

2-17-2014

## Columbia Chronicle (02/17/2014)

Columbia College Chicago

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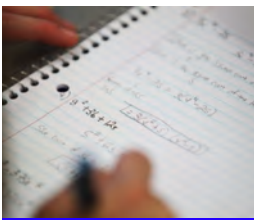
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**Opinions:** Free junior college could promote access to higher education  
See PG. 35



Mixed media artists collaborate on Discarded Exhibition  
Online exclusive video

11 WEEKS LEFT  
SPRING 2014

# THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

No. 1 Non-Daily College Newspaper in the Nation

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2014

THE OFFICIAL NEWS SOURCE OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

VOLUME 49, ISSUE 19

## Enrollment goes down, retention picks up

**TATIANA WALK-MORRIS & CARLEIGH TURNER**  
Campus Editor & Assistant Campus Editor

**COLUMBIA ENROLLED 471** fewer students this semester than it did in the spring of 2013, a loss the administration anticipated because of similar losses in the fall.

The college's total enrollment dropped 4.9 percent from spring 2013 to spring 2014, but freshman retention rates went up, meaning more students are choosing to continue at the college, according to a Feb. 10 report from the Office of Institutional Effectiveness.

Mark Kelly, vice president of Student Affairs, said the college is focusing on its retention rates because it will stabilize future enrollment trends. In the past, Columbia has had low spring enrollment, according to Kelly.

This spring's enrollment was expected to show fewer students because there was a decrease in the number of students who registered

for fall 2013, Kelly said. But while the college had 700 fewer students than in fall 2012, the administration projected it would retain about 90 percent of those students for the spring semester, Kelly said.

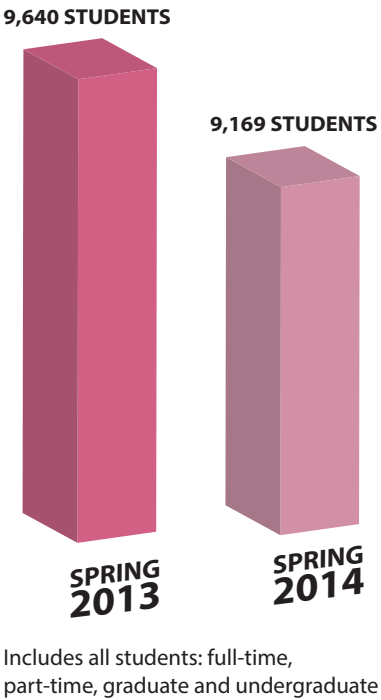
According to statistics from the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Columbia's freshman retention rates have risen from 83.7 percent in spring 2013 to 87.3 percent in spring 2014.

The college received 1,303 more applications than last year, but the freshman yield rate and the percentage of admitted students who enroll decreased by 3 percentage points, the report stated.

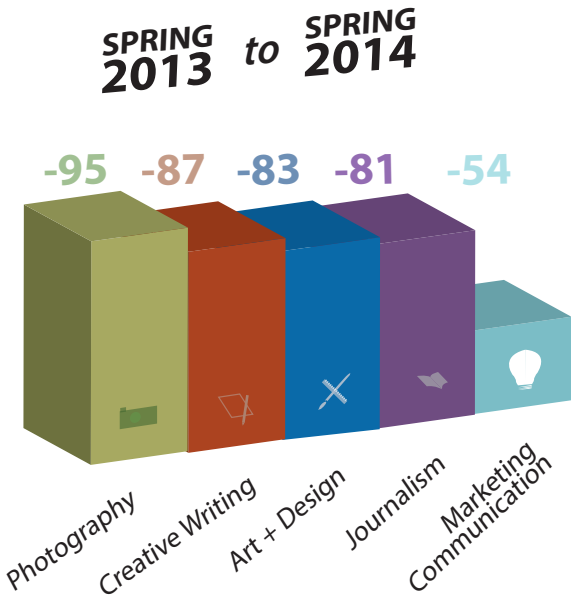
"It's not necessarily about a huge number of students entering at the front door, but rather students who are a good fit," Kelly said. "Our enrollment begins to build over time based on ... how many [students Columbia] retains, matriculates and graduates."

» [SEE ENROLLMENT, PG. 9](#)

### OVERALL LOSS OF STUDENTS



### STUDENT LOSSES BY DEPARTMENT



Kayla Koch THE CHRONICLE



Courtesy ALFREDO MENDEZ

## City puts brakes on ride-share companies

**MARIA CASTELLUCCI**  
Metro Editor

**RIDE-SHARE COMPANIES, SUCH** as Uber and Lyft, are facing roadblocks because of regulations proposed by the mayor and a lawsuit filed by major cab companies.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Alderman Emma Mitts (37th Ward) introduced a draft ordinance to City Council Feb. 5 to standardize the currently unregulated ride-share companies.

If the ordinance passes, ride-share companies would be required

to pay an annual fee of \$25,000 plus \$25 per driver to obtain a city license. The proposal also mandates that companies conduct background checks, drug screenings and vehicle inspections. Drivers would also have to undergo training and get commercial liability insurance.

Believing that the proposed ordinance aims to decrease competition between ride-share companies and city-regulated taxis, ride-share businesses oppose the legislation because the regulations would hinder operations, said Lyft spokeswoman Paige Thelen in an email.

"As it stands now, the proposed ordinance would not support the continued operation of Lyft," Thelen said. "We've had productive meetings with city leaders to discuss Lyft's peer-to-peer business model and commitment to safety and look forward to continuing a conversation that allows for innovation and consumer choice."

Lyft hosted a community meeting Feb. 13 to gather drivers and

» [SEE RIDE-SHARE, PG. 40](#)

## BREAKING NEWS

**TATIANA WALK-MORRIS**  
Campus Editor

**THE MARKETING COMMUNICATION** Department will be split into three separate degree programs by Fall 2014, according to a Feb. 14 emailed announcement from Robin Bargar, dean of the School of Media Arts.

Marketing will become a concentration in the Arts, Entertainment & Media Management Department, while Advertising and Public Relations will merge with the Journalism Department.

After discussing the measure with the Deans Council, Bargar held a meeting with faculty and staff members of the Marketing Communication Department Feb. 13 and Journalism departments Feb. 14 to relay the news.

Bargar discussed shifting much of the Marketing Communication Department's majors,

minors and resources into the Journalism Department. He said a faculty task force will make curricula decisions.

"The administrative change, already approved by President Kwang-Wu Kim, asks that the Journalism [staff and faculty] begin discussions with the Advertising and Public Relations faculty members about synergies in curricula and other crucial matters as we move forward," Bargar wrote in a Feb. 13 email.

The search for a new chair of the Marketing Communication Department was suspended, according to the email. Sandra Allen is the acting chair of the department.

"We anticipate the foundation for the structure will be completed over the spring and summer and the transition complete," Bargar wrote.

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



Scientists make strides in HIV and AIDS research. • PG. 22

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Provost candidate visits Columbia • PG. 3

CAMPUS



Attempting the impossible jump • PG. 13

SPORTS & HEALTH



Editor’s note

by Lindsey Woods  
Editor-in-Chief

Graduation, retention rates important

**SURPRISE! ENROLLMENT AT** Columbia dropped again this semester. The college currently has 471 fewer students than it did last spring, continuing a five-year trend of enrollment losses, as reported on the Front Page.

Actually, a little bit of context make the numbers less surprising. Spring enrollment is traditionally lower than the fall because there are more applications during the fall semester, and if there are fewer students in the fall, there are generally even fewer students in the spring, according to administrators. The college lost 601 students between fall 2012 and fall 2013, as reported Sept. 16, 2013 by The Chronicle.

The Chronicle chooses to focus mostly on enrollment gains and losses because fewer students means less money, because the college’s bottom line is tuition-driven. That reality needs to be addressed no matter what other numbers are rising and falling, but there are other indications of how well the college is doing in the data set. Columbia obviously needs to work on stabilizing its enrollment, but it also needs to give attention to other numbers in the report.

The most recent data from the Office of Institutional Effectiveness shows that the college currently

loses half of the freshman it admits within four years. Only 41 percent graduate within six years, according to the most recent data.

Mark Kelly, vice president of Student Affairs, said the college is currently focusing on improving its retention and graduation rates by more selectively admitting freshmen, a worthy place for the administration to focus its attention. Improving graduation rates would have a cyclical effect.

As graduation rates go up, the college will become more attractive, inviting a more qualified applicant base. The college’s graduation rates will continue to improve because there will be a larger pool of capable applicants.

Retention rates are also important. The college can’t graduate the desired number of students if half of them leave after a year or two. To properly address this issue, administrators need to fill the holes that students are falling into. The hard part will be figuring out where those holes lie.

The college is addressing financial woes by trying to offset tuition increases with more scholarship aid. But what else is driving students away?

I think one of the biggest flaws of this institution is its inability to brag about itself and its students,

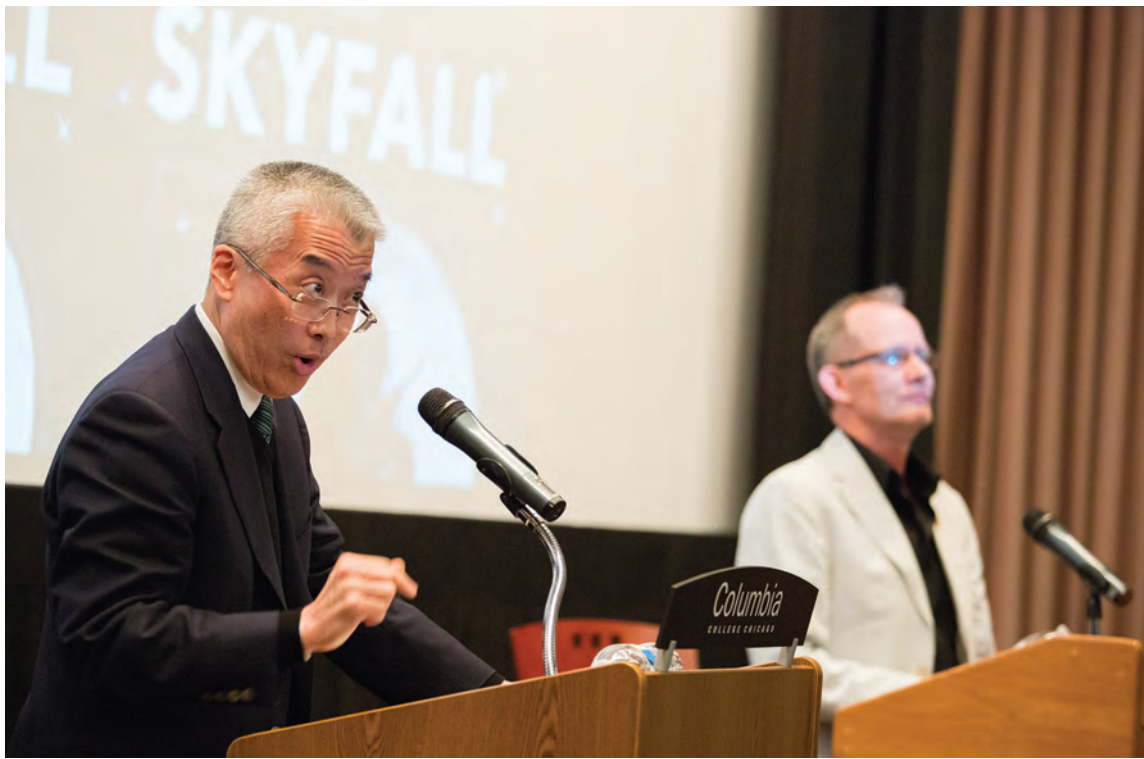


staff, faculty and alumni. There are things Columbia’s community does better than any other college community including producing a newspaper, performing improv and creating Super Bowl advertisements. Properly recognizing and advertising its achievements will help the college attract and keep students. It would give current students credit for the work they’re doing and it would make prospective students realize the power Columbia has as an educational institution.

If you don’t brag about yourself, no one else is going to do it for you. Columbia needs to get its brag on and start giving its community credit for the wonderful things it does on a daily basis.

lwoods@chroniclemail.com

FEATURED PHOTOGRAPH



Anthony Soave THE CHRONICLE  
President Kwang-Wu Kim (left) and Bruce Sheridan (right), chair of the Cinema Art + Science Department, debate the film “Skyfall” at the 50th round of Cinema Slapdown in Film Row Cinema, 1104 S. Wabash Ave. This event was in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of James Bond.

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

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

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

THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

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CORRECTION

The Feb. 10 article “Former head Bursar makes lasting impact” incorrectly stated that Peter Radke, former head bursar for Student Financial Services, was 50 years old at his time of death. He was 60 years old. The Chronicle regrets this error.



# Columbia provost candidate in the hot seat



Carolina Sanchez THE CHRONICLE

Provost candidate Stan Wearden spoke to faculty, staff and students Feb. 11 about his plans for Columbia if he gets the job. He addressed current issues such as the rising cost of higher education, new student demographics and Columbia’s masters’ program.

