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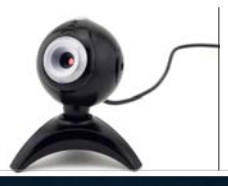
Commentary: Fight the end of online privacy. **See pg. 33**



2 SPRING 2013 WEEKS LEFT

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THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

MONDAY, APRIL 29, 2013 | THE OFFICIAL NEWS SOURCE OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO | VOLUME 48, ISSUE 28

R&B diva dazzles Biggest Mouth competition

Photos Carolina Sanchez THE CHRONICLE

Daryn Alexus, a senior arts, entertainment, & media management major, won first place in the seventh Annual Biggest Mouth music competition April 24 at the Metro, 3730 N. Clark St., where 12 Columbia bands and artists competed for the $1,000 first place prize and other rewards. The R&B artist and her band performed two original songs, "Tell Me" and "Anywhere." She will release her new album, "Modern Love Vol. 2" at Shop Columbia in May.

International conflict stirred up on campus

by Tyler Eagle
Assistant Campus Editor

THE ISRAELI - PALESTINIAN conflict came to Columbia last week when a documentary detailing the life of people in a West Bank village under Israeli occupation was screened a month after a presentation from the Israeli perspective was indefinitely postponed.

Several groups, including the International Student Organization and The Ellen Stone Belic Institute of Women & Gender in the Arts and Media, sponsored an April 23 screening of "5 Broken Cameras" at Film Row Cinema, 1104 S. Wabash Ave. The Oscar-nominated documentary by Israeli director Guy Davidi and Palestinian director Emad Burnat follows Burnat and his family as they nonviolently resist Israeli occupation. But in March, ISO postponed an event proposed by Columbia Hillel, a Jewish faith-based organization on campus that would have included a presentation by Israeli Defense Forces soldiers about what they face every day, according to Benjamin Cohen, junior film & video major and vice president of Columbia Hillel.

The "5 Broken Cameras" event concluded with a 40-minute panel discussion between Iymen Chehade, an adjunct professor in the Humanities, History and Social Sciences Department who teaches The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict course, and Lynn Pollack, a member of Jewish Voices for Peace, a national organization that, as stated on its website, "provides a voice for Jews and allies who believe that peace in the Middle East will be achieved through justice and full equality for both Palestinians and Israelis."

In a letter to Hillel, Chehade had turned down a request from Cohen that a third panelist representing the official Israeli point of view be included in the program.

The discussion at the event became a political dialogue, at which both panelists and many audience members declared their support for nonviolent Palestinian resistance of Israeli occupation.

At one point, Chehade implied the Jewish state is perpetuating similar injustice done during World War II when entire ethnic groups were uprooted. He argued that the occupation of the Palestinian territories is illegal under United Nation's Security Council Resolution 465 (1980).

"You cannot take your own population, put them in an area you occupy and then displace the indigenous people," Chehade contended. "This is something many countries did during World War II in Eastern

» SEE CONFLICT, PG. 9

Music major conducts strings in sky

STOCK PHOTO

by Doug Pitorak
Sports & Health Editor

WHEN THE ACADEMIC year ends May 18, some Columbia students will be graduating while others will already be thinking about the fall semester. But most students will not be going to Michigan to fly a kite in front of thousands of people.

However, Zach Gordon, 21, a junior music major and national champion kite flyer, will be doing just that.

According to Gordon, he is scheduled to perform May 17–19 at the 25th Annual Great Lakes Kite Festival in Grand Haven, Mich. Gordon said the performance consists of choreographing his kite to a piece of music, which is referred to as ballet in the sport of kite flying.

Gordon has won 13 individual events between 2002–2009 at the annual national convention hosted by the American Kitefliers Association. He said his neighbors at his family's former vacation home in Michigan introduced him to the sport, an activity Gordon enjoys with or without the competitive aspect.

"When you launch the kite and you feel it on the end of the line, it's just very calming," Gordon said. "It relieves a lot of stress to just fly in general."

According to Gordon, who last

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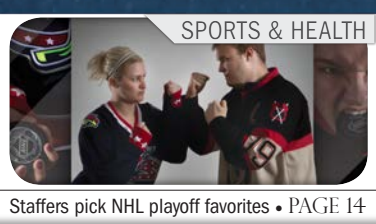
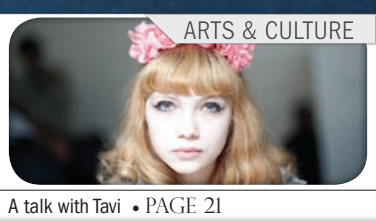
Tunnel of Oppression returns • PAGE 8



Staffers pick NHL playoff favorites • PAGE 14



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Editor's note

by Heather Schröering
Editor-in-Chief

Avoiding a double standard

LAST WEEK, THE Ellen Stone Belic Institute for the Study of Women & Gender in the Arts and Media, along with others on campus, screened "5 Broken Cameras," a documentary that follows a Palestinian man and his family, who live on the West Bank in the midst of the ceaseless Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and their struggles as they use nonviolent resistance to Israeli settlements that threaten to encroach on their home.

However, an event involving soldiers of the Israeli Defense Forces, Israel's military, was postponed earlier this semester. When Columbia's Jewish student organization, Hillel, approached the International Student Organization, which sponsored "5 Broken Cameras," to support the event, ISO hesitated, concerned that it wouldn't present balanced perspectives. Ultimately, IDF soldiers were not able to visit campus because they were only in town for a short time.

This is not to say ISO has an agenda to squelch the Israeli perspective in the argument. The organization didn't say no, but the hesitation looks a little unfair from the outside.

The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict has long been a polarizing issue, and, much like gay marriage, there doesn't seem to be much middle ground on the subject. It's by no means a black and white dilemma, though. It's a complex topic that dates back more than a century and has culminated in an issue of monumental contentiousness.

I did not see the screening of the film, nor was I present for the discussion. I cannot say whether the event was one-sided or not. I have also never been to an event with IDF soldiers. But the issue at hand here isn't about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. What it comes down to is a lack of fairness on the college's part: One group was able to present a perspective on an issue while another group was not able to do the same.

Contrary to Director of International Student Affairs Gigi Posejpal's statement to The Chronicle that "all sides of an issue should be presented at events," I don't believe all campus events that advocate a cause need to be neutral because that's not what advocacy is. Is the LGBT student organization Common Ground required to invite a homophobic individual to its events to talk about why gay people don't deserve rights? I don't think so.

All events must, however, allow attendees to freely voice their opinions, no matter what they may be, because the First Amendment gives us that right. But we have to be able to decipher perspectives from facts. Complicated issues like the Israeli-Palestinian conflict come with numerous perspectives that often put people at odds.

But personal opinions aside, the facts are these: Not everyone agrees IDF soldiers are propagandists, though some may view them as such. Not everyone agrees that Hamas, the Palestinians' military organization, is a terrorist group, though some may view it as that. Not everyone agrees that the United States' aid to Israel is funding terrorism, though some may view it as that.

Overall, if ISO, which advocates "promoting your own culture," is going to endorse bringing a controversial issue with many conflicting views to campus, it absolutely must be fair in doing so. Student groups have every right to present their take–no matter the issue–so long as others are able to respond.

hschroering@chroniclemail.com

CAMPUS EVENTS

MONDAY April 29

Analytical Studies Recital
5:15 p.m. / Sherwood Community Music School, Concert Hall / 1312 S. Michigan Ave. / FREE

Blues Ensemble 1 & 2 in Concert
7 p.m. / Music Center, Concert Hall / 1014 S. Michigan Ave. / FREE

TUESDAY April 30

Contact Improv Jam
5–7 p.m. / Wabash Campus, Room 221 / 916 S. Wabash Ave. / FREE

Acoustic Kitchen
6:30–9 p.m. / HAUS @ Quincy Wong Center / 623 S. Wabash Ave. / FREE

WEDNESDAY May 1

The Big Read: Code Name: Butterflies
6–8 p.m. / Film Row Cinema / 1014 S. Wabash Ave. / FREE

La Evolución and Chévere at HAUS
7 p.m. / HAUS @ Quincy Wong Center / 623 S. Wabash Ave. / FREE

THURSDAY May 2

Cultural Studies Colloquium with Stephanie Frank
4–6 p.m. /Collins Hall, Room 602 / 624 S. Michigan Ave. / FREE

Mad Men Mixer
5–8:30 p.m. / 1104 Center, Conaway Center / 1104 S. Wabash Ave. / FREE

FRIDAY May 3

Career Fridays: Industry Events Rundown
Noon–1 p.m. / Portfolio Center, Room 311 / 623 S. Wabash Ave. / FREE

Battle of the Artist
7–9:30 p.m. / 1104 Center, Conaway Center / 1104 S. Wabash Ave. / FREE

Featured Photo

Rena Naltsas THE CHRONICLE

Mike Lahood, an interdisciplinary arts and media graduate, vowed to love the Earth April 22 at the Sculpture Garden at Wabash Avenue and East 11th Street. Lahood participated in Earth Day Wedding, where Reverend Christopher Bednash joined students and the Earth in holy matrimony.

THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

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Bands get loud at Biggest Mouth

Photos Carolina Sanchez THE CHRONICLE

Julius Daye (top left), freshman audio acoustics major and lead emcee of his hip-hop band, Hanna Ashbrook (right) lead singer of her indie rock group, and Lynnea Malley (bottom left), singer and keyboardist in the indie rock band Earl., were three of the 12 bands chosen to perform April 22 in the 7th annual Biggest Mouth competition at The Metro 3730 N. Clark St.

by **Tatiana Walk-Morris**
Assistant Campus Editor

AS THE STUDENT Programming Board scrambled backstage to keep things moving the 7th Annual Biggest Mouth competition at the Metro, 3730 N. Clark St., Kylie Marcus, a sophomore music major, and Tim Barry, a sophomore film & video major, prepared backstage for their performance. Barry, drummer for the band Kylie Marcus, named after the group's lead singer, sat beside Marcus wearing a black suit with two drumsticks in hand.

"If you want to see the next big star, that'll be me," Barry said, smiling confidently.

After the previous group finished its performance, Kylie Marcus hit the stage and the crowd went silent to hear her sing. Kylie Marcus, along with 11 other bands, competed in the Biggest Mouth competition April 22 for cash prizes and glory before an audience of approximately 700 people.

Barry's premonition didn't place Kylie Marcus among the winners, however. Daryn Alexus, senior music major and lead singer of her eponymous R&B band, won first place, which came with a $1,000 check, microphones and headphones from Shure, an audio equipment company and event sponsor. Foreign Shores, an indie rock group, received $750 for second place and Upsin Hounds, an indie pop group, won audience choice for third place and $500.

Singing soulfully, Alexus expressed gratitude to the audience and her band members. She said she and some of her band caught colds before the performance, but they played, their best.

"I had no idea how the show was going to go," Alexus said. "Before we went on stage, my band and I just prayed, and we were like, 'Let's just do what we can. Whatever happens, happens.'"

Nick Rynott, lead singer of Foreign Shores, said the band was surprised to win second place with its mash-up of 80s and 90s style rock music with a modern twist. The group doesn't have any EPs out yet, but he said the band is using its winnings to record its debut EP titled "Into Nothing," which will be released mid-summer.

"We were playing a different style of music," Rynott said. "We were surprised to have it received so well."

McKenna Shelly and Catherine Poulos, junior music majors and singers for Upsin Hounds, said winning Audience Choice felt good. During the band's set, they sang "Rain Fall Blue," written by Shelly, and "Three of Me," a song written by the entire group.

"It felt really great to be on that stage," Poulos said. "The energy was awesome."

The other bands that performed were Armitage, Coaster, Hanna Ashbrook, American Wolf, Alma, Julius Daye, Titans and Tantrums and Earl. Students voted for audience choice by tweeting @SPBColumbia with the band name and the hashtag BiggestMouth.

According to David McEachin, Student Programming Board president, the judges who selected the first and second place winners were Mike Reed, a presenter for music festivals such as Pitchfork and drummer for local jazz band People, Places & Things, Blake Witsman, co-owner of Kilo Records, and Natalie Roman, who works with bands such as The Antlers, BRAIDS, Cults, Givers and Maps & Atlases.

During the event, a member of one band was told to leave after the student was caught drinking, McEachin said. McEachin declined to provide the name of the band member or the band. Before performing at Biggest Mouth, all performers signed a contract that prohibited them from drinking at the Columbia-sponsored event, he said.

Because the other members of the band had not breached their contracts, they played after their band member left, he added. About 130 bands auditioned Feb. 27–March 1 to perform at Biggest Mouth, but SPB chose 12 bands of different styles to ensure that all genres were represented, McEachin said.

The three board members selected acts based on originality, quality of music and other criteria, McEachin said.

"This event is normally more indie rock, but we really tried to get some soul, jazz, even a little hip-hop, as well as some pop, just because we think that better represents the Columbia community," McEachin said.

Julius Daye, freshman audio arts & acoustics major, was the only hip-hop act at this year's Biggest Mouth. He said being chosen to perform at one of Columbia's biggest events was exciting for him.

"I didn't really grasp it until I actually met with [the coordinators of Biggest Mouth]," Daye said.

McEachin said he could not disclose the budget used to set up Biggest Mouth but added that the Student Activity Fee helped fund it, along with several community sponsors, including Grammy U, a nationwide community of college musicians that enhances music education; Shure, an audio equipment company; Music Garage Chicago, a studio rehearsal facility located at 345 N. Loomis St.; Popchips, a company that makes healthy potato chips; and Field Notes, a notebook, pen and paper manufacturing company.

Approximately 750–900 students attend Biggest Mouth annually, McEachin said. Although SPB tried to pick diverse bands, Shakia McDavid, a sophomore marketing communications major, said the show needed a better variety of acts.

"The artists were dope but the variety sucked," McDavid said. "[Out of] all bands [that performed]... how many hip-hop artists was it? One? It wasn't fair."

Other attendees, like Joey Dwyre, thought the show had diverse artists.

"[Biggest Mouth] was very legit," Dwyre said. "Some of [the acts] I liked better than others, but overall I enjoyed it."

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SGA holds First Annual College Forum

Carolina Sanchez THE CHRONICLE

Kendall Klitzke, Student Government Association president and junior television major, answered questions alongside Matthew Case, senior marketing communications major and student representative to the board of trustees, during SGA's First Annual College Forum April 24 at the HAUS in the 623 S. Wabash Ave. Building.

by Alexandra Kukulka
Campus Editor

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT Association hosted its First Annual College Forum April 24 at the HAUS in the 623 S. Wabash Ave. Building, at which students shared their questions and concerns about the college with the SGA.

The event replaced the SGA's forum week, during which SGA senators would hold discussions with their respective departments, according to Kendall Klitzke, SGA president and junior television major. Forum week "wasn't working" because it was not highly attended, and SGA did not have strong relationships with all departments, Klitzke said.

"[The SGA held] a college-wide student forum, given that there are a lot of changes going on throughout the school, but it is a similar idea [to forum week]," Klitzke said. "We are collecting direct feedback from students and using that to power initiatives and to go back to the administration."

During the April 24 forum, 15 students sat down with 15 SGA members to talk about tuition increases, part-time faculty members and plans for the new library.

Matthew Case, student representative to the board of trustees and senior marketing communications major, began a conversation about tuition increases by saying all higher education institutions increase tuition to accommodate the rate of inflation, faculty salaries and new technology.

However, according to Bret Hamilton, sophomore film & video major, tuition at Columbia has been increasing "well over" the rate of inflation, which means a student who attends the college for four years will end up paying for five years worth of schooling.

"I don't think this is something we should discount as inflation," Hamilton said. "I think student government should be fighting this harder, and we shouldn't just accept an [increase] in tuition."

Case said the administration is focusing on increasing fundraising efforts to generate money for the college in lieu of relying on tuition increases for additional funding. Columbia's next president, Kwang-Wu Kim, who will take over for current President Warrick L. Carter in August, has experience in fundraising and is working to increase the alumni donor base, Klitzke said.

"We have a huge fundraising committee right now that is trying to acquire more scholarships and make sure that the school is affordable for incoming freshmen and new students," Case said.

After the tuition increase was announced, Klitzke said she met with the board of trustees to relay that students were not pleased with the increase and felt blindsided by the college-wide emails that were sent to announce it.

"One of the things that I stressed was the delivery of the [tuition increase] information and also how [the administration] can better incorporate students into the process of how those decisions are made," Klitzke said.

Hamilton redirected the conversation to P-Fac, Columbia's part-time faculty organization, inquiring about the SGA's response to the treatment of part-time faculty members by the administration.

Klitzke said she had a chance to talk with Diana Vallera, P-Fac president and adjunct faculty member in the Photography Department, when they both served on the Presidential Advisory Panel, a group of 22 members tasked with selecting Columbia's presidential candidates and suggesting them to the board of trustees.

After having multiple conversations with Vallera, Klitzke said it became evident that students were directly affected by the way part-time faculty members are treated.

"There is a direct correlation between how our faculty are being treated and student satisfaction," Klitzke said. "When our teachers aren't being treated well, it comes through, and [students] know because it affects their experience [at Columbia] directly."

P-Fac has been negotiating a contract with the administration for three years and has yet to come to an agreement. Hamilton said that the administration cannot continue to increase tuition while paying part-time faculty members poorly.

Case said although the SGA agrees students are impacted by the way the college treats part-time faculty members, it is difficult to pay them more without raising

» SEE FORUM, PG. 10

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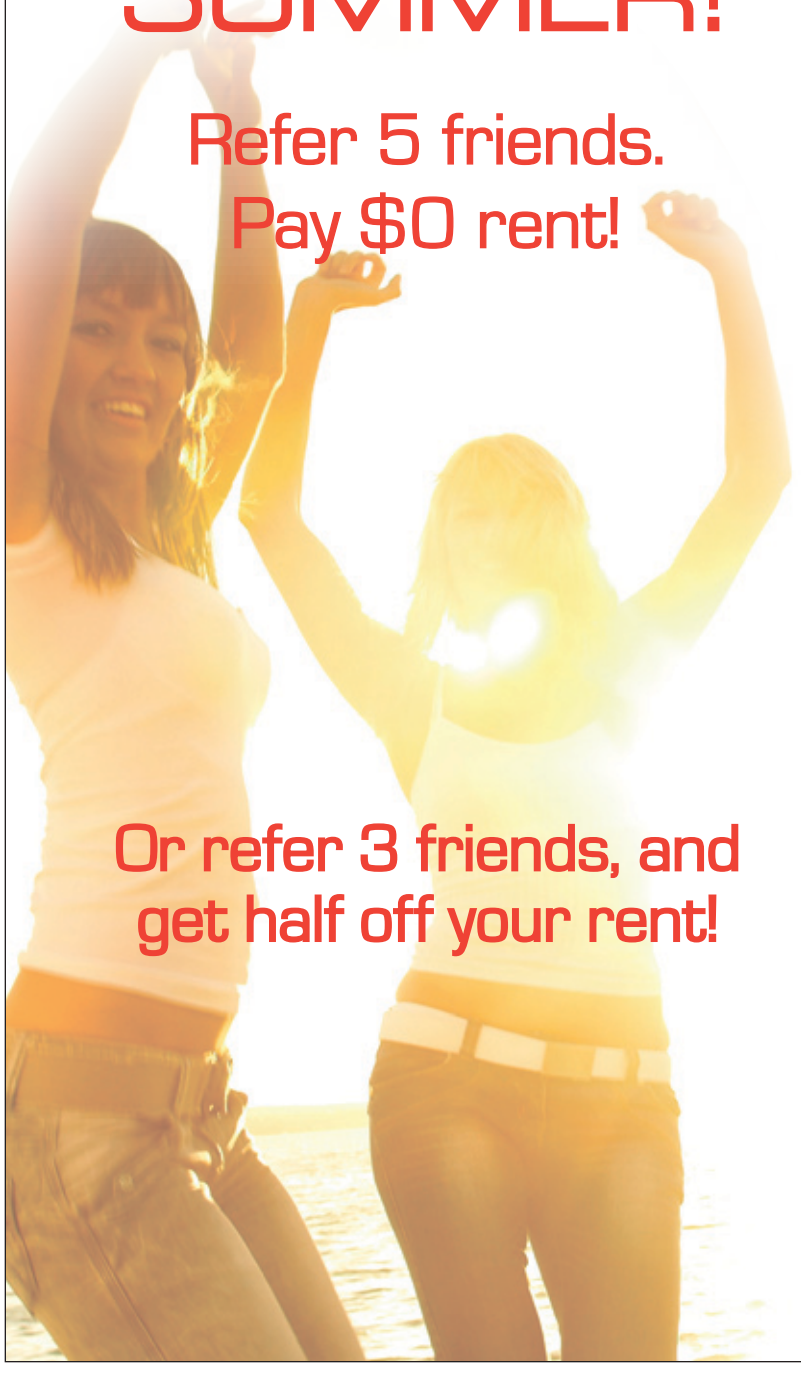

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Students 'Lookin' Fine on a Dime'

by Alexandra Kukulka
Campus Editor

AS PART OF a week-long, city-wide money management campaign, Columbia students were encouraged to create a stylish outfit on a budget.

The "Lookin' Fine on a Dime" contest challenged students to create an entire outfit for less than $25 using only one fashion piece from their closets, according to David Johnson, marketing communications and outreach coordinator for Student Financial Services. Submissions were accepted March 18—April 8, and three finalists were announced during Money Smart Week, April 20—27, Johnson said.

The event is part of national Money Smart Week, an effort sponsored by the Federal Reserve Bank and hundreds of other organizations to encourage people to better budget their finances though classes, workshops and seminars.

To participate in the contest, students had to submit photos of their outfits and receipts as well as answer six questions about their experience and budget decisions, Johnson said.

"[SFS] has always been trying to find a way to make [Money Smart Week] unique to Columbia and our student interest," Johnson said. "This year, we thought of promoting budgeting and financial literacy with student interest in mind. Columbia is very fashion forward, so we thought of this contest."

The contest received 14 submissions, Johnson said. A panel of faculty members in the Fashion Studies Department judged the submissions and selected three finalists: Han Na Lee, junior fashion studies major, Alejandro Flores, senior radio major and Jenny Valle, junior art and design major.

> "You can find anything in a thrift store, no matter what style you are going for."
> – Alejandro Flores

According to Johnson, the winner, who has not yet been selected, will be awarded $500, with second and third place contenders receiving $150 and $100, respectively. Johnson said it is unknown when the winners will be chosen.

Lee described her outfit as "contemporary and edgy," wearing a black silk top ($4, Salvation Army) and black pants ($5, Salvation Army), accessorizing with gold-studded black heels ($10, Chernin's Shoes) and sunglasses ($5, Pay Half Family Clothes).

"I am pretty short on my budget for shopping, so it was like my regular shopping circumstance," Lee said. "I always like shopping on a budget, so that is what I did, and I am happy with my outfit."

Flores said he bought all the pieces for his outfit from Village Discount outlet, 2032 N. Milwaukee Ave.

He said it had a casual springtime look, featuring a light blue t-shirt ($2), a dark blue cotton suit jacket ($15) and black Cole Haan loafers ($5). Flores said he used his own pants because he had a difficult time finding a pair that fit him.

"You can find anything in a thrift store, no matter what style you are going for," Flores said.

To find her outfit, Valle said she wandered to Clothes Mentor, a thrift shop in Schaumburg, Ill., looking for various prints and styles that she could easily match. Valle put together a gray turtleneck top with ruffled sleeves ($8), a cheetah print skirt ($12) and added her own necklace and black shoes.

Johnson said SFS was pleased to receive 14 submissions, but the department would like to see more students get involved.

"Everyone is busy, and [SFS] gets that, but with the prize money being that high and only getting 14 submissions, we definitely want to increase that number going forward," Johnson said.

Photos courtesy DAVID JOHNSON

Finalists Jenny Valle, junior art and design major, Alejandro Flores, senior radio major, and Han Na Lee, junior fashion studies major submitted budget-conscious outfits for the "Lookin' Fine on a Dime" contest.

To further promote Money Smart Week and the "Lookin' Fine on a Dime" contest, Johnson said a group of students from the Film & Video Department is filming a video about the three finalists. Valle said she is normally a smart shopper, but she enjoyed making the video to educate others on how to shop on a budget.

"I found it interesting to learn how I could interpret this in a way to inform others on how they can be financially savvy," Valle said. "It was interesting for me to see how I could tell others to finance their budgets better."

Once the video is complete, it will be posted on the Money Smart Week website so all of the campaign's national partners can see how Columbia students approached financial literacy and budgeting, Johnson said.

"[The video] was our way of providing a good look at how people are being financially savvy, and because our students [participated], it would be a really good look at how students accomplished this," Johnson said.

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Students rise in carbonated contest

by Tyler Eagle
Assistant Campus Editor

TWO COLUMBIA STUDENTS could be selected to have their Sprite commercial played in movie theaters across the country this September.

Sean Grasse, a senior film & video major, and Sam Bengtson, a senior arts, entertainment and media management major, received $15,000 from the Sprite Films competition to create a commercial for the company based on story boards they created titled "Heart of the Hood."

The pair is one of four finalist teams that visited CinemaCon April 16–19, a Las Vegas conference for the movie theater industry, on behalf of the Sprite Films competition. They received training on how to film and produce their commercial at the conference, according to Karen Loop, an assistant professor in the Film & Video Department and faculty adviser to the team.

"[The competition] is very elite and prestigious," Loop said. "Students get a lot of attention from the Hollywood community."

For the first time in 14 years, Columbia students had the chance to participate in the Sprite Films competition, Loop said. Previously, the competition was to select schools but added Columbia after Loop asked Sprite to allow the college to enter.

The other schools with teams in the final round are Elon University in North Carolina, Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia and the University of California-Los Angeles, according to an April 16 press release from the Coca Cola Company.

"We entered the competition on a whim," Bengtson said. "We didn't know we had gold going in, but it turns out we did."

According to Bengtson, a crew of 20 Columbia students is working on a commercial about the wall of a building based on the storyboards he and Grasse created. Originally, the commercial depicted the wall throughout time, starting with the '60s and progressing to the present day. He said Sprite liked the idea but wanted something more focused, so they went through a redesign.

The concept for the commercial changed to show people from different cultures and backgrounds united by walking in front of the wall, representing how a city is the sum of all its parts, Bengtson said.

A Sprite representative visited the Film & Video Department on Feb. 13 to host an informational session about the contest, which was attended by more than 150 students, Loop said. There were 70 applications from Columbia, and the competition had more than 300 applicants in total, she said.

The $15,000 the team received will be used to offset production costs, according to Loop. The contest requires that $5,000 be collectively used to pay actors contracted to appear in the commercial, $3,000 for paying filming taxes and the remaining funds will mainly go to equipment rental, Loop said.

Shooting took place April 26–28 at the intersection of North Leavitt Street and West Lake Street on the Near West Side. According to Bengtson, the current location was originally a back-up setting, but because the business owner at the original location backed out, they are using that intersection.

"We're excited about the new location and think it will turn out well in the end," Bengtson said.

Loop said the first draft of the video project is due May 30, with the final edit due June 15. The four finalists' films will be featured on the competition's website to be viewed before the overall winner is announced in September. A panel of industry professionals will make the final decision, she said.

Sprite filmmakers will also be shooting a behind-the-scenes style documentary of the competition that will play in theaters beginning in August, according to Loop. She said the documentary will show in more than 20,000 theaters across the country.

The overall winner will be awarded a $30,000 contract with the Coca–Cola Company, which will pay for the group to work on a large project, Bengtson said.

Courtesy STEVE KAUFFMAN
Sean Grasse, senior film & video major, and Sam Bengtson, senior arts, entertainment and media management major, are finalists in the Sprite Films contest.

Grasse said he became interested when he learned that Sprite was pushing the idea of urban advocacy. As a native of the city's suburbs, he said he wanted to show what it is like to be part of Chicago. He hopes his work will some day inspire future filmmakers.

"I want to influence someone like I have been influenced by so many great directors," Grasse said.

Bengtson and Grasse have collaborated on projects prior to the competition, such as a music video for the ambient Chicago band Biiko, and a promotional video for the food truck Tamale Spaceship.

Bengtson said he thinks the team has a good chance of winning, and if they win the entire competition, they will use the money to start a production company.

"The contest is more than a stepping stone," Bengtson said. "It's a ladder to the next phase of my life."

