRING 2013  
create... change

# THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2013

THE OFFICIAL NEWS SOURCE OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

VOLUME 48, ISSUE 24<sup>1/2</sup>

## Transfer initiative moves forward

by Tyler Eagle  
Assistant Campus Editor

**TRANSFERRING TO COLUMBIA** may become much easier for potential students as of April 1, when several facets of the college's transfer initiative will go into effect.

One of the initiative's programs is a web-based product called u.select, which gives students considering Columbia the ability to see how their earned college credits will transfer to the college. The college purchased u.select to help prospective transfer students easily estimate how much time and money Columbia will cost them prior to enrollment, according to Keri Walters, head of the initiative and the assistant dean for faculty advising in the School of Fine & Performing Arts.

"The transfer initiative will help make students' transition into college seamless and more transfer-friendly," Walters said.

Since 2007, transfer enrollment has been declining, with 1,258 transfer students enrolled as of fall 2012, down from 1,614 in 2011 and 1,573 in 2010, as reported by The Chronicle Dec. 10, 2012. The college saw a steady increase in enrollment of transfer students until 2007, at which point 2,085 transfer students



James Foster THE CHRONICLE

Keri Walters, assistant dean for Faculty Advising, has been leading a campus-wide initiative that the college hopes will make transferring to Columbia easier and more transparent for prospective students.

were enrolled at the college.

One of the initiative's main aims is to update the listing of courses the college will accept as transferable and those courses' equivalencies, as determined by the department in which the course is taught,

according to Walters.

"Students coming to us from other schools need to know what courses are going to be applied to their degree requirement," Walters said. The equivalencies are being updated primarily to ensure trans-

fer students will be placed into program sequences at a level that reflects their knowledge, according to Walters.

"We need to make sure that a student is ready to take the next upper-level course in a major,"

Walters said. "The other end is that a student might be forced to take a course with material that a student may have already had."

Departments are required to

» SEE TRANSFER, PG. 7

## 3-on-3 tournament offers ballin' prizes

by Nader Ihmoud  
Sports Web Editor

**THE RENEGADES ARE** raising the stakes in their upcoming 3-on-3 basketball tournament after a large turnout at their 4-on-4 volleyball tournament.

Tickets to the April 11 Chicago Bulls vs. New York Knicks game—valued at approximately \$80 per ticket—will be presented to the three winners of the tournament, which will take place April 9 at the South Loop Elementary gym, 1212 S. Plymouth Court.

Renegades Treasurer Marcus Marquez said he expects another big turnout for the sports organization, considering that more than 70 people participated in the March 14 volleyball tournament at the gym. The Renegades awarded \$25 AMC Theater gift cards to the winners of that tournament.

"We are expecting a big turnout, and we wanted the prize to be something great and worth competing for," said Renegades President Abby Cress.

The Renegades paid for the tickets using their own budget, some of

which the college funds, with the rest earned through fundraising, according to Cress.

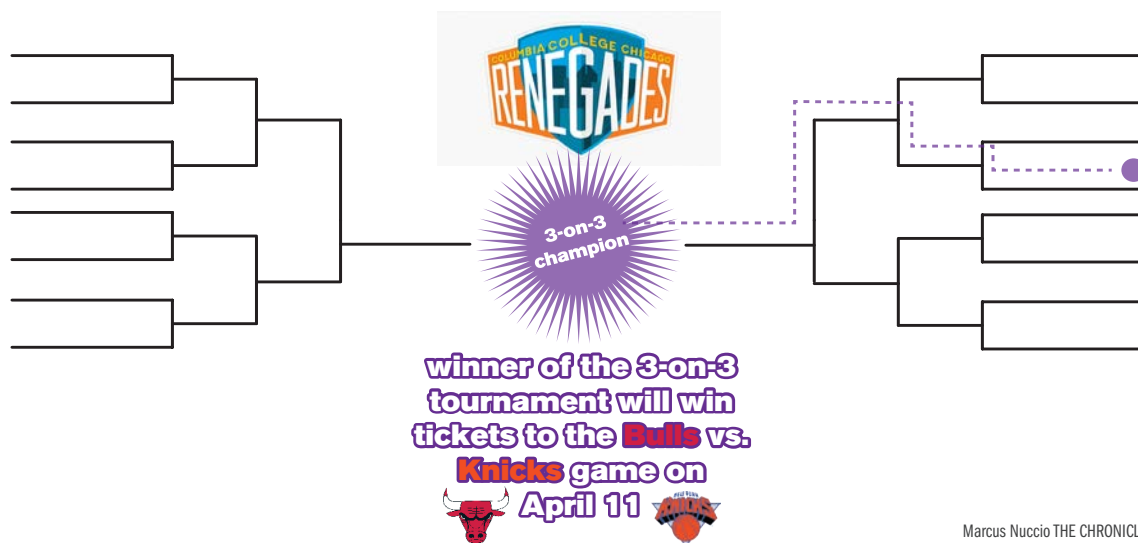
In anticipation of the crowd, the South Loop Elementary School will allow the Renegades to open their

auditorium, creating extra seating and playing space, according to Marquez.

"[The volleyball tournament] was crazy, so hopefully the 3-on-3 basketball will be even crazier," he said.

The Renegades will cap the tournament at 20 teams because they only have the gym rented for two hours and expect the tournament

» SEE RENEGADES, PG. 11



Marcus Nuccio THE CHRONICLE



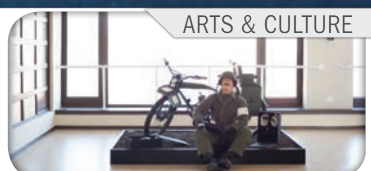
CAMPUS

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