**CARLEIGH TURNER**  
Assistant Campus Editor

**STAN WEARDEN, COLUMBIA** provost finalist and dean of the College of Communication and Information at Kent State University, proposed ideas for improved online classes, less emphasis on school rankings and revisiting the college’s mission statement during his Feb. 11 presentation in the Getz Theatre at the 11th Street Campus Building, 72 E. 11th St.

Approximately 250 faculty, staff, and students assembled for Wearden’s 30-minute presentation followed by a Q-and-A session. A reception was also held at

the Conoway Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave., after the talk.

Wearden, who has been at Kent State since 1984, is one of two unanimously chosen candidates for the provost position at Columbia.

In his speech, Wearden reacted with gusto at the opportunity to suggest improvements for Columbia, unlike contending candidate Chris McCord, who in his presentation Feb. 4, opted-out of tailoring his plans to Columbia because of a potential to seem “presumptuous.”

“What we as educators need to recognize is that higher education needs to embrace the constancy of change,” Wearden said. “We need to stay ahead and anticipate [changes]

as much as possible. We need to prepare students for the future that is emerging.”

Wearden said higher education has noticed a shift in the demography of students coming in.

“The demographics of students are changing and students are not the same 18–22-year-old middle-class white kids we [higher education] are accustomed to dealing with,” Wearden said. “We know students are becoming much more diverse in a lot of different ways and they are coming to colleges and universities often less prepared. I’m going to make a political statement here, a lot of children are being left behind by No Child Left Behind.”

Wearden addressed rising college costs and said educators have a moral obligation to ensure affordable education.

“We’ve got people whose parents are largely putting them through school who are middle-class parents, and working class parents” Wearden said. “These are the people that are paving our roads and serve as our nurses when we are in hospitals, grow our food and build our houses. These people are the heart and soul of the heartland of our country and they’re taking out second mortgages. Their children are working two to three part-time jobs just so they can afford an education because they believe in it, which means that we have a moral obligation to spend every single penny wisely and strategically in terms of making sure that it serves the educational mission.”

President Kwang-Wu Kim said it was evident in Wearden’s presentation that he spent a lot of time thinking about Columbia and the provost position. Kim added that Wearden was proficient in turning his experience into ideas that could benefit the college.

One of Wearden’s proposals dealt with creating a stronger revenue stream for the college through additional online courses. He said Columbia should incorporate the new trend, particularly in the college’s masters programs.

“People who enter master’s programs are highly motivated, and usually already working, yet often bound because of their jobs,” Wearden said. “They can be highly successful in an online environ-

ment; it could be an effective way of reaching working professionals.”

Kim said he liked Wearden’s experience with using technology to teach and said he would like to speak to Wearden about new learning and teaching technologies that would not necessarily be online.

Wearden also suggested that Columbia could consider re-visiting its mission statement to ensure that it is still fulfilling what its mission states.

“It is always worth revisiting the mission statement,” Kim said. “There are certain core things that I wouldn’t change though. There is a part in our mission statement about helping young people to author the culture of our time ... The mission statement itself is not as changeable as how the college will implement that mission.”

Alexis Kowalsky, academic coordinator for the Art + Design Department, said she thought Wearden’s presentation was encouraging, but some of her questions for the candidate went unanswered.

“I liked his emphasis on technology in the classroom and I know a lot of people are apprehensive about online classes,” Kowalsky said. “I think it’s an avenue that is worth exploring.”

Sheila Baldwin, associate professor in the English Department, said Wearden did his research on the college, but she is still unsure whether he is the right person for the position. She said public interviews are generally “dog and pony shows,” but Wearden seemed authentic.

» SEE PROVOST, PG. 11

## Students suffer without books first weeks of class

**KATHERINE DAVIS**  
Assistant Campus Editor

**THE UNUSUALLY BARE** shelves of Columbia’s bookstore, which left some students without textbooks for the first few weeks of the spring semester, could be the result of faculty members submitting late requests.

Faculty members are supposed to fill out an adoption form that lists the course name, course number and name of any required textbooks students may need for the semester. These should be submitted to the bookstore, 624 S. Michigan Ave., by Oct. 15 for the spring semester and April 15 for the summer and fall

semesters, said Ann Marie Pausha, manager of the bookstore. She said many forms were turned in after the deadline, which contributed to the store’s book shortage and that there were more late requests than usual.

“We’re only as good as the information we get from the professors and the teachers,” Pausha said. “If they give us wrong information or if they change the title midway through or give us orders two days before classes start, we’re not going to have books right away.”

Jennie Fauls, assistant director of the First-Year Writing program in the English Department, said it is her responsibility to complete

adoption forms for all the faculty members in the First-Year Writing program. She said that some of those requests were late for the spring semester. However, she said she depends on professors in the department to get their requests to her on time.

“We tend to be a little late and I take responsibility for that,” Fauls said. “If they are late, there’s a legitimate reason. Sometimes, faculty gets switched around if enrollment creates schedule changes, and sometimes faculty members are reassigned.”

» SEE BOOKS, PG. 11



Angela Conners THE CHRONICLE

Columbia’s bookstore, 624 S. Michigan Ave., had unusually bare shelves this semester. According to Ann Marie Pausha, the bookstore’s manager, the shortage was due to late book requests from the faculty.



# Creating music with new IAM chair

JENNIFER WOLAN  
Assistant Campus Editor

WHEN JOSEPH CANCELLARO began teaching at Columbia, he never expected to rise to the top, but on Feb. 4, he was officially named interim chair of the Interactive Arts & Media Department.

Cancellaro was named acting chair of the IAM Department in 2012 when previous chair Annette Barbier went on sabbatical. After Barbier announced she would not return, Robin Bargar, dean of the School of Media Arts, kept Cancellaro on as interim chair.

“[Cancellaro] has a lot of understanding of computer graphics,” Bargar said. “He really is a good fit for the job and [has] knowledge of where the direction is going with the program.”

Since he first became acting chair, Cancellaro has worked on three new bachelor’s degree programs, to expand the department.

While working at Columbia, Cancellaro has taught courses such as Sound and Music for Interactivity, 3D Composition for Interactive Media and Game Sound in the Music Department.

Cancellaro has been working with music, audio and computers

for most of his life. He graduated from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston with a master’s degree in composition. He then pursued his doctorate in music composition at The University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

Cancellaro worked in Poland for a number of years, first of super-computing and networking center, then at I.M. Paderewski Poznan Academy of Music and Electro-acoustic Music Studio in Warsaw, before he met his wife and moved to Chicago.

“Cancellaro is basically an ambassador between the IAM and music departments,” Bargar said. “He has done a lot to create pathways for composers and musicians that want to work in games.”

Cancellaro is most respected and known for his composition, Bargar said. He has composed for local films such as “Lowlands,” a documentary by Peter Thompson, a former professor in the Photography Department. But he says he has no desire to compose for major film studios.

“I’ve been asked to do big time films, but I would never want to move to L.A.,” Cancellaro said. “I don’t like it and my wife and kids are [in Chicago].”



Angela Connors THE CHRONICLE

Recently appointed chair of the Interactive Arts & Media Department Joseph Cancellaro said his goal is to make the department more transparent.

Janell Baxter, assistant professor in the IAM Department, worked with Cancellaro when she was the associate chair, a position she recently stepped down from.

Baxter said she was impressed with Cancellaro’s leadership skills but that his biggest strength is his transparency.

“He has the ability to look at the big picture and prioritize as well as look at details and make sure the department is moving in a positive direction,” Baxter said. “He also invites faculty to the problem-solving process when it is appropriate.”

Cancellaro said he keeps his door open, making him available for stu-

dents and faculty to ask him anything. He said it’s important to have students feel they can come to him at any time.

“My door is rarely closed,” Cancellaro said. “Faculty and staff are always welcome.”

jwolan@chroniclemail.com

The Music Center at Columbia College Chicago  
1014 S. Michigan Avenue

Music Department Events

Wednesday February 19

Wednesday Noon Concert Series\*

at the Conaway

7:00 pm

Friday February 21

CUP Forum\*

Jazz Gallery in the Lobby\*

Keyboard Forum at the Sherwood\*

Sonic Fusion Project: the Soundscape

Jazz Forum\*

Classical Guitarist Ivan Sanchez in Concert

at the Sherwood

9:30 am

12:00 pm

12:00 pm

1:30 pm

3:00 pm

7:00 pm

\* Events with an asterisk do not give recital attendance.

Columbia

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Dean Deborah H. Holdstein Announces the Spring 2014 LAS Dean's Lecture:

# "TALKING TRASH: WASTE, SPRAWL, AND THE FUTURE OF THE SEAS"

Presented by Dr. Steven H. Corey, scholar of urban studies, Professor, and Chair of the Department of Humanities, History, and Social Sciences at Columbia College Chicago

**When:** Thursday, February 20, 2014, at 5:30 p.m.

**Where:** Music Center Concert Hall, 1014 S. Michigan Ave.

**Cost:** This lecture is free and open to the public, but seating is limited. RSVP to Rebecca Flores by Monday, February 17 at [rflores@colum.edu](mailto:rflores@colum.edu) or 312.369.8217.

What can we do about the growing and hugely consequential problem of environment waste? Join **Dean Deborah H. Holdstein** for the Spring 2014 LAS Dean's Lecture as she welcomes **Dr. Steven H. Corey**, who will provide a lively overview of issues surrounding the urbanization of the shore and our use of oceans as dumping grounds, despite laws, treaties, and contemporary environmental ethics to the contrary.

Roughly half of all the people on Earth live and work within one-hundred miles of a shoreline. As a result, our oceans have become waste sinks. Trash and other forms of solid waste are disposed in—or allowed to flow unabated into—estuaries, bays, rivers, and other waterways that lead to the sea. Over time, islands of garbage form in our oceans. One is estimated to be larger than Texas.

Dr. Corey will also list several scenarios for the future ecological health and environmental value of the seas, while suggesting possible solutions about how to mitigate the urbanization and contamination of coastal zones. A Q&A will follow Dr. Corey's lecture, followed by a reception with food and refreshments.

**Columbia**  
COLLEGE CHICAGO

**Steven H. Corey, PhD**, is Professor and Chair of the Department of Humanities, History, and Social Sciences at Columbia College Chicago. His areas of teaching and research include environmental and urban history and public policy. He coedited *The American Urban Reader: History and Theory*, and he is the coauthor of *Garbage! The History of Politics and Trash in New York City*. His forthcoming book is titled, *America's Urban History* (Routledge).



# Underground hip-hop events dance on campus

**KATHERINE DAVIS**  
Assistant Campus Editor

**COLUMBIA'S DANCE CENTER** is partnering with the School of Fine & Performing Arts and the Radio Department to present "B-Real: A Look Inside Urban Movements," a collaboration of international hip-hop dance workshops and performances scheduled to take place Feb. 17 through March 1.

Sage Morgan-Hubbard, academic partnership coordinator for the Dance Department, said she has been running the "B-Hip-Hop" program for the past two years. She said the program has been part of a 40-year tradition of dance festivals at the college and focuses on hip-hop music and culture.

Morgan-Hubbard said this season's theme is masculinity in hip-hop culture because last season's theme was femininity. Morgan-Hubbard encourages people of all genders to attend.

This season's main presenters are Compagnie Käfig, a hip-hop ensemble from France, and Raphael Xavier, an award-winning hip-hop dancer from Delaware, according to Morgan-Hubbard.

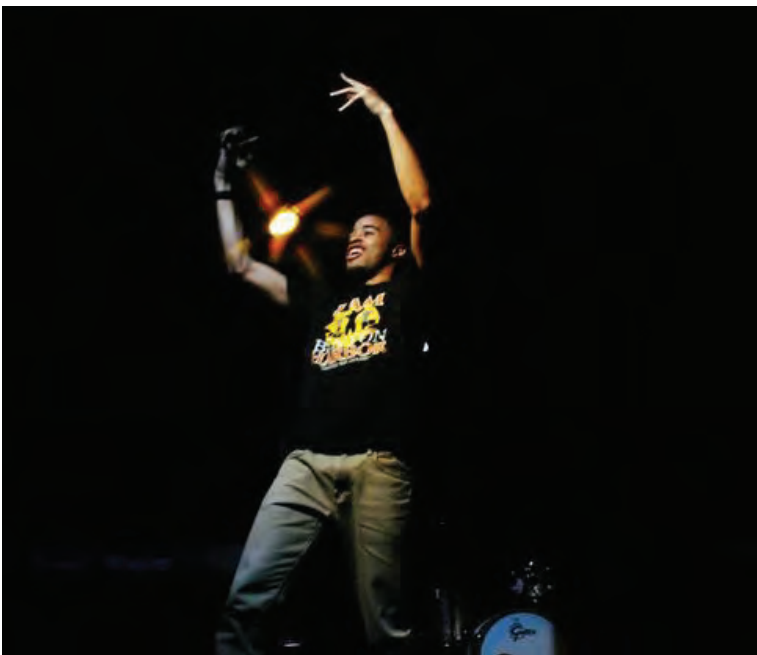
"This is an exciting collaboration," Morgan-Hubbard said. "A lot of times you have to pay for [performances] and they are kind of underground and only known



helped organize the series by facilitating collaborations between Chicago citizens and presenters.