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One Tribe guides students through the 'Tunnel of Oppression'

by Julia Halpin
Contributing Writer

TWO DOCTORS AND their patient sit in a screening room. Pictures of nude men appear on the screen as the patient screams, "I'm not gay!" They shock him, using aversion therapy to "cure" his homosexuality.

Aversion therapy, government torture, police brutality and lynch mobs were all topics addressed at the Tunnel of Oppression, an annual event hosted and organized by One Tribe, a student group that focuses on social justice issues.

Walking from room to room, students witnessed different forms of modern injustices in an in-your-face way, weaving through a haunted house-like maze of dark curtains into elaborately staged scenes.

Ramona Gupta, coordinator of Asian American Cultural Affairs and adviser for One Tribe, said the goal of Tunnel of Oppression was to help students and community members better understand international controversies.

"The idea behind [Tunnel of Oppression] is to create an interactive sensory experience for people in our community [and] for people in Columbia to witness, experience [and] understand issues of oppression, discrimination [and] prejudice," Gupta said.

Stephanie Mateja, a junior film & video major, said after walking through the tunnel, she was shocked by the experience.

Mateja said she made a personal connection to the aversion therapy scene because she is part of the LGBT community.

"I [think] the way a student organization can put something like this together is really creative and effective," Mateja said. "You pass this level of immersion that you can't step away from, and it makes you see [a new] reality."

Corina Serrer-Marcano, a junior journalism major and one of 10 One Tribe Scholars, a group of select students particularly interested in issues of social injustice, said the Tunnel of Oppression was a success, and she saw people express unexpected emotions of distress.

"I think people who have never heard of One Tribe and went through [the tunnel] really liked it," Serrer-Marcano said. "[This is] what One Tribe is all about–actually getting to know more about these problems–because they are happening and people need to know about them."

Along with addressing issues of social injustice, One Tribe, which is made up of about 30 students, provides forums throughout the year for students to openly discuss diversity and ways to improve the attitude toward diversity at Columbia, Gupta said.

Started in 2010 out of the Multicultural Affairs office, Gupta said the group was created because there were issues of diversity on Columbia's campus, including unifying the student body, which needed to be addressed.

Though in its first year it did not have the scholars program, Gupta said One Tribe grew and wanted to give a stipend to people who were passionate about performing social justice work.

Serrer-Marcano said One Tribe plans events that revolve around the same issues group members and their fellow students are facing, like becoming accustomed to American culture.

Including the Tunnel of Oppression, One Tribe has held regular open forums throughout the year and hosted last semester's "Speak out Shake out!" event, where students expressed their personal issues with diversity through poetry and other art forms.

"I really see One Tribe as building community among students, especially cross-cultural community," Gupta said. "Our students are in our classrooms, and they're learning from professors, and they're learning from each other, but this is a way outside of the classroom to really build community and to learn from each other while they're here."

While One Tribe strives to promote diversity, Gupta said the group can't be the only entity working to improve the environment for underrepresented students on campus.

Though One Tribe is making huge strides to change the cultural climate of Columbia, she said there is still a lot of work to do in terms of establishing acceptance of the diversity that Columbia and the city offer.

"[Columbia is] not a perfect place," Gupta said. "We have a lot of issues, especially when it comes to diversity and representation on campus, and this is one way for students to give voice to those issues and figure out how to address them."

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Rena Naltsas THE CHRONICLE
Students who attended the April 26 Tunnel of Oppression event in the 33 E. Congress Parkway Building immersed themselves in issues such as discrimination and prejudice. The tunnel is an annual event hosted by One Tribe, a Columbia student organization that raises awareness of social injustices. In this scene of the tunnel, a young man is torturing another young man for information using the waterboarding method.

» CONFLICT

Continued from Front Page

Europe with Russians, Poles and Jews."

Other remarks caused a number of people in the audience to walk out, such as when Pollack talked about her organization and its stances.

"Jewish Voices for Peace recommends ending U.S. military aid to Israel," Pollack said. "That's a position our organization stands behind strongly."

Her statement also drew audible applause from the audience.

Despite the pro-Palestinian tone of the discussion and the absence of a panelist to voice the official Israeli perspective, Chehade said afterwards that the program had been balanced.

"It was a balanced discussion," he said. "We didn't speak from a Palestinian perspective, and we didn't speak from an Israeli perspective but looked to the international law perspective."

Aldo Guzman, who as director of Student Engagement oversees campus events organized by students, said the IDF presentation was postponed because ISO feared the presentation would be one-sided. Because the soldiers were only in town for a short time, rescheduling the event for this semester was impossible, Guzman said.

"[ISO] was concerned that the views may be one-sided, and they wanted an event that would be more balanced, where both sides of the conflict could be represented," Guzman said. "We wanted to make sure that the event really presented the entire spectrum of the issue, not just one side."

Cohen said he was not upset that the "5 Broken Cameras" event happened, but that ISO postponed the IDF presentation while openly sponsoring an event he feared reflected only one side of the conflict. He also said he was concerned because he considers Jewish Voices for Peace a political group.

"I don't understand why there was a representative from a group with a political agenda," he said.

Cohen said he approached the Ellen Stone Belic Institute about adding another panelist with a pro-Israel stance to the "5 Broken Cameras" discussion, but the proposal was declined.

"If you're really trying to promote peace, then why would you have someone from a highly active political group and a Palestinian man?" Cohen said.

Cohen said he received an email from the institute following his inquiry stating that there would only be the two panelists, but he was welcome to attend the event and present his opinion.

"I do wish our school was a little more careful about events, and the planning behind them," Cohen said. "Once you have a political group involved, there is a message there."

According to Gigi Posejpal, director of international student affairs and co-adviser of the ISO, Cohen initially approached the organization a week prior to the event to see if a pro-Israel individual could be added as a panelist. ISO referred him to the institute because it wasn't involved in planning, Posejpal said.

Regarding the IDF event, Posejpal said it was postponed in March a week before it was set to take place because there was confusion as to what the event would consist of and also because of time constraints. There needed to be more concrete planning and more well-represented sides, Posejpal said.

Posejpal said ISO's involvement in the "5 Broken Cameras" screening was minimal, and the only involvement was that ISO's logo appeared on the poster. Because the organization was endorsing the event and not actually planning it, ISO could not make major changes, Posejpal said.

"All sides of an issue should be presented [at events]," Posejpal said. "If that does not happen, then we have failed as an institution."

Kevin Obomanu, co-adviser of ISO, said the organization agreed to sponsor the screening because it seemed balanced, whereas the IDF event did not.

"It's not that [ISO] is for or against issues," Obomanu said. "We thought [the IDF soldier event] wasn't a valid idea because we only had the two soldiers and not enough information about them."

James Foster THE CHRONICLE

Iymen Chehade, an adjunct professor who teaches The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict course, and Lynn Pollack, a representative of Jewish Voices for Peace, answered questions from audience members during a discussion following the screening of "5 Broken Cameras." The event prompted Ben Cohen, vice president of Columbia Hillel, to question why his event, which would have featured a presentation by Israeli soldiers, was cancelled one month prior.

Chehade said the personal nature of "5 Broken Cameras" makes it relatable, and he hopes the screening and discussion raised awareness.

"There has been a lack of a Palestinian voice for a long time, and films like '5 Broken Cameras' are helping to change that," Chehade said.

The Ellen Stone Belic Institute of Women & Gender in the Arts and Media sponsored the event and was in charge of coordinating the screening and discussion following the film, according to the institute's executive director Jane Saks.

The institute chose Chehade to lead the Q-and-A because he teaches a course on the Middle East at the college, and Pollack because her organization is trying to bring to light a model for peace, Saks said.

According to Saks, the discussion following the film was not intended to be narrow in focus and that organizers for the event reached out to various people both on and off campus to attend the event.

"The film is a deeply personal and firsthand account of nonviolent resistance," Saks said. "It's a really important opportunity to get a firsthand experience of a conflict that has been going on for generations."

To read Chehade's response to Hillel, see pg. 34.

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Columbia
COLLEGE CHICAGO

» FORUM

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tuition because that's where most of Columbia's income comes from.

"There is some irony in the statement of we want to increase [part-time faculty] salaries, yet we don't want to increase tuition when 90 percent of the funds for Columbia comes from tuition," Case said.

Gabrielle Wilson-Fisher, a junior marketing communications major, asked the SGA about Columbia's decision to purchase the Johnson Publishing Co. building, 820 S. Michigan Ave., and turn it into the new library.

According to Case, purchasing a new library was necessary because the weight of the library in the 624 S. Michigan Ave. Building is causing the structure to sink into the ground.

"[The new library] is actually not going to be book stacks," Case said. "It's actually really innovative and kind of like a student-teacher laboratory. It is really exciting what they are putting in here."

According to Wilson-Fisher, many conversations in the forum danced around the issues instead of finding solutions. She said the conversation should have focused on creating a way to make students feel heard on campus, and added that event attendance was low because it was poorly advertised and there is a lack of student interest.

"Our school is pretty big, so there should have been more people," Wilson-Fisher said. "That goes to show that people don't care anymore. They feel like change won't come about [at Columbia]."

Because the forum was held on the same night as One Tribe's Tunnel of Oppression, a haunted-house like experience at which students witness oppression, and Biggest Mouth, a student-run music competition, it was difficult to draw students to the event, Klitzke said.

According to Klitzke, the SGA will share the concerns students voiced during the meeting with the administration.

"[The SGA] will go to ... the people who are in charge of various offices and make it known what students are concerned about and what things can be done to alleviate different stresses that students have to deal with," Klitzke said.

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Carolina Sanchez THE CHRONICLE

During the Student Government Association's First Annual College Forum April 24 in the 623 S. Wabash Ave. Building, students raised concerns about tuition increases, part-time faculty members and the new library.

Featured Work

Each week, students, faculty, staff and alumni have the opportunity to get their work published in The Chronicle. Send us your stuff!

by: Dustin Pellegrini
junior film & video major

a portion of "Unknown Brother"

The night I got mugged was a Monday. I had only been up at school for about two weeks and I remember not realizing that until other people pointed it out and kept repeating it. Like it made a difference somehow. Like it mattered. I remember getting sympathy for it from people I didn't even know. Feeling uncomfortable at their touch, the hugs they forced on me. Their knowing looks they tried to pass over to me. Like they understood. But they didn't.

I remember feeling the bite of the gun barrel as it made solid contact with the back of my head, smashing down clean like a hammer driving a nail in one swing. I remember not telling people about that part after hearing my brother's reaction to it. Dad translated it to me first. How Tyler was a hair's length away from driving up here with every hunting rifle he had to take revenge for me. I remember thinking this was just something dad had said, but then believing every word of it when it was said in my brother's heavy, panicked voice. How I had to calm him down, convince him not to want to kill on my behalf. How his voice came out in screams between buckets of breaths. How it sounded on the phone like he was driving with the window open and I was afraid he was already making good on his word.

And as I was talking him down, I remember thinking, 'Let him do it.' Part of me really just wished he would. I don't know what part that was, but I let it sink back down into my guts pretty quickly. Now, I only wish I could have responded with his anger, his pure frustration at how unfair it was, instead of with my silence.

'It'll be okay,' I told myself. 'Turn it into writing. Make it something. Rise above it.' But honestly, that time I wished I couldn't rise. In fact, I couldn't help but want to sink. It's hard to hold it in and just try to float up, it would have been nice to just tread water at their level or just dive down further and hold my breath for a minute or two like Tyler could. I just wish I could give in and do something like him.

STUDENT BIO: With a minor in fiction writing, Pellegrini writes a lot about family and relationships in his film and fiction projects. This excerpt was taken from a longer, non-fiction piece inspired by his older brother.

email submissions to submit@chroniclemail.com

Therapy in a virtual world

Photos Courtesy OCULUS RIFT

(Above) The Oculus Rift virtual reality headset, currently available for developers, allows users to experience a virtual 3D world that moves with their heads. (below) This technology has the potential to enhance prolonged exposure therapy, a technique being adapted to help patients with post-traumatic stress disorder, as well as treat anxiety, phobias, stress and other mental conditions by creating a realistic, immersive environment.

by Hallie Zolkower-Kutz
Assistant Sports & Health Editor

DOCTORS ARE NOW using virtual reality, developed in the late 1960s as the next step in entertainment technology, as clinical treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental illnesses.

Virtual reality therapy has been around since the early 1990s, according to Greg Reger, clinical psychologist at the National Center for Telehealth and Technology, a congressionally funded medical research program based in Washington. He said it was primarily used to treat phobias but has been explored as a treatment option for PTSD, the focus of Reger's current clinical trial that is testing the impact such therapy can have on the afflicted.

Mental conditions such as PTSD are usually treated with prolonged exposure therapy, during which a therapist asks a patient to imagine his or her traumatic moment, according to Skip Rizzo, associate director of the Institute for Creative Technologies, a program at the University of Southern California that works to make advances in virtual reality technology. He said the idea is to allow the patient to revisit the experiences that cause them anxiety in a safe setting. Virtual reality caters to this process because clinicians can create a 3D world tailored exactly to a patient's needs and fears, he said.

By controlling the different factors of a user's virtual world, a clinician can integrate multiple senses, making it more effective than simply using the imagination, Reger said.

"I'm so excited about virtual reality for PTSD because we know what we need to do is help people activate the memory in their mind," he said. "[It helps them] revisit [experiences] in an emotionally engaging way."

Rizzo conducted a clinical trial in 2010 analyzing 20 military service members who completed virtual reality treatment for PTSD, which included virtual scenarios of city and desert road environments paired with relevant vibrations, smells and 3D audio to simulate a Humvee, for example. According to the study, after the treatment, more than 50 percent of participants experienced a decrease in PTSD symptoms post-treatment, based on a military checklist to evaluate personnel for the disorder. Of the 20 service members, 16 no longer met the military criteria for PTSD after undergoing the treatment.

Among the chief providers of virtual reality technology is Oculus Rift, makers of the heavily anticipated virtual reality headset of the same name, Rizzo said. According to Rizzo, he worked with Palmer Luckey, the creator of Oculus Rift, at ICT, where they were adapting virtual reality headsets for PTSD treatment.

Rizzo said he thinks the Rift headset will have a significant place in the market for virtual reality therapy because it offers advanced features at a price less than other systems. He said professional headsets can cost tens of thousands of dollars, such as the $39,000 xSight manufactured by Virtalis. The Oculus Rift headset can provide an immersive experience for only $300 and is currently available as a development kit, meaning it is an early prototype of the consumer version, Luckey said in an email. Rizzo said he thinks it could be used to enhance prolonged exposure therapy for mental conditions.

"We believe [virtual reality therapy] may engage patients or users more intensely in their trauma memories," he said. "It may be more systematic in that the clinician controls everything that goes out in the environment."

Joseph Hirsch, a New York-based psychotherapist who uses virtual reality therapy to treat patients with issues such as anxiety, phobias and mood disorders, said the process involves gradually acclimating patients to their anxiety triggers.

"Over a period of many sessions, they learn to experience the things they fear the most," he said. "Because it actually isn't resulting in any harm to them, ultimately it extinguishes the fear."

Reger said virtual reality works particularly well in tandem with the traditional prolonged exposure therapy because the idea is to have patients remember their experience as realistically as possible.

"Using multi-sensory stimulation to help activate that memory, it just makes good theoretical sense," Reger said. "And there's a real fit between [that and] the technology where we can help introduce relevant sounds, smells and vibrations that are a part of the memory to help get that emotionally engaging exposure."

Reger is also currently running trials for PTSD treatment using virtual reality therapy and said he is excited about where the results will take him.

"There's a range of technologies that are emerging that really have the ability to transform our care," he said. "I think it's a fascinating area, and I think it has the potential to help, in certain cases, immensely."

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THIS WEEK IN SPORTS

April 29
Chicago Cubs vs. San Diego Padres
7:05 p.m.
Wrigley Field
Where to Watch: CSN Chicago

April 29
Chicago Bulls vs. Brooklyn Nets
6 pm
Barclays Center, Brooklyn, NY
Where to Watch: CSN Chicago

April 30
DePaul Blue Demons vs. Northwestern Wildcats
4 p.m.
Sharon J. Drysdale Field, Evanston, Ill.
Where to Watch: Game tracker

May 1
Staff vs. Students softball game
5 p.m.
Grant Park, South Columbus Drive, one block south of Balbo Avenue

Morning, Woods

by Lindsey Woods
Managing Editor

Keith gets cheeky

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS defenseman Duncan Keith made headlines last week, not for checking an opponent, but for taking a jab at a reporter April 22 after his team's 3–1 loss to their rivals, the Vancouver Canucks.

During a postgame interview, Karen Thomson, a reporter for Vancouver radio station CKST-AM 1040, asked Keith about a play he made in the second period, during which he slashed Vancouver's Daniel Sedin as the left-winger scored the Canucks' second goal of the night. No penalty was called on the play, but it was a pretty obvious infraction. Thomson rightfully asked Keith to talk about the incident, to which he played dumb and said, "Well, we scored one goal after that I think, and the game ended 3–1."

Keith asked her what she saw, and she said maybe there was a penalty that went uncalled. Apparently, Keith didn't like that and sarcastically suggested she become the first female referee in the NHL while snidely commenting that she could probably play but was "thinking the game like you know it." He concluded with a brusque "OK, see ya."

Audio of the exchange made its way to the Internet, and many outlets accused Keith of being sexist. Initially, Keith and the Blackhawks didn't want to comment on the matter. But Keith gave in on April 24, saying that he has respect for all reporters and was just upset about losing the game. He wouldn't comment on his reference to Thomson's gender.

First of all, this whole incident was totally overblown. Heated exchanges between reporters and athletes happen all the time and are just the collateral damage of working in an industry with so much passion. In fact, passion is one of the best parts of working in sports. But Keith was coming off the 'Hawks' worst loss of the season, and to the Canucks no less, so he was understandably a little testy. How would you feel if someone badgered you about your worst day at work immediately after you left the office?

Of course, badgering is part of a journalist's job, and Thomson's question was absolutely fair. She had every right to ask it and held her own when Keith got cranky.

The most baffling element of this incident is the reaction it got in the media. It's always fun to write about locker room squabbles and stand up for fellow reporters, but making it an issue of sex was the wrong interpretation of what happened. In fact, the media making it about gender biases was what made the whole thing sexist, not Keith's comment.

If Thomson did take Keith's acerbic advice, she would indeed be the first female hockey referee. Perhaps the fact that the NHL hasn't hired any female referees, or that institutional gender biases have made it hard for females to become refs, is what's sexist, not Keith pointing out that fact.

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Study finds compound 'jacks' beanstalks

STOCK PHOTO

by Doug Pitorak
Sports & Health Editor

HYDROGEN SULFIDE IS a bit fickle.

Depending on its volume, the chemical compound could either contribute to mass extinctions or, as demonstrated in a study published online April 17 through the Public Library of Science, help plants grow.

Frederick Dooley, a professor at the University of Washington and lead author of the study, noticed the alternative effect after he inadvertently applied a fraction of the amount of hydrogen sulfide he was supposed to while conducting a 2012 study that showed high levels of hydrogen sulfide contribute to the global decline of sea grass, exemplifying the compound's role in mass extinction.

To further explore the paradox, Dooley invited incoming freshmen to partake in experiments last summer to confirm that small amounts of hydrogen sulfide might increase stem and root growth in plants and increase the rate at which the seeds germinate. The results corroborated his accidental discovery, he said.

"It's a really simple method," said Dooley, commenting on how the compound could be utilized by farmers. "We literally put the hydrogen sulfide in the water ... It would be basically the equivalent of watering with Miracle-Gro in your water."

According to the study, which was funded by the NASA Astrobiology Institute, Dooley and his team tested the chemical compound on pea, bean, wheat and corn plants. Dooley said they dissolved the compound in water and fed it to the seeds.

The study showed that adding 5 micromolars—thousandths of a molar, the unit that measures how much of the elements are in a solution—of hydrogen sulfide to water pushed the combined length of stem and roots in the bean plant to 15.24 centimeters, an increase of approximately 6 centimeters from the plant that received no hydrogen sulfide. An additional 5 micromolars bumped the bean plant up to about 18.78 centimeters, the study showed.

According to the study, 18.78 centimeters was the peak height of the bean plant, as any more than 10 micromolars of hydrogen sulfide resulted in reduced heights. The study showed that pea plants needed more of the concoction—100 micromolars—before showing any significant growth, jumping to 11.3 centimeters from the control of 6.73 centimeters.

Like the bean plant, the pea plant size decreased with further increases of hydrogen sulfide, a phenomenon that Koch Unni, a floriculturist foreman at the Garfield Park Conservatory who teaches

» SEE PLANTS, PG. 17

Featured Athlete

Patrick Nyarko, midfielder

Age: 27 Team: Chicago Fire

Courtesy EUNICE KIM

by Doug Pitorak
Sports & Health Editor

PATRICK NYARKO PUTS on for his cities.

Born in Kumasi, Ghana, Nyarko, a starting midfielder for the Chicago Fire, said he came to the United States in 2005 to play soccer at Virginia Tech. The Fire selected him in the first round of the 2008 Major League Soccer SuperDraft, and since then, he has played 130 regular season matches with the team.

Nyarko, whose favorite player is New York Red Bulls forward Thierry Henry and favorite team is Manchester United, said he got into soccer because in Africa, it's part of the culture.

"If you did not play, you were very passionate about it," he said.

Despite his ability on the pitch, Nyarko said he honored his parents' wishes growing up and focused on school rather than soccer—though he played soccer as much as he could, including for Kaaseman F.C., a Ghanaian team.

Though Nyarko focused on academics during his youth, it was his soccer skills that led Virginia Tech to recruit him. Currently, Nyarko holds the record for third-most goals and assists in three seasons in Virginia Tech's history, a trend that has followed him to the MLS as he led the Fire with seven assists last season. Before his first season in Chicago got started, he was able to finish his bachelor's degree in psychology at Virginia Tech.

Nyarko spoke with The Chronicle about his family, his time at Virginia Tech and his affection for Young Jeezy.

The Chronicle: How often do you go back to Ghana?

Patrick Nyarko: Pretty much every offseason. The seasons are longer now—you go into November, you got pretty much the month of December off—and so my entire family is back [in Ghana]. So I just go down there for Christmas [to] just hang with them and get to see them. So pretty much once a year.

Were you at Virginia Tech in 2007 during the shootings?

Yes, I was there. It was an early spring day, and we were out in the field training. [It was a] cold snowy day, and the day didn't start well, didn't end well. It was a dark day in the history of the United States in general, and even though I did not know any [victims], it's still really sad that had to happen. I think the community there is very strong, and they came together very well and moved on very well. I give them props for coming together in those dark moments.

What goes through your head when you get the ball in a 1-on-1 situation?

I'm just surveying my options. [My vision is] the best part of my game. I survey the field and start to figure out my available options. The main goal is to try to beat the defender and set up a chance or go to the goal.

Which do you enjoy more—scoring a goal or making an assist?

Making an assist. It's a no-brainer. Everyone likes to score goals, but for me—even though I'd like to score more goals—my making plays and assisting on plays is the best part of my game. It makes me happy when I can create a chance, and strikers, or whoever, can finish. It just makes my day.

Who's your favorite rapper and why?

Young Jeezy. I just fell in love with mostly his voice and how he goes about his raps. I pretty much like every song he's been in. [Before games], I listen to his song "Put On" and I love it. It just pumps me up. I'm all into the beat. I listen to a lot of Ghanaian rap as well because I think those sounds in the beats are incredible, and it just gets me going, just gets me on my toes and pumps me up for the game.

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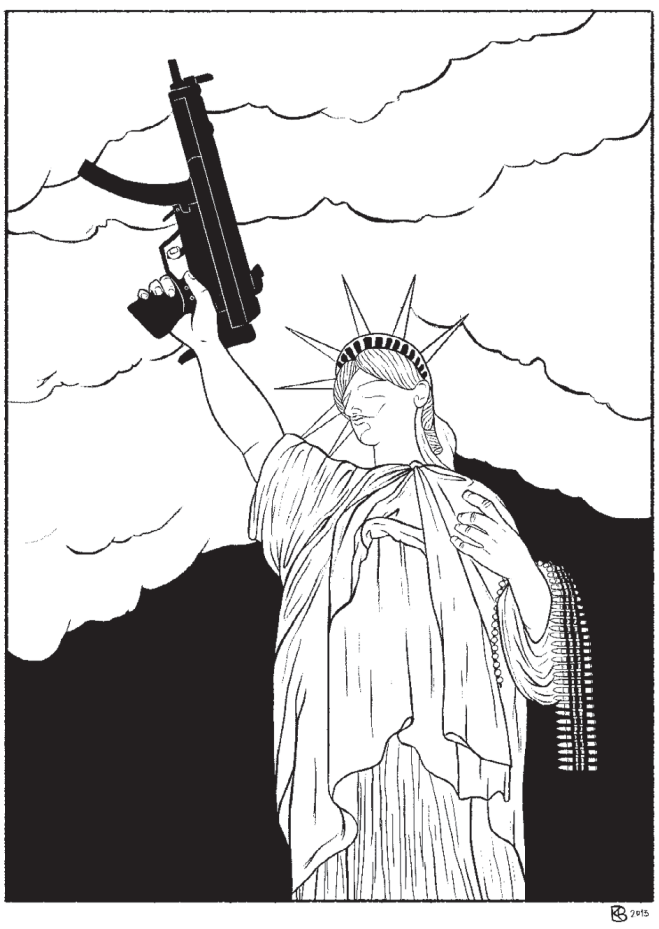
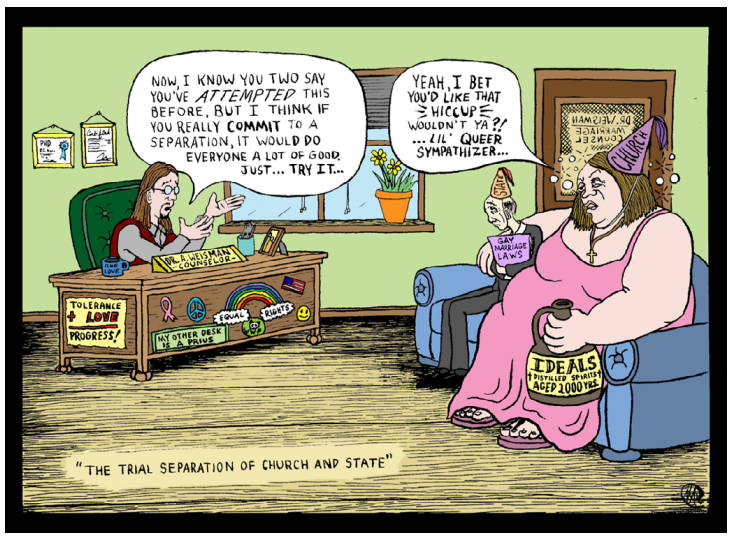
1ST PLACE WINNER: SEAN MCINERNEY

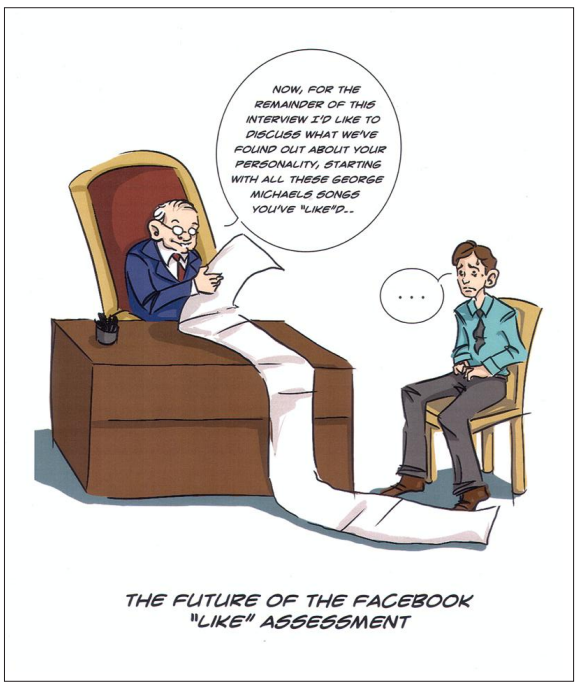
2ND PLACE WINNER: KELSEY BATES



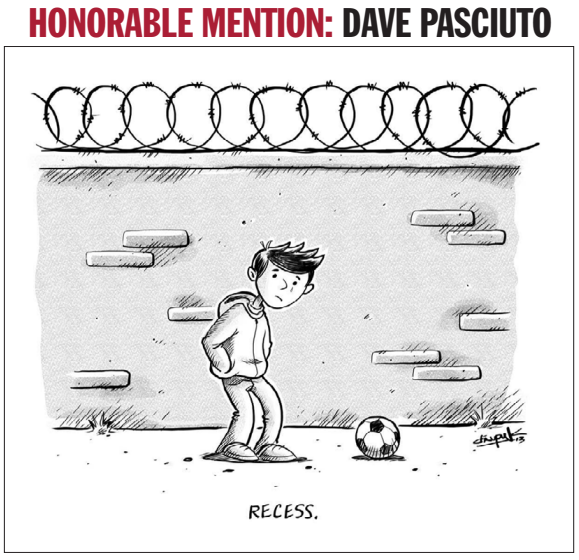
3RD PLACE WINNER: MAX CLARKE



HONORABLE MENTION: BRANDI JACKSON



HONORABLE MENTION: DAVE PASCIUTO



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COLLEGE CHICAGO

FACE OFF

Staffers go head to head, give their 2013 NHL playoff predictions

THE TUMULTUOUS 2013 hockey season is finally reaching its apex, as the final buzzer bellowed April 28 on the last regular season game. Now, it's playoff time.

The lockout that captured half the season may have pushed the playoff start back to April 30, but with a month of extra beard preparation, the postseason promises to be just as dramatic as last season's, which saw 25 overtime thrillers and a No. 8-seed—the Los Angeles Kings—go all the way.

This year, the Chicago Blackhawks have secured the No. 1 seed in the West, with the Pittsburgh Penguins occupying the top slot in the East. But the Hawks and the Penguins are only two of the 16 teams in this year's contest. While both are dangerous on the ice, who's to say either will make it to the finals, let alone hoist the cup? The NHL playoffs are always exciting, and they are sure to contain heart-stopping action with plenty of hockey magic in the air.

Off the ice, fans everywhere will be amping up their spirit and precariously predicting which team will drink in the glory of Lord Stanley's Cup. To help you decide which team to write in as the winner, The Chronicle implored its two biggest hockey enthusiasts to guide your guessing as to what team will be the NHL's champion this season.

TOPPICK

by Lindsey Woods
Managing Editor

THE TWO NO. 1 seeds this year are clear favorites. Obviously, the Penguins are less favored in the Windy City, but their impressive midseason streak and depth make them just as good as the Blackhawks.

The Penguins have had some unfortunate injuries this season, but that hasn't held them back from lighting the lamp more than any other team in the league. Even without their leading scorer, Sidney Crosby, who recently had jaw surgery after he was hit in the face with a puck on March 30, they are averaging 3.1 goals per game, only 0.2 points below their season average. If the hockey gods toothlessly smile upon Crosby and grant him clearance, he could be the factor that elevates the Pens.

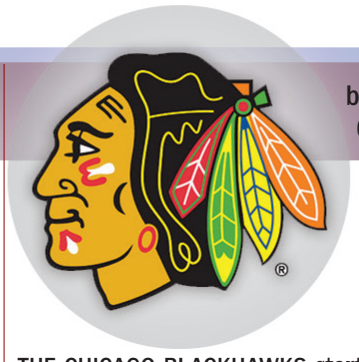
Pittsburgh's ability to score without centers Crosby and Evgeni Malkin, who missed several games during the season with an undisclosed upper body injury he may have sustained Feb. 22, exemplifies the team's depth. If left-winger Chris Kunitz can keep his shot hot, the Pens' stacked offense will take them to the end.

Where the Blackhawks have the Penguins beat is defense. Chicago defensemen Duncan Keith and Brent Seabrook have been key in securing the team's best goals against average in the league, while Pittsburgh ranked 11th overall. But the Pens' defense has grown over the season, and hopefully defenseman Paul Martin's return will be enough to cover for Brooks Orpik's untimely lower body injury.

Either way, I hope the Hawks and Penguins face off in the finals. It would be a clash of the two most dominant teams in hockey and a helluva lot of fun to watch.

TOPPICK

by Corey Stolzenbach
Copy Editor



THE CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS started the season on fire and set the record for the longest streak with 45 points in 24 games and a franchise record of 11 straight wins.

Right-winger Patrick Kane has had an MVP-worthy season with 22 goals thus far. The Blackhawks, who have a 35–6–5 record as of press time, clinched the best record in the NHL with the Presidents' Trophy largely because of his performance.

Captain Jonathan Toews provided excellent leadership throughout the season with 22 goals and 25 assists and is an MVP candidate in his own right. Defensemen Duncan Keith and Brent Seabrook have once again been a renowned tandem in the league this year.

Chicago's goaltending was questionable going into the season. No. 1 netminder Corey Crawford has had a very impressive performance of 1.98 goals against average and 3 shutouts in 29 games. His backup, Ray Emery, has also been brilliant with 1.94 GAA and also posting 3 shutouts in 21 games.

The Blackhawks' goaltending will make it hard to get to the Stanley Cup finals past them.

The team does have flaws–even the goaltending is not perfect–as they have combined to allow 4 goals or more in a game in 7 occurrences, and it's possible they could get creamed in the first round.

Even the best teams have their kryptonite. For Chicago, it was the Anaheim Ducks, the No. 2 seed in the Western Conference and the only team Chicago did not beat all season, as the Ducks went a perfect 3-0 against them. In order for Chicago to win its fifth Stanley Cup, they may have to get past Anaheim.

CONTENDING CLUBS

Chicago Blackhawks: The Presidents' Trophy winners are obvious contenders. They have depth on both sides, and goaltenders Corey Crawford and Ray Emery have held other teams to an average of 1.98 and 1.94 goals against, respectively. Their historic streak at the start of the season put a target on their sweaters, but the Hawks proved that they're fully capable of repeating their 2010 championship run.

Chicago isn't the infallible force it was thought to be at the beginning of the season, though. Its power play is not as efficient as it should be, and the team's recent complacency could hurt them. There are several teams in the West that could beat the Blackhawks, including the Anaheim Ducks, who the Hawks have struggled against all season.

Washington Capitals: After an abysmal start, the No. 3 seed in the East hit its stride toward the end of the season, thanks in part to left-winger Alex Ovechkin remembering how to play hockey. If rookie Head Coach Adam Oates can keep the team's momentum, a deep run could be in the cards for the Caps.

The team has had a fantastic month, as Ovechkin scored 13 goals in 11 games as of press time, breaking the record for most April goals in the NHL. His sidekick, center Nicklas Backstrom, has also been a big contributor to the team's recent scoring streak, dishing out 40 assists this season, as of press time.

Washington also has the best power play in the league, capitalizing on the advantage more than 25 percent of the time. If they can channel that scoring potential in the postseason, the Southeast Division Champs may have a shot at runner-up in the East. Their defensive holes give them no chance against the Penguins, but I can see them beating the No. 2 seeded Boston Bruins.

Toronto Maple Leafs: Toronto, the No. 5 seed in the East, is arguably one of the worst teams in the playoffs. Their place on this list is a sympathy bid because, as a Columbus Blue Jackets fan, I know how hard playoff droughts are.

Toronto has not seen the postseason since 2004 and has not won a cup since 1967. They're hardworking, but I don't think they can beat Boston, Washington or Pittsburgh.

The only way they have a fighting chance is if netminder James Reimer can replicate his April 20 mind-blowing 49-save game against the Ottawa Senators. But Reimer's play has been fairly inconsistent, and I'm not sure he can take the pressure of the postseason.

Regardless, I am rooting for this underdog, and Toronto's fans are some of the most loyal in history, something that I can respect.

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CONTENDING CLUBS

Anaheim Ducks: Could it be 2007 all over again for the Ducks? They have an outstanding goaltending pair in Jonas Hiller (2.36 GAA, 1 shutout in 26 games) and Viktor Fasth (2.10 GAA, 4 shutouts in 24 games). Head Coach Bruce Boudreau was hired midseason last year after being let go from the Washington Capitals, and he has responded nicely this year, coaching the team to a 30–11–6 record.

Beating the best team in the league record-wise all three times this season has to be a great confidence booster for the Ducks, as they were nothing short of a surprise team this year. After finishing last in the Pacific Division in 2012 and watching their arch-rival Los Angeles Kings win the cup, hockey is back in Anaheim and a third trip to the Stanley Cup Finals, in which they are 1–1, could very well be possible for them.

Los Angeles Kings: Speaking of the Kings, they might have something to say about the Blackhawks and Ducks running rampant in the Western Conference. Here is a team that not only won the 2012 Stanley Cup but also were the first 8th seeded team in history to do so and could be the first team to repeat as champs since the 1997–1998 Detroit Red Wings.

The Kings lost 7 of its first 10 games. Teams have had a Stanley Cup hangover in the past.

Goaltender Jonathan Quick won the Conn Smythe Trophy last year as the MVP of the Stanley Cup playoffs. This season, he boasts a 2.46 GAA and 1 shutout, as of press time. That most certainly isn't bad, and it's good enough to get his team into the dance for a chance to defend Lord Stanley's hardware, but those numbers are also underwhelming for someone who signed a 10-year, $58 million contract after going full beast-mode in the 2012 playoffs.

Pittsburgh Penguins: After a perfect March that saw 15 straight wins, the Pittsburgh Penguins clinched the top seed in the Eastern Conference. Captain Sidney Crosby is out indefinitely after having surgery on his broken jaw, but he was a serious contender for his second Hart Memorial Trophy as league MVP. The most recent recipient of the award and Crosby's teammate, center Evgeni Malkin, has also been hurt, playing in just 30 games. He returned April 23.

They also have tweaked their team, acquiring future Hall of Famer Jarome Iginla. This could be Iginla's moment. He fell short by one game in 2004 as his Calgary Flames were defeated by the Tampa Bay Lightning in the finals, and this legend has an excellent shot in getting his name on the cup.

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Is food addictive?

by Hallie Zolkower-Kutz
Assistant Sports & Health Editor

IT'S NO SECRET that Americans are fat and getting fatter. Obesity rates have reached historic levels; almost 17 percent of children and 35.7 percent of adults in the United States between 2009 and 2010 were obese, according to a 2012 data brief by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In the wake of this epidemic, researchers are focusing on what happens in the brain when people overeat.

The peer-reviewed journal Biological Psychiatry devoted its May issue to 17 studies and reviews pertaining to food's effect on the brain and whether overeating is an addiction—the subject of a current scientific debate, according to the issue's introduction, written by Dana Small, associate professor of psychiatry at Yale University's School of Medicine.

Many of the studies focused on the part of the brain known as the reward pathway, which controls how the body responds to natural rewards, such as food, drugs and sex. Stephanie Borgland, assistant professor in the department of Anesthesiology, Pharmacology and Therapeutics at the University of British Columbia, co-authored a study published in the issue that examined how hormones produced by fat cells affect dopamine. She said investigating the biological processes behind food choices is a key step to understanding behavior.

"I think it's important to start looking in the reward system and understanding how we're motivated for food," Borgland said. "And how, even when we're [full], why we continue to eat."

Finding similarities between drug addiction and overeating could fit binge eating and overeating into the disease model of addiction, which classifies it as a disease with environmental, genetic and biological influences, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Many researchers agree that the addiction model applies to binge eating, but its place in the obesity epidemic for overweight individuals who are not classified as having an eating disorder is not straightforward, according to Small's introduction.

There are three major parallels between drugs and food, said Eric Stice, a researcher at Oregon Research Institute and co-author of a study exploring how reactions in the reward pathway can influence future drug use and obesity. Both drugs and food cause a dopamine release in the brain, providing feelings of enjoyment, and both can lead to growing tolerance, so users need more of the substance to feel satisfied, Stice said. The third similarity relates to the challenges of quitting.

"The reason people fail [at overcoming drug addiction] is because once you've done a whole bunch of [a drug], you've made your brain hypervigilant to the cues that remind you of that drug," Stice said. "It works the same way with food."

Rajita Sinha, professor of psychiatry at the Yale School of Medicine and researcher involved in a study investigating hormones and stress as common factors in obesity and addiction that was published in the journal, said the link between food and drugs is complex.

"We all need to eat to survive, so the issue of why some people become addicted or prefer certain types of food over others and eat higher quantities is quite a puzzle," she said. "So I don't go as far as to say that they are exactly the same."

She said behavioral aspects of addiction don't entirely explain the obesity epidemic.

Rami Gabriel, assistant professor of psychology at Columbia who teaches a class called Drugs and the Brain, said food and drugs activate dopamine pathways of the brain differently, which raises questions about using the same model to treat addiction and obesity.

"[This doesn't happen] with drugs, but with eating it looks like the dopamine levels are highest right before you actually have it," he said. "So it doesn't peak when you're eating; it's the anticipation that seems to be the highest point."

Borgland said there is a relationship between how drugs and food affect the brain because users and some overeaters experience a level of compulsion in their actions, but it's key to know how they differ.

"I'm always a little wary about the term 'food addiction,'" she said. "It does exist, but it's not [true] that if you're obese, you definitely have a food addiction, which is sometimes how it gets portrayed in the media."

Stice, however, said the links between food and drugs mean they could be treated in the same way.

"I don't need any more parallels," he said. "I think that is enough to say that palatable foods and drugs of abuse engage our reward circuitry and suck us in, and that perpetuates further use."

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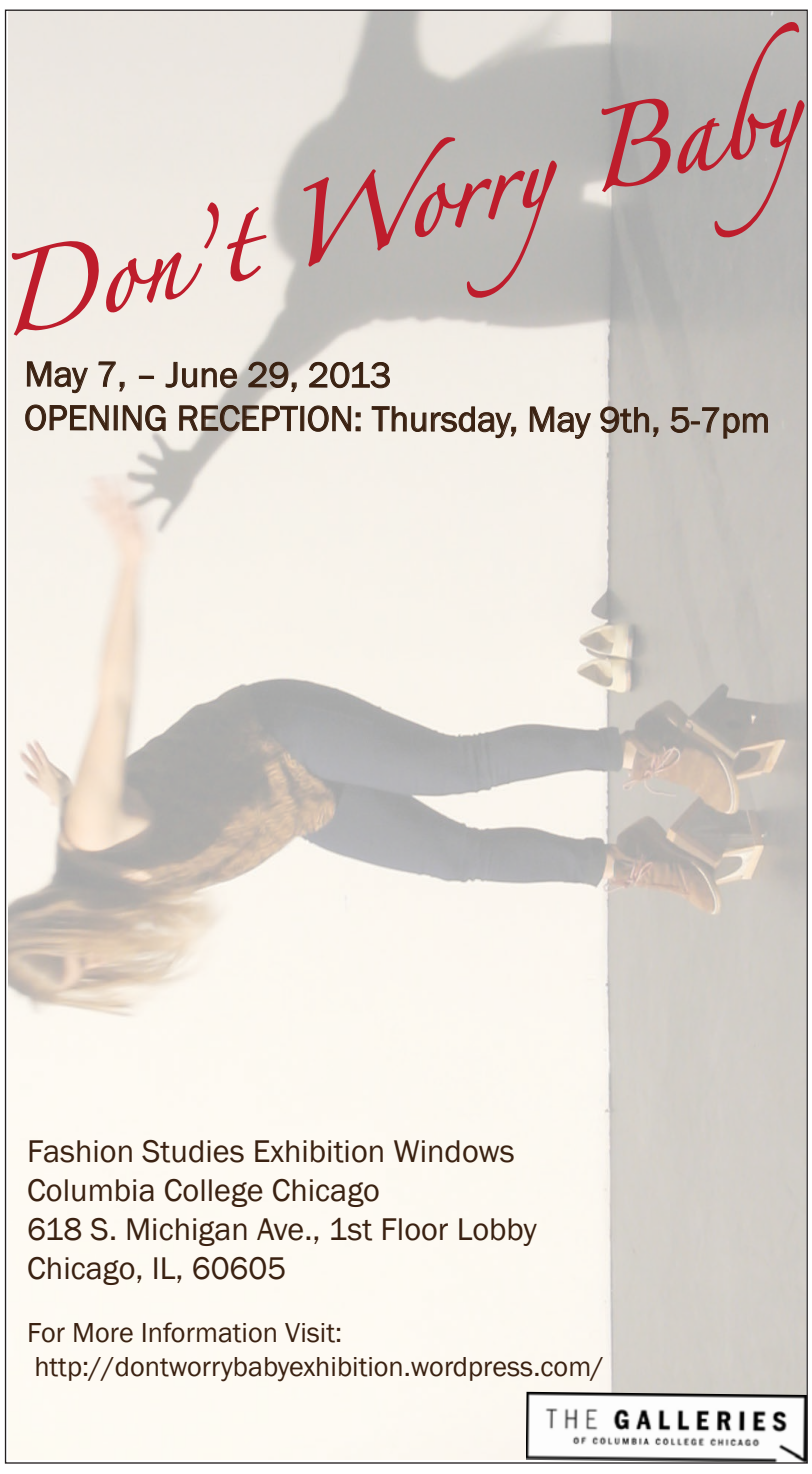

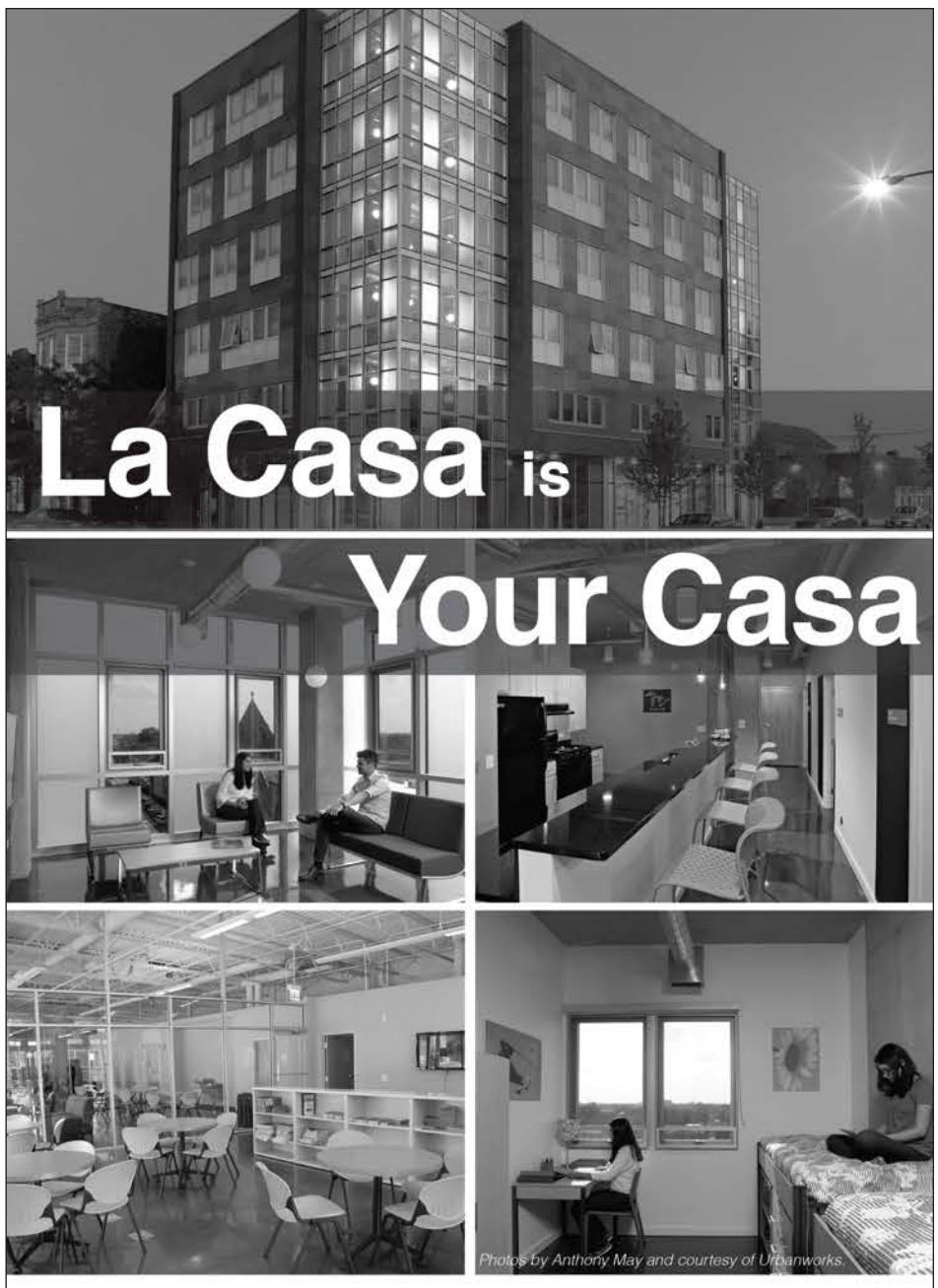

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» KITES

Continued from Front Page

won the nationals in 2009 when they were held in Rochester, Minn., said competitive kite flying has three divisions based on skill level: novice, experienced and masters. Gordon said he first competed at the masters level in 2003 when he was 11 years old.

Gordon occasionally gets paid to perform at festivals and has received anywhere from $75 to $400 for a weekend, though he said the money often goes to travel expenses, adding that he has traveled as far as Japan for kite festivals.

He said aside from ballet, the other competitive category is precision, which tests a flyer's ability to replicate a figure in the sky. There are precision and ballet events for dual-line kites and quad-line kites, which one person operates by way of two lines and four lines, respectively, he said.

Steve Negen, event coordinator of the Great Lakes Kite Festival, which he described as a cross between fighter jets and figure skating, said the event can bring 30,000–40,000 spectators with nice weather, but bad weather drops attendance to about 10,000–20,000 people.

According to Negen, most kite festivals follow the Great Lakes format of demonstrations rather than competitions, in which individual fliers and teams, such as the Chicago Fire Kite Team that Gordon is a part of, continuously fly kites to a piece of music. He said they don't host competitions because judging a flyer's precision takes nearly 10 minutes and leaves too much blank air space to keep spectators interested.

Assuming the weather is nice May 4, Chicagoans will get to enjoy the 15th Annual Chicago Kids and Kites Festival, according to creator Dave Zavell, who owns ChicagoKite, 5445 N. Harlem Ave., a retail store that helps put on festivals across the country.

The festival will be held at Cricket Hill in Lincoln Park, between West Montrose Drive and West Wilson Avenue. Zavell said the show usually draws about 20,000 spectators. He said like the Great Lakes fest, the Chicago Kids and Kites Festival eschew competition in favor of demonstrations.

So much of kiting incorporates music, both in the demonstrations and competitions, Gordon said, which is why he decided to study music composition at Columbia.

He said his ideal kite song is 3 minutes and 20 seconds long with upbeat beginning and end sections surrounding a calmer, legato section, so he can demonstrate a variety of skills. Gordon's two favorite kite songs that he has used were created from the movies "I, Robot" and "V for Vendetta."

"It's very difficult to find a good kite song—that's what we call them—with just one movie score," Gordon said. "Because they have to be a certain length, typically you have to edit them, so I've actually been working with editing software since I was about nine years old, taking parts of soundtracks and mixing them together."

According to AKA President John Barresi, the nonprofit organization currently has about 2,100 members worldwide who pay an annual fee that includes four annual issues of Kiting magazine, access to the conventions and 10 percent discounts to participating kite stores.

Barresi said the fee fluctuates based on costs for events and the convention, which this year is Oct. 8–13 in Seaside, Ore.

He said the AKA meets a range of interests, from flight to design, adding that the sport is more exciting than one might think.

"It's not Charlie Brown, it's not Ben Franklin," he said. "You can be as rad as you want, you can be as cool as you want, you can be as mellow as you want, whatever. There's something for everybody."

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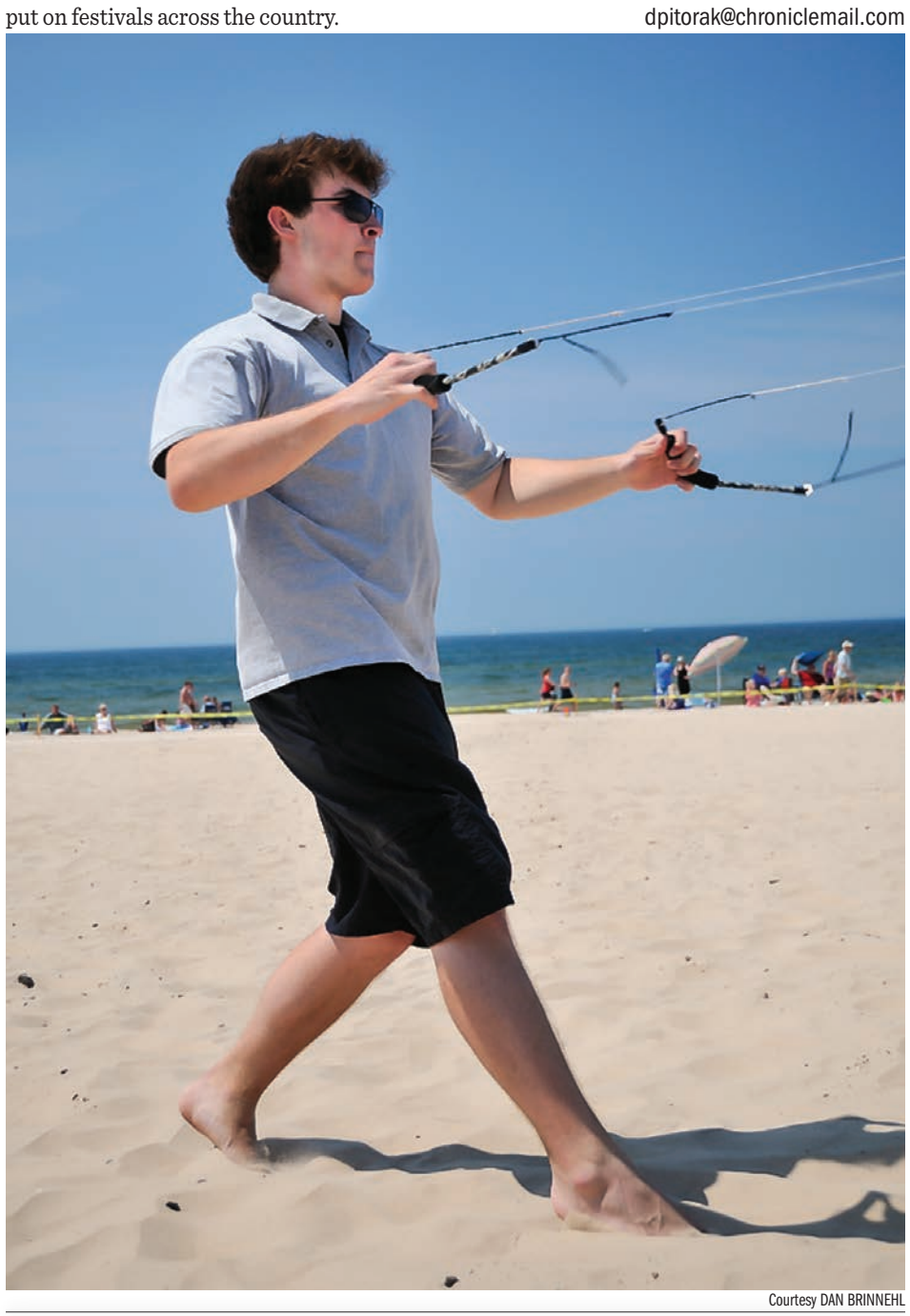

Courtesy DAN BRINNEHL

Zach Gordon, national champion kite flyer and junior music major, flies a kite last May at the State Park in Grand Haven, Mich.

» PLANTS

Continued from PG. 12

botany and horticulture courses at Columbia, said the effect hydrogen sulfide has on a plant relates to the compound's acidity and a plant's reaction to it.

Unni said the researchers used the compound as a pH supplement, decreasing or increasing the acidity level by altering the volume of hydrogen sulfide, which he said becomes acidic when combined with oxygen.

In general, plants require a moderately acidic atmosphere to thrive, which hovers around a pH level of 6 or 7, he said, adding that too much acid can stunt growth and result in smaller stem lengths. The right amount of acidity, Unni said, can affect a plant's intake of nutrients.