"I work with the presented artists to determine what the best community events are," Soleil said. "We built these events around the timeliness of having these two incredible artist companies be here."

Soleil said the series has five main events, including "B-Real Two-on-Two Breakin' Battle" and "B-Real MC Battle," which will feature Compagnie Käfig and Raphael Xavier. Local artists will also per-



Courtesy SAGE MORGAN-HUBBARD

form at the workshops and sit on panels, he said.

Jovan Landry, a senior cinema art + science major and lead videographer for "B-Real: A Look Inside Urban Movements," said she helped organize the series because she has an interest in hip-hop music and culture. She said her roles are promoting the events and filming the performances.

Landry said students and community members should attend the series because they will get a better understanding of underground hip-

hop culture and its diversity. She said the series is something she is passionate about cultivating.

"I've never seen anything like this at Columbia," Landry said. "[There are] different events that you don't really see every day at Columbia. They only come once a semester and it's always topping itself."

*The full schedule of events can be found on the Columbia Dance Center's website, at [colum.edu/Dance\\_Center](http://colum.edu/Dance_Center).*

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



# Need housing next year?

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Starting **February 24th through March 7th**, Columbia College students can sign a contract to live on campus for 2014-2015. No need to fill out an application!

Just come into the Residence Life Office, located at 731 South Plymouth Court, and choose the building and/ or room you want to live in next year. You will need to provide a \$250 housing prepayment (or receipt of your prepayment) and proof of a current medical insurance policy.

The Contract Campaign **ends Friday, March 7th**. If you miss this deadline, you will have to go through the regular housing application process.

There are specific dates in which current residents and non-residents can sign a contract. For a full schedule, and other important information, please visit:

**[www.colum.edu/contractcampaign](http://www.colum.edu/contractcampaign)**

# Columbia

COLLEGE CHICAGO



# COMPAGNIE KÄFIG / CCN CRETEIL ET VAL-DE-MARNE

**CORRERIA AGWA** FEBRUARY 20-22, 2014 | 8:00PM

Compagnie Käfig's intoxicating fusion of hip-hop, samba and capoeira dance styles, bossa nova and electronic music, culminates in *Correria (Running) Agwa (Water)*—a sensational double bill of two heart-stopping works by Mourad Merzouki showcasing the dazzling virtuosity and acrobatic skills of his all-male ensemble of 11 Brazilian dancers.



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AND MARTIAL ARTS INTO ELEGANT  
COMPOSITIONS.” —THE NEW YORKER**

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The Dance Center's presentation of Compagnie Käfig is funded, in part, by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew Mellon Foundation. Additional funding provided by the Arts Midwest Touring Fund, a program of Arts Midwest supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional contributions from the Illinois Arts Council and General Mills Foundation. Special thanks to the Cultural Service at the Consulate General of France in Chicago.

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**JOSEPH HOGWOOD**  
interactive arts & media major

Roommates and senior interactive arts & media majors Joseph Hogwood (pictured) and Dan Hernbrott created the video game “Charlotte Seeker,” which was inspired by another game titled “Binding of Isaac.” It will be finished at the end of the year.

**JENNIFER WOLAN**  
Assistant Campus Editor

“**CHARLOTTE SEEKER,**” AN arcade-inspired video game that resembles a fast-pace, pupil-dilating “Pac-man,” will allow players to blast through space as a heroic princess. The game’s nostalgic sci-fi world

was created by senior interactive arts & media major Joseph Hogwood and will be available to purchase and play with Sony electronics at the end of 2014. Hogwood and his room mate, Dan Hernbrott, a fellow senior interactive arts & media major, have been working on the game for nine

months and launched a Kickstarter for it Jan. 23. Although this is Hogwood’s first major project, “Charlotte Seeker” has already raised \$2,307 of its \$8,000 goal with 83 backers as of press time. The kickstarter funds will go towards purchasing Sony PlayStation rights for the game to

be sold and played on the popular game console, Hogwood said. Hogwood and Hernbrott collaborated with local artist Brent Eaton, aka TNERB, and Spencer Riedel, a 2013 Columbia interdisciplinary interactive arts & media and music alumnus, who is creating the game’s action-packed soundtrack. The Chronicle spoke to Hogwood about the future of “Charlotte Seeker,” his passion for audio and his education.

**THE CHRONICLE:** How did you get the idea for “Charlotte Seeker?”

**JOSEPH HOGWOOD:** We were working on a game inspired by another game called “Binding of Isaac,” and as we started playing around with the game, it morphed into what it is today. Game design is a really inverted process, so you start with one idea and as you keep working on it, it generally starts to change and turn into something different.

**How did you end up meeting your fellow collaborators?**

[Hernbrott] and I do all of the programming and all of the design, and I handle everything else with working on the game. [Hernbrott] and I met after I transferred [to Columbia]. My first semester, [I was in] a class called Game Culture and [Hernbrott] was also in the class. Both of us were vocal in the discussion, so we ended up hanging out and we just ended up working on

all of our projects together. It just so happens that we work really well together. All of the game design work that we have done before has been with each other.

**What made you want to go to school for interactive arts and media?**

I grew up like a lot of people in their 20s by playing video games and I never had any aspirations about working on them. I was a musician growing up and loved music. I threw both of them together because I like music and I like video games. But once I got here and got into the program, I found that I actually really liked it and started really [working on] all aspects of game design like programming and graphics.

**How are you planning to use the Kickstarter money?**

Commercially, it would be nice if we could sell enough copies to pay rent and feed ourselves, but that aside, we want to make something that we’re proud of, especially so early in our careers. The biggest thing we want to do with it is to publish the game onto the Sony PlayStation and to raise money to be able to pay the licensing fees. The licensing fees are upward of \$20,000, so we would really love to find the money to get it out on PlayStation because that would be really cool.

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8 • February 17, 2014



## » ENROLLMENT

Continued from Front Page

Despite the loss of students, Kelly said he is optimistic about Columbia's future because the college is beginning to selectively admit new students who are more likely to enroll in and complete their degrees at Columbia.

The college will continue to admit diverse students but aims to retain more students over time, he added.

The Art + Design, Photography, Creative Writing, Journalism and Marketing Communication Departments suffered the worst enrollment dips, each losing more than 50 students. The Theatre Department gained 53 students, the most of all the undergraduate programs, the report showed.

The School of Media Arts lost 167 students compared to Spring 2013 enrollment.

The school has added new courses and will attempt to market its offerings more effectively in order to attract more prospective students, said Robin Bargar, dean of the School of Media Arts. Bargar said he thinks Columbia's enrollment figures will improve in the future because the college offers a niche education that integrates liberal arts, media and technology.

Having fewer students means the college has to adjust its bud-

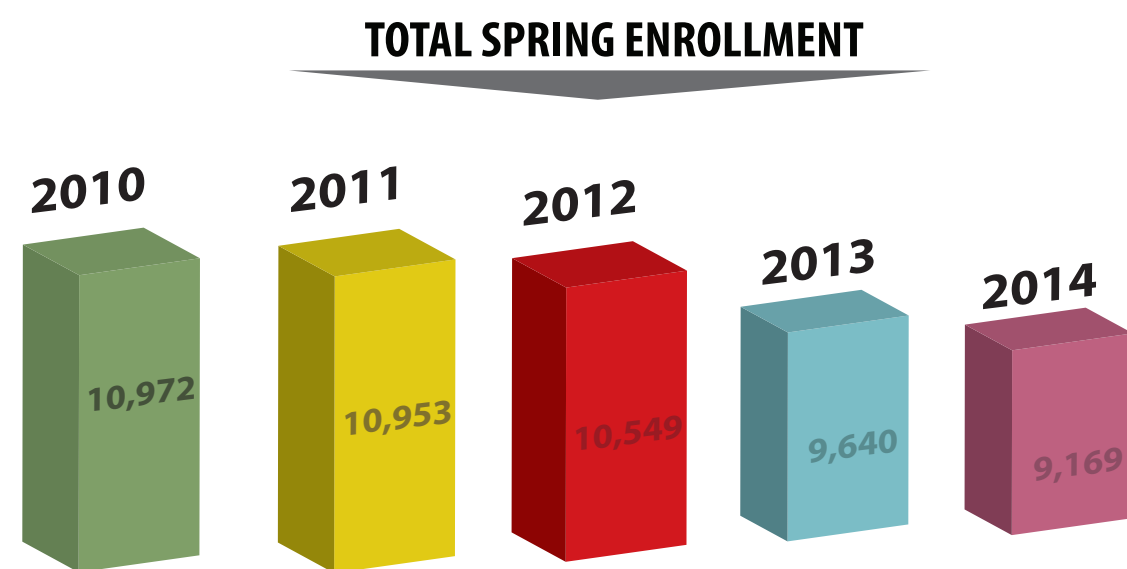
get, efficiently use its resources to meet students' needs and match curricula to changing industries, Bargar said.

To combat the decreased budget, the school has consolidated the roles of some support staff to assist departments with similar needs, Bargar said.

"We would expect as enrollments decline that we have to be more strategic about where we put our resources," Bargar said. "That doesn't mean we're not going to have our basics."

Suzanne Blum Malley, associate professor in the English Department and director of the Professional Writing program, said having fewer students this semester is not a surprise but means the college must work harder to retain students. Because the English Department serves most Columbia students, the decrease directly affects the department, Blum Malley said. The college's increased freshman retention rates are a good sign because they demonstrate that Columbia is supporting new students more effectively from enrollment until graduation, Blum Malley said.

"What's heartening is the fact that our retention rates ... overall are up and I don't think we're feeling a big impact in the English Department," Blum Malley said. "I don't see it as shocking or surprising. I see it as a call for the contin-



Kayla Koch THE CHRONICLE

Information from OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

ued work that we have to do."

Despite the college steadily losing students since 2008, some Columbia students still think they are getting the most out of their education.

Andrew Peron, a junior marketing communication major, said Columbia is completely different from anything he has experienced and was blown away when he transferred from St. John's University in New York.

"It was almost uncanny how much the school fit what I was looking for," Peron said. "Every school gives you a sales pitch but everything seemed lackluster to

the passion and energy I sensed at Columbia."

Peron said he thinks one of the conundra Columbia faces is that many students choose it because they think an art school will be easy, while other students take advantage of the resources Columbia has to offer and get the most out of their experience.

"There are professors who will bend over backwards to give you recommendations for internships and even hire you for their own projects," Peron said. "I really like that Columbia embodies the idea that you can do whatever you want to do. You are only limited by the

amount of effort you put in."

For the students who are focused on making a career of their art, Columbia is the place to be, Peron said.

"A lot of students think that it's an easy ride, that they can just take some art classes and don't realize that Columbia is a real school," Peron said. "I think that is one of the stigmas of [an] arts college. The amount of passion and vigor [students have] for this school is something to be contended with."

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## » PROVOST

Continued from PG. 3

"I thought he was very thorough," Baldwin said. "It appeared as though he pushed the limits on the kind of information that he unearthed about the college."

Faculty will answer questionnaires about the provost finalists, which Kim and the search committee will review before he

decides who the next provost will be, Kim said.

"I see a tremendous amount of positive energy and a lot of belief in the institution itself," Wearden said. "I think there is huge potential here. I know there are problems here that need to be addressed and there's a need for leadership ... but I think this is an institution that is ready for something really great."

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Carolina Sanchez THE CHRONICLE

Stan Wearden, one of two provost candidates, said higher education should begin using technology for financial and educational benefits of the college and its students. He said this would benefit the "new student" entering colleges and universities.

## » BOOKS

Continued from PG. 3

Fauls said she teaches Introduction to College Writing, Writing & Rhetoric I and II, and on average requires her students to obtain one book per class. She said the feedback she received from her students did not express any difficulties obtaining books from the bookstore. In fact, Fauls said her students had more options than usual.

Fauls said despite the late submission of adoption forms, the English Department and bookstore have a strong partnership.

Pausha said approximately 1,400 books are ordered per semester based on past sales and the current enrollment numbers. She said the bookstore usually orders the necessary number of books.

Pausha said the bookstore offers students alternative options for getting a textbook when the store does not have it in stock. She said the bookstore has a program called Save the Sale that allows students to place a pre-paid order. It can take up to a week to restock books and some book shipments were also delayed because of the severe winter weather, she added.

Pausha said the bookstore is working to restock as quickly as possible.

"We work really hard with the students and the professors," Pausha said. "We have no problem trying to go above and beyond and letting you know why something might be here or might not be here."

Despite the bookstore working with students to get them textbooks as quickly as possible, some students are still missing books they need to complete class assignments.

Zach Kornhauser, a sophomore double-majoring in music and audio arts & acoustics, said he had difficulty purchasing his books. He said this is the third time since he started at Columbia that the bookstore did not have a book he needed.

"The customer support and the service has been pretty bad," Kornhauser said. "There was a book that I needed and they didn't have it. They must have taken too long or just have procrastinated with it because I had to wait a week or so to actually get it."

Roland Hansen, head of Access Services & Space at Columbia's library, said the library keeps at least one copy of all required class texts that cost more than \$40 on reserve and said he encourages students to use them when they are bookless.



Angela Conners THE CHRONICLE

Despite the campus bookstore, 624 S. Michigan Ave., having a shortage of books, students had the option to place an order and receive books within a week.