"That [ideal] acidity of the medium would enable the plant to absorb nutrients much faster," Unni said. "When the nutrients are absorbed faster, naturally, the metabolism is going to be faster, the energy production is going to be faster and the germination and the growth is going to be faster."

He said the process described in the study makes sense, but further examination is needed to see if the cost of production of this material is comparable to other pH reducers already available, such as nitric acid and citric acid.

Dooley said he is trying to fund research to ascertain whether the plants contain any toxic levels of sulfide, adding that it would not be safe for animals to eat these crops until such research is conducted. He said the compound did not cause any visible lesions on the plants.

The study also showed that the time it took the seeds to start growing and the rate at which they grew increased for all of the plants in the first 24 hours when 5 micromolars of hydrogen sulfide were added, an interesting find according to Fred Below, a professor in the Department of Crop Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

"Getting the plant off to a good start is certainly one aspect of yield, and that's where I think this paper fits in," Below said. "We're going to germinate more rapidly, we're going to get off to a rapid start, so that sort of sets the stage for yield."

Below said other factors, such as how a plant intercepts light, how it protects itself from diseases and insects and how it competes against other plants, play too important a role for hydrogen sulfide alone to be a silver bullet for increasing crop yield—but it is a step in the right direction.

"There's a host of things that affect crop yield, and you have to have a happy, stress-free plant right from the very beginning," Below said. "If this study shows this is one way to get plants off to a better start, well that's sort of the first step toward high yield."

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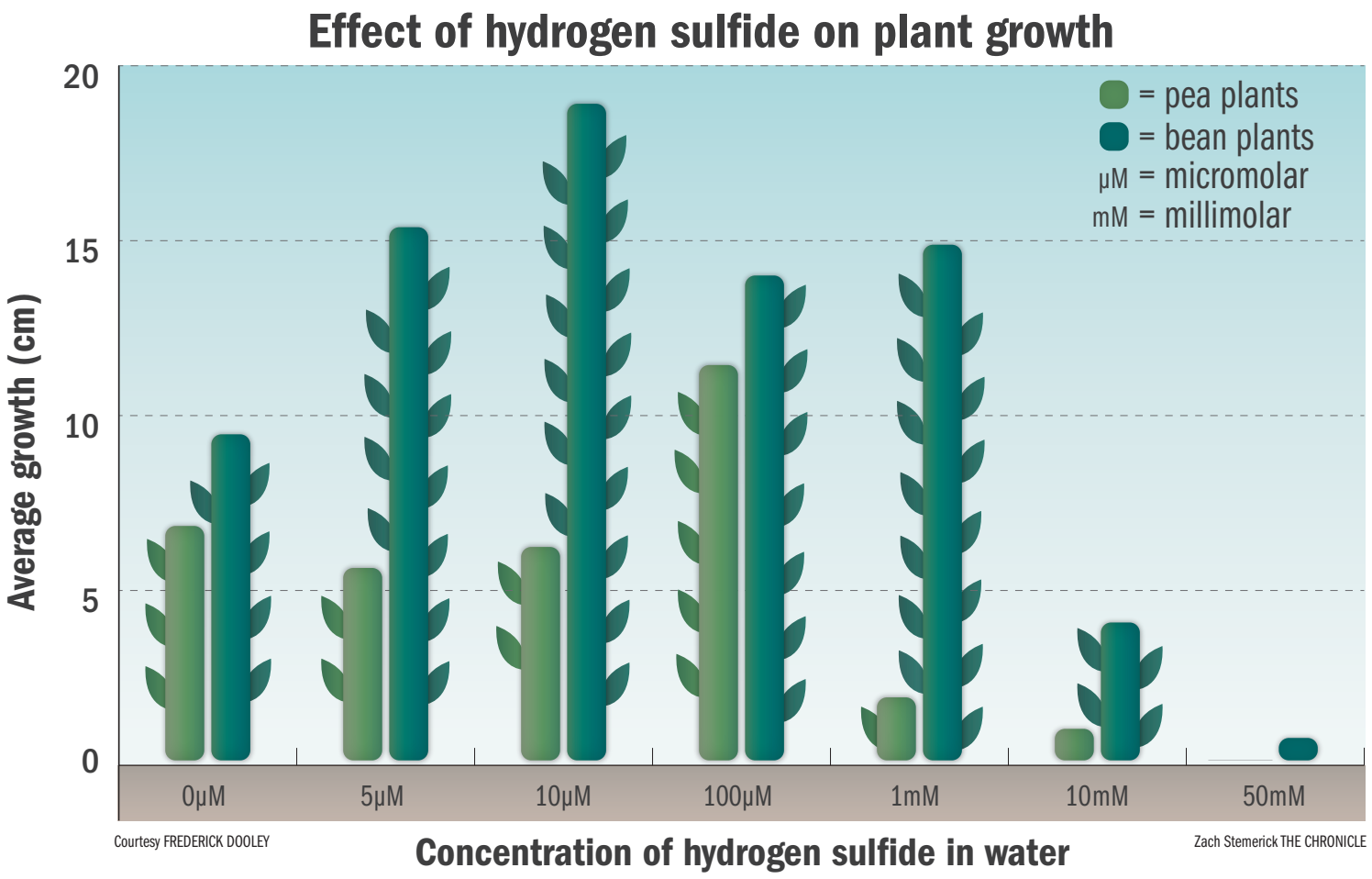
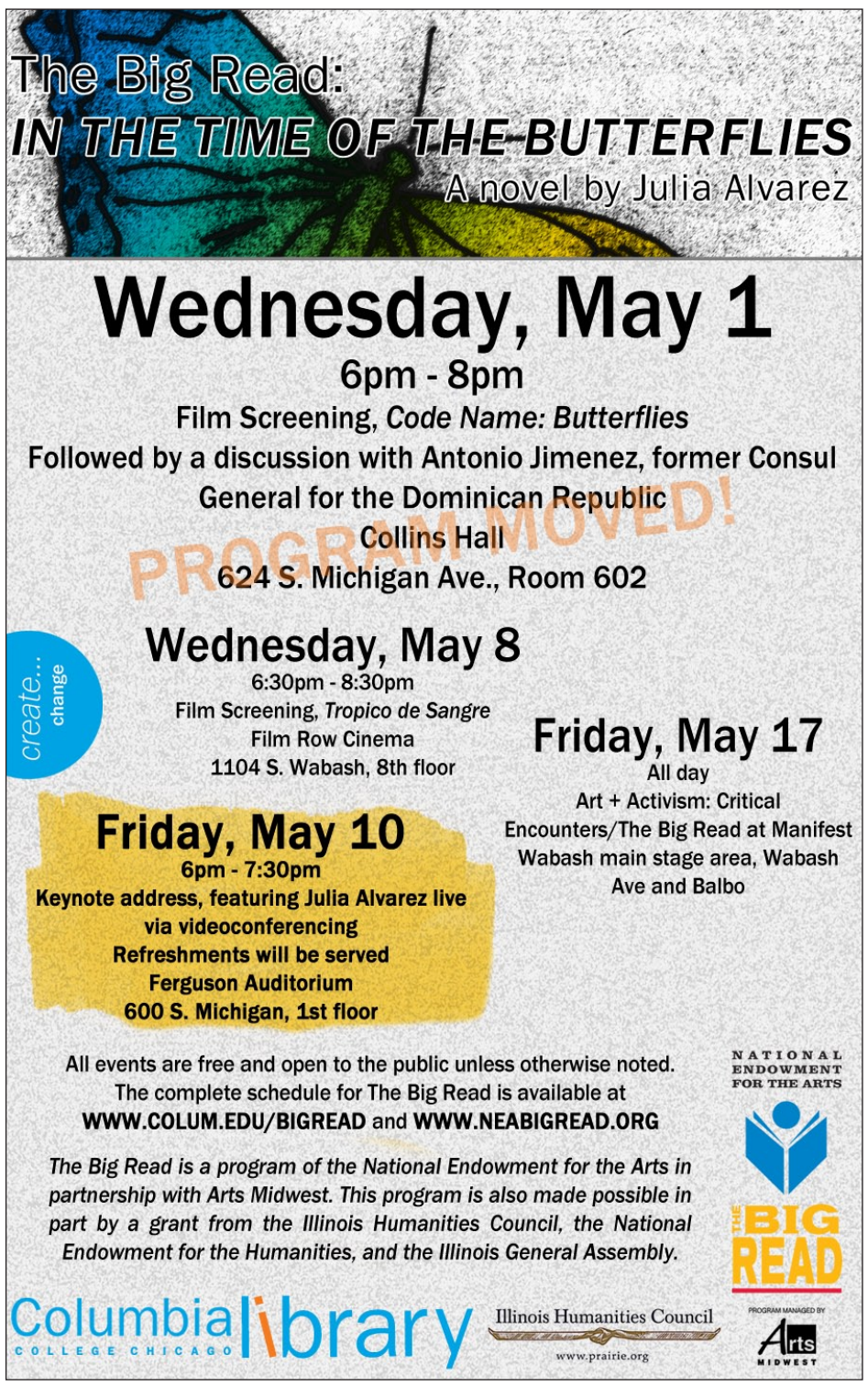
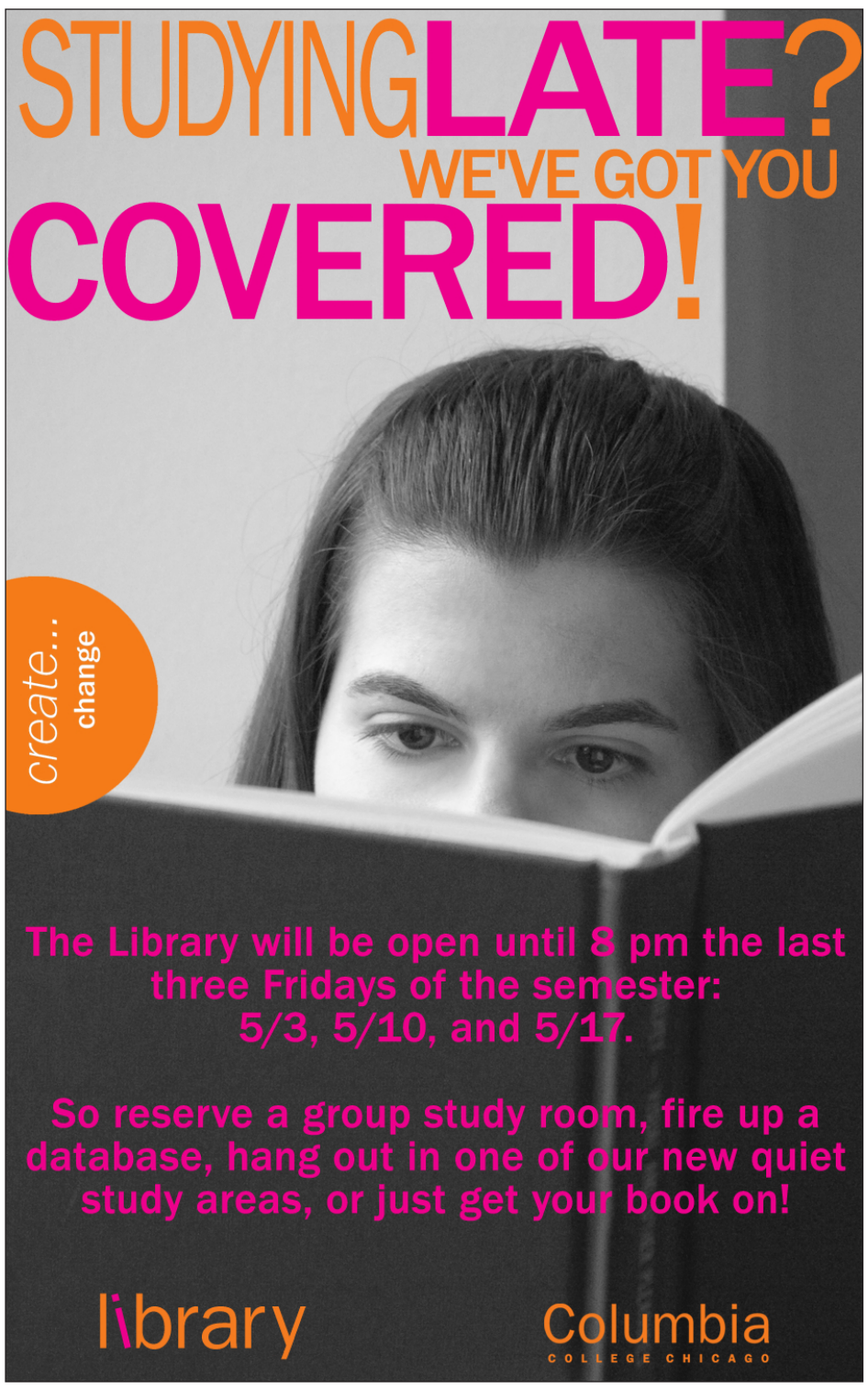


Courtesy FREDERICK DOOLEY

Zach Stemerick THE CHRONICLE





Dairy-free delight

Rena Naltsas THE CHRONICLE

Recipe

INGREDIENTS

Crust:

3 tablespoons non-dairy margarine, melted
1 1/2 cups vegan graham cracker crumbs
3 tablespoons unrefined sugar

Filling:

5 tubs Tofutti cream cheese alternative
1 cup unrefined sugar
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
3 tablespoons cornstarch
1 cup Toffuti sour cream alternative

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees.
2. Mix graham cracker crumbs with margarine and sugar. Press into pan.
3. Mix cream cheese alternative, sugar, vanilla and cornstarch with whisk or electric beater in separate bowl.
4. Mix in sour cream alternative and pour over crust mixture.
5. Bake 35 minutes or until top of cake is golden and center is slightly gelatinous.
6. Refrigerate for at least 6 hours.

by Erica Herbert
Assistant Metro Editor

I HAVE BEEN a vegetarian since I was 4 years old. Becoming vegan 10 years later, however, was a whole different challenge. Having to give up macaroni and cheese and buttery garlic bread was difficult.

I have always been cautious about fake meat and dairy products, knowing they are just as processed, if not more so, as the real stuff. When my mom said she made a special vegan cheesecake for the holidays the year I adopted the vegan lifestyle, I cringed knowing I could not refuse to eat it out of consideration for her hard work.

Dec. 25 came, the only day I have ever been afraid of the dessert table, but to my surprise, I fell in love with the creamy plain cheesecake. So did the rest of my non-vegan family, who had no idea it was made from tofu products.

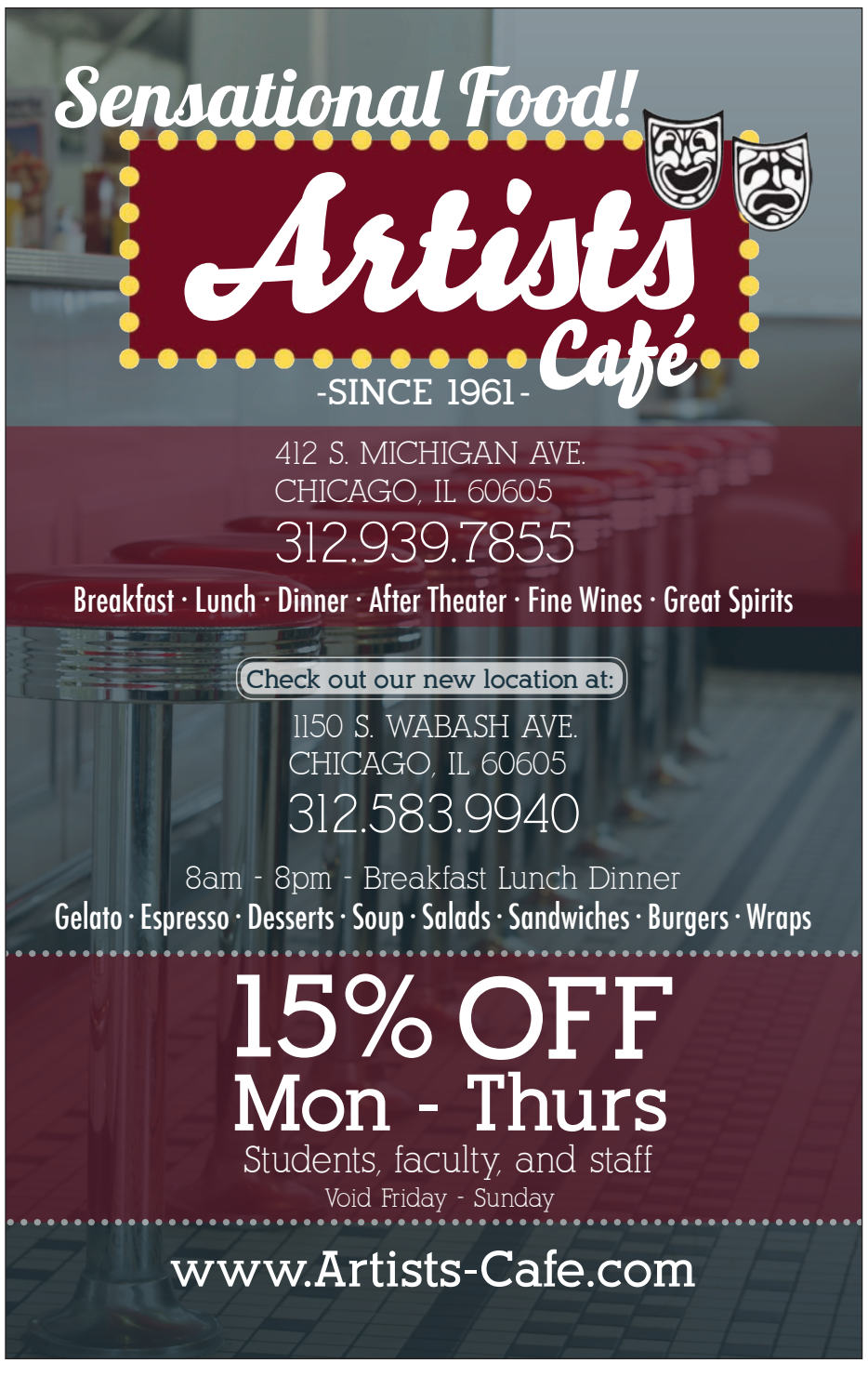
Making the cake is very simple. As you preheat the oven to 325 degrees, melt the margarine and make sure the graham crackers are crushed to the consistency of coarse flour. When you combine the cracker crumbs and melted margarine with the sugar, it should be slightly sticky and grainy. Push the crust down into the pan with your hands until it's solid and firm.

Then, mix the cream cheese alternative, sugar, vanilla and cornstarch in a separate bowl, making sure to get the clumps of cornstarch worked out with a whisk. Add the sour cream and thoroughly stir.

The rest is just an agonizing waiting process. Bake the cake for 35 minutes until it is lightly brown on top and has a slightly wobbly center. Take it out of the oven, wait for it to cool, then stick it in the refrigerator. Wait at least 6 hours and dig in!

I suggest adding some fresh fruit, such as raspberries or blueberries, to balance the sweetness of this delicious dessert with some tartness. Serve cold and enjoy!

eherbert@chroniclemail.com



First Israeli Jazz Festival to swing into Chicago

by Emily Ornberg
Arts & Culture Editor

SINCE THE BIRTH of jazz in the late 19th century, when southern black communities infused European harmonies with improvisation, swinging notes and syncopation, the rhythm and soul of the genre has transformed and spread around the world.

From May 19–23, the Consulate General of Israel to the Midwest will host its first-ever Israeli Jazz Fest at various celebrated jazz venues in Chicago, such as the Green Mill Jazz Club, 4802 N. Broadway, and City Winery Chicago, 1200 W. Randolph St.

"Jazz is a fascinating genre of music because the very verse of the music happens because of the compilation of cultures, therefore it doesn't surprise me one bit that it really brings cultures together," said James Falzone, Chicago-based jazz clarinetist and first-year seminar teacher at Columbia.

Maya Karmely, consul for public affairs at the Consulate General of Israel in Chicago, said it was only natural to host the festival in Chicago—one of the largest nurturers of jazz in the country.

"When I think about Chicago, I think about jazz," Karmely said. "One of the things that's very interesting [about] Israeli jazz is, much like the United States, Israel was founded by immigrants. The culture of Israel, including the music, is influenced by different origins, [and] that's what makes it so unique."

For a country of approximately 7.75 million, Israel has a surprisingly large jazz footprint, according to Karmely.

Capitalizing on the originality of Israeli jazz, she said the Consul was able to book artists who represent different aspects of the genre.

Amir Gwirtzman, an Israeli jazz artist known for his mastery of more than two dozen reed instruments, will perform May 19 at 8 p.m. at the Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse Ave.

> The culture of Israel, including the music, is influenced by different origins, [and] that's what makes it so unique."
>
> – Maya Karmely

Gwirtzman said his music combines R&B and jazz with influences from a wealth of cultures including Cuban, Middle Eastern, Irish Celtic and Native American music. He said he is most inspired by jazz music because it crosses so many cultures and he considers it a large part of world music.

"[Jazz music] connects cultures and fuses boundaries," Gwirtzman said. "It's soul music that touches your heart and has a beat that moves you and freedom of the spirit."

Gwirtzman's performance will center around his solo project, titled "Inhale, Exhale" and will feature more than 20 of his horns, bass, baritones, saxophones and clarinets. He said he will use his microphone to record and loop himself playing each of the horns.

"I could beat box with my mouth, then I could add on top a baseline, then I could add horns and reeds, and all the colors I have on the palette, and then I start orchestrating and harmonizing it," Gwirtzman said. "I can do basically whatever I want because I have the recording studio on stage [and] in front of me, and I just start playing and improvising and building whole orchestrations."

Ester Rada, an Israeli-born Ethiopian artist, will perform the festival's closing ceremony on May 23 at 8 p.m. at City Winery Chicago. Rada said her sound is inspired by artists such as Nina Simone, Mos Def, Ella Fitzgerald and Erykah Badu. Rada's sound combines funk and soul music with her varying cultural background.

Growing up in one of the roughest neighborhoods in Tel Aviv, Rada said her roots gave her the drive to fulfill her dream of creating music.

"My family came to Israel one year before I was born," Rada said. "They're very Ethiopian. So at home, the music I listened to was Ethiopian music, and a lot of Israeli music outside affects me, in my music [and] in my show."

Releasing her first EP "Life Happens" in November 2012, Rada has already played shows and festivals across Israel, Australia, Canada, Switzerland and Germany, including various performances at this year's South By Southwest from March 8–17.

"I really want to go and bring music to the world," Rada said. "When they asked me to come to Chicago, it [was] a dream come true."

On May 20 at 9 p.m., the guitar-based jazz group Gilad Hekselman Trio will preform at the Green Mill Jazz Club.

Gilad Hekselman moved to New York in 2004 to immerse himself in the jazz scene, sharing the stage with renowned jazz artists such as Mark Turner, Esperanza Spalding and Chris Potter, he said. In 2009, Heskelman said Walt Disney Records asked him to include his jazz interpretations on the record "Everybody Wants To Be a Cat."

Hekselman is constantly touring worldwide, playing many of the major jazz festivals including ones in Montreux, Switzerland, Montreal and San Francisco, according to his website.

Hekselman said it's exciting for Chicago to host the festival because the jazz movement has seen a resurgence in the past decade.

"Giving the audience something to hum after they leave the concerts is a big part of [jazz music]," Hekselman said. "It's wonderful to be able to go to new places and meet new people and play them their music [and] tell them my deepest truths."

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Photos courtesy GUY DREIFUSS, AMIR GWIRTZMAN AND GILAD HEKSELMAN

Ester Rada (left), Amir Gwirtzman (center) and Gilad Hekselman are all performing in Chicago May 19–23 at venues such as City Winery Chicago, 1200 W. Randolph St., and the Green Mill Jazz Club, 4802 N. Broadway, as a part of the first-ever Israeli Jazz Festival.

BOLD, BLACK & BEAUTIFUL:
see page 22
Remembering Ebony Fashion Fair

The DEVIL wears sweatpants

by **Sophia Coleman,** Managing Editor

Be wary, bloggers

I BET IF I stood just about anywhere on Columbia's campus and threw one of my Lita platforms, I'd smack a fashion blogger. And that's worrisome.

The fashion blogosphere has become oversaturated, and because of the accessibility of blogging, it probably won't change. Unless that shoe I figuratively chucked hits a few in the head hard enough, many bloggers will have delusions of grandeur in the pursuit of fashion fame. But free clothes and the occasional advertisement aren't enough to sustain life, and it's time for a reality check.

While rich and famous bloggers like Leandra Medine of The Man Repeller, a streetstyle blog, and Tavi Gevinson, the teenage fashion prodigy of Style Rookie, have turned their witty words and eye for style into formidable careers, the number of fashion bloggers who actually hit it big is slim. In fact, following fashion fancies such as these can land you on the streets—and no, it's not glamorous.

PJ Gach, New York-based fashion blogger of Queen of Style, is no longer living the royal life. Gach took to the Internet April 24 in an act of desperation, asking fellow fashionistas to donate to her PayPal account so she could pay her rent, according to an April 24 article on the New York Observer's website. Gach has lived in her $1,759-a-month Harlem apartment for 13 comfy years, but now to fend off eviction, she has until May 8 to pay her landlord nearly $8,000 in back rent. As of press time, she has only raised $500, and according to her blog, she has no family or strong support system to fall back on. The outlook is dim.

Her horror story began when she was laid off in November 2012 as a senior editor at Betty Confidential, a fashion and beauty website. Her editing job was her main source of income that supported her blogging, and even though she seemingly had it all figured out, her story is a testament to what all fashion writers should be aware of: You are entirely disposable.

Fashion blogging is superficial—it's purely based on the materialistic cravings of those who are willing to spend in the name of being chic. You need money, connections and a solid wardrobe. A budding fashion blogger without these privileges must start out of his or her own closet—and if that's made up of mass-produced clothing from Akira or Urban Outfitters (like me)—you can plan on making your permanent home on Tumblr or Wordpress. Being driven is also important, but blogging should be treated as a hobby in pursuit of a more realistic career. Sadly, the lines between fashion journalism and fashion blogging are blurring into a muddled mess that can hopefully be solved by one thing: a degree.

I know I'm stomping all over some people's dreams, but just remember that the student loan debt many of us will soon be drowning in will be worth it, because a journalism degree is more valuable than any designer dud.

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Featured Photo

Kevin Gebhardt THE CHRONICLE

A fan dressed as comic book character ONSlaught slays a fellow fictional superhero fan dressed as Captain America April 26 at the annual Chicago Comic & Entertainment Expo. The expo, held at McCormick Place, 2301 S. Lake Shore Drive, has attracted comic book lovers since its inception in 2010. This year, the event took place April 26–28.

Check Me Out

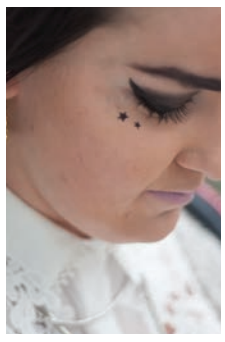
Photos Rena Naltsas THE CHRONICLE

Alexander Knox
junior fashion studies major
favorite accessory: scarves

Gabriel Kvistad
sophomore theater major
favorite accessory: lipstick

Liezel Pallasa
junior arts entertainment & media management major
favorite accessory: snapbacks

Liz Armstrong
senior fashion studies major
favorite accessory: paintbrush necklace



Rookie no more

Courtesy TAVI GEVINSON

An Oak Park, Ill. native, 17-year-old Tavi Gevinson has built an empire from her fashion blog "Style Rookie" and is currently working as the editor-in-chief of Rookie magazine, which she created for teenage girls.

by Justin Moran
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

TAVI GEVINSON ARRIVES at New York Fashion Week to sit front-row at the Christian Dior Couture show as cameramen capture her chatting casually with Anna Wintour. Although she's not the only guest dressed in head-to-toe designer garb, she's definitely the youngest.

At age 11, Gevinson created her own fashion blog out of Oak Park, Ill. called Style Rookie that drew in nearly 50,000 hits daily. At 13, she sat front row at New York Fashion Week alongside industry superstars and at 15, she founded her own online publication, Rookie, for teenage girls.

Labeled "the future of journalism" by Lady Gaga, Tavi Gevinson, now 17, is currently balancing her final years of high school with her job as editor-in-chief at Rookie, where she manages the website's daily posts from her suburban Chicago home.

The Chronicle sat down with Gevinson to discuss her role as a feminist, style evolution since she first began blogging and upcoming college plans.

The Chronicle: What is the central mission for your online magazine, RookieMag.com?

Tavi Gevinson: There are a number of principles that guide Rookie, but I mostly want the girls who read it to be OK with themselves and feel like they're cool enough or pretty enough. Although we help, I want them to feel like that power comes from them and not just from us.

You focus many of your pieces on female strength. What does being a feminist mean to you?

It means that I believe in gender equality. But in terms of Rookie, I've lately stepped away from writing about feminism, although it still guides the lens through which I write, curate the site and consider our readers.

How has the Internet impacted our generation the most?

Personally, it's how I've found the things that are important to me, and it obviously opened a lot of opportunities. It creates new, accessible outlets that people may not have had otherwise.

How have your interests expanded since you first began blogging about fashion?

Right now, I'm wearing overalls and a sweater, so lately my creative energy has gone into other outlets, but they are all outlets that I wouldn't have been as interested in if it hadn't been for my interest in fashion. Fashion is so tied in with film and music. I look up the bands my favorite designers listed as inspiration and magazines [that aren't] only writing about fashion, they also write about film.

You recently said you wanted to take a break from writing about fashion. Why?

I guess it just felt like a natural evolution. I don't think I necessarily felt like I needed to take a break from fashion, it just hasn't been inspiring to me in the way it was. I also think I got a little too close to the reality of [the fashion industry]. Some people are more cut out to be fans and writers [of fashion] than in the action, and I might be one of those people.

What was the experience like to play the voice of Lynn, a medical student, in the animated short film "Cadaver?"

I had fun because [the experience] was different. I'm the boss of more than 60 people, so it was nice to take direction and do something that was about being a different character. It was refreshing to not think about the visual aspect for once, knowing that it was in someone else's hands and would all come together.

How do you balance your school, social and business lives?

Lately I've been sleeping, but there are periods of time that I don't sleep. I also never procrastinate. There is definitely compromise and sacrifice, but it forces me to choose what I really want to do, and I don't mind that. I'm always doing something that I care about.

Who has been the most inspiring person you've worked with?

Our staff at Rookie. We have a Facebook group where we talk all the time, and it's the greatest learning experience and the best website ever created. I love working with them. Although I've been lucky to work with a lot of interesting people, they come to mind first.

You'll be a senior in high school next year. Have you started thinking about college?

I want to take a gap year. I don't know where I want to go to school, but I think I want to be an English major and grill my brain and point-of-view instead of focusing on one specific skill in college. But it's really hard to say at this point.

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'Fair' Beauty: Chicago Hi

th Flair of Ebony

Written by Mariah Craddick, contributing writer
Additional research by Tyler McDermott
Designed by Michael Scott Fischer

A tall, slender woman makes her way onto a makeshift runway in the middle of a high school auditorium. She's the center of attention in a room full of vocal spectators enthusiastically cheering her on. The floor-length, skintight gold lamé gown she wears seems to encase her entire body, and when she walks she struts, the thumping music from the live band propelling her forward. She gets to the end of the catwalk and poses, placing her hands on her hips and tossing her head back proudly. Then, as she turns her back, the crowd gasps and giggles in shrill excitement as the cut in her dress is so low, her bare bottom is exposed to all of her onlookers.

Scenes like this were common during the Ebony Fashion Fair, a charitable traveling fashion show that brought some of the finest, and sometimes most shocking, haute couture fashions of the past half-century to black audiences in nearly 170 different venues from 1958–2009. The event was inspired by New Orleans socialite Jesse Covington Dent's charity show in 1956, but it became a traveling event thanks to the woman who gave Ebony magazine its name, Eunice Walker Johnson, wife of John H. Johnson, founder and former CEO of Johnson Publishing Company. The show raised money for various organizations nationwide and introduced a world of high fashion typically unfamiliar to black Americans at the time of its start.

To celebrate its half-century run, the Chicago History Museum is now highlighting more than 60 of the show's designs in the museum's largest temporary exhibit to date, "Inspiring Beauty: 50 Years of Ebony Fashion Fair." According to the exhibit's curator Joy Bivins, the display is the brainchild of former Chicago History Museum curator Tim Long. She said he contacted Johnson before her death in 2010 to obtain access to the Ebony Fashion Fair archive to showcase pieces from her extensive collection.

Of the Johnsons' assemblage of 7,000-plus designer ensembles, 3,500 pieces were salvageable, with the others too worn to display, according to Chicago History Museum Communications Coordinator Nicholas Glenn. In early 2011, Bivins and Virginia Heaven, costume curator and Columbia associate fashion studies professor, began selecting the pieces for the show, deciding on 67 outstanding ready-to-wear and couture pieces from designers such as Emilio Pucci, Givenchy and Christian Lacroix. While these world-class designs are historical symbols of elegance, procuring them was far less than glamorous for Johnson and her crew.

Visiting design houses during the 1950s and 1960s on New York's Seventh Avenue and abroad, Johnson and her team—which included former Ebony magazine Fashion Editor Freda DeKnight, former Ebony Fashion Fair Commentator Audrey Smaltz, former Vogue Editor-At-Large André Leon Talley and at times Johnson's daughter and current CEO of Johnson Publishing Linda Johnson Rice—experienced discrimination, Rice said. Racial tensions existed inside fashion showrooms just as much as they did at the lunch counters and picket lines across America at the peak of the Civil Rights Movement, according to Rice.

She said some designers looked down on her mother simply because she was black, while others feared tapping into Ebony's market would mean losing their mostly-white customer base. She also said some design houses assumed that, because Ebony Fashion Fair was a charity show, her mother would want the pieces loaned. However, Johnson preferred to buy the clothing outright to show fashion houses just how thick her wallet really was, according to Rice.

"She demanded their respect, meaning the respect of the couture houses of Europe," Rice said. "For me to sit with her and watch her negotiate at these various houses made me realize how smart she was and what fortitude she had. She never took no for an answer."

Johnson's persistence paid off and made the Ebony Fashion Fair a rousing success, travelling as far as London and the Caribbean and raising more than $55 million for various scholarship groups during its 50 years, according to Ebony Senior Writer Margena A. Christian. The show also helped boost circulation for Johnson Publishing Company's magazines, Ebony and Jet, since shrewd businessman John H. Johnson included subscriptions in the ticket prices, Christian said.

"These [shows] were highlights for people in the African-American community," Christian said. "[Black people] weren't going to the couture houses in Paris and going overseas to shop, but she brought those designs to us."

Not only did Johnson bring European fashions to black Americans, she made a point to highlight up-and-coming black designers, such as Stephen Burrows, known in recent years for his inventive color-blocking techniques and patchwork designs. The true stars of the show, the Ebony Fashion Fair models, came in a variety of hues, sizes and personalities—something not seen on mainstream runways during this time, and rarely today, Christian said. In 1982, the show introduced its first plus-size model, Kim Nelson, who became a signature part of the performance and, according to Christian, garnered the biggest audience reaction. She added that some famous faces got their start modeling with the traveling show, including Richard Roundtree, actor from the 1971 film "Shaft"; Pat Cleveland, one of the first black supermodels; and Janet Langhart Cohen, television journalist, author and wife of former Sen. William Cohen (R–Maine).

Johnson would place ads in her husband's magazines seeking models, Christian said. Prospective catwalkers sent in their headshots and portfolios, if they had them, and Johnson would conduct interviews and auditions before handpicking who would be in the show.

Cohen, who modeled with Ebony Fashion Fair during its 1962 and 1964 seasons, said the shows were not only instrumental in launching her career, but they helped open her eyes to the changing world around her.

"We'd travel south and see that some black people had more affluence and better homes

istory Museum Celebrates

be y Fashion Fair

than white people my parents had worked for," she said. "It was a cultural shock for me."

According to Cohen, John H. Johnson designated chaperones for each of the models and attempted to shelter them from racial discrimination or conflict by putting them up in the homes of the wealthiest black people as they travelled across the country. Still, Cohen said the models couldn't be protected from everything.

"We were in Mississippi, and it was the first time I'd seen 'White Only,' 'Colored Only' signs, and I saw how different and demeaning it was," she said. "I had to use the restroom, but it was the first time I felt defiant, and I said, 'I am not going to let it reduce me to this.'"

Some models also found it difficult to find makeup shades to match their darker skin tones, according to Christian. But the Johnsons turned that problem into profit when they decided to launch their own cosmetic line, Fashion Fair Cosmetics, in 1973 which to this day is self-proclaimed as the largest black-owned cosmetic company in the world.

Much like the models and their varying skin tones, the custom-made mannequins in the "Inspiring Beauty" display celebrate that diversity with a range of complexions and hairstyles, from eccentric color extensions to funky afros. According to Bivins, the exhibit is presented in three sections to mimic the Ebony Fashion Fair show format: "Vision," "Innovation" and "Power."

"Vision" pays tribute to the show's inception and Johnson's ingenuity as a producer, featuring more than 30 designs from fashion luminaries including Pierre Cardin, Emanuel Ungaro, André Courréges, Givenchy, Christian Lacroix and Paco Rabanne. These pieces invoke regality and affluence, surely speaking to the Johnsons' mantra planted on one exhibit wall: "First-class fashion for second-hand citizens."

The mannequins are aligned on a runway in the center of the first room, each displaying a distinct pose and flair. One wears a Jean-Louis Scherrer black leather jumpsuit with a floor-length coat made of lavish furs including fox, goat, mink and Persian lamb. Another is more demure, in an elegant, lavender-colored silk chiffon Givenchy evening dress with a matching shawl dripping with delicate fringe.

In another room, garments in sunshine yellows, royal purples and ravishing pinks represent the risk Johnson encouraged black women and men to embrace when other designers insisted they were "too dark" to pull off such vivid colors. "Vision" also features a rotating platform that will switch out garments every few weeks, due to their fragility, according to Bivens.

"Innovation" dives into the story of the Johnson Publishing Company—a rags-to-riches tale of John H. Johnson and how he took a $500 furniture loan and turned it into a publishing empire. The founding of the Johnson business and its role in conveying positive images of black life is explored through archival footage projected onto a television screen and table surface. The 10 featured costumes represent the more whimsical, avant-garde silhouettes Ebony Fashion Fair was known for. An Emanuel Ungaro dress made of gold, ruffle-trimmed silk, satin and taffeta with an asymmetrical hemline is a lesson in pure overkill, while three other garments balance more decadent concepts by embodying the show's eventual transformation in later years to more casual outfits—such as an all-denim piece paired with a blue fur coat from Angelo Marani.

And similar to the finale of an Ebony Fashion Fair show, the exhibit's concluding section, "Power," is a showcase of the most elaborate and dramatic ensembles from designers Valentino, Alexander McQueen for Givenchy, Guy Laroche, Bob Mackie, Bill Blass, Karl Lagerfeld, Eric Gaskins, Halston and Christian Dior. Upon entry, a stunning, body-hugging gold and silver glass-beaded dress with a face-framing hood and ostrich feather coat by Bob Mackie steals the show, resembling Vegas showgirl attire.

Also on display is a black and white glass-and-rhinestone-beaded evening gown adorned with ostrich and coque rooster feathers designed by Bill Blass exclusively for one of Ebony Fashion Fair's featured plus-size models in the 2008–2009 season. "Power" pays tribute to those involved with the show as well, from the models and designers to the commentators and buyers, and the extension of Ebony Fashion Fair beyond the runway as an influence on different charities and the community.

Ebony Fashion Fair came to an abrupt end in the middle of its 2009 season shortly before Johnson's death in January 2010. While some cited her failing health as a reason for the show's collapse, Rice released a statement shortly after naming "economic challenges" as the culprit. But, with a new business model in place—such as the addition of digital features and live streaming—she said the show should make a return this fall or in spring 2014. Instead of travelling, she said Ebony Fashion Fair would be one show produced in New York City, though she didn't disclose any other details.

Christian, who has worked for Johnson Publishing Company since 1995 and witnessed action behind the scenes during the show's original run, said she adamantly believes a revival of Ebony Fashion Fair would be as relevant today as it was when it began.

"There's nothing like the experience of seeing someone walk the runway, especially for people of color," Christian said. "To see the models do the struts, it made you aspire. Even if you knew you weren't going to be a model, it made you think, 'Maybe I can strut that way, or maybe I can put my cape on that way.'"

Whether it makes a return or not, the Ebony Fashion Fair legacy is unmatched in what it did, not only for black communities, but for possibly influencing other designers to begin using models of color on their runways and in mainstream magazines. The "Inspiring Beauty" exhibit aims to capture a portion of that influence and serve as a fitting tribute to a show like no other.

"You don't see [shows like] this anymore," Christian said. "Just the radiance and magnificence of it. [Ebony Fashion Fair] is something you have to experience to see."

"Inspiring Beauty: 50 Years of Ebony Fashion Fair" will run at the Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark St., until Jan. 5, 2014.

chronicle@colum.edu

Photos courtesy Johnson Publishing Company, LLC. All rights reserved

Mykki Blanco borders on insanity

Concert Review

Photos Carolina Sanchez THE CHRONICLE

Gender-bending rapper Mykki Blanco excited The Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave. April 22 with his passionate set filled with onstage outfit changes, aggressive a capella raps and satanic performance art pieces that displayed his undeniable iconicity.

by Justin Moran
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

IN AN INDUSTRY governed by gimmicks, listeners seem to beg musicians to establish their image first, often putting talent on the backburner. It's as if up-and-coming artists can no longer make it big without dancing in 12-inch platforms or portraying an array of dramatic alter-egos.

In today's culture, a crystal-encrusted Martin Margiela mask, an outfit of head-to-toe Givenchy and videos sprinkled with Illuminati imagery can suffice despite careless lyrics and uninspired melodies. Such calculation naturally begs the question, "Is anyone genuinely weird anymore?"

Rapper Mykki Blanco proved that he is with an unapologetic one-man performance at The Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave., where his genuine weirdness thrived in a pool of sheer insanity. His passionate set of gender-bending outfit changes, demonic performance art installations and in-your-face a capella raps called for careful digestion rather than carefree dancing. And unlike his prepackaged industry peers, all of his raw, DIY tactics felt as though they had a meaningful purpose that exposed an untold story beyond Blanco's surface.

Blanco's set began at midnight when he stormed the stage in a brunette wig, padded sports bra, fishing hat and plaid boxer shorts—a look suggesting he had wreaked havoc in the women's section of the Salvation Army—to ignite the crowd with the aggressive, bass-heavy "Haze. Boogie.Life." However, this outlandish opening wasn't a synthetic showcase but rather a honest depiction of who Blanco is, regardless of gender. With muscular tattooed arms and a masculine face devoid of makeup, he clearly doesn't intend to look like a woman or a man. Blanco was authentically himself, an inimitable hybrid of both genders.

While androgyny isn't anything new among males in pop music given artists such as David Bowie and Prince, a similar exploration has been entirely absent from hip-hop, illuminating the novel brilliance and authenticity of Blanco's genderless performance. Given such a limiting genre, any choice to veer away from the norm is believably sincere.

Blanco invited a selection of audience members onto the stage—girls wearing sheer crop tops and leather chokers and men sporting heels and floor length skirts—to dance as Blanco announced, "It smells like sex and weed in this room," with his track "F---in the DJ," an erotically smooth declaration of Blanco's darkest interests, which tend to dominate his lyrics.

With manic eyes and convoluted poses, Blanco stumbled across the stage, thrusting atop speakers and stomping to the beat of his hard-hitting underground sound. But his aggressive stage presence didn't overshadow his undeniable talent on the microphone, as his confident rapping skills and unique vocal tonality exceeded what one would expect to hear at a venue like The Empty Bottle. He was a caged lion with talent worth gracing the United Center stage for an audience of more than 20,000. Blanco's understanding that few people would witness his theatrical antics

» SEE MYKKI, PG. 29

Amalia Pica

Apr 27–Aug 11, 2013

Support for *Amalia Pica* is generously provided by the Margot and W. George Greig Ascendant Artist Fund.

Additional generous support is provided by the Chauncey and Marion D. McCormick Family Foundation; Mary Ittelson; Nancy Lauter McDougal and Alfred L. McDougal; Ashlee and Martin Modahl; James Keith Brown and Eric Diefenbach; Larry Mathews and Brian Saliman; Marc Foxx and Rodney Hill, Marc Foxx Gallery, Los Angeles; the Consulate General of Argentina in Chicago; Phillips; Galerie Diana Stigter, Amsterdam; and Herald St, London.

Argentina

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Amalia Pica. *Venn diagrams (under the spotlight)*, 2011. Spotlights on tripod, motion sensors, lighting gels, and graphite on wall. Dimensions variable. Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros. Photo: Kiki Triantafyllou, courtesy of the artist; Herald St, London; Galerie Diana Stigter, Amsterdam; and Marc Foxx Gallery, Los Angeles.

THE BLACK FILM SOCIETY PRESENTS

"WITHIN OUR GATES"

STUDENT FILM FESTIVAL

Columbia is an urban institution whose students reflect the economic, racial, cultural, and educational diversity of contemporary America.

Columbia's intent is to educate students who will communicate creatively and shape the public's perceptions of issues and events and who will

AUTHOR THE CULTURE OF OUR TIMES.

-Columbia Chicago Mission Statement

In the spirit of what Columbia College Chicago aspires to be, we seek to contribute stories and images of Black Life to the student film festival landscape here at one of the most diverse film schools in America. Along with our Sponsors Big Head Entertainment, Inc, we present the 1st annual "Within Our Gates" Black Student Short Film Competition in honor of the great Chicago filmmaker Oscar Micheaux, who independently authored Black film that spoke the cultural truths of his own times

This juried short film competition looks to highlight and celebrate the artistic achievements of Black students in the art of narrative, documentary, and experimental film here at Columbia College Chicago. Cash Prizes will be awarded in categories of Best Film, Best Director, Best Editor, Best Screenplay, Best Cinematography and Festival Favorite. The top ten films will be screened on

May 7th
7PM - 9:30PM
in room 504 of the 1104 South Wabash Building

and will gain national distribution through Big Head Entertainment, Inc. For more information on entering the festival contact **Marcus Martin**, President of the **Black Film Society** at **marcus.martin@loop.colum.edu,** for volunteering to judge, contact **Vaun Monroe,** Faculty Advisor at **vmonroe@colum.edu**

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BIG HEAD Entertainment, Inc.

Columbia COLLEGE CHICAGO

Staff Playlist

Rainy day songs

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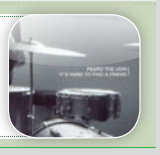
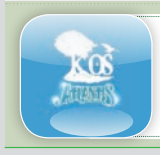


OF UP AND COMING MONARCHS // Pedro The Lion
3030 // Deltron 3030
BRAVE THE ELEMENTS // Colossal
COLD WORLD // Thou

DOUG PITORAK, SPORTS & HEALTH EDITOR

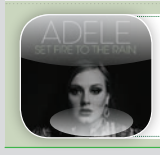


THE RAIN // k-os
NAKED IN THE RAIN // Red Hot Chili Peppers
RAIN WATER // Brother Ali
POCKET FULL OF SUNSHINE //Natasha Bedingfield

COREY STOLZENBACH, COPY EDITOR

RAIN // The Beatles
RHAPSODY IN THE RAIN // Lou Christie
RAINING BLOOD // Slayer
RAINDROPS KEEP FALLING ON MY HEAD // B.J. Thomas

TYLER EAGLE, ASSISTANT CAMPUS EDITOR



SET FIRE TO THE RAIN // Adele
MAKE IT RAIN // Fat Joe feat. Lil Wayne
SINGING IN THE RAIN // Gene Kelly
UMBRELLA // Rihanna

Audiofile

Oates paves 'Good Road to Follow'

by Emily Ornberg
Arts & Culture Editor

DURING THE 1960S, guitarist John Oates attended Temple University in Philadelphia, where he met classmate Daryl Hall, a vocalist, keyboardist and guitarist. After realizing their shared love for rock 'n' roll and local soul, the friends teamed up in a few doo-wop groups and eventually decided to make a career out of it, birthing the '70s hit-making group Hall & Oates.

Although he still tours with Hall and has released four albums, starting in June, Oates plans to release a new single each month for a year from his solo album "Good Road To Follow." Each song on the album has been written with, produced by or features a guest artist, such as pop band Hot Chelle Rae, Ryan Tedder from OneRepublic and country superstar Vince Gill. While promoting "Good Road," Oates visited Evanston's SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., on April 27.

The Chronicle sat down with Oates to discuss his new solo project, his songwriting process and the biggest change he has seen since his early days in the industry.

The Chronicle: What was the central inspiration behind your new solo project?

John Oates: I just love to write and record new stuff, and I just got tired of the idea that I'm going to make another solo album. I made four. And it seems like the world is returning to this concept of singles, and people pick and choose the songs that they like and add them to their personal playlist. Since I like a wide variety of genres and different styles of music, I thought I would go for the more modern approach. So all these really cool people started agreeing to come on the project. Every song has its own story, and it's really cool because I get to do all different styles of music.

How did you get involved with pop group Hot Chelle Rae?

I'm actually friends with their father. I've known them since they were about 5 years old. They asked me to re-record the '80s song "You Make My Dreams Come True" with them, so I pulled out my guitar that I actually played on that track and went down to the studio and played on their version of the song. When I was there, I asked if they wanted to be a part of my project. Our song comes out in early June, [and] it's called "High Maintenance." It's like a teenage pop song.

Do you miss touring with Daryl Hall?

It's a funny misconception. I have never stopped touring with Daryl, ever. Since the time we've known each other in the early '70s, we've taken some time off but we always tour. I think it's one of the reasons we're still out there—people come see us. We're a real live band, we've always been a live band, [and] we love playing live. I just did a show with him yesterday. We go on tour all the time, and it's during those times off that we can chill or record solo projects or whatever.

What's the biggest change you've seen in the recording process since your start in the industry 40 years ago?

I started out in primitive analog recording—two-track analog recording—and look where we are now with digital recording and unlimited tracks and incredible technical tools that are disposable to make records with. The world of recording is just completely different, but that's what makes this new project I'm doing so easy, too, is that when I go in to each of these collaborations—when I go into their world—I try to act like a fly on the wall. I like to see how they do it. I like to see how different people do different things. Some people do things very similar to the way I do things, some people do things completely different. It's really cool for me.

You've continually stressed the importance of artists owning the rights to the master recordings of their songs. How do you feel about the growing trend of sampling other musician's tracks?

We're probably one of the most sampled groups in the world. The song "I Can't Go For That (No Can Do)," is probably the most sampled song ever. We very seldom turn down a sampling offer, especially when it's interesting and well done. If it's crap, then maybe not, but most of the time it's an interesting take on it. We made the songs, [and] we made a record that's all out there for prosterity. If someone wants to take it to another place and add their individuality to it, then that's cool. It's just something new.

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Courtesy DILLON BARBOSA

Guitarist John Oates (right) from Hall & Oates plans to start a new project in June titled "Good Road To Follow," in which he will release a new single, each one featuring a different artist from a variety of genres, every month for a year.

music downloads

Week ending April 23, 2013

#1 Album
Save Rock and Roll
Fall Out Boy

Top tracks

1. ***Just Give Me a Reason*** • P!nk
2. ***Can't Hold Us*** Macklemore & Ryan Lewis
3. ***Mirrors*** • Justin Timberlake
4. ***Get Lucky*** • Daft Punk
5. ***I Love It*** • Icona Pop

Source: iTunes

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AEMMP Records drops mixtape, hosts release event

by Chris Shuttlesworth & Kyle Rich
Contributing Writer & Social Media Editor

SATISFACTION IS IMMINENT after finishing a lengthy project. But when the final product is showcased at a venue packed with dozens of students, feelings of achievement are amplified.

The hip-hop division of AEMMP Records, Columbia's award-winning student-run record label, dropped this year's collaborative album, "The Prerequisite," April 22, featuring 11 songs by 13 artists. To commemorate their hard work, AEMMP held a release party at Schubas Tavern, 3159 N. Southport Ave. with performances from five of the featured artists.

The company is part of the Decision-Making: Music Business Management course in the Arts, Entertainment & Media Management Department and is managed by graduate and undergraduate students enrolled in the class.

Although AEMMP has been around for 30 years, the hip-hop division is the youngest at 3 years old and follows different marketing and promotion strategies than the other divisions, which also include lifestyle and rock, according to Margaret Hobson, an administrative coordinator with AEMMP's hip-hop division.

"A lot of times in hip-hop with mixtapes, [they] feature multiple [collaborations between] producers and artists, so that's the concept we went with for 'The Prerequisite,'" Hobson said. "Lots of mixtapes are also released for free, so we wanted to do the same."

Franky Murdock, Daryn Alexus, Haile, and St. Millie all preformed at the release party, which was sponsored by streetwear boutique Jugrnaut, music blog Ruby Hornet and independent hip-hop label Closed Sessions. All of the performers have been students at Columbia, except St. Millie.

Murdock, who raps with a fast, brash delivery, said his music represents him not only as a person but also shows that people like him can create their own plan, start their own career and do what they love.

"Before I got here, nobody really knew who I was," Murdock said. "But Columbia gave me the opportunity to network with students that were not only doing rap, but visual art, acting and dance. Networking with people from different genres allowed me to incorporate what I had learned from them into my music."

Among many other songs, St. Millie performed his new, explosive track "No Damm" off "The Prerequisite." During the performance, he shared his technique and love for connecting with the audience through with his music.

"I'm a pretty great performer and I'm good at controlling the crowd and getting people involved," St. Millie said. "I enjoy having fun, so everyone else should have fun as well."

"The Prerequisite" was a planned process that took nearly a year to complete. According to Hobson, AEMMP released a five-song EP last year but needed more time to plan for a full-length mixtape.

She said making the album was all a matter of establishing chemistry among the artists and producers. Featuring tracks from Chicago emcee ShowYouSuck and production by Nu Theory and Zack "Fox" Jablow, the record was recorded and mastered at Soundscape Studios, 2510 W. Chicago Ave.

Alexander Fruchter, an instructor in AEMM's practicum hip-hop course, said AEMMP's mission is all about giving exposure to Columbia artists.

"The purpose of [the release show] was to showcase the new album, the artists and to get students out of the South Loop," he said.

Fruchter said he noticed a lack of Columbia support for the label in terms of participation and recognition. Fruchter compared it to his college days when he attended Indiana University in Bloomington, and professors would cancel class just so students could go support the sports teams.

"You could probably walk out of Columbia and throw a shoe at a kid on the street that's probably a producer, musician, rapper or DJ—and for them not to know that they have a student-run record label at their own school is crazy," Fruchter said.