"A couple of years ago, we put in a policy that we would automatically put textbooks on reserve," Hansen said. "It used to be that we would wait for faculty to request their items, but it got really cumbersome and this was an easy way to make sure we had the more costly items ready to go on the first day of term."

Hansen said he noticed an influx of students requesting books on reserve this semester. Because the library works directly with the bookstore, Hansen said he knows many of the adoption forms came in late, which contributed to the shortage of books.

Hansen said students should use reserved books on the weekends when demand is low and photocopy or scan the pages they need.

"To be honest, many people come at the last minute," Hansen said. "People often come a couple hours before the class or the test and then there's a lot of people who want the item."

Although the bookstore and library give students options, the lack of inventory causes some students to purchase books elsewhere, where the college makes no profit from it.

Madeleine Thiers, a sophomore fashion studies major, said when the bookstore does not have a book she needs, she orders it from online sources.

"I've never taken advantage of [reserve books]," Thiers said. "I usually prefer getting it from either Amazon or any other place if the bookstore didn't have it."

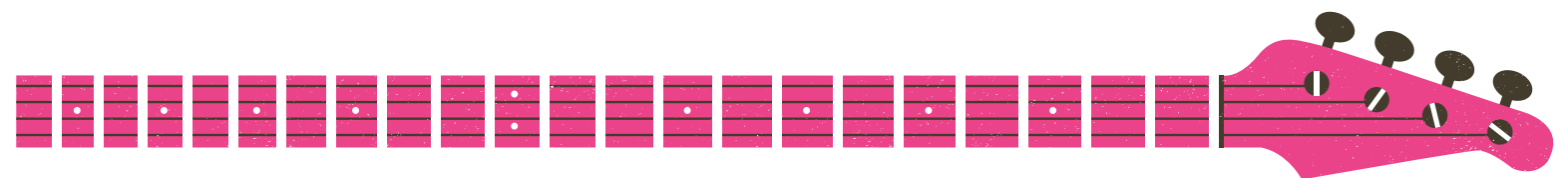
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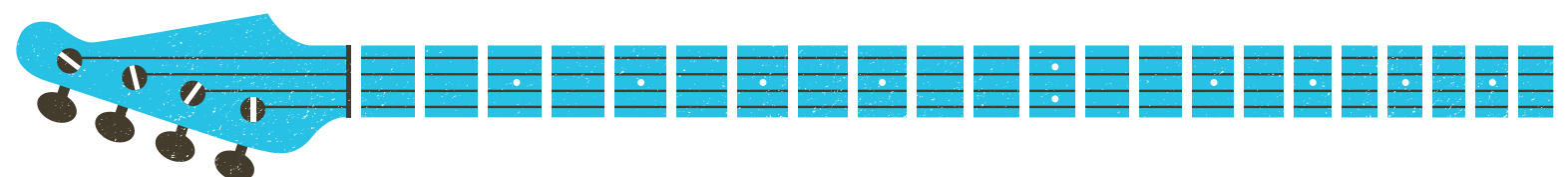
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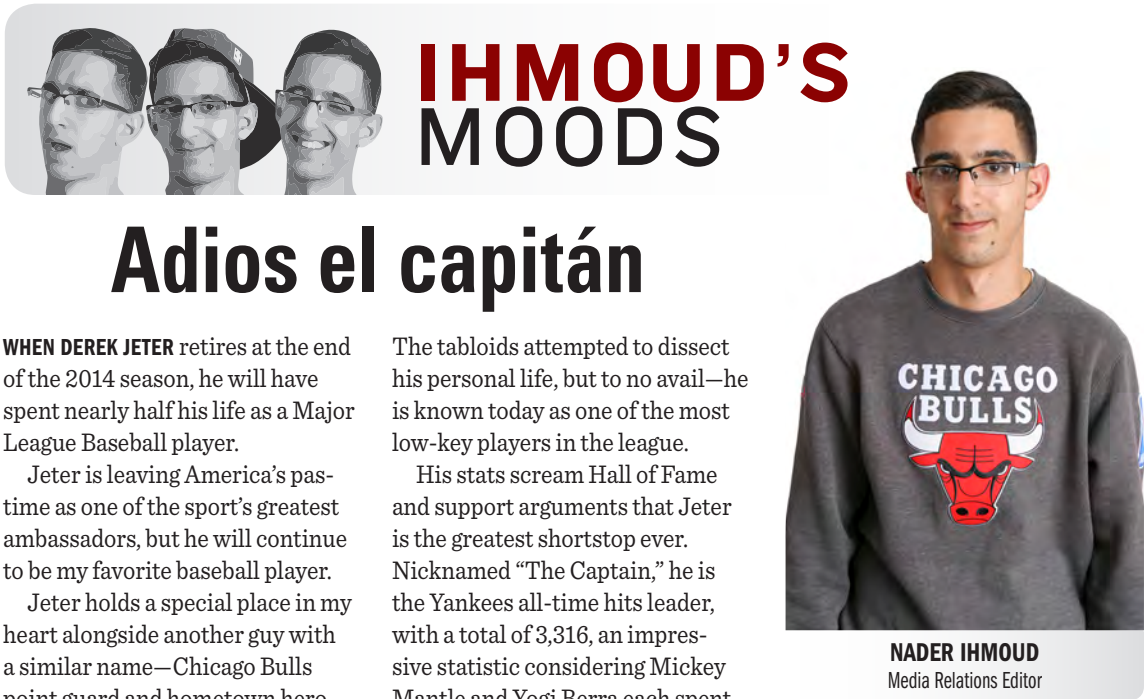




## A male figure skater is captured mid-air, performing a backflip on an ice rink. He is wearing a black long-sleeved top with green and black patterned sleeves, black leggings with gold floral designs on the left leg, and black ice skates. His arms are extended horizontally, and his legs are split in a wide V-shape. The background is a plain, light-colored ice surface.

February 17, 2014 • 13





# IHMOUD'S MOODS

## Adios el capitán

WHEN DEREK JETER retires at the end of the 2014 season, he will have spent nearly half his life as a Major League Baseball player.

Jeter is leaving America’s pas-time as one of the sport’s greatest ambassadors, but he will continue to be my favorite baseball player.

Jeter holds a special place in my heart alongside another guy with a similar name—Chicago Bulls point guard and hometown hero Derrick Rose. But I first became familiar with the longtime Yankees shortstop, during the summer of ‘99 when I laced up my first pair of baseball cleats.

Looking back at my fondest sports memories, the events that come to mind are Michael Jordan hitting fade-away jumpers over incompetent defenders and finding out Jeter and I shared both the same position—shortstop—and the logo on our jerseys, the Yankee emblem. I wanted to be little league’s Jeter. It was a match made in baseball heaven.

Jeter’s playing career would far outlast mine, but his actions off the field and his play on it never deterred me from being his fan.

The tabloids attempted to dissect his personal life, but to no avail—he is known today as one of the most low-key players in the league.

His stats scream Hall of Fame and support arguments that Jeter is the greatest shortstop ever. Nicknamed “The Captain,” he is the Yankees all-time hits leader, with a total of 3,316, an impressive statistic considering Mickey Mantle and Yogi Berra each spent 18 seasons as Yankees.

The 13-time All-Star is also the all-time leader in postseason hits, games played, singles, extra-base hits and runs scored.

Jeter is easily one of baseball’s greatest players, but he has decided to walk away from the sport at a perfect time. He has seen a decline in his health and it is inevitable that his success rate will take a hit as well. Plagued by injuries, he only played 17 games last season because of a broken ankle.

Since his ‘96 Rookie of the Year campaign, Jeter has rarely been a part of an unsuccessful team. That season he helped lead the Yankees to a World Series title with a batting average of .361. The Yankees



NADER IHMOUD  
Media Relations Editor

would win four titles in Jeter’s first five full seasons.

Little more than a decade later, that dynasty has ended: Jeter’s retirement leaves the Yankees at a crossroads. Following the 2014 season, the assumption that the Yankees would compete for a pennant every season will fade away.

Jeter represents winning wholeheartedly, and without him the Yankees are just an expensive team without a determined destination. Anyone who respects the game will miss Jeter.

*Listen to Nader Ihmoud Mondays from 7–9 p.m. as he Hosts The Benchwarmers on WCRX 88.1 FM.*

nihmoud@chroniclemail.com

# FEATURED ATHLETE

## KIMBERLY JOHNSON

Sport: Cross Country Team/School: Washington University Bears



Courtesy KIMBERLY JOHNSON

ABBAS HALEEM  
Copy Editor

KIMBERLY JOHNSON GREW up running around Homer Glen and Lockport, Ill., where she graduated from Lockport Township High School in 2013. The high school salutatorian and AP scholar then took her track talents to Washington University in St. Louis, where she competes in track and cross-country.

The freshman philosophy-neuroscience-psychology major started running track in junior high but did not join the cross country team until her sophomore year of high school. She ran the mile and two-mile races in high school and said she plans on running the 5k and 10k for the Bears.

The Chronicle spoke to Johnson about running track in college, keeping up with her personal life and finding balance in her busy schedule.

THE CHRONICLE: How did you get your start running track?

KIMBERLY JOHNSON: I’ve liked to run ever since I was little. It was a way that I could do that in a competitive setting and be involved in a sport and keep fit.

Why inspired you to start running cross country?

It was mostly because I ran distance in track and the other girls on the team would encourage me to go out for cross-country in the fall, so I did and I love it. I’m so glad that I did it.

Who encourages you to continue running every day?

My teammates definitely motivate me to try harder and practice every day and just keep going because we formed a bond and we definitely have great friendships. That’s definitely one of the best parts of being on a team.

How do you handle running in extreme weather conditions?

[I] mostly just take it day by day. I would say if it’s snow or rain, you just have to go out there and be careful. Pick where you’re running carefully, make sure you’re going

to run somewhere that’s plowed and doesn’t have too uneven footing. I’d say the things to look out for most would be the ice and severe cold. If it’s too cold, then I would definitely say not to go out that day and stay on the treadmill or go on the elliptical.

What do you like most about running?

Day by day, running is a way for me to let go of some of my stress and my worry and kind of connect with other people like my teammates. It keeps me from stressing too much about school and it just gives me a break.

How has running played a role in your personal life?

In school, a lot of my friends come from running and it’s just a way to meet new people. It gives you something to talk about and relate to other people just because a lot of people run and it’s just something anybody can do.

Is running more of a hobby or a lifestyle for you?

I would definitely say it’s a lifestyle. Running definitely affects the way I live my life whether it’s getting enough sleep or watching what I eat. I’d say running is kind of ubiquitous throughout my life.

How do you balance your time between running and schoolwork?

It’s all about time management. Just keeping your priorities straight and keeping a schedule. Knowing when you’re going to do this work or study for this and always making sure you’re planning around when you’re going to run and eating and sleeping.

Does it matter what time of day you go out for a run?

I definitely prefer running in the morning just because it’s a good start to my day and it wakes me up. I make sure that I don’t sleep too late and that I have time to do everything that I need to do. Really, I like running any time of day.

ahaleem@chroniclemail.com

# FEATURED PHOTOGRAPH



Angela Connors THE CHRONICLE

Siana Maradol, a sophomore advertising major, passes to her target setter at the Columbia Renegades volleyball tryouts Feb. 12, at the Goodman Center, 501 S. Wabash Ave. The Renegades’ co-ed volleyball team will be split into two teams this semester and play in a Thursday night league sponsored by Sportsmonster.



# TECH TALK

## Driving human emotions

VANESSA MORTON

Assistant Sports & Health Editor

**DRIVING CAN BE** a very stressful activity, especially in Chicago. But what if cars could detect a driver's emotional state and possibly prevent an accident?

This is the goal for a team of researchers from the Affective Computing Research Group at Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Media Lab.

Currently in the development stages, Media Lab's AutoEmotive project is designed to create an empathetic vehicle that can detect a driver's mood by using analytical data acquired through sensor technology.

The car would contain strategically placed sensors in places like the steering wheel and door handle that would detect the driver's emotional state through the use of electrodermal response measurements—the amount of electric signals that come from the skin. The car would also include a camera mounted on the dashboard that would analyze facial expressions.

"Basically this will change the behavior of the car to create a more empathetic experience," said Javier Hernandez, project leader and MIT researcher. "If you have all of these measurements of stress, then you can start aggregating all of this information from different drivers and hopefully use this information in positive ways."

The data gathered by the sensors

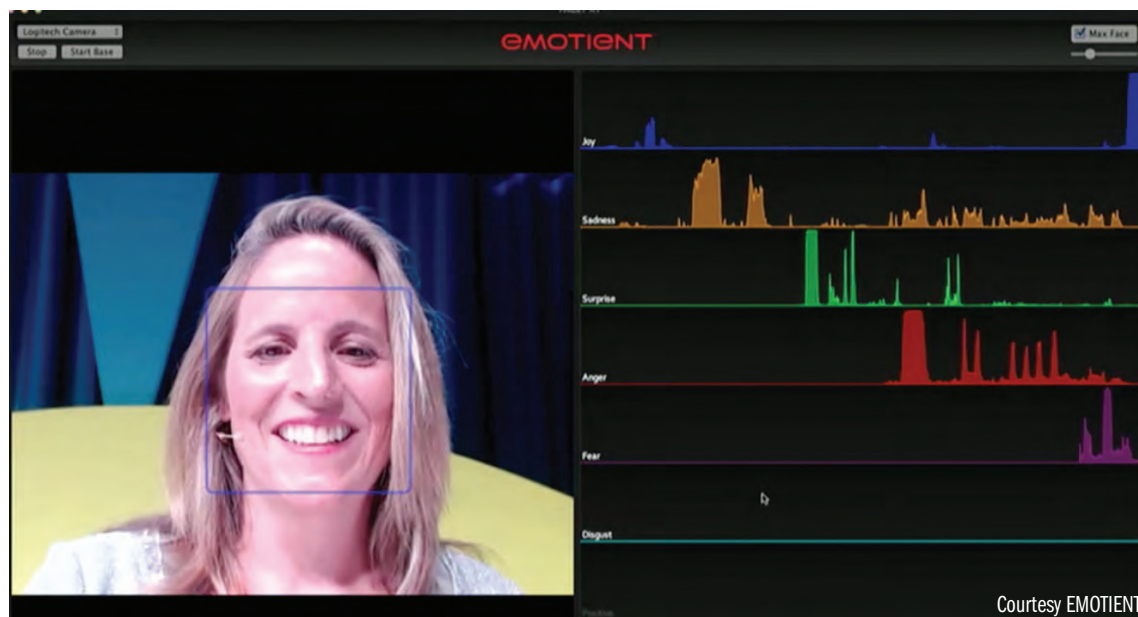
would allow the vehicle to respond to different emotions using certain applications, such as softening headlights to correct tunnel vision or turning on music that would keep a drowsy driver from falling asleep at the wheel. The sensors would also be able to change the color of a car to alert other motorists when the driver is in a stressed state, which may help alleviate road rage or prevent accidents.

While the car is not ready for mass production, Hernandez said the team is working to combine detecting a range of human emotions with different types of sensors.

"Right now computers don't really have this information," Hernandez said. "So we believe that by adding emotion-sensing technology, we can create much more compelling artificial intelligence that can better understand our feelings and better connect with us."

Facial recognition is the most progressive method of affective technology, a movement led by companies like Emotient, developer of facial expression recognition and analysis technologies and software.

Founded in 2012 by a group from the University of California, San Diego, the company is focused on providing automatic facial recognition technology that uses camera-enabled devices to detect facial muscle movements and process them to identify emotions. The company's software can classify emotions, like joy and anger.



Courtesy EMOTIENT

The retail and market research industries are only two of many areas in which the technology can be used, according to Vikki Herrera, vice president of corporate marketing at Emotient.

Herrera said emotion-detecting technology lends itself to market research because it allows companies to determine how customers truly feel about a product.

"When somebody fills out a survey at the end of experiencing a product, sometimes they only tell you what you want to hear," Herrera said. "By monitoring and processing their emotional reaction as they're experiencing a new product, we are able to detect their true reaction."

The technology can also be used in the health care industry.

According to Herrera, the company has done extensive research in using facial expression analysis to help treat autism. She said games have been developed that allow children with autism to mimic facial expressions to better express themselves and recognize and understand facial expressions in others, helping them to communicate. Research has also been done to use the technology to monitor certain mental illnesses such as depression as therapy sessions start to gravitate toward video-related methods.

"It could be used as an output that would give interesting information that might say if somebody was feeling sad or depressed or exhibiting signs of these emotions that might cause for further diagnosis," Herrera said.

Much of the new technology is geared toward non-contacting sensors, sparing users from wearable devices and creating more natural environments.

But that specific emotion-sensing technology may not be as easy to develop; however, combining various types of sensors could spur advancements in affective computing, according to Philip Troyk, professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at the Illinois Institute of Technology.

"The problem is we would like to have things that are in Star Trek, but we don't," Troyk said. "But when you combine different sensors, then you can get a more positive indication of a person's emotions."

vmorton@chroniclemail.com



**LAUNCHED FEB. 6,** Threes! is a puzzle game that works similarly to the wildly popular Candy Crush but with a little more math. Players drag cards with specific numbers on them around a nine-tile board and add them together to reduce the number of cards on the board, working up by multiples of threes.

For example, players drag the cards to combine one and two to make three on one square, then three and three into six, and so on. It may sound complicated, but developer Sirvo LLC claims it only takes a minute to learn. Threes! is available in the iTunes App store for \$2.99.—**E.EARL**

FEATURED APP

FEATURED PHOTO

**bleep bleeps**  
A family of little friends  
that make parenting easier



Courtesy BLEEPBLEEPS.COM

BleepBleeps, a tech startup that makes motion-sensor devices that can be monitored via smartphone, is seeking \$20,000 to fund its new project, Sammy Screamer. The company designed the detectors to help parents monitor their children by attaching them to things a child is not supposed to touch, such as a cookie jar, and sending a note to the parent's smartphone if the sensor is activated. The project has received \$50,791 on Kickstarter as of press time.

GADGET LAB



Courtesy MYBASIS.COM

## Basis

**THE POPULARITY** of health-tracking devices has increased throughout the years with programs like SleepCycle and gadgets like Jawbone. Basis is the newest, sleekest update in that category.

Designed like a wristwatch, Basis tracks the user's heart rate, motion, calorie expenditure, sleep cycles, perspiration and skin temperature.

It syncs to a smartphone app and computer interface so the owner can keep track of his or her health.

The program will also make suggestions based on the readings to correct problems. The basic model markets for \$199, with optional upgrades like different strap colors.—**E.EARL**



# Soccer concussions attract attention

**TYLER EAGLE & MAX GREEN**  
Associate Editor & Contributing Writer

**AS SPORTS INJURIES** draw more national attention, new research shows that concussions in soccer are becoming more prevalent while instances of concussions in professional football have decreased.

A Jan. 17 review of research on concussions in soccer, titled “Concussions and heading in soccer: A review of the evidence of incidence, mechanisms, biomarkers and neurocognitive outcomes,” found that concussions among professional soccer players are a growing concern.

Monica Maher, a research assistant on the review and a graduate student studying neuroscience at the University of Toronto, said researchers conducted the study because information about soccer concussions is lacking, despite the sport’s global popularity.

While sports such as hockey and football have hundreds of studies and reviews on concussions, soccer only has 49, Maher said.

“Right now soccer is the most popular sport in the world and a lot of attention has been paid to sports

like football and hockey in regards to sports concussions because they’re a lot more physical,” Maher said. “Soccer is unique in that the head is used as a very important part of the game to win the ball in the air.”

The review claims that because of the aggressive nature of soccer, players are likely to suffer traumatic brain injuries, particularly concussions. The review also said the involvement of heading—when players head-butt the ball while it is in the air—is the main cause of brain injury. The maneuver is responsible for 60 percent of concussions, but the ball is not necessarily the cause.

“It’s not the ball hitting the head that’s causing concussions,” Maher said. “It’s when two people go head the ball at the same time.”

Maher said girls’ soccer has the second highest incidence of concussions after football.

“It was surprising because you would think that hockey would be second,” Maher said. “Because of the fact that you are using your head more physically in the game, it gives you more opportunity [to get a concussion].”



FILE PHOTO

Professional players are the most likely to suffer concussions during gameplay, and goalkeepers and defenders get the brunt of the blows and are 78.9 percent and 70.2 percent more likely to experience head trauma, respectively, according to the study.

Maher said it is essentially impossible to force older players and professionals to stop heading the ball, but implementing preventive practices for younger children might lessen effects later in life. She proposed that younger children be forced to limit heading and to wear protective headgear.

Jeffrey Mjaanes, director of the Chicago Sports Concussion Clinic

at Rush University Medical Center, said the biggest concussion-related sports issues are caused by sub-concussive blows, which occur when players experience blows that do not result in a concussion, but can cause minor neural damages that lead to problems later on.

“There is a concern that these sub-concussive blows—these hits to the head that may not result in concussion—could result in microscopic damage,” Mjaanes said. “It’s that cumulative trauma that is most concerning.”

Mark Brticevich, Columbia’s fitness coordinator in the office of the Dean of Students, said soccer is extremely physical, which is often

overlooked because of the attention given to football.

“There is always the likelihood of getting a foot or leg to the head when someone is going for the ball,” Brticevich said. “There is potential for a lot of injuries.”

Brticevich said as concussions become more frequent in soccer, changes may need to occur, but for now, heading is an integral part of the game.

“If there is more and more evidence of concussions, it makes sense to make some other choices,” Brticevich said. “It radically changes the effect of that sport.”

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# See how they hear

## New study finds heightened hearing in blind mice

**SARAH SCHLIEDER**  
Assistant Sports & Health Editor

**VISION LOSS MAY** enhance the ability to differentiate between frequencies and pitches, which could make for better musicality, according to a recent study out of Johns Hopkins University.

The study, published Feb. 5 in *Neuron*, a biweekly scientific journal, found that blind mice were able to hear softer sounds and better distinguish different frequencies than they could when they could see. The study showed the majority of changes occurred in the auditory cortex after the mice were blinded.

The auditory cortex processes sound while the visual cortex processes visual cues. The animals were able to sense sound input coming from the periphery, meaning the neural connections in the auditory cortex became stronger, according to Hey-Kyoung Lee, associate professor in the Department of Neuroscience at Johns Hopkins University.

"We were able to see changes in the adult brain that indicates [it] can actually respond to changes in the sensory environment and ...

regulate their auditory processing," Lee said.

Lee and her research team studied mice to determine how the brain adapts to losing vision. The mice were kept in the dark for a week to deprive them of vision, a method that only temporarily blinds them. The researchers then used open skull surgery to look at the auditory and visual cortex functions in the mice's brains, Lee said.

The team collaborated with Dr. Patrick O. Kanold's lab at the University of Maryland, where researchers recorded the neural responses of the blinded mice as they heard different sounds and tones, according to the study.

"What happens when you lose vision in the adult brain [is that it] alters the auditory area ... [to] compensate for the loss of vision," Lee said.

Similar changes have been shown in blind humans, according to Hilary Brodie, chairman of the Department of Otolaryngology and Neck Surgery at the University of California, Davis.

The part of the brain that would usually process visual information can be utilized for other functions,



therefore enhancing other senses, he said.

This process of utilizing one part of the human brain for another function is called cross modal neuroplasticity, Brodie said.

Cross modal neuroplasticity may enable the visually impaired to be better at music, Brodie said, because other senses, like hearing, would be enhanced. A blind person could pay attention to more details in the music that other

people would not keep listening for because their brain is focused on the task of hearing rather than trying to hear while simultaneously using other senses, he said.

"You're just a little bit better at [using that sense]," Brodie said. "More brain is being allocated toward sensations other than vision."

Nathan Bakkum, coordinator of musicology and assistant professor in Columbia's Music Department, said he is hesitant to make

a blanket statement about the loss of sight contributing to increased strength and sensitivity in a musician.

"Certainly in some cases it does," Bakkum said. "Of course we have plenty of examples of great musicians who don't have the benefit of sense of sight."

There is a lot of meaningful visual information for performing musicians, Bakkum said. They are then able to manipulate their senses to focus their attention on hearing and that gives them a different kind of experience than when they focus on another sense, he said.

Based on the results of the study, Lee said she thinks the loss of vision may make a person a better musician. The change in the auditory cortex allowed the mice to hear softer sounds and to discern pitches more accurately. The higher sound sensitivity and ability to differentiate pitches should increase a person's musicality, Lee said.

"Music as an abstract art ... is our personal and cultural context for sound," Bakkum said.

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NOVICE

SOUS CHEF

GURU

Classic Baked Chicken

INGREDIENTS

3 chicken breasts

1 14 oz. can chicken broth

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon pepper

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Thaw frozen chicken breasts in cold water.

2. Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

3. Open can of broth and pour contents to cover bottom of medium-sized baking pan.

4. Separate chicken and place evenly in baking pan.

5. Season both sides of chicken with salt and pepper to taste.

6. Place chicken in the preheated oven.

7. Bake for 90–120 minutes or until desired tenderness.

8. Remove from oven.

9. Let cool 5–10 minutes and serve.



Anthony Soave THE CHRONICLE

**LORENZO JACKSON**  
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

**LIVING WITH MY** sister, our staple meal was ramen and fast food, despite the fact that she was on a diet. Because she was concerned about what she was eating and I was concerned about what I was spending, our diet ideologies quickly clashed. She wouldn't eat cheap McDonald's and even seemed to harbor a violent vendetta against it. However, I could not buy organic food because I would leave a grocery store with my pockets empty and my eyes wet.

Our father, an amazing cook, used to spoil us with his willingness to cook meals for us daily. At

some point, my sister and I knew we would eventually have to learn to cook. Blowing the dust off an old cookbook, my sister and I stumbled across a basic recipe for baked chicken that benefitted not only my pockets but also her diet.

To make classic baked chicken, first thaw the frozen chicken thoroughly in cool water, placing it first in a sealed plastic bag to prevent contamination. After the chicken thaws, preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Grab a pan large enough to hold the chicken breasts and pour enough chicken broth to generously cover the bottom of the pan.