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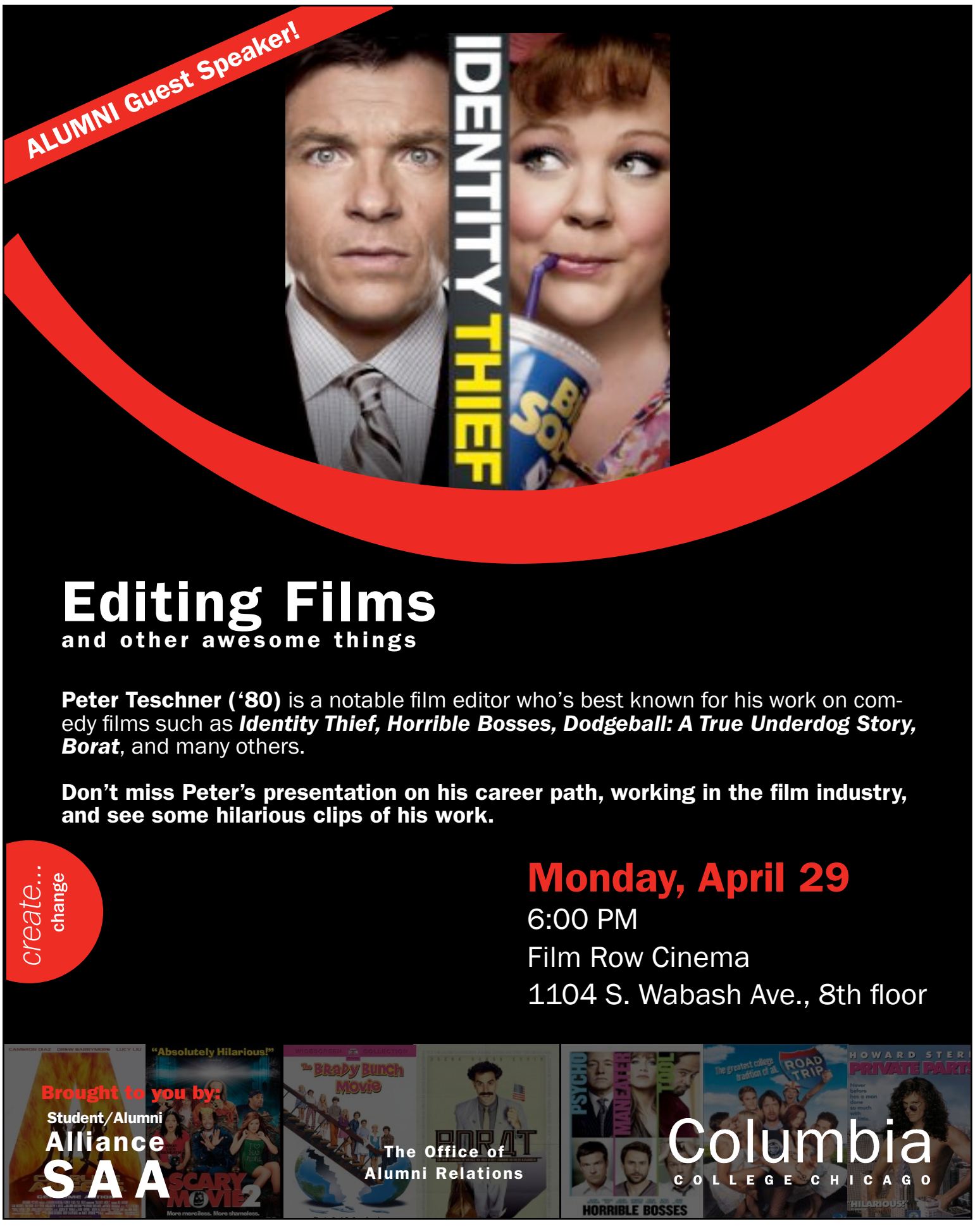
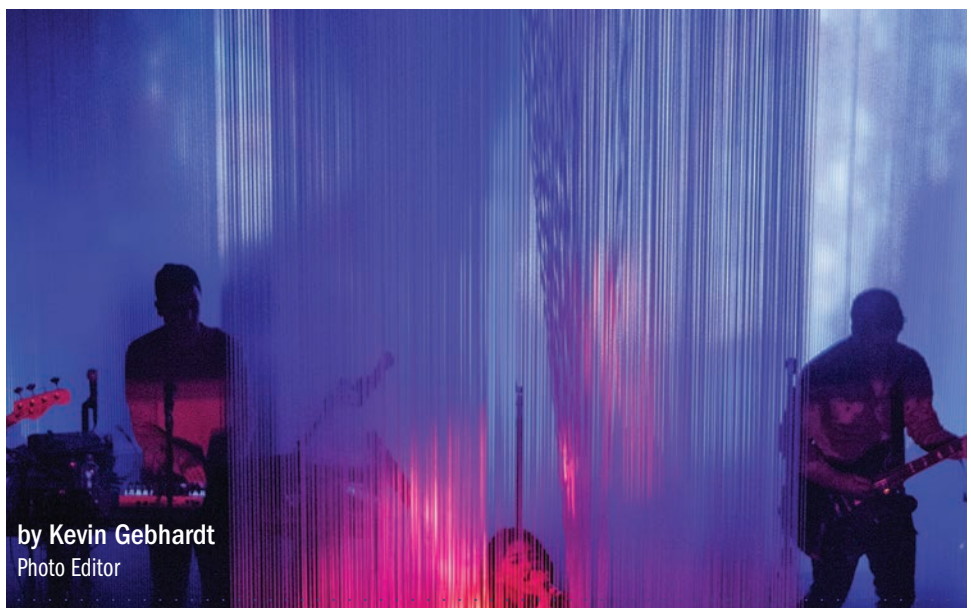
Kevin Gebhardt THE CHRONICLE

Rapper Haile, center, was one of four artists who performed at Arts Entertainment and Media Management Practicum's release party for "The Prerequisite" mixtape at Schubas Tavern, 3159 N. Southport Ave.



HOW TO DESTROY ANGELS LANDS IN CHICAGO



by Kevin Gebhardt
Photo Editor

NEARLY 4 YEARS after the last Nine Inch Nails show, as well as two babies and two soundtracks later, frontman and musical pioneer Trent Reznor finally sent his Los Angeles-based project, How to Destroy Angels, on tour. Formed in 2010, the band consists of Reznor on guitar and keyboard, his wife Mariqueen Reznor on vocals and Atticus Ross on programming and synthesizers. The post-industrial band released its first full album, "Welcome Oblivion," March 4 and announced a handful of U.S. tour dates.

HTDA played to a warm, sold-out crowd April 23 at the Vic Theater, 3145 N. Sheffield Ave. For the first time, HTDA art director Rob Sheridan became part of the band and live stage presence, fully controlling the visuals and playing a part of the synthesizers throughout the 90-minute concert.

While the band may never truly break away from the heavy, distorted sound of NIN, HTDA has created a complex production full of ambient and electronic elements. Luckily for any Reznor fan, his backup vocals rang out in the venue with a gripping chill, showing he still has his commanding stage presence without overshadowing his wife. The Chronicle snapped shots of the band's first Chicago appearance to capture the visually stunning, raw power and ingenious presentation of a musical pioneer's latest creation.

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» MYKKI

Continued from PG. 24

is testament to the genuineness of his eccentricity.

Halfway through the set, Blanco signaled for his disc jockey to cut the music and began to sing a slightly off-pitch, a capella mockery of "I Wanna Be Loved By You" from the 1928 musical "Good Boy," with a forced smile and valley girl voice. His joyous dancing quickly transformed into a stormy tantrum as Blanco removed his wig to reveal his bald head. The audience's excitement brimmed when Blanco threw off his bra and put on a snapback and fire-trimmed basketball shorts and began to rap the aggressive lyrics of "Betty Rubble (I Got the Midas Touch)" from the mixtape "Cosmic Angel: The Illuminati Prince/ss Mixtape" a capella.

"If this is the big picture, you better cast me in it," Blanco proclaimed. "Mykki Blanco get so much shine, you'd think she was a sequin."

But it wasn't until Blanco worked through the first single off his upcoming EP "Betty Rubble: The Initiation," called "Feeling Special," that his pure lunacy was fully exposed.

The DJ faded down the track to a haunting lull, humming as Blanco placed his wig atop the microphone stand and began to pray beside it as if worshipping an idol. He lifted the stand and slung it over his shoulders—the background track still moaning—and began to twitch in a satanic display of his inner demons.

With only the whites of his eyes showing, Blanco engaged in what looked like an exorcism, scratching at his chest in a performance art piece that made the show about so much more than just the music. Blanco is an artist, not a rapper. But while Top-40 hip-hop artists like Nicki Minaj might make the same claim, Blanco's demonic display for hundreds of fans was more real than Minaj's infamous 2012 Grammy exorcism for millions.

Blanco finished his nearly 2-hour long set, raging through synth-heavy tracks "Kingpinning" and "Wavvy," sweat dripping from every inch of his body. He dove into such dramatic and personal moments that the audience was often completely still and stood wide-eyed at the one-of-a-kind marvel on stage, a sight more common at an art gallery than an underground rock club.

With a show that was one part hip-hop, one part performance art and three parts impenitent sexuality, Blanco created a dramatic escape for Chicago's misfits. Although his sheer rapping talent could have stood alone, the genuine theatrics that accompanied his aggressive spitting-style made for an icon.

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Photos Carolina Sanchez THE CHRONICLE

Mykki Blanco ignited The Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave., at an April 22 show brimming with ferocious aggression and punk energy. Blanco incorporated elements of performance art into the two-hour show.

Top 5

Miranda Cummings // Senior Ad Account Executive

Things I won't miss about Columbia

624 S. Michigan Ave. elevators: Let's just get this one out of the way. I despise every single elevator in that building and have very seldom had a pleasant time riding in them. They take an unreasonably long time to get from the bottom to the top, and I know I'm not the only one the doors have tried to eat alive.

Guys in skinny jeans: I was pretty naïve for thinking I had escaped this fad after graduating high school, but I seriously hope my post-grad future leads me to men in suits instead. Dockers? Fine. Khakis? Debatable. But skinny jeans have GOT to go.

The constant party outside the University Center: There are so many awesome places in the city of Chicago for groups of people to congregate. Why this is constantly happening right outside the UC is beyond me. I know some of you are smoking cigarettes, but I'm not sure how that becomes a 25-person activity.

The lack of a Columbia student parking lot: So when you guys are done buying buildings in the South Loop, could you maybe trade one of the old ones in for a parking lot? I'm sure the commuter population would REALLY appreciate that.

THAT kid in your class: You know, the one that shows up whenever he/she wants to and always gives the most creative and artistic yet completely unrelated answer to a question the teacher asked over an hour ago. I don't care if you're getting your Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts, you cannot get away with doing a painting instead of a 10-page research paper.

Brandon Smith // Office Assistant

Reasons I hate your cat

You never shut up about it: We get it. You have a cat, you love your cat, and your cat makes you laugh. The reality is that all of those things are probably unrequited. As long as it gets fed and has a permissible place to poop, it will continue to bring you joy. But I really don't care.

Instagram: Your cat is probably the reason I either stopped following you or never did in the first place. I pity that the most visually interesting part of your day is your Calico stepping in a strategically placed puddle of paint then walking on a strategically placed piece of canvas.

It ruined us: You were hot. I mean, I was seriously attracted to you. Unfortunately, in the midst of our first conversation, I asked if you have any pets. That question unleashed a cornucopia of hysteria and I swear you hacked up a fur ball. "Uh, I think my mom is calling. See ya around!"

Allergies: I'm not cripplingly allergic to your beloved feline, but it really seems to love my face. Every time your cat thinks I want to touch it or simply wants to be touched by me, my eyes react as though they've been assaulted by mosquitoes. "Why are you leaving so soon?" you ask. "I have an important appointment to trim my nails."

I have a dog: I understand it's a matter of opinion, but canis lupus familiaris is exponentially more entertaining than your stubborn puss. I can take him to the beach. That speaks for itself. I don't care that dogs are emotionally shallow creatures; they do what I tell them to. Did I mention I hate your cat?

Sylvia Leak // Ad & Business Manager

Things that piss me off

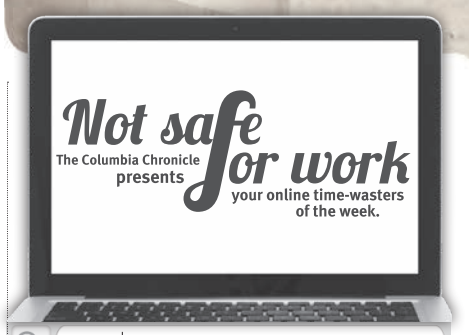
Professionals who wear scrubs outdoors: My mother is a nurse, and she was never allowed to wear her scrubs outside the hospital for the obvious fact that germs latch onto the material. You can't wear a germ-infestated uniform while treating patients. It's just going to make them more sick. Seriously?!

When dudes spit: You guys are disgusting. Launching a glob of saliva onto my city's streets is not sexy. I can maybe understand if you are sick. If you are sick and coughing up mucus, please use the nearby garbage can. I don't want to know how many people's DNA is on my shoe right now.

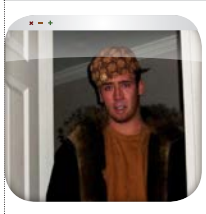
Late responses to text messages: If I texted you more than an hour ago and you're not responding even though I didn't say goodbye, you have officially pissed me off. A text message takes less than 15 seconds to send. It is an instant conversation, people. If I wanted to have the same conversation over a week I would write a letter and send it to your house.

Ex-Girlfriends/Boyfriends: Why are they relevant? There's an "ex" in front of the title for a reason. If they were good while you were in the relationship, maybe they wouldn't be an ex. Don't let your past mess up your future.

Waking me up early: I am not a morning person! Do not call or text my phone before 10 a.m. or be prepared to be cursed out. Good Morning text messages aren't cute. Try good afternoon.



blog



Nicholas Cage as everyone

In case you don't see enough of everyone's favorite "so-bad-he's-good" actor taking dumb movie offer after dumb movie offer, you can see Nicholas Cage at his best—as everyone. Believe it or not, this blog recently reached more than 2 million hits, and why shouldn't it? Seeing the Cage's face superimposed on your favorite meme or Professor Snape can make any day better.

video

Lie Witness News: Coachella

Coachella music fest attracts a lot of great acts and arts—and unfortunately many dumb hipsters. A correspondent from the "Jimmy Kimel Live!" show went to the festival to ask unsuspecting youngsters if they are looking forward to seeing bands that don't exist—with names like "The Obesity Epidemic." And of course respondents agreed. Hipster justice has been served.

'A Nos Amours' not another teen movie

by **Sam Flancher**
Film Critic

"A NOS AMOURS," a veritable classic of 1980s French filmmaking, amounts to a compendium of the late director Maurice Pialat's personal and thematic concerns. Sexually frank and socially brooding, the film stands today as a definitive entry into the "coming-of-age" genre. Playing at the Gene Siskel Film Center on April 30, the film has also received home viewing distribution as part of a definitive DVD box set of the director's works.

The film's plot chronicles the sexual exploits of Suzanne (Sandrine Bonnaire), a newly sexually active 15-year-old girl whose psyche is fraught with Freudian overtones. Bored and unhappy, she engages in a series of affairs in order to better cope with her crumbling familial situation. A weepy mother, violent brother and relatively absent father force her out of their home and into the beds of countless anonymous men. In between trysts, she lazes about the house, complaining of boredom and exuding extreme unhappiness.

This tale of maturation teems with the ferocity of Pialat's steady directorial hand. His presence is domineering—he casts himself as the father of the fragmenting family—and his character's violent outbursts signify the kinds of anger that produced such a work. His authorial imprint is commanding, relinquishing its control only to the landmark performance of Bonnaire. Then only 16 years old, Bonnaire plays the decidedly moody Suzanne with striking depth. The teenage protagonist is expectedly bratty and irrational, though moments of honest anguish flood her performance during certain scenes. What seems to be routine family squabbling often ends with Suzanne hurling unreasonably cruel insults at her abandoned mother, and her numerous post-coital blank stares show an unprecedented emptiness transcendent of teenage angst.

Aside from its forceful performances, the film's visual frankness is its strongest element. The camera does little to stylize or embellish, and numerous scenes of physical domestic abuse are depicted with menacing brutality. The violent home life is seen as inescapable—a reality these characters are meant to live with rather than break from. Such harshness is best evidenced near the film's end. Suzanne's estranged father bursts in on a dinner of family and friends. The conversation turns from passive-aggression to assault as the family hurls slurs and insults at one another, which inevitably leads to physical violence among the family. There's no romance to be found in the film—it deals in stark realities.

IMDB

"A Nos Amours," a classic from the late Maurice Pialat, is being screened April 30 at the Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State.

This sense of brutal honesty extends into the film's narrative construction. Though Suzanne's sexuality bears a distinct relationship to her disintegrating family life, the exact implications are unclear throughout. While her newfound lust acts as an escape from her home life, an assertion can be made that her "liberation" ultimately causes an irreparable rift within the psychosexual framework of her family. Whether her actions have incited such familial destruction or merely exist as a result of it remains unclear, and such ambiguity is responsible for the film's elusive stance. It feeds into the film's lack of sexual and familial romanticism. "A Nos Amours" is harsh, difficult and brilliant with no room for easy conclusions.

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Reviews

THIS IS GOLD.
Niccccccceeee.
Tolerable.
Uhmmm, wut?
No—just no.

Screen

"Can't Hold Us" music video

I'll admit, I was a little sketchy at the start of the video—but as soon as the music began to play, I immediately got sucked into it. With its beautiful views, amazing cinematography and Macklemore's infectious theatricality, we get another great music video from this Seattle hip-hop duo.—**D. Valera**

"Elway to Marino"

ESPN's wonderful series of documentaries would spark the interest of even the most disengaged sports fan. I was enthused to see a documentary featuring two of the best quarterbacks to play the game. It was more talk than ball, unfortunately. Not cool. —**K. Rich**

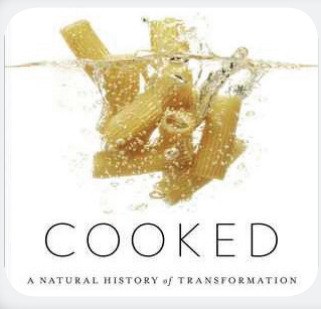
"Hemlock Grove"

Hemlock Grove, the adult hybrid version of "Twilight" and "Days of Our Lives," is pretty addicting. Despite being a bit slow at times, the Netflix series offers a fresh look at werewolves and vampires. As always, Netflix knows how to deliver. Kudos for delivering an entire season all at once! —**T. Eagle**

"42"

Leading up to its release, I had high expectations for "42." Although the Jackie Robinson biopic highlighted many racial issues during the time, I still feel like the movie could have gone a bit deeper. Overall, it's still a must-see film, but it's not on the level of some great sports movies. —**F. Awesu**

Print



"Cooked" by Michael Pollan

Don't tell me how to run my life. This guy is all about using raw ingredients and talking about how awful everything we eat is, but has he ever worked a full-time job on top of going to school? Most of us don't have time to plow a field, wait for the wheat to grow and then make it into whole wheat pasta. —**E. Earl**

"That Tree" by Mark Hirsch

Getty Images freelancer Hirsch took a break from photojournalism to do a fine art project on an isolated oak tree for 365 days using his iPhone. I was impressed by his commitment to making each image of the tree drastically different. He proved the iPhone is just another tool for a photographer. —**R. Naltsas**

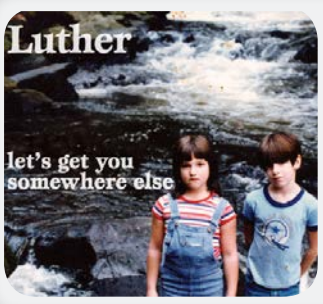
Resource Magazine, spring issue

Resource Magazine has a clean layout, is easy to navigate and not overwhelming with copious amounts of uninteresting text. Featuring an awful wedding photography piece where all the newlyweds resemble ex-deviantART.com models, the subjects covered are pertinent to life but not the most exciting. —**M. Fischer**

"The New King of Late Night TV" by Jeanne Marie Laskas

Complete with memories from his childhood of not being allowed outside of his backyard and watching every episode of "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood," Laskas' charming feature story on Jimmy Fallon sheds telling light on the hyperactive "Saturday Night Live" alumnus. —**E. Ornberg**

Music



"Let's Get You Somewhere Else" by Luther

Luther is a melodic pop-punk band from Philadelphia that is currently in the process of playing beer-soaked basements across the country. Combining Lawrence Arms-esque delivery, the earnestness of The Get Up Kids and melodic sensibilities of The Goo Goo Dolls, this is a perfect spring record. —**M. Nuccio**

"Come Here" by Talib Kweli feat. Miguel

This single from Talib Kweli's fifth solo studio album is commercially viable without compromising skill. Delicate vocals from Miguel match Kweli's effortless flow and polysyllablic rhymes. Destined for 2013 radio references, a 1994 Outkast classic cut. It's sexy and sensible. —**D. Pitorak**

"Q.U.E.E.N." by Janelle Monáe feat. Erykah Badu

"Am I a sinner with my skirt on the ground?" questions an unapologetic Janelle Monáe on her sexiest release to date. While Monáe's signature sound still channels the high-energy funk of James Brown, she shows off a flirtacious edge in this confident declaration of her femininity and carefree spirit. —**J. Moran**

"Girls Love Beyoncé" by Drake feat. James Fauntleroy

Sampling the classic Destiny's Child chorus of "Say My Name," Drake's new emo-R&B track predictably explores love life and its many problems. Pining for that special person "that'll help me think of someone but myself," Heartbreak Drake proves he still exists, despite recent singles that brag otherwise. —**E. Ornberg**

Random

The Congress Parkway lights

The 600 LED glow-up panels placed along the medians of Congress Parkway make me wonder: Why are they there? Why am I looking at them? Now we will have 600 more places tourists can stop and take pictures of something that resembles a giant cheese grater. —**W. Hager**

Flash games

Racing games, first person shooters, strategy, puzzles—I'll play them all. Nothing is better than taking a five minute break from writing that paper to play a round of "Bloons Tower Defense" or "Bubble Spinner." You know, until you realize you've been playing for three hours. —**H. Zolkower-Kutz**

Yovani Gallardo's performance after DUI arrest

I am the first person to condemn driving under the influence, and Milwaukee Brewers ace Yovani Gallardo was arrested on such charges April 16, but he was good enough to get the win April 18. This came against the defending World Series Champions the San Francisco Giants no less. Like. A. Boss. —**C. Stolzenbach**

Cleaveland Cavaliers re-hiring Mike Brown

Mike Brown, defensive genius, was fired by the Cleveland Cavaliers in 2010 to appease LeBron James. The firing shouldnt've happened, and apparently the Cavs agree. After seasons of porous defense under former coach Byron Scott, the team rehired Brown April 24. You don't know what you got till it's gone. —**D. Pitorak**

CAMPUS EDITORIAL

Pitiful party

LATELY, COLLEGE PARTIERS have been under national media scrutiny for hosting offensive theme parties. The latest example is a homeless-themed party thrown by the Kappa Delta Sorority at Indiana University, according to an April 19 article on Jezebel.com. Partygoers dressed in dirty, torn clothes and held signs saying things like, "Why lie? It's for BOOZE," according to the article.

Other offensive parties include an Asian-themed fraternity party at Duke University earlier this year that got the hosting frat chapter suspended, and a Mexican-themed sorority party at Pennsylvania State University last year that played on stereotypes of laziness and drug use, according to a Dec. 4, 2012 Jezebel.com article. In 2010, students at University of California-San Diego organized an off-campus "Compton Cookout" that was "ghetto" themed, according to a Feb. 16, 2010 NBC San Diego online article.

The student who sent photos of the homeless party to Jezebel also wrote a letter with details about the surrounding area's high homeless population who are treated poorly by IU's students. And that gets to the real problem with these parties: They reflect the misguided values of the people organizing and attending them.

College should be a time to expand one's views. Instead, these students are reinforcing their own ignorance and hurting others on and off campus by making a game out of hurtful stereotypes.

Columbia students are hopefully more mindful of others when throwing theme parties.

Sadly, it is not just college students who are immature or insensitive enough to throw parties like this. Flaunt magazine organized a party for the 2013 Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival that was Guantanamo Bay-themed, featuring "pleasurable torture," according to an April 8 article on New York Magazine's website. Others involved with the party retracted their sponsorship after it garnered controversy, but Flaunt went forward with the party.

Perhaps Internet coverage of these stories, mostly by blogs like Jezebel, is egging on the ignorant hosts who hope throwing these shindigs will get a reaction, but hopefully we live in a society that realizes such overtly discriminatory acts are heinous. These parties are an example of how societal values are reflected in everything we do, and they perpetuate the views of an insensitive culture that needs to address its inherent prejudices rather than celebrate them.

Although the point of a party is to have fun, and the people holding offensive theme parties likely view it as harmless, fun stops being fun when it becomes someone else's pain. For the groups targeted by these parties—racial minorities and people who have been marginalized by society—these events reinforce a culture that views their rights as secondary. Make sure your parties are enjoyable for everyone and hurtful to no one.

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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

TIF for tat

A GROUP OF aldermen introduced the TIF Accountability Ordinance to the City Council earlier this month, which would make more information about Tax Increment Financing subsidies given to private entities easily accessible and searchable on the Internet.

Several aldermen joined the Paul Douglas Alliance, a recently formed progressive caucus in the City Council, in sponsoring the ordinance that attempts to address concerns over misuse of TIF funds. TIF funds are generated from a certain area's property taxes, which are in turn used to fund additional development in the area to stimulate the local economy and create more property tax revenue to put back into the fund. This ordinance would provide some much needed transparency and oversight to the process of granting and using TIF money.

The legislation would put vital information on the city's data website, including the jobs created by a TIF project compared to the jobs promised, as well as any sales and property tax created. Even though most of the information is already available in some digital form, the proposed law would make it easy for citizens to access and understand the information, as opposed to relying on journalists and other watchdogs to find it.

The purpose of TIF projects is creating jobs and economically renewing depressed areas. It is a complex program, making it hard to see the bigger picture without the right data. Easy access to TIF information would have been very helpful in the past when some of its uses were questionable at best.

In 2012, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange was offered $15 million in TIF funds to renovate its building, including improvements to the restrooms, as an incentive to keep its headquarters within the city. CME turned down the money in favor of tax breaks from the state, as did insurance company CNA Group and Bank of America, according to a March 1, 2012 Chicago Sun-Times article. When the CME grant was originally announced, protesters responded to the $15 million offer by placing a golden toilet outside the CME building, demanding that TIF funds be used to directly benefit Chicago communities. CME Group was also a major donor to Mayor Rahm Emanuel's mayoral campaign, according to documents from the Federal Election Commission.

Emanuel has made transparency a priority by putting a wide variety of data on the Chicago Data Portal, an easily searchable database of city-collected information. This ordinance would put clearer TIF-related information on the data portal, bringing the city government that much closer to actual transparency. Making information accessible takes time, but transparency means nothing if it is selective. The city should strive to present information in a consistent manner. Some TIF information is currently on the data portal, but neglecting to present the full picture is secrecy disguised as transparency.

NATIONAL EDITORIAL

US should avoid armed intervention

THE NATION OF Syria has been involved in a bloody civil war since March 2011, with rebels attempting to overthrow President Bashar al-Assad. The U.S. government has been providing "non-lethal" support to the rebels since 2012, and on April 20, Secretary of State John Kerry announced that the U.S. will double its current aid to $250 million, according to a State Department press release.

The U.S. isn't supplying the rebels with weapons, but the equipment being sent over isn't exactly non-military, as it includes body armor and night vision goggles, according to an online April 21 Al Jazeera English article. The government likely wants to avoid a repeat of what happened in Libya, where it shipped weapons to Qatar in support of Libyan rebels who publicly executed Muammar al-Gaddafi, their former dictator. The fighting also led to an attack on a U.S. embassy in Libya in September 2012 during the chaotic period after the rebels took control.

Although the government is eager to avoid another embarrassment and the American public would generally like to avoid another lengthy occupation, this aid increase is happening while U.S. troops move closer to Syria.

According to anonymous sources named as U.S. officials in an April 17 Los Angeles Times article, the 200 troops currently being sent to the border of Jordan and Syria could be the first of 20,000 troops that would be deployed in the event that the Obama administration decides to directly intervene in Syria. The U.S. already imposed sanctions against Assad's regime in 2011 as the civil war became increasingly violent, according to an Aug. 18, 2011 press release from the White House, and military intervention hasn't been ruled out.

Other nations are involved in a more direct manner, which has arguably escalated the conflict. Turkey gave military training to a group of dissidents who went on to form the Free Syrian Army, an organized Syrian rebel group, according to a June 22, 2012 Guardian article. Hopefully the U.S. continues with very limited involvement and doesn't start sending weapons or soldiers into Syria, but if recent reports of chemical weapons in Syria are found to be true, it is likely that the Obama administration will ramp up its involvement by sending weapons or even troops directly into Syria.

While the current aid from the U.S. government appears harmless, the White House seems to be considering the option of armed intervention, which could get ugly considering complex regional politics and Russia's historic alliance with Syria. Hopefully, the fighting in Syria stops as soon as possible and the country rebuilds with a democratic and fair government. But the U.S. needs to consider whether the conflict is worth getting involved in by supporting rebels. Intervening in other countries' problems hasn't worked out well for the U.S., or other nations, in the past.

Keep Big Brother off the Internet

by Kaley Fowler
Copy Chief

IN YOUR BEDROOM, with the door closed, you lift the lid of your laptop and open a new browser window. Alone, you're free to peruse the Internet for anything you want, and while your sense of solitude and anonymity may make browsing seem sacred, this idea of online privacy is nothing more than an illusion—and lawmakers want to make sure it stays that way.