Separate the chicken and place the breasts on a plate to season. For the best flavoring, season the

chicken on both sides and space it evenly on the pan. Place the pan in the oven and be cautious not to spill the broth.

Watch three to four episodes of *Spongebob Squarepants*—equivalent to 90–120 minutes, based on the tenderness preferred. If satisfied with the feel of the breasts, remove the pan and let the chicken cool for 5–10 minutes.

Consider adding rice or vegetables to this meal for the full experience. Doing so will also prevent fighting for the third chicken breast, which often occurs when the older sibling thinks age means she gets everything.

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# Turning back the clocks

**MATT MCCALL**  
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

**THE LOUD, MANIC** ticking of unsynchronized cuckoo clocks bombards viewers as they take in “The Negro Clocks,” local visual artist John John’s newest exhibition, which opened Feb. 7 at the Jennifer Norback Fine Art Gallery, 217 Huron St.

The exhibit explores the United States’ relationship with racism, as well as the personal connection John John, a white gay male, feels to intolerance. As a young person, John John said he was often the victim of bullying and name calling for his looks and sexuality.

All told, John John has designed 16 ornately garnished cuckoo clocks using racist images from early 20th century American pop culture. Six of the clocks are in the

exhibit, and their stereotypical portrayals of black people shed light on current racial issues.

“The Negro Clocks’ purpose is not to tell time,” John John said. “The whole purpose is to have the cuckoo come out as often as possible. The cuckoo for me is indicative of madness and craziness in regard to racism.”

Using collected materials such as Confederate money, a 1921 “Little Black Sambo” bowling game, Aunt Jemima pancake mix, newspaper clippings and even photos of his grandparents standing next to performers in blackface, John John’s clocks juxtapose modern and antiquated imagery in a collage representing racism’s persisting presence in contemporary society.

The word “negro” is stamped on nearly every clock. Handheld signs reading “Negro Clocks are Against

the Law” and “Negro Clocks are our friends” are available for guests to take.

The project began in 1983, when a young John John, frustrated with his hectic lifestyle in America, escaped to Paris, where he found inspiration in the form of a cuckoo clock during a trip to a flea market.

The clock, similar to one in John John’s childhood home, stirred up old memories of the Civil Rights movement flashing across his parents’ television set in the early 1960s. Growing up as an outsider himself, John John identified with the struggle of black Americans.

“[When] I was very young and handsome [I] was still suffering a lot from strangers in the street calling me f---t and queen,” John John

» **SEE CLOCKS, PG. 30**



Grace Wiley THE CHRONICLE

Todd Barancik, owner of local healthy snack delivery service SnackItToMe!, hand-delivers boxes of healthy snacks to subscribers every Monday.

## Happy, healthy snacking

**NICOLE MONTALVO**  
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

**TODD BARANCIK IS** on a mission to bring healthy snacks to busy Chicagoans. Competing against big snack delivery companies like NatureBox which ships pre-packaged mixes of healthy snacks from anonymous vendors, Barancik’s company, SnackItToMe!, is filling boxes with surprise individual snacks by uniquely teaming up with small local manufacturers to customize corporate snack plans and hand-deliver boxes to customers.

The idea for the company stemmed from Barancik’s struggle to find healthy, tasty snacks that were easy to eat on the go. After researching products already on the market, Barancik devised a business plan for his locally focused healthy snack delivery company.

The company launched in October 2013, offering subscriptions at \$21.99 per week with one box per week, and other options for biweekly and one-time delivery. Most boxes are hand-delivered by Barancik himself or by one of the company’s couriers, but Barancik is the only full-time employee.

Although the convenience of a box of healthy snacks hand-delivered to one’s office may be very appealing, Barancik said the surprise assortment is hard to find a market for.

“It’s not for everyone because you can’t be a super picky eater,” Barancik said. “You have to be willing to try something new.”

Barancik personally taste tests every snack he chooses for the company and constantly asks for customer feedback on his Facebook page, he said.

John Roche, a weekly SnackItToMe! subscriber, said he enjoys the variety, convenience and taste of SnackItToMe!’s assortments. While some snacks seemed strange to him at first, Roche said he has never had a snack from the company he did not like.

“I know I have a terrible sweet tooth,” Roche said. “So [without SnackItToMe!] I would be like, ‘I’m hungry, I’ll go get a Snickers bar and a bag of M&M’s,’ which is not going to be good for me.”

Lou Centeno, owner of Fit Results, 645 S. Clark St., said he agrees

» **SEE SNACKS, PG. 30**



Courtesy JENNIFER NORBACK

Local artist John John’s exhibition “The Negro Clocks” uses images and media to represent periods of rampant racism in the United States. The clocks do not tell time but represent the insanity of racism, John John said.



FOR THE RECORD

by Emily Ornberg  
Managing Editor

UnCovered

A **COVER SONG** is like a glorious gift re-gifted. When artists cover a song, they are able to take another artist’s tried-and-true lyrics and melodies and add their own spice, allowing listeners to do an audible double-dip in the record’s delicious melodic Dunkaroos.

Since post-holiday-season is probably the driest musical time of year, it’s no surprise that insanely

awesome covers are falling from the sky. What’s interesting is watching how the fans—both of the cover-er and the cover-ee—react to the track’s new form and its relationship to the artists. Personally, I enjoy covers both good and bad—they remind me that life really is just one big karaoke party.

Here are three of my favorite covers I’ve stumbled upon this week:



1. The Arctic Monkeys’ “Why’d You Only Call Me When You’re High?” by Jagwar Ma



The Australian psych-rock trio Jagwar Ma takes the already bluesy, soulful track off indie-rockers Arctic Monkey’s recent sexy collective, *AM*, and douses it in a trippy, shoegazing trance. It even manages to weave in some bangin’ riffs from the early ‘90s Ace of Base single “All That She Wants.” This cover is to-tally rad, man.

2. The Spice Girls’ “Say You’ll Be There” by MØ



I will always look back fondly on my dancing-in-the-mirror-to-The-Spice Girls phase. (Yes, last week was a good week. What of it?) Danish pop-electronica singer MØ takes this vintage ‘90s girl-group classic and gives it a fresh modern edge with minor harmonies and an echoey synth melody. Hold on while I get my platforms and choker.

3. Bright Eyes’ “Lua” by Mac Miller



As you may have seen somewhere in a Tumblr rant, goony emcee Mac Miller has decided to take on his “middle school depression song”—Bright Eyes’ emo ballad “Lua.” Surprisingly, his raspy voice fits in nicely with the track’s quiet, acoustic vibe.

eorenberg@chroniclemail.com



Monday, Feb. 17

OSHWA

Empty Bottle  
1035 N. Western Ave.  
9 p.m.  
FREE

Tuesday, Feb. 18

DELOREAN

Lincoln Hall  
2424 N. Lincoln Ave.  
8 p.m.  
\$18

Wednesday, Feb. 19

BAND OF HORSES

Vic Theatre  
3145 N. Sheffield Ave.  
8 p.m.  
\$38

Thursday, Feb. 20

THE ASTRONOMERS

Hideout  
1354 W. Wabansia Ave.  
9 p.m.  
\$7

Friday, Feb. 21

JOSH RITTER

Fourth Presbyterian Church  
126 E. Chestnut St.  
8 p.m.  
\$63+

Friday, Feb. 21

SKINNY PUPPY

Vic Theatre  
3145 N. Sheffield Ave.  
8 p.m.  
\$31.50

Saturday, Feb. 22

THE BLACK LILLIES

FitzGerald’s  
6615 Roosevelt Rd.  
8:30 p.m.  
\$35

Saturday, Feb. 22

HOLY GHOST

Smart Bar  
3730 N. Clark St.  
10 p.m.  
\$13+

Sunday, Feb. 23

DROPKICK MURPHY’S

Riviera Theatre  
4746 N. Racine Ave.  
7 p.m.  
\$29.50



Photos Angela Connors THE CHRONICLE



**BRYAN REID**  
junior arts entertainment & media management major



**CHRISTIE TOKARSKI**  
junior marketing communication major



**JUSTIN WILKINS**  
senior arts entertainment & media management major



**JULIA BEEBE**  
freshman fashion studies

WHAT WOULD YOU WEAR TO THE OLYMPICS OPENING CEREMONY?  
“Something better than those ugly sweaters they’re wearing.”



WHAT WOULD YOU WEAR TO THE OLYMPICS OPENING CEREMONY?  
“Boots with a long, black, textured jacket and a head scarf.”



WHAT WOULD YOU WEAR TO THE OLYMPICS OPENING CEREMONY?  
“I would try to incorporate the Olympic rings into my outfit.”



WHAT WOULD YOU WEAR TO THE OLYMPICS OPENING CEREMONY?  
“Chic track suit with knee high-boots.”





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# TURNING A POSITIVE INTO A NEGATIVE

Story by Vanessa Morton *Assistant Sports & Health Editor*

Design by Aly Dodds *Graphic Designer*

Additional reporting by Brandon Smith *Office Assistant*

A look into the future of the HIV and AIDS epidemic, finding a solution

**SEVEN YEARS AGO**, the only thing Rashid Bashir, leading developer and head of the Department of Bioengineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and his researchers needed to revolutionize HIV and AIDS testing was one drop of blood.

Bashir and his team developed a first-generation device that could be used to detect HIV and AIDS by placing a single drop of blood on a microfluidic biochip. It was modeled after the blood sugar monitors diabetics use, eliminating a process that usually requires a vial of blood and a trip to the doctor's office. Since then, Bashir said his team has expanded the technology and developed a second-generation model that is not only used for initial diagnostics but also tracks how the patient's immune system is responding to treatment.

Bashir said current diagnostic methods create challenges and the device could provide less costly, easy-to-use, immediate disease diagnostics, particularly in remote areas of the world where people living with HIV have limited resources.

"The goal we're moving to is called 'point of care' diagnostics where you can do it yourself and very quickly, and in this case it's not to take the patient to the lab, but to take the lab to the patient," Bashir said. "Technology is advancing to a point now where we can develop these tests in a disposable one-time use format."

While the device has not been released yet, the group is working to miniaturize it to a handheld size and design a cartridge that can be mass-produced, Bashir said.

More than 1.1 million people in the U.S. are living with HIV, and 1 in 6 of those infected are unaware. Although the annual number of new HIV infections remains relatively stable, the number of people living with HIV has increased throughout the past decade, according to AIDS.gov.

While it is estimated that 50,000 new HIV infections occur each year in the U.S., scientists have made significant advances in medical research during the past five years in terms of diagnosis, intervention and prevention, though the public continues to be misinformed.

America's perception of the disease is incomplete, according to a 2012 poll on America's perception of HIV and AIDS conducted by the Washington Post and the Kaiser Family Foundation. While the overall perception regarding the progress against HIV and AIDS is considerably optimistic, there is still a disconnect because many people

still have misconceptions about how the virus is transmitted.

According to the poll, roughly a quarter of Americans still believe that HIV can be transmitted by sharing a drinking glass, a view commonly held in 1987.

"There is still a lot of ignorance out there [when it comes] to understanding it and a lot of fear, and stigma becomes a big barrier then to people wanting access to care and treatment because they have to talk about their HIV status," said Michael Kaplan, president and CEO of AIDS United.

But with more work comes more progress, Kaplan said, noting that he has seen a vast change within the last four years, citing the U.S. government's reversal of a policy in 2012 that prohibited known HIV-positive people from entering the U.S.

Human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV, destroys the immune system, making carriers susceptible to the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, or AIDS. HIV spreads through the body, affecting CD4 cells, or T-Cells, which are responsible for activating the body's immune response system when viruses or bacteria are detected, thus rendering the immune system useless and leaving those infected completely vulnerable.

Because HIV is a virus that mutates often, it is very difficult to determine what factors allow HIV to progress into AIDS at the cellular level. It has two strains: HIV-1 and HIV-2. HIV-1 is the most common and leads to AIDS, while HIV-2, commonly found in West Africa, does not lead to AIDS—a discrepancy scientists have been researching for many years.

While HIV and AIDS awareness has grown since its widespread outbreak in the '80s and medicine has improved—at least 28 different drugs are available to manage the disease—there is still work to be done to put an end to the epidemic, both on medical and cultural fronts, Kaplan said.

"I would say there is more opportunity to end the epidemic than ever before, but the level of alertness, energy [and] action is less than it was in the '90s," Kaplan said. "I am stunned when I talk to people not in the AIDS field [at] how few understand the power of where we are in this epidemic and the idea that treatment can truly work as prevention."

In 2010, researcher Nicolas Manel and a group of colleagues at New York University found that dendritic cells—white blood cells in the immune system that trigger protective immune responses—were able to detect and work against HIV-2, preventing the strain from progressing into AIDS, but were unable to detect HIV-1 because it creates an "invisibility cloak" that shields it from detection, leaving scientists puzzled.

Manel moved his research to the Institut Curie in Paris, and with the help of fellow scientists found that HIV-1 evades detection because of its capsid, a protein shell surrounding the virus, according to Manel's study published Nov. 21 in the journal *Immunity*. This discovery, he said, could help researchers develop effective vaccines against HIV-1, thus reducing the threat of AIDS.

"Our study shows for the first time exactly how immune cells sense the virus and how the virus uses one of its proteins to tune its stealthiness and infectivity," Manel said. "We also show how to modify the virus so that it is properly recognized and leads to a beneficial immune response."

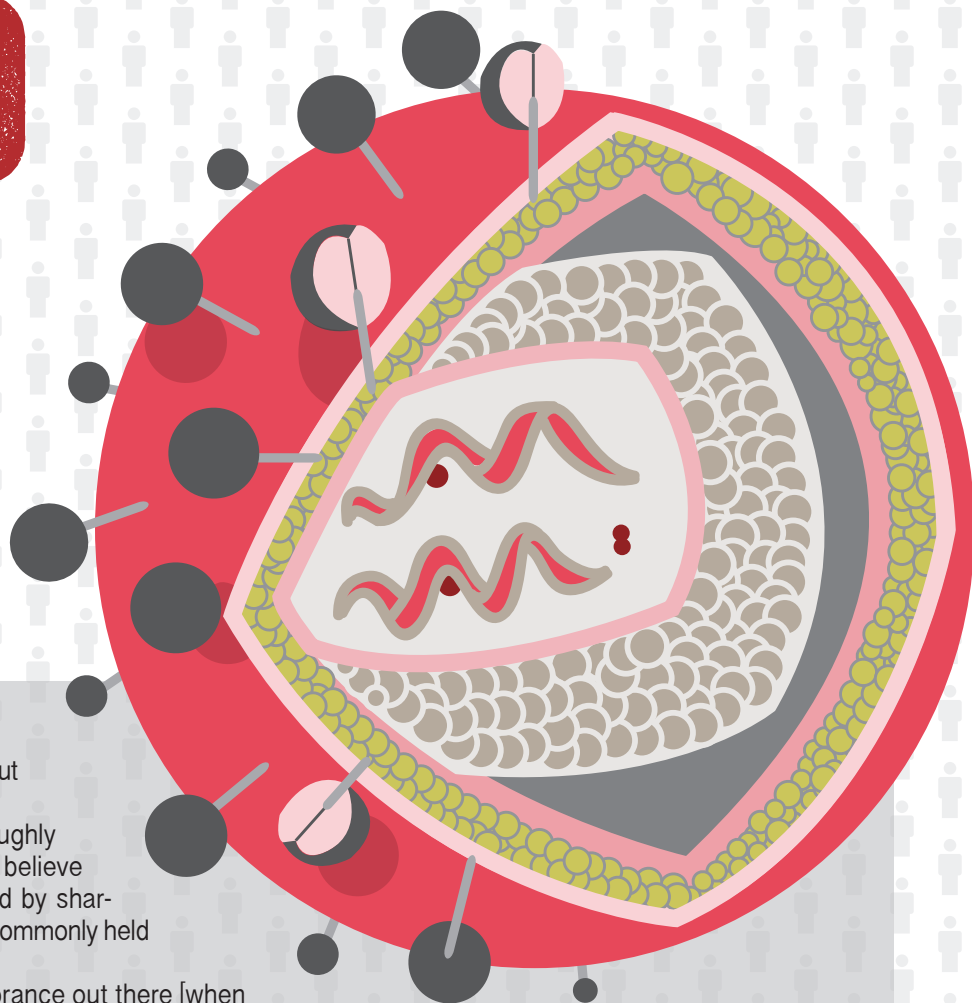
Manel said each strain has a different capsid, and they were able to mutate the proteins and put the capsid of HIV-2 into HIV-1, making the latter strain detectable.

"Now we can think about ways to design or look for drugs that can either mimic what the virus should be doing to be detected or to actually force the virus to uncover itself," Manel said. "Imagine a vaccine that would be able to change the virus in a way that is not infectious anymore because we know how it works at the molecular level."

Manel's cloaking mechanism discovery may only be a theory, but the researcher's work is promising, according to Richard D'Aquila, professor of medicine and director of the HIV Translational Research Center at Northwestern University.

"It's a whole new slant at looking at how the virus gets around," D'Aquila said. "Before that, the idea was that when [the] virus replicates, it destroys the immune cells that are needed for a good defense and depletes certain proteins from infected cells that normally would fight off HIV, but the idea that it could be cloaked, that's really interesting and new."

New technology has also enabled researchers





**1 in 6**

*people living with HIV  
in the U.S. are unaware  
of their infection*

**1 in 4**

*new HIV infections  
occur among people  
ages 13–24*



**1.1 million**  
*people in the U.S.  
are living with HIV*

to find effective prevention methods for those who are not HIV positive.

The Microbicide Trials Network is a National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases research network designed to advance antiretroviral discoveries from a pre-clinical setting into clinical phase trials. Antiretroviral compounds, known as Microbicides, are the most common prevention method currently being used.

Microbicides have been in development since the early '90s. They are lab-developed molecules that can prevent HIV from transcribing its RNA into human DNA, effectively diminishing the virus' infectious abilities.

Carl Dieffenbach, director of the division of AIDS at the NIH, said the global success of microbicide medicine has placed it as one of the most important avenues of prevention research.

"Since 2001, we've gone from only 100,000 people in Sub-Saharan Africa and other underdeveloped nations being on antiretroviral drugs to almost 10 million," Dieffenbach said. "It is largely due to the innovations developed through the microbicide Trials Network."

A product like ImQuest BioSciences DuoGel is one example of a pre-clinical over-the-counter microbicide. Robert Buckheit Jr., ImQuest's chief executive officer, said the company has developed a molecule called IQP-0528 that can be implemented in products such as gels or suppositories.

He said the idea behind DuoGel is to one day replace potentially harmful products like K-Y Jelly with a more comfortable, HIV, resistant lubricant.

However, finding a remedy for the disease has not always been promising. The early years of the AIDS epidemic plagued many and caused millions of American deaths.

The majority of the nation was unaware of the severity of HIV and AIDS at the start of the epidemic, and the disease was not clinically recognized until 1981. The initial cases were diagnosed among young, gay men contracting unusual infections and rare cancers that viciously attacked their immune systems. Only five years into the epidemic, approximately 95 percent of those with documented cases of AIDS had died, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"Meanwhile, in gay communities around the country, it started to wreak havoc and at that point in time, HIV was quite catastrophic and was just decimating a whole population of people," said Jim Pickett, director of prevention advocacy and

gay men's health for AIDS Foundation Chicago.

A lack of medical research was not the only hurdle in the early years of the HIV and AIDS epidemic. While scientists were searching for a way to control the disease, there was also a widespread cultural stigma surrounding HIV and AIDS.

AIDS created a divide in the nation as many affected individuals were harshly discriminated against, particularly those in the gay community.

To cope with his lifelong struggle to repress his sexual identity, Jeff Allen, now a board member at the National AIDS Housing Coalition, turned to heroin as an escape. In 1985, 20-year-old Allen began his first stint in a Florida rehabilitation center for drug addiction, and it was there that a new medical screening would change his life forever.

"[Testing positive] was scary, and it didn't help with my addiction," Allen said. "At that point in time I was like, 'What the heck, I'm going to die anyway, I might as well enjoy myself,' you know? So it kind of just compounded the problem."

**“WHILE AMERICA CAN TAKE CREDIT FOR THE AMAZING LEAPS FORWARD IN SCIENCE THAT WE’VE HAD [ON] THE TREATMENT AND PREVENTION FRONT, WE’RE STILL NOT DOING A VERY GOOD JOB.”**

—Jim Pickett

HIV destroyed Allen's immune system, landing him in the hospital for weeks with Pneumocystis pneumonia, a severe form of pneumonia that often affects AIDS victims. He nearly died.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration did not approve the first antiretroviral drug until the spring of 1987. Although zidovudine, or AZT, offered a new hope, it also caused controversy because doctors often over-prescribed the drug dosage in attempts to eliminate the virus.

"AZT is still being used today and it's a good drug, [and] it wasn't so much that AZT was bad, but it was because it was before we had other drugs to take in combination and before we had any alternatives when people would have side effects," said David Pitrak, chief of infectious disease and global health at the University of Chicago Medical Center.

By the late '90s, the FDA began testing and approving new medications to help manage the dis-

ease and better testing materials, such as the first HIV home-testing kit.

"The equation was no longer you get HIV, you get AIDS, you die," Pickett said. "Now it was if you find out your status, you can get into care and treatment and significantly prolong your life. People were preparing to die, and now they had to prepare to keep on living."

Pitrak said there needs to be a greater push to encourage people to get tested. Although he said the diagnostic testing has improved significantly, many doctors are not committed to helping combat the disease early enough in the course of patients' infections.

"The screening programs are very important and is something all doctors should be doing, but it really hasn't become routine because some doctors don't think it's their responsibility, [and] some doctors are uncomfortable with talking about HIV to patients," Pittrak said.

The CDC recommends anyone ages 13–54

to get tested at least once in his or her life, particularly those who have unprotected sex or have had sexual partners with the disease.

Although scientists are moving closer to finding vaccines that provide hope for a cure, the nation still has a long journey ahead, Pickett said.

"While America can take credit for the amazing leaps forward in science that we've had [on] the treatment and prevention front, we're still not doing a very good job," Pickett said. "We're still not getting a very good grade for our own people when we have these sorts of disparities, where we have things that people cannot access, where people continue to become HIV-infected and fall through the cracks, [and] so we have a great deal of work to do."

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# ‘The Lego Movie’ builds star-studded film

STEPHEN HALL  
Film Critic

CHILDREN’S MOVIES ARE best when they connect not only with their target audience but also with the adults who have brought them.

“The Lego Movie,” directed by Phil Lord and Christopher Miller (“Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs,” “21 Jump Street”), uses the classic toy brand to make a memorable movie that adds a bit of nostalgia so adult audiences can also enjoy themselves.

Typical Lego minifigure Emmet Brickowski (Chris Pratt) lives a mundane life as a construction worker. President Business (Will Ferrell) rules Emmet’s world, where everyone watches the same shows, buys the same products and listens to the same music.

The plot is typical children’s movie fluff with a hero’s journey, in which Emmet travels out of his element and becomes special in a way he never thought he could be. Though unoriginal, the film’s message is important and it showcases the desire of many to rebel against the status quo.

Emmet follows the instructions for his life issued by the President, never falling out of line or questioning his place. One day while at the construction site, he stumbles upon a beautiful hipster Wyldstyle (Elizabeth Banks) and learns of a prophecy foretelling a master

builder of Legos will rise up against the tyrannical ruler of the Emmet’s Lego world.

Chris Pratt is incredibly naive and likable as Emmet, but he is overshadowed by the star-studded cast that includes the voices of Morgan Freeman, Will Arnett, Jonah Hill and Liam Neeson, among dozens of others. Arnett and Neeson are particularly hilarious in their roles. Arnett plays a Lego Batman who is so narcissistic and needlessly brooding that every line he utters is a riot. Neeson does an amusing double-duty as a cop with a good and bad side that only alternates when he turns his head completely around.

The real novelty of “The Lego Movie” comes from the toys themselves. It is a joy to watch the building up and breaking down of the hundreds of different playsets that include vintage scenes from Star Wars—with sound from the original movie no less—as well as newer movie franchises such as Lord of the Rings and Harry Potter.

Audiences will be astounded at the attention to detail that went into this stop-motion world. The special effects are revolutionary, and the intricacy displayed in each shot is breathtaking. There has never been anything like it on film before.

The writers had fun with their source material. Hilarious nods to older viewers, like an ‘80s spaceman



IMDb

and NBA All-Star players, are much appreciated and make the film unpredictable and entertaining.

It should be noted that the film’s villain being named President Business, looking conspicuously like former presidential candidate Mitt Romney, is an obvious statement that arguably has little place in a children’s film. National po-

litical pundits have criticized the film as “anti-capitalist” because of the portrayal of a business leader having fascist policies.

The criticism is ironic considering the film runs like a two-hour commercial for a toy brand worth billions. Lego is even marketing a playset and video game alongside the film.

“The Lego Movie” is a treat for moviegoers of all ages. It helps children understand that everyone can do something special. It also reminds older viewers, who may have had their creativity stifled as they aged, to think outside the box, or rather, the blocks.

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# AUDIOFILE

## Rapper handles injustice like a Bahhs

MATT MCCALL

Assistant Arts &amp; Culture Editor

**YOU MAY NOT** know it by looking at her, but petite, soft-spoken Ambrelle Gambrelle, a West Side rapper who performs under the moniker Bella Bahhs, is tough.

Bahhs, a spoken word artist, made her rap debut with the EP *Power Hall*, which she self-released Sept. 3 on her website YeahBellaRaps.com. Bahhs' music quietly expresses a keen awareness of the struggle and violence tormenting Chicago's impoverished neighborhoods.

A Chicago native and 2010 graduate of Lane Technical High School, Bahhs is a senior at Dominican University in River Forest, Ill. As a child, Bahhs won her 2nd grade poetry contest and has focused intensely on improving her word craft ever since. While notable poets like Edgar Allen Poe, E.E. Cummings and Maya Angelou laid the creative groundwork, Bahhs said her inspiration comes from the many spoken word artists she has seen at Chicago open mics.