The latest push to strengthen Internet security is the Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act, or CISPA, which passed the House of Representatives April 18 and now awaits a vote in the Senate. The Senate does not have to vote, however, and might allow the bill to die. The act would make it possible for website moderators to report online activity they deem potentially threatening to the federal government, thus giving investigators free reign of the poster's Internet history and personal information without considering antitrust or privacy laws.

According to a statement from the Electronic Frontier Foundation, an Internet watchdog group, CISPA "is written so broadly it allows companies to hand over large swaths of personal information to the government with no judicial oversight—effectively creating a 'cybersecurity' loophole in all existing privacy laws."

Although Internet safety falls under the umbrella of public safety, giving the feds unlimited access to anyone with a computer does not ensure protection. The idea of monitoring the Internet to promote public safety is comforting, but making everyone a suspect is an ineffective method of catching the few who pose an actual threat.

CISPA fosters the idea that Big Brother is watching while stripping the public of their most basic rights to privacy. More disturbing, however, is that people don't seem to know or care nearly enough about the bill's implications, and few have spoken against it.

CISPA comes on the heels of the Stop Online Piracy Act, or SOPA, and the Protect IP Act, or PIPA, bills introduced in 2011 that aimed to limit person-to-person file sharing. More than 10 million people signed an online petition on SOPAStrike.com and hundreds of websites, including Google, Wikipedia and Reddit, "blacked out" their web pages Jan. 18, 2012 in protest. Two days later, Congress shelved the bill, perhaps as a result of these efforts.

The controversy surrounding SOPA proves that protesting aggressive measures can be fruitful, making it even more disheartening that so few have taken a stand against CISPA, which is much more invasive because it targets all Internet users, not just those who use copyrighted material.

In protest of CISPA, hacktivist group Anonymous attempted to organize an April 22 blackout similar to the SOPA protest, but only about 800 websites participated, most of which were very small organizations that went unnoticed, according to an April 22 PCWorld.com article. Unlike the last blackout, web giants like Google and Wikipedia steered clear of the effort, and Reddit has left the decision to blackout up to each subreddit moderator. Support for tabling CISPA is tepid, to say the least, especially considering several notable corporations and consumer groups have pushed for the bill's advancement.

Backed by $84 million in corporate sponsorship and the support of tech giants like Verizon Wireless, Comcast and Intel, according to an April 22 post on TechDirt.com, CISPA has the support of enough big-name companies to shadow the act's obtrusive stipulations.

As long as there is no unified effort to stop CISPA, it will continue to move through Congress uncontested. President Barack Obama has threatened to veto the act should it pass the Senate, but whether that will actually happen is unforeseeable. Regardless of White House actions, the public must vocalize opposition to CISPA in order to protect everyone's right to privacy.

Although the Internet is not inherently conducive to personal privacy, it still warrants some level of respect for users' personal identities. People perpetrate the idea that the Internet is an outlet to share anything and everything, but they must not allow that mentality to bite them, and taking a stand against these invasive laws is the best way to avoid doing so.

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Pending federal legislation could erode Internet privacy rights.

Should people care about parties with offensive themes?

STUDENT POLL

I don't think the public should get involved in the parties unless they own the property where the party is taking place.

Kent Leng sophomore marketing communications major

I think it is stupid to have these parties, but [the students] aren't making a big deal out of it.

Katie Clinnin senior art & design major

If it is getting out of control, I think it is all right for the school to get involved and recommend that students calm down the parties.

Cyrille Dossa senior arts, entertainment and media management major

Unnecessary checks

by Tatiana Walk-Morris
Assistant Campus Editor

IT'S COMMON FOR colleges to perform background checks on prospective students to see if any past transgressions indicate they may be a safety threat, but that could be a wasted effort.

Injury Prevention, an academic journal, published a report in February that shows criminal records aren't indicators of a dangerous college student because only a small percentage of applicants have criminal records.

The report, which examined the misconduct of 120 college seniors before and during college, states that only approximately 3 percent of college seniors who committed crimes on campus had a criminal record during the admissions process. Of the students who did have criminal records, approximately 9 percent were accused of misbehaving—defined as behavior with substantial health risks such as sexual assault, drug use and driving under the influence—demonstrating how inaccurate of an indicator criminal records are.

Colleges are screening applicants' criminal history in an attempt to make campuses safer, but the study states there's a lack of evidence showing this is an effective method to identify students who are likely to commit a crime. It can be relevant to a student's character and his or her ability to succeed in college, but students need the opportunity to explain and clarify the surrounding circumstances of their crime.

According to a 2010 survey by the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, 66 percent of the responding colleges collect criminal justice information during the admissions process. However, some colleges do allow students to explain the circumstances of their transgressions when they apply. For example, students applying to colleges that use the Common Application, which Columbia and more than 400 other schools use, are able to explain themselves in an essay.

On the other hand, according to a November 2010 Center for Community Alternatives report, 25 percent of schools in this study said they automatically bar students with certain types of criminal records such as violent or sexual offenses.

This is unfortunate because denying those with a criminal record a chance at education is a disservice to society. According to 2011 a Pew Research Center report that examined the rate at which offenders continue breaking the law after being punished, 52 percent of released offenders in Illinois either commit a new crime or a technical violation of their parole. In other words, if an offender enrolls in college, he or she should be granted a fair chance because without an education, they are likely to return to jail. Colleges that exclude students based on their criminal history are prohibiting them from getting the education they need to be productive in society.

Several past incidences of violent crimes on campuses, such as the 2008 shooting at Northern Illinois University and the 2007 Virginia Tech massacre, were committed by perpetrators without any prior criminal record, according to news articles following the crimes. The shooters exhibited clear signs of anti-social behavior, and that they were a danger to themselves or others, but those indicators often went unchecked until it was too late. Instead of screening students' criminal records, faculty members should report troubling behavior early and often, and colleges should invest time and resources into counseling services for students with mental illnesses.

In the Virginia Tech massacre, the shooter, Seung-Hui Cho, was accused of stalking two female students in November and December 2005 before he shot 32 students and faculty members in the rampage. Cho was ordered to undergo psychiatric evaluations in 2005, according to a Feb. 11, 2009 CBS News article, and an English professor informed campus police and various other college units that Cho showed anti-social behavior in class and handed in disturbing homework assignments.

Steven Phillip Kazmierczak, the Northern Illinois University student responsible for the 2008 shooting of 23 students, was placed in a psychiatric treatment center after high school because he used to cut himself and refused to take his medications. This had nothing to do with a criminal past, and everything to do with clear mental health indicators.

Violence on campus has more to do with current behavior than past records. Checking students' criminal records is an ineffective way to detect whether they're a threat to other students because those without criminal records are still capable of committing violent or lesser crimes, and students with criminal records still need to get a college education.

Instead of excluding students with criminal records, colleges should offer additional resources to help them graduate and become successful members of society. Faculty members should constantly monitor each student's behavior and report anti-social or disturbing behaviors that indicate a student might have a mental illness to authorities as soon as possible. After an incident has been reported, that student should be required to see a psychiatrist or be treated in a medical clinic, depending on the opinion of multiple doctors. Colleges should also invest in more armed, trained security guards to ensure student safety.

Checking students' criminal background gives institutions an insight into their character, but it shouldn't be regarded heavily during the admissions process.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To whom it may concern,

I was recently informed about Hillel's complaint that there was no "pro-Israel" speaker at the screening of the film "5 Broken Cameras." The "5 Broken Cameras" film screening event was an opportunity for the Columbia community as well as outside guests to watch this Oscar-nominated film and learn more about a deeply personal first-hand account of non-violent resistance in one Palestinian town in the West Bank. All, including those who have a "pro-Israel" perspective, had the opportunity to engage in a discussion about the film in a question and answer session at the end.

However, because of 1) the ambiguity of the term "pro-Israel," 2) the academic freedom of students, professors and organizations to determine for themselves the perspectives presented at their events, and 3) the right and necessity to provide forums for oppressed peoples to speak in their own voices, I resisted any changes to the format of the film screening.

The term "pro-Israel" implies a unified Israeli perspective on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that simply does not exist. There are pro-Israel groups that see the creation of a Palestinian state based on 1967 borders as vital to the interests of Israel as a Zionist state. There are Israelis who endorse the idea of a one-state solution where Israelis and Palestinians live in a single state as equals under the law. There are also Israelis who believe in settlement growth and the continued occupation of the West Bank. These are just some of the many Israeli perspectives. What Hillel seems to be requesting is that events dealing with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict must include a speaker that adheres to Hillel's particular ideology.

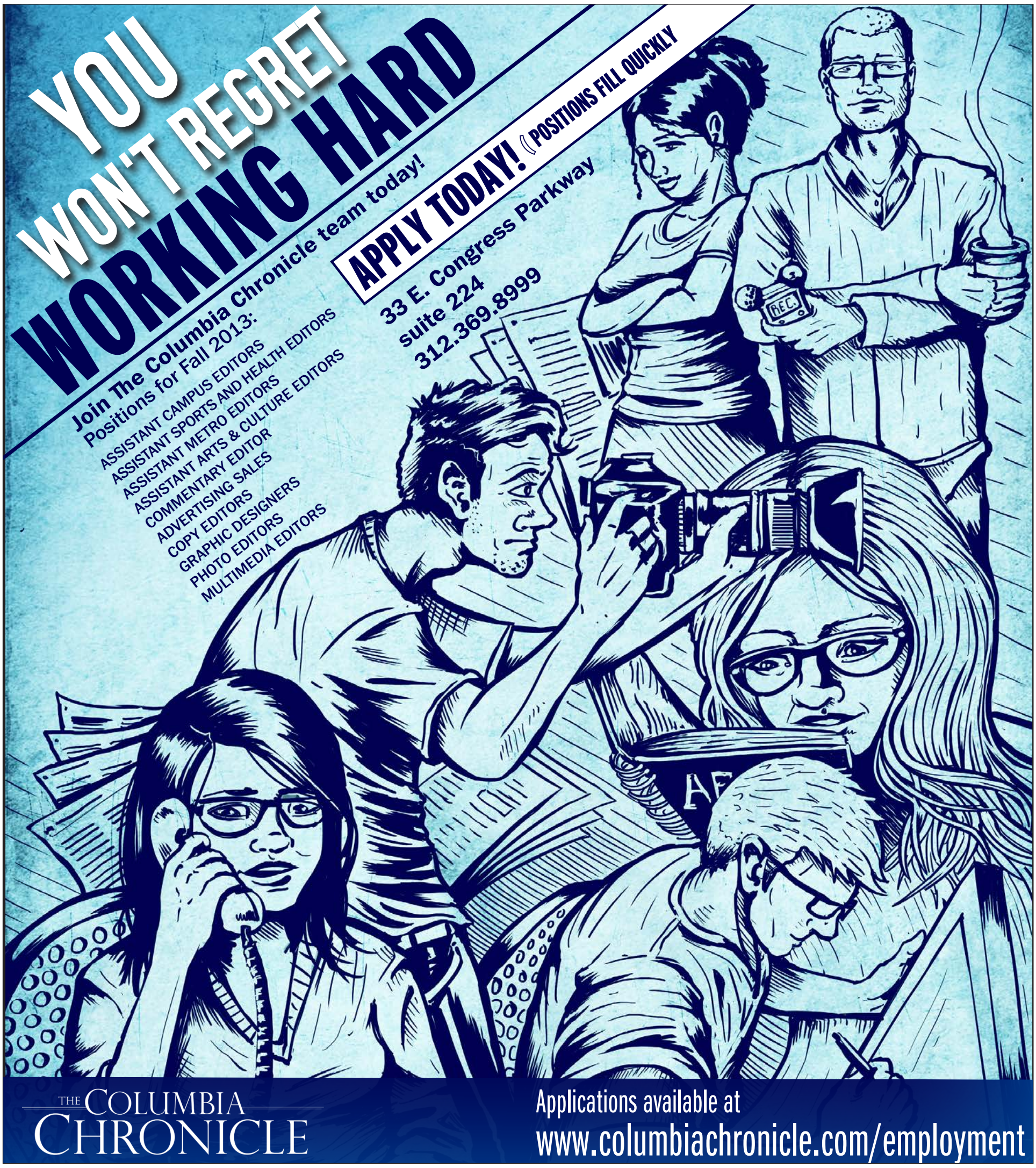
Academic freedom entails not only the right to speak from a particular perspective, but the freedom from being compelled to engage in a particular type of speech. The frequent demand from Zionists that any discussion of the conflict be "balanced" would be considered absurd in most other contexts. For example, must every presentation about the African-American Civil Rights Movement include a speaker who will attempt to justify the denial of these rights?

Finally, it is important to provide oppressed and struggling groups with forums in which they speak for themselves and in their own voices—whether it is the LGBTQ communities, African-Americans, or Palestinians living under occupation. This is precisely what "5 Broken Cameras" has sought to bring to the discussion and why there is an important need to provide this platform.

For the reasons stated above, I found Hillel's complaint extremely problematic and I rejected the request to have a "pro-Israel" speaker at the "5 Broken Cameras" event.

Best,

Iymen Chehade, Lecturer: History: The Israeli-Palestinian conflict.



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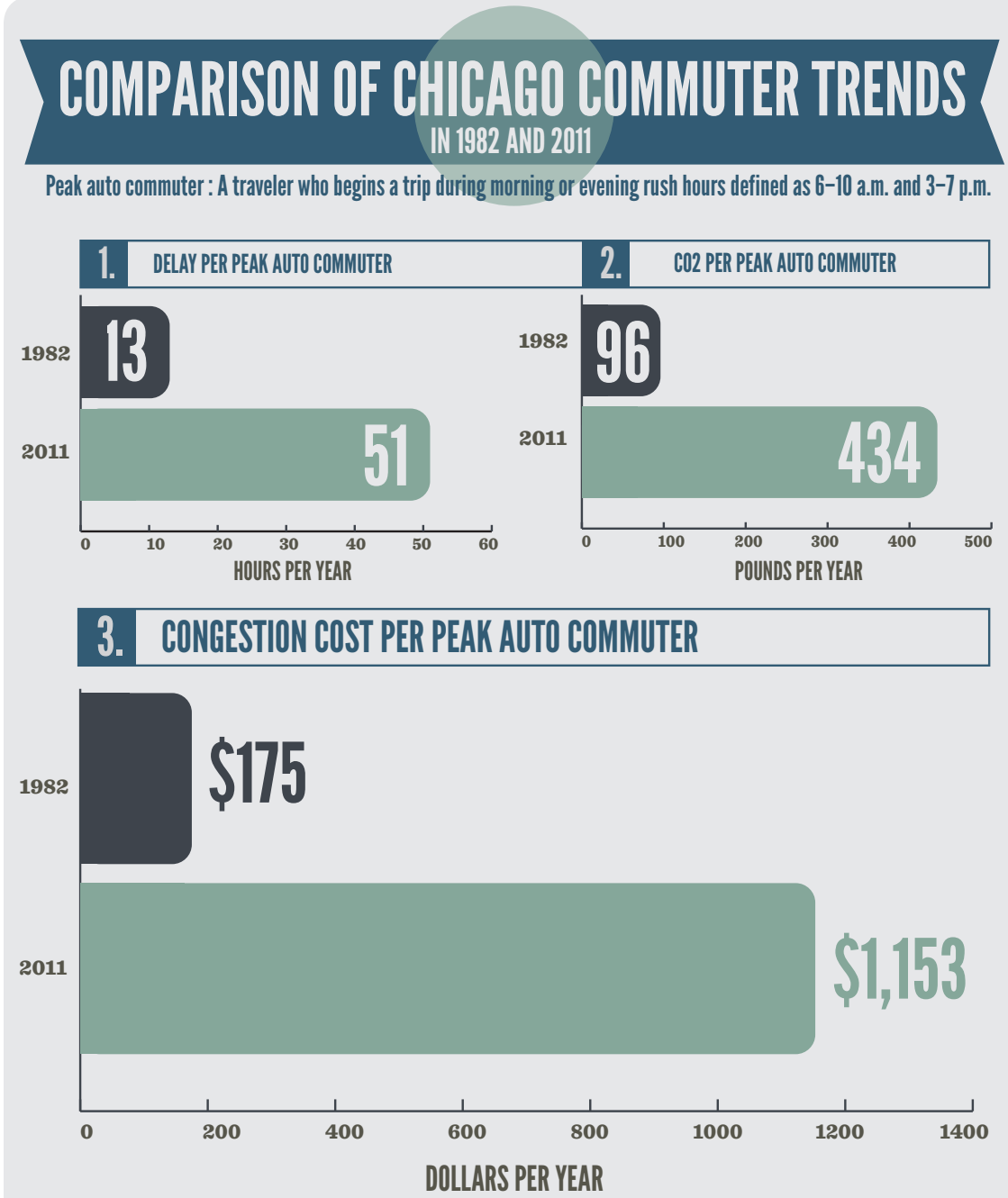


Chicago leads Midwest in commute times, companies adapt

by Will Hager
Metro Editor

CHICAGO COMMUTERS ARE spending more time on the road, with some of the nation's longest rides to work, a fact that contributes to traffic congestion and pollution, according to a U.S. Census Bureau dataset examined by the American Community Survey.

The dataset tallied the estimated length of car commutes using 2009–2011 U.S. Census Bureau population and ACS research estimates to provide an overview of commuter trends in American metropolitan areas. Fifty-seven percent of Chicagoans' estimated driving commutes last 30 minutes or more, while statewide, only 43 percent of Illinois commuters traveled more than 30 minutes daily, according to the survey data.

The city's second-most common commute timeframe was 30–34 minutes at 19.6 percent of the population, higher than New York City's 17.4 percent average. Chicago commuters who travel less than five minutes made up 1.2 percent of the population. However, 18.1 percent of New York City drivers commuted 60–89 minutes, that city's most common commute length.

Grant Greenberg, a communications manager at the Regus Center, a workplace solutions group, said the length of a commute has a direct impact on an employee's happiness.

"[Commute time has] a huge impact not only on productivity because the time you're spending commuting is not time you're working, but also you have to get up an hour earlier, you get home an hour later, that's less time with your family, less sleep and less time to do what you want to do," Greenberg said.

A March 16, 2010 study by the Regus Center, which included responses from 11,000 businesses in 13 countries, indicated that approximately 33 percent of employees thought about resigning because of an hour or longer commute despite finding their job enjoyable.

Because more suburban businesses are having issues recruiting and retaining younger employees, moving into downtown offices has become more desirable, meaning commute times have lessened as a result, according to Brian Morrissey, a program coordinator at the Active Transportation Alliance, a local alternative transit advocacy group. The 18–34 workforce will pursue companies that are easily accessible, he said.

"In the coming years, that work pool is going to gravitate more towards companies that it's easy to take transit and bike to," Morrissey said. "For companies that you can only drive to, out in the suburbs and next to highways, [lack of transportation] is a big liability for [companies] that they're going to have to address sooner or later."

Tim Grzesiakowski, project manager at the Metropolitan Planning Council, a city-based development organization, said Chicago companies are bending to accommodate their employees. For example, Motorola Mobility, a communications product manufacturer with more than 2,000 employees, recently moved its Libertyville

» SEE COMMUTE, PG. 40

Ordinance calls for TIF transparency

by Erica Herbert
Assistant Metro Editor

FOLLOWING A PROPOSAL to hold Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Chicago aldermen accountable for the distribution of an estimated annual $454 million in Tax Increment Financing, or TIF, some residents are continuing to demand greater transparency from their representatives.

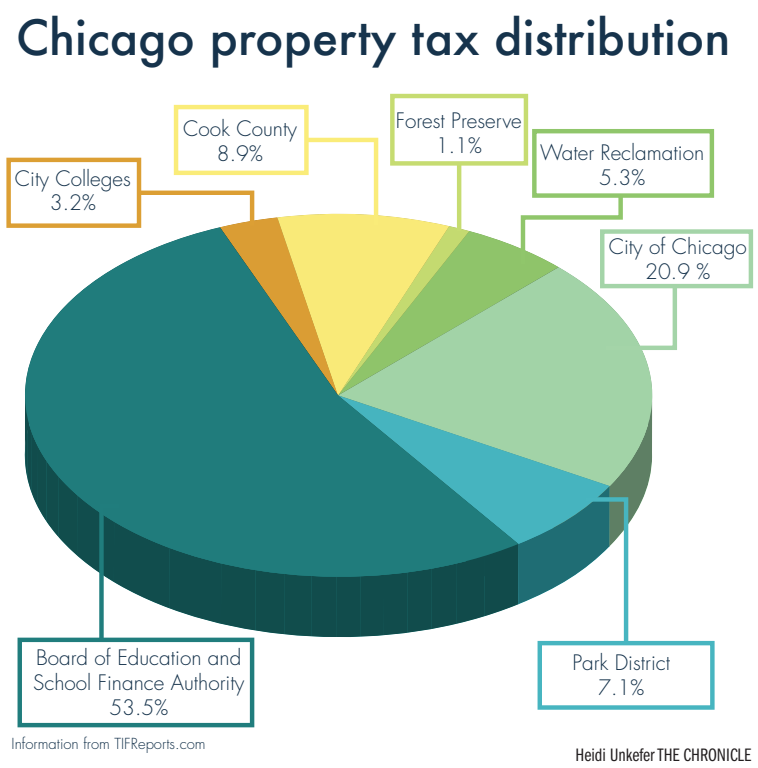
Used as a tool to stimulate local economies, TIF funds come from a portion of an area's property taxes that fund the redevelopment of that particular area. Scrutiny of Chicago's TIF system prompted the Paul Douglas Alliance, a group of 10 aldermen, to propose an ordinance April 10 that would aggregate TIF information into one inclusive online database to track funding promises made by city officials, according to Alderman Ameya Pawar (47th Ward), who drafted the ordinance and oversees parts of six TIF districts.

Pawar said he has seen "good" and "terrible" TIF deals, adding that TIF is an economic tool filled with nuances. Because of this, one of the ordinance's ultimate goals is to examine past TIF deals and figure out what can be done differently in the future. The ordinance also aims to highlight promised projects that were delivered, as well as forgotten promises, without having to comb through thousands of documents, he said.

"If the current system is such that you can make all these promises and nobody is going to follow back up with you, you can go in and ask for the money and bet that no one is going to follow up with an audit of what you actually did," Pawar said. "By making this information public on the front end, you'll end up with better, more honest projects."

TIF funds, money generated through property taxes in districts that have previously benefited from TIF fund projects, were originally created in California to redevelop

» SEE TIF, PG. 40



Harvest Commons helps house disadvantaged

Affordable complex marks mayor's neighborhood outreach

by Will Hager
Metro Editor

A WEST SIDE housing complex once known for its disreputable population re-opened April 12 in one of the first actions under Mayor Rahm Emanuel's new multi-billion dollar Chicago Neighborhoods Now plan that targets "opportunity areas" around the city.

The Viceroy Hotel, 1519 W. Warren Blvd., a former single-room occupancy hotel that closed in 2006, was redeveloped during the past year by First Baptist Congregational Church and Heartland Housing, a division of the Midwest anti-poverty organization Heartland Alliance. The city invested $22.3 million in the project, which will house 89 tenants in studio apartments, each with a private kitchen and bathroom, according to an April 12 mayoral press release.

The complex has been renamed Harvest Commons and houses tenants who have an annual income of $30,960 or less, as well as rehabilitated ex-offenders. The Eisenhower Corridor, where the apartment complex is located, is one of seven neighborhoods getting a cut of the $2.9 billion in funding from Emanuel's initiative to bolster targeted communities, stated an April 2 mayoral press release.

Neighborhoods Now will also work to improve conditions in Bronzeville, Englewood, Little Village, Pullman, Rogers Park and Uptown, according to a March 17 mayoral press release. Of the $2.9 billion investment, $2.6 billion comes from private funding with the remaining $330 million coming from multiple sources of public funding like Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and state grants, the press release stated.

The Harvest Commons will also offer services like case management, nutritional classes, substance treatment consults and connections to educational and employment training programs, according to the March 17 press release. The second floor of the building will house 17 previously incarcerated tenants who have completed a transitional housing program through St. Leonard's Ministries, according to Bob Dougherty, the service's development director. He said projects like Harvest Commons promote diversity and fill a niche for underrepresented people.

"Especially with our [ministry's] population of people who have been formerly incarcerated, housing is a key issue in their successful reentry," Dougherty said. "There's so little affordable housing in the city in general that it's critical we do our best to create it where there are subsidies available to people so they can use that as a stepping stone to move back to the mainstream."

Other features include a 3,474 square foot urban garden, a café and onsite recycling and composting, according to the Harvest Commons fact sheet. The city purchased the defunct Viceroy for $5.1 million in 2006 and sold it to the developer for $1 in July 2011, along with providing $3.9 million in TIF money and $1.2 million in donated tax credits. The building was constructed in 1930 as the Union Park Hotel and was given city landmark status in 2010 for its Art Deco architectural style.

Local Initiatives Support Corporation Chicago, a community development network, contributed more than $400,000 to cover the project's real estate costs, such as market studies and architectural fees. Gordon Walek, LISC communications manager, said the program offers housing to overlooked Near West Side residents.

"That part of the city is becoming more and more desirable and there are a lot of service jobs in and around the Loop that don't pay a lot of money," Walek said. "People who do those jobs need a decent, comfortable and safe place to live."

There was little community opposition to the complex's redevelopment after its reopening, with neighbors complimenting the lot for its well-kept appearance. Alderman Walter Burnett (27th Ward), who lives down the street from Harvest Commons, said it is very important to make housing available to disadvantaged people in the community while also increasing safety.

"It's taking the place of an SRO hotel that was very transient, had a lot of criminal activity going on in it," Burnett said. "It's being replaced with a building that's going to have a store for people to work in. It's going to have services for people to get jobs and making sure they're not on drugs or alcohol [and are] trying to get their lives together."

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Photos James Foster THE CHRONICLE

The Viceroy Hotel, 1519 W. Warren Blvd., re-opened April 12 under the name Harvest Commons as an affordable housing facility. Residents, all of whom earn less than $30,960 annually, have access to private kitchens and bathrooms, a laundry facility, computers, a café and onsite recycling.

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Hospitals, citizens debate 'charity care' requirements

by Elizabeth Earl & Kaitlin Lounsberry
Assistant Metro Editor & Contributing Writer

WHEN SOFIA GALVEZ went to a hospital near her Albany Park home, she knew she would not be able to pay the bill. The hospital gave her an application for financial assistance, but when she saw the blank space labeled "Social Security Number," she changed her mind about filling out the form because she did not have one. Instead, she applied for Medicaid, which only partially covered the bill.

She said the hospital never explained to her that a Social Security number is not technically required for financial assistance.

To voice her concerns about the application process for medical financial assistance, Galvez, as part of the Albany Park Neighborhood Council, attended an April 17 public hearing at the Thompson Center, 100 W. Randolph St., hosted by Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan.

Representatives from several hospital networks recommended requiring Social Security numbers for the applications, but community members responded with concern for new and undocumented immigrants, who don't have them.

Public Act 097-0690, effective June 14, 2012, requires Madigan's office to unify application standards by June 30 and allows hospitals and the public to submit recommendations for those standards.

> They have to comply with what's requested in order to determine eligibility."
>
> – Johnnie Thomas

Illinois hospitals currently provide "charity care," for visits, which cost the patient nothing and are partially paid for by the state government, according to an April 18 open letter from Illinois Hospital Association President Maryjane A. Wurth to Madigan's office. Under the Fair Patient Billing Act, hospitals are required to post a sign in clear view explaining the availability of financial assistance. On the billing statement, hospitals are obligated to explain that the patient might qualify for financial assistance and must provide a way for patients to contest their bills, according to the act, which went into effect Jan. 1, 2007. The hospital can only pursue payment once patients are informed they might be eligible for assistance, it is determined that patients are able to pay and 60 days have passed since discharge, according to the act. Additionally, the hospital cannot sue for payment under the bill if patients can reasonably prove they cannot pay.

Mark Deaton, senior vice president and general counsel for the IHA, advocated requiring patients to provide Social Security numbers on the application and said Illinois hospitals currently provide charity care to one million people annually. Having a patient's Social Security number helps hospitals identify a patient quickly and determine eligibility for governmental programs, such as Medicaid, he said.

"Having the Social Security number is of critical importance to this process," Deaton said. "Having the Social Security number is of critical importance to this process."

Along with advocating that patients provide a Social Security number, the IHA also recommends requiring hospitals to track the number of partially and fully completed applications, Deaton said at the hearing. He said Illinois hospitals do not currently track partially completed applications because there are too many. Being able to track all applications would aid in the reporting process, which determines the amount of state funding hospitals receive, Deaton said.

The Albany Park Neighborhood Council, which serves a 39.5 percent immigrant population, according to 2010 census data, sent representatives to the meeting to express community concerns about IHA's proposals. Diane Limas, a representative for the Fair Care Coalition who also volunteers for the Albany Park Neighborhood Council, said many immigrants, like Galvez, who go to hospitals are not presented with an application for financial assistance nor are the eligibility requirements adequately explained to them.

"If you are undocumented and don't have a Social Security number, you will not fill out that application because you have that fear," Limas said. "[You think], 'Will that be a fast track to get deported?'

Currently, patients can either receive an application upon discharge or print one from the hospital's website, according to Johnnie Thomas, a financial counselor for St. Francis Hospital in Evanston, Ill. Even if patients do not have Social Security numbers, they can apply for public aid, which currently is available to everyone regardless of immigration status, she said.

The hospital also provides translators for patients who do not speak English fluently, she said. Patients applying for financial aid have to have some form of ID, which she said can also include a driver's license or birth certificate.

"They have to comply with what's requested in order to determine eligibility," Thomas said. "It's a matter of verifying that's who they are. If you don't have an ID, that's really difficult because we can't prove who you are."

Natalie Bauer, communications director for Madigan's office, said the attorney general would consider all recommendations before making a final decision on unified hospital standards.

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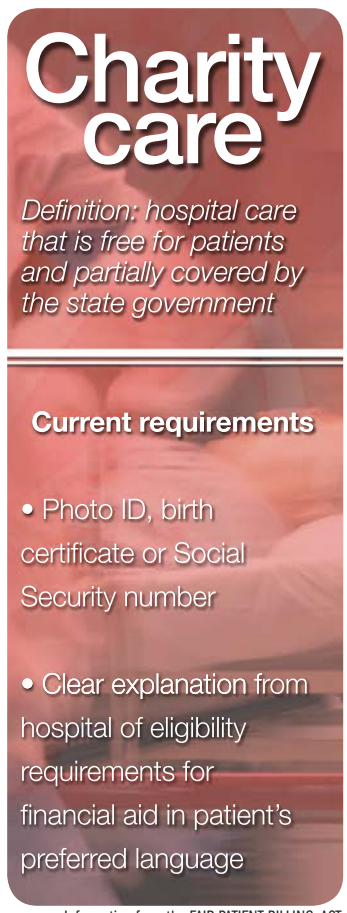

Information from the FAIR PATIENT BILLING ACT
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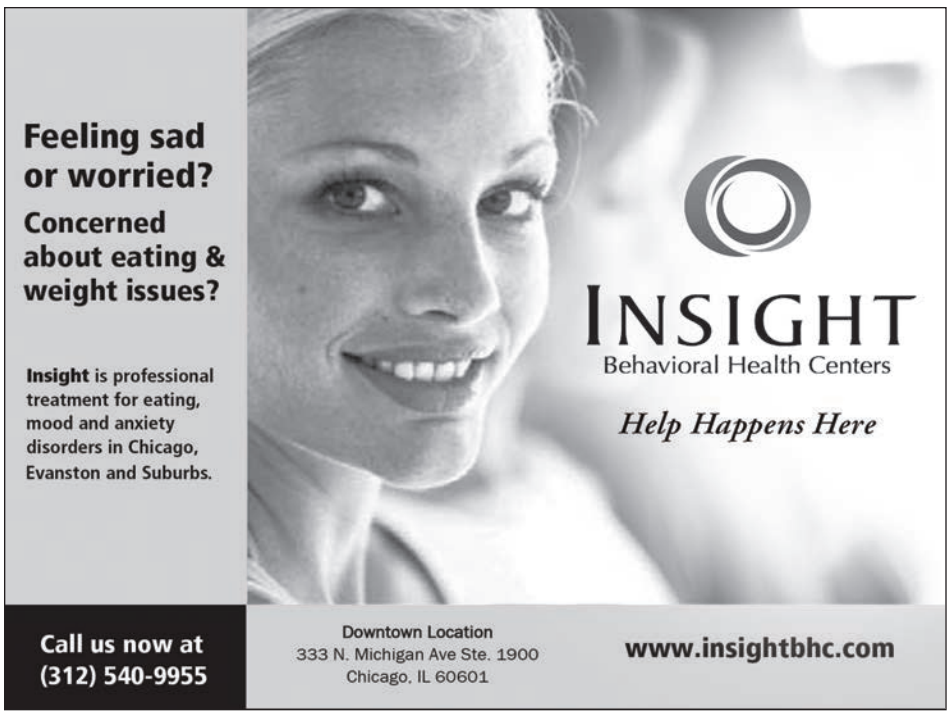


Beetle mania

Large number of ash trees falling to tiny insect invaders

by Rachael Levy
MCT Newswire

ASH TREES WITHIN Chicago's parks and the Cook County forest preserves will continue to be cut down and–replaced as a result of the emerald ash borer infestation, but those along the city's parkways will be treated starting May 6, officials said.

The emerald ash borer, a tiny beetle destroying the region's ash trees, arrived in the U.S. from Asia about a decade ago and was first spotted in Chicago in 2008, according to Mike Brown, assistant general superintendent at the city's Bureau of Forestry, which falls under the Department of Streets and Sanitation.

The bureau stopped planting ash trees in 2003, Brown said. Now it will try to save many of the surviving trees lining the city's parkways.

"The ash trees make up a little less than one-fifth of our street tree population, and so we feel it's worth trying to save them," Brown said, explaining that the bureau tried a limited test run in 2009.

Out of the 85,000 ash trees lining Chicago's streets, the Bureau of Forestry will attempt to save 70,000 using an insecticide called Treeage, or emamectin benzoate, which is injected directly into the tree, Brown said.

"The other 15,000 I think we're going to lose," he said. "They're too far gone."

The treatment will cost $46 per tree, including labor, and will be repeated every three years at the same cost, Brown said.

Removing and replacing one of the parkway ash trees, which average 16 inches in diameter, would cost about $1,000, said Anne Sheahan, public affairs director at the Department of Streets and Sanitation.

The city has budgeted $2 million this year to treat the parkway ash trees, up from $110,000 last year, Sheahan said.

"It's a huge investment the mayor is making in forestry and the emerald ash borer alone," she said.

The Bureau of Forestry will start by focusing on areas like the 3rd Ward, where the insect was first found five years ago, Brown said.

"We're going to start in the areas that we know are infested and haven't been treated," he said, adding that 26 laborers have been hired to work on the project.

The treatment process will continue until the end of September or early October, when the bureau hopes to have treated about half, or 35,000, of its trees. They will treat the remaining trees next year, Brown said.

Widespread injections aren't practical in the Forest Preserve District of Cook County because of its large number of ash trees, according to John McCabe, deputy director of the preserve's Department of Resource Management. The preserve is home to about 10 million trees, 15 to 20 percent of which McCabe estimates are ashes.

While he acknowledged that treatments may have improved since the insect was first spotted in Chicago in 2008, McCabe said he doubts their effectiveness.

"We're the largest landowner in northeast Illinois," he said. "We'd be paying to treat trees that we'd be cutting down anyway. And with the number of trees we have, and the resources we have, we felt like we needed to remove the trees."

Since 2008, the preserve has been removing ash trees and replacing them with a variety of species only in areas frequented by the public, McCabe said. It costs $400 to $800 to replace one ash tree at the preserve, depending on factors like the species of replacement trees and maintenance costs, he said.

A similar philosophy is playing out in the city's parks. The Park District expects to replace 20,000–25,000 ash trees, about 10 percent of the trees in Chicago parks, according to a spokeswoman. In the last six years the Park District has been replacing the ashes with shade trees of other species, such as maple and hickory, she said.

The cost to install, maintain and warranty new shade trees in Chicago parks averages $750 per tree, while treating them with Treeage would cost $135 every two years, including labor costs from an outside contractor, the spokeswoman said.

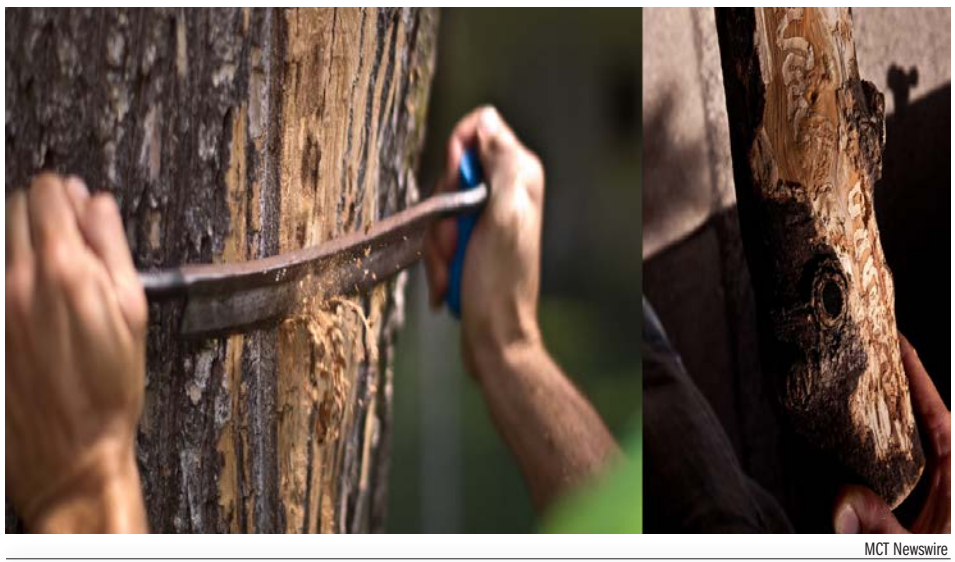
After 30 years, more than $2,000 will have been spent on an aging population of ash trees, according to a Chicago Park District statement. Since ash trees tend to have short life spans, the tree, if still alive, will likely be in declining health. The city will also have lost up to 30 years of growth of new, long-living trees, such as oaks, maples, and other that could have been planted with the funds spent on inoculation, according to the statement.

The decision to treat, rather than remove, ash trees along roads and paths, was made to not expose bare streets and parkways. Removing ash trees in city parks would not leave bare, wide open spaces because many trees will remain in the surrounding areas, according to the statement.

Not everyone is happy with the city's decision to replace the ash trees across Chicago's parks.

"I think any decision to just let them die is morally wrong, environmentally unsound and economically stupid," said John Friedmann, founder of the Save the Ash Tree Coalition, in an email.

chronicle@colum.edu



MCT Newswire

To determine whether a tree is infested with the emerald ash borer, a pest that is endangering more than 85,000 ash trees in Chicago, wildlife workers collect and examine the bark of ash trees.

» COMMUTE

Continued from PG. 35

headquarters, built in 1992, to the Merchandise Mart.

"Twenty years ago, a lot of employers were moving out of Chicago for a lot of reasons," Grzesiakowski said. "Now, the pendulum is starting to swing the other way where employers are either putting a facility [in the city] or in some cases are being courted to relocate."

Texas A&M University Transportation Institute researchers compiled a December 2012 Urban Mobility Report detailing delays and costs associated with commuting in 498 urban U.S. areas. Data from 1982–2011 was examined using a standard called "free-flow," or the average rate of decongested travel, according to the report.

Chicago's congestion cost per peak auto commuter, or travelers who begin a trip in the morning or evening rush hour periods, was $1,153 in 2011, compared with $175 in 1982. The cost of congestion was calculated by combining excess gasoline consumption and the cost of delayed time in 2011, or $16.79 an hour for people and $86.81 per hour of commercial trucking. Chicago ranked seventh among 15 of the nation's "very large urban areas"—the study's distinction for places with more than 3 million people—for the delay per peak auto commuter, which nearly quadrupled, from 13 hours in 1982 to 51 hours in 2011.

While Chicago had the highest congestion cost per auto commuter, the New York and Los Angeles metropolitan areas had higher figures in the yearly delay per auto commuter, excess fuel per commuter and travel time index, according to the report. As a nation, the U.S. averages 38 hours of annual delay per auto commuter and a congestion cost of $818 per auto customer, $300 less than Chicago's average.

> People need to be made aware of what [transportation] choices are there for them."
>
> – Tim Grzesiakowski

It is the individual's responsibility to remediate lengthening city commutes and hazardous environmental practices by exploring what options are available to them, according to Grzesiakowski.

"People need to be made aware of what [transportation] choices are there for them," he said. "People don't realize that they could do something else. We tell people you don't have to use [alternative transportation] every day. One day a week is better than no days a week."

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» TIF

Continued from PG. 35

blighted areas within a city, according to Tom Tresser, Chief Illuminator for the TIF Illumination Project, a project of the CivicLab that is devoted to educating the public and aggregating Chicago TIF information. Tresser has held six community meetings and spoken to more than 550 people about TIF awareness as of press time, he said. Chicago has one-third of all TIF districts in Illinois with 163, making it the city with the most TIF acreage in America, according to Tresser.

TIF funds cannot be used to hire an individual, such as a teacher or police officer, according to Tresser. The funds are strictly for infrastructure purposes, which can sometimes lead to projects like funding a new $5.2 million Hyatt Hotel, he said.

Tresser said despite the original goal of TIF districts, the mayor and aldermen have recently deemed areas like the Central Loop neglected because of empty office buildings and cracked sidewalks, which he says skews the definition of the word.

"When I look for blight, I look for boarded up buildings and vacant lots," Tresser said. "But in Chicago, the [TIF system] has become perverted beyond recognition. This money is just scraped off the tops of people's property taxes, almost like a skimming operation in Las Vegas. The [funds are] at the mayor's discretion, and it's very hard to track."

James Foster THE CHRONICLE

Jones College Prep was awarded more than $115 million in TIF funds March 13 toward a new school extension at 700 S. State St. The seven-story expansion will accommodate 500 additional students.

Tresser said one of the most frustrating parts of Chicago's TIF system is that the city gives TIF funds to billion-dollar corporations such as Target, UPS and Walmart.

In the South Loop, Jones College Prep was awarded $115 million in TIF assistance for a new facility that would expand attendance to 1,700 students, according to a March 13 city press release.

Amisha Patel, executive director of the Grassroots Collaborative, said the proposed ordinance is just improving transparency rather than addressing the real problems behind the TIF system. She said she wants to see more done about the distribution of TIF funds, although she believes the ordinance is a step in the right direction.

"It's another baby step, but it's the time to be beyond baby steps," Patel said. "We need real equity for how the funds are distributed."

While in support of the bill's premise, Tresser said he questions whether the ordinance will call for action or simply go unquestioned.

"I'm not going to say anything bad about more information," Tresser said. "By all means, let's have more reporting. But the main thing is this doesn't get to the heart of the issue. This doesn't show how TIFs work, there's no evaluation in this. You can watch a video of a crime scene, but you can't stop it."

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Featured Photo

Carolina Sanchez THE CHRONICLE

Carter Culver, an employee at Exelon Corporation, an energy service provider, spreads mulch around trees in Grant Park April 26 in observance of Arbor Day. For the past six years, the Chicago Park District, Exelon and Lollapalooza have collaborated to achieve the reforestation of all 325 acres of Grant Park. According to the Grant Park Conservancy's website, elm, crab trees, lilacs and other shade trees have disappeared from the park. The conservancy seeks to replace them.

IN OTHER NEWS

396 Time loser

A Chicago woman has been arrested 396 times since 1978, according to an April 22 NBCChicago.com report. Her police record shows she has been arrested 92 times for theft, 65 times for disorderly conduct and 59 times for prostitution-related crimes. She also has 83 listed aliases. She is homeless and currently imprisoned at the Logan Correctional Center in Lincoln, Ill.

Rahm to the rescue

In response to a DePaul professor's scathing review of several Chicago-centric books published April 23 in the New York Times Book Review, Mayor Rahm Emanuel fired back with a defense of Chicago's merits, according to an April 22 DNAinfo.com report. The author complained that Chicago's boosterism blinds the city to serious problems.

Whopper on wheels

Burger King announced April 23 that it would begin delivering in the Chicago area, according to an April 23 ChicagoTribune.com report. The chain announced that 20 restaurants in the area will service Lincoln Park, Evanston, Skokie, the Loop, Cicero, Downers Grove and Logan Square. There is a $10 order minimum and orders must be placed between 11 a.m. and 10 p.m.

This is a shiv, kids

A teacher at a West Town elementary school filed a lawsuit claiming the administration suspended him for showing his second graders a pocket knife as part of a "tool discussion," according to an April 18 United Press International report. The suit alleges his Fourth Amendment rights were violated and seeks monetary damages and the removal of the suspension from his record.

off the BLOTTER

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

1 It's the bomb

A man walked onto a Chicago Transit Authority Blue Line train April 23 and shouted that there was a bomb. Police searched the train at the LaSalle station, 500 S. Clark St., but found nothing. As of press time, he was not in custody.

2 The gentle sex

A woman saw another woman talking to her boyfriend on the 1200 block of South State Street April 21 and scratched the other woman across the right side of her face with her fingernails. The victim refused medical treatment.

3 Over in a slash

In an argument on April 22, a man slashed at another man with a knife on the 700 block of South State Street. The offender fled the scene. As of press time, the victim was in stable condition, and the assaultant has not been found.

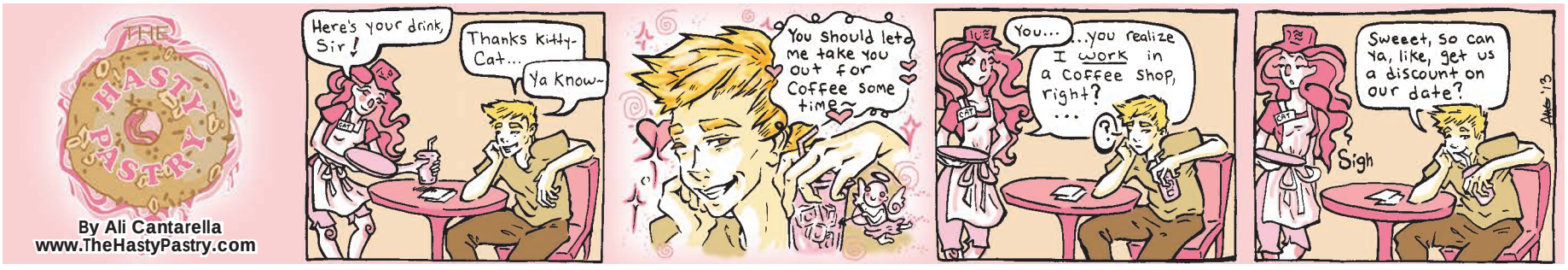
4 Rage on the Red Line

A man hit another man in the head with a cane April 18 aboard a Chicago Transit Authority Red Line train. The offender exited at the Roosevelt station, 1167 S. State St. Police captured him when he tried to board a bus on State Street.

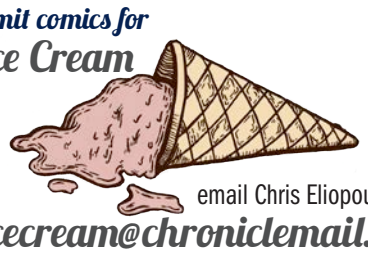
Free Ice Cream

Comics from Columbia's best and brightest.

Edited by Chris Eliopoulos



» To submit comics for *Free Ice Cream*



email Chris Eliopoulos at

freeicecream@chroniclemail.com

SUDOKU

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	2							1
6			7				4	
		5		1				

Generously written for our readers by

The Chronicle Staff Oracles

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21—April 20) Be extra careful with magnets this week—there is a 70 percent chance your roommate is a robot.

TAURUS (April 21—May 20) It's going to be tempting to stay home and play Monopoly all weekend, but you must resist. Play Settlers of Catan instead.

GEMINI (May 21—June 21) Your future is murky, so come back next week. (Or just read a different horoscope.)

CANCER (June 22—July 22) You will learn something new this weekend—how to fish your iPhone out of a public toilet.

LEO (July 23—Aug. 22) Remember, doing your own homework isn't nearly as fun or rewarding as paying a freshman to do it for you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23—Sept. 22) Once you realize every episode of "Battlestar Galactica" is on Netflix, your weekend will suddenly become completely booked.

LIBRA (Sept. 23—Oct. 23) Instead of elaborating on how the Boston Marathon tragedy is another government hoax, you could do something productive like smash your face into a pole.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24—Nov. 22) Contrary to popular opinion, Eleanor Roosevelt's milk-shake did, in fact, bring all the boys to the yard.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23—Dec. 21) Don't be ashamed that every time you want to spell 'bananas' you play Gwen Stafani's "Hollaback Girl" in your head.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22—Jan. 20) As the warm weather approaches, don't forget proper "jorts" etiquette.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21—Feb. 19) This weekend, you will pass out on the CTA and wake up in the year 2132.

PISCES (Feb. 20—March 20) Your ex will come back to haunt you through AIM.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Scot. island
5 Have debts
8 Diplomacy
12 Time period
13 Bled
14 Three-banded armadillo
15 Vega (2 words)
17 Fellworm
18 Month abbr.
19 Pokeweed
21 King (Sp.)
22 Move a camera
23 Nub
25 Yellow
28 Poseidon
31 Bare
32 Lugubrious
33 Of the mouth
34 Shaped like a club
36 Realm
37 Wither
38 Chairman (abbr.)
39 Tablespoon (abbr.)
41 Father of Oedipus
43 Jap. fish
46 Quod demonstrandum
48 Hades
50 Air (pref.)
51 One (pref.)
52 Recent (suf.)
53 Arabian judge
54 Sheep's cry
55 Stone (pref.)

DOWN
1 P.I. food
2 Iodine source
3 Possessive pronoun
4 Compass direction
5 Eng. dramatist
6 Women's Army Aux. Corps (abbr.)
7 Irate
8 Buff
9 Gap
10 Window lead
11 Salver
16 Rod
20 Drink of liquor
22 Irk
24 Fume
25 Television channel
26 Honey
27 Armband
28 No (Scot.)
29 Bobbsey twins
30 Guido's note (2 words)
32 Layer
35 Mulberry of India
36 Alaska Hawaii Std. Time (abbr.)
38 Papal court
39 Tree
40 Mineral tar
42 Sayings (suf.)
43 Linden
44 Family relative
45 Elbe tributary
47 Thou (Fr.)
49 Amer. College of Physicians (abbr.)

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

B	E	Y	■	O	G	G	I	■	E	R	A	T
A	D	E	■	R	O	I	L	■	P	I	C	A
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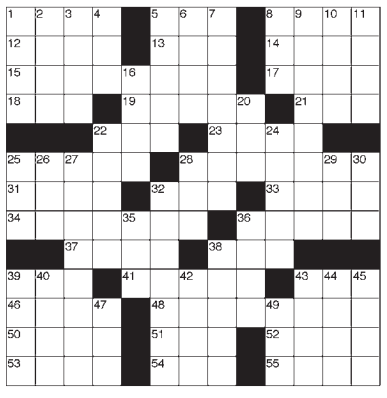

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EVENTS

MONDAY
Merchandise Mart International Antiques Fair
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
222 W. Merchandise Mart Plaza
(312) 527-3830
$15

TUESDAY
I Can Get it For You Wholesale
7 p.m.
Strawdog Theatre Company's Hugen Hall
3829 N. Broadway St.
(773) 528-9696
$10 with student ID

WEDNESDAY
Eighth Blackbird W/Nico Muhly & Bryce Dessner
Museum of Contemporary Art
220 E. Chicago Ave.
(312) 280-2660
$20

THURSDAY
American Icons of the Great War
10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Priztker Military Library
104 S. Michigan Ave.
(312) 374-9333
General Admission $5

FRIDAY
Cinco De Mayo Festival
6 p.m. – 11 p.m.
26th Street and Kostner Avenue
FREE

SATURDAY
Pablo Francisco
8 p.m.
Up Comedy Club
230 W. North Ave., 3rd floor
(312) 662-4562
$25

SUNDAY
An Evening of Beckett
Stage 773
1225 W. Belmont Ave.
(773) 327-5252
$28

symbol KEY — Fitness, Culture, Music, Food, Nightlife, Exhibit, English, Theater, Dance

WEATHER

AccuWeather.com Seven-day forecast for Chicago — Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2013

MONDAY	MON. NIGHT	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly sunny and warm	Mainly clear	Sunny intervals; breezy	A thunderstorm possible	Cooler with a shower	Mainly cloudy, a shower	Mainly cloudy and warmer	Partial sunshine
74	54	77 / 58	66 / 44	54 / 36	52 / 34	61 / 42	66 / 41

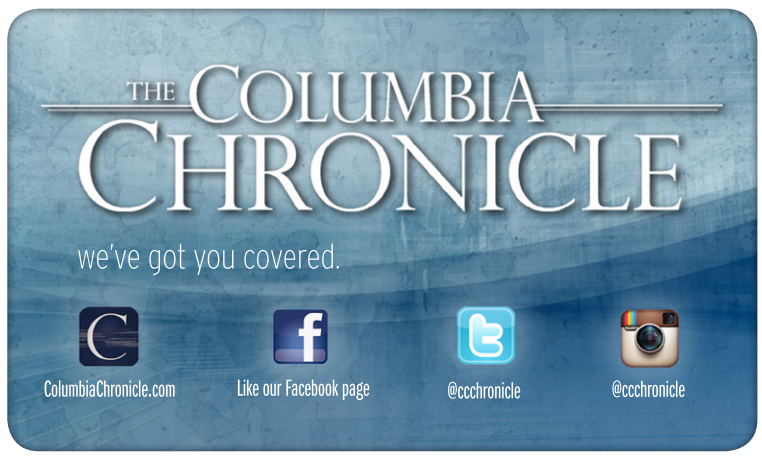
ARCHIVE

COLUMBIA CHRONICLE
Summer registration passes test run
'I wish Columbia would have done this sooner'
Lobbying groups tackle MAP

April 29, 2003
THIS WEEK IN 2003, The Chronicle reported that students were able to register for summer courses through OASIS for the first time. According to the report, there were a few "minor glitches" with the new online process, but more than 1,400 students were able to use the tool to register.

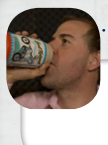
FEATURED APP

Face Juggler
FACE JUGGLER IS an endlessly entertaining app that allows users to swap any two faces. The results never fail to amuse. You can see what your friends look like with swapped faces, what you look like with Grandpa's face, and what your girlfriend would look like with Morgan Freeman's face. Endless fun!



WORLD NEWS

TWEETS OF THE WEEK


jason lytle @jasonlytle
I just googled the question "Does being in pain burn calories"?.....valid question, I thought.

David Grabowski @GrabowskiMusic
#vine is awesome until everything in the world starts to feel like a Requiem for a Dream montage. @DarrenAronofsky

Urban Outfitters @UrbanOutfitters
Anyone wearing jorts today? #festbest

Arrested Development @bluthquotes
I blue myself. #ThreeWordsSheWantsToHear

WEEKLY INSTAGRAM

Instagram
Chronicle Instagram photo of the week

by **ccchronicle**
April 26, 2013

LEAVE YOUR COPY of The Chron somewhere around town after reading it ... You never know who will pick it up #SpreadTheChron

» Yahoo News reported April 25 that a 5-year-old Mensa International member learned to read while he was on the toilet. His father said the boy learned to read at 18 months old while reading a newspaper on the porcelain throne. He has also memorized the periodic table and the world's countries while on the toilet.

» According to an April 25 report from The Atlantic, the 43rd U.S. President George W. Bush Presidential library opened April 25. President Barack Obama, along with former Presidents Jimmy Carter, George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton were also on hand for the dedication of the library, located on the Southern Methodist University campus in Dallas.

» Topless activists drenched a Belgian archbishop over his stance on LGBT rights, the Huffington Post reported April 24. Four members of the movement FEMEN went topless as they poured water on the archbishop André-Jozef Léonard during a debate on "blasphemy and freedom of speech" at The Université libre de Bruxelle in Brussels.

» The Associated Press reported April 26 that citizens dressed as bees gathered outside the British Parliament in London to push for a ban on pesticides. The movement wants to focus attention on the declining bee population. Parliament will vote on the proposed European Union ban some time later this week.