Lyrically influenced by her neighborhood and family, Bahhs confidently raps in her track "Good Loud": "I just want to make my hood proud/ Lift it up like good loud/ Moving on up like George now/ Washingtons, just throw em' down," with a nod of respect to her upbringing.

The Chronicle caught up with Bahhs in the WCRX studio to discuss her music and the state of hip-hop.

**THE CHRONICLE:** In your music, you're tough, but you seem more soft-spoken in person. Do you change your persona when you perform?

**BELLA BAHHS:** Yeah, until you piss me off. In music of course I have to make myself, make my voice sound like it goes with the



Courtesy GEORGIA GERBER

West Side rapper Bella Bahhs (left) sits in on the "The Benchwarmers," hosted by Chronicle Media Relations Editor Nader Ihmoud (front) and Eduardo Saldana (rear). The Monday night radio show is broadcast on Columbia's WCRX 88.1. Host Ihmoud praised Bahh's song "Good Loud" and pleaded with her to release a clean version that he could play on air.

beat, so I have to do some vocal training ... I usually sit in the bathroom for hours and look at myself and watch myself talk.

**When did you realize you wanted to be a rapper?**

It wasn't [just] one day. Music—being a rapper—it's a dream. So many people are after this dream that for a long time I was just telling myself, OK, it's just something fun to me. I'm just having fun with it, but I want it to be more than just fun—I want this to be business; I want it to be what I do.

**What is your music ultimately trying to say?**

Take back your power. In a multitude of ways we have our power

stripped from us through systems of injustice, unfair advantage and disadvantage.

**What influences that?**

It's anger; it's hurt that comes from seeing this in my community, particularly in my family, and it seems like everyone wants some type of power but don't know how to get it.

**In a lot of ways, hip-hop is a man's world. How have you dealt with that?**

It's a really sexist industry to be in. It's really hard to be taken seriously, and it's really frustrating when you have this vision of yourself and a bunch of people around you just see you as a woman. To be considered half as good, I have to do twice as much work.

**Which song off *Power Hall* is your most personal?**

"The Dedication." It's dedicated to my paternal grandmother and my cousin. We weren't blood-related, but we grew up on the same block. We grew up together. We were raised together. My grandmother died of cancer and my cousin was shot and killed. I didn't go into it thinking I was going to write a song that emotional, or that personal, but it was this beat that one of my Robot Army members made and sent to me, [and] I just couldn't shake that [that] was what I needed to talk about on it. If you've ever lost someone, if you miss someone, you'll relate to it.

**Do you feel like hip-hop is getting too degrading?**

It's unfortunate that that's the story some people have to tell, [the ones] that do degrade women or aren't positive messages, or messages kids shouldn't be listening to at all. But we have to remember they're telling a story. I think the bigger issue there is we need to be teaching young men, and young women too, who degrade themselves as they are growing up, that that's not OK.

**Does your music speak to that?**

I'm telling you of my experience and things I've seen. I can't tell you anything else besides what I know. I'd rather just tell the truth; hopefully, my truth resonates with someone else's truth in the way someone else's truth resonates with me.

mmccall@chroniclemail.com

## staff playlist

"It's still frickin' cold"



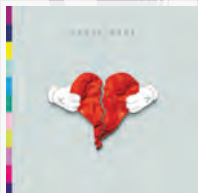
**Jennifer Wolan, Assistant Campus Editor**

**BIG PIMPIN'** Jay-Z ft. UGK  
**THE CAVE** Mumford & Sons  
**I'M FREE** The Who  
**I FEEL PRETTY** Leonard Bernstein  
**WHY NOT** Hilary Duff



**Mark Minton, Office Assistant**

**CRASH** Gwen Stefani  
**DREAM FORTRESS** Grimes  
**MANEATER** Nelly Furtado  
**PRIMADONNA GIRL** Marina and the Diamonds  
**DRAGULA** Rob Zombie



**Emily Ornberg, Managing Editor**

**COLDEST WINTER** Kanye West  
**DON'T BE CRUEL** Elvis Presley  
**TRILLMATIC** A\$AP Mob ft. A\$AP Nast & Method Man  
**FANTASY** Mariah Carey ft. O.B.D.  
**CARRY ME** Bombay Bicycle Club



**Abbas Haleem, Copy Editor**

**POMPEII** Bastille  
**POKEMON THEME** Jason Paige  
**DARK HORSE** Katy Perry ft. Juicy J  
**THE PHOENIX** Fall Out Boy  
**I JUST HAD SEX** The Lonely Island ft. Akon



# Second act trumps Honey and Buffalo

**NICOLE MONTALVO**  
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

**AN EXPERIMENTAL, STRING-HEAVY**, folk-country group, Honey and Buffalo, tried its best but didn't quite mesh in the intimate setting of Schubas Tavern, 3159 N. Southport Ave., on a frigid February weeknight. Honey and Buffalo may have been headlining the show Feb. 11 at Schubas, but We/Or/Me filled the tiny room with greater ease.

The night began with a rather long set by the opening act, Susan Voelz, on violin, accompanied by a cello player and backing drum tracks. By playing songs that highlight the violin while employing pop elements and poetic lyrics, Voelz seemed impressive. In her song "In Seed Comes Fruit," Voelz's sweet-sounding voice and violin skills proved enviable. The sound of classical violin and cello over live pop drum beats would provide freshness, but substituting backing tracks caused the performance to fall flat, particularly when the wrong track was played and another finished before the live music.

The second band, We/Or/Me, revived the night. The band consists of one man, Bahhaj Taherzadeh, and an ever-changing variety

of pickup musicians. After home-producing an EP in 2008 called *Ghostwriter* and a debut album in 2011 called *Sleeping City*, Taherzadeh released his first studio album titled *The Walking Hour* in 2013.

Taherzadeh engaged the crowd with his music and self-deprecating humor, making it clear that he considered the show an interaction between the musicians and

» **SEE HONEY**, PG. 31



Photos Grace Wiley THE CHRONICLE

Kennedy Greenrod (top left) and Maggie Schultz (top right) are the primary members of Honey and Buffalo. Their country/soul vocals complement each other well and their approach to country music is novel. Despite the fact they were headlining, the audience preferred the second act, We/Or/Me, Feb. 11 at Schubas Tavern, 3159 N. Southport Ave.

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# New video games aim to be deeper than first-person shooters

TODD MARTENS  
MCT Newswire

**MIGUEL OLIVEIRA IS** developing a video game in a tiny apartment near the University of Southern California, worlds away from the high-tech studios of Sony, Microsoft and Nintendo. He works on a laptop surrounded by folding chairs and red plastic cups. The forgettable surroundings belie his ambition: to design a game that changes the way people play.

In Oliveira's game "Thralled," set in 18th-century Brazil, players explore jungles and ships to help a runaway slave reconnect with the life that was stolen from her.

The Portugal native grew up on games where guns played the starring role. Now, he wants something more—to create work that has the same cultural resonance as the best in film, literature and music.

"What's blocking interactive media from being considered art is that most video games focus on primitive feelings of aggressiveness and competitiveness," said Oliveira, 23, a lifelong gamer who graduated from USC's interactive media program last spring.

Oliveira is among a new generation of designers who are re-imagining the role of video games, injecting a dose of realism into a medium that has generally relied on two extremes: save the princess or save the world.



MCT Newswire  
Miguel Oliveira, 23, graduated from University of Southern California's interactive media program last spring and is developing a video game "Thralled," which is set in 18th-century Brazil. His games are an interactive medium with a dose of realism, which is also found in the other games he has designed.

"Games don't have to be a happy, fun thing," said "Paper, Please" designer Lucas Pope, a 36-year-old American now living in Japan. "Our generation grew up with games, and we express ourselves through games. Games once had to be entertaining, but now games are another way to talk to people."

Most of these character-driven games are being developed on shoestring budgets by independent designers, but big video game companies are seeing the potential in tapping a demographic beyond the GameStop crowd.

Ubisoft Montreal, best known for blockbuster brands such as "Assassin's Creed," plans to release a game later this year called "Watch Dogs." Set in a crime-ridden Chicago, the

game deals with government and corporate surveillance, with players grappling with the balance between personal privacy and urban safety. Designer Jonathan Morin said his goal is "to bring a shade of gray to the gaming world."

David Cage of Quantic Dream, a Paris-based company, is making games that turn seemingly small moments—feeling uncomfortable at your first high school party—into grand, anxiety-filled set-pieces.

Richard Hofmeier's independently produced "Cart Life" offers a snapshot of what it is like to be poor in America. "Cart Life," which has been downloaded more than 3 million times, puts players in control of various street vendors, such as a Ukrainian immigrant trying to sell

newspapers or a single mom who hopes to start a coffee stand.

Melanie Emberley, the game's struggling entrepreneur, is getting divorced and battling for custody of her daughter. Here's a puzzle players are forced to confront: Can Emberley spare the time, financially, to converse with her child? One doesn't necessarily win "Cart Life," since a character such as Emberley is never really out of debt.

"We're in a place where it's OK to fiddle with people's emotions," said Adam Boyes, a vice president at Sony Computer Entertainment. "Video games were always a way out, but nowadays we can have deeper conversations."

Expanding the game genre is also seen as a way for the industry

to keep players buying games long after they've grown tired of narratives built around men with guns.

Nearly two-thirds of video game players are under age 35, and 55 percent of players are male, according to the Entertainment Software Association. The trade group defines video games broadly; it counts avid consumers of more casual titles played on handheld and mobile devices.

Sales data for the most popular games points to a younger male demographic. Seven of the top 10 selling video games in 2013 were combat, sports or action titles, according to the NPD Group. "Grand Theft Auto V" and "Call of Duty: Ghosts" claimed the top two in the data.

Video games have yet to win broad appeal across age and gender lines in the same way that blockbuster films or top-rated TV shows have.

"The game industry likes to say we make more money than Hollywood, but more people saw 'Toy Story 3' on opening weekend than have played a 'Call of Duty' game," said game designer Warren Spector, whose credits include Ion Storm's "Deus Ex," a sci-fi combat game with complex narratives and political overtones. "The movie industry isn't charging \$60 to see its product. We sell a lot of copies, but there are probably 2 million core gamers really into this stuff."

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TRI STAR

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## » SNACKS

Continued from PG. 19

that healthy snacking is important, but he stated that it should be paired with exercise.

"Healthy eating alone will not maintain lean muscle, which your whole skeletal structure needs ... especially for women," Centeno said.

**"We both came up with ways that make it easy and possible to eat healthy and it still tastes delicious."**

—Mandy Fayne

With rising popularity, SnackItToMe! has expanded its small delivery range between Roosevelt Road, North Avenue, Ashland Avenue and Lake Shore Drive to include nationwide shipping for larger orders. The company has recently been marketing to businesses to stock breakroom shelves. However, Barancik said his most important mission is to team up with small manufacturers to give them a voice and introduce people to new options, unlike competitors.

"NatureBox's model is mixes and their vendors are anonymous," Barancik said. "They

source huge amounts of these mixes, pre-package them and label them—you have no idea what it is or where it's coming from, so I thought [SnackItToMe! should] partner up with small manufacturers."

One such local manufacturer is Jolly Oak. Owned by two busy moms who are passionate about healthy snacking, the company offers "good-for-you granola bars"

that include flavors such as s'mores and nut-free dark chocolate coconut raisin. Their goals to inspire people to eat healthy closely align with Barancik's, making them natural collaborators.

"You can eat healthy and you don't have to be chopping up fruit and lugging it in Ziploc bags," said Mandy Fayne, co-owner of Jolly Oak. "We both came up with ways that make it easy and possible to eat healthy and it still tastes delicious."

nmontalvo@chroniclemail.com

## » CLOCKS

Continued from PG. 19

said. "I had people coming up to my breakfast table telling me I was going to hell."

Blending his personal experiences of marginalization and his observations of black persecution, the "Negro Clocks" were born. John completed one clock every year from 1984–2000, representative of his racial experiences in that time period.

Gallery owner Jennifer Norback thinks it is impossible to talk about race without talking about time. The clocks are indicative of that, Norback said.

"Whether it's using a word like Negro, you'll find an older person saying, 'We used to use that word but we don't anymore,'" Norback said. "Slavery wasn't that long ago ... it's something that's so intrinsically a part of the American experience of racism."

John John is challenging his viewers by handling racially charged subjects because many people may think he lacks the authority to do so, Norback said.

"It's all the more uncomfortable because [John John is] using these images as a white man. I think that we don't feel in a sense that he has the right to do that," Norback said. "But in fact these are all images that have come to him; these are a part of his history."

Gallery assistant Mark Toriski, who markets and publicizes the artists for Norback's gallery, created a book showcasing all of John John's clocks.

"We knew that having 16 of these clocks wouldn't realistically and spatially work within the gallery," Toriski said. "He had never before organized these chronologically because he did one clock per year ... he always wondered if they would tell a story. Now, with [the] 'Negro Clocks' book, he's finally realizing that the 'Negro Clocks' do tell a story."

John John said he was overjoyed with the book.

"The last words in the book were, 'I always had full confidence in my 'Negro Clocks,' and I still do,'" John John said.

American Academy of Art student Nikolalette McComb, a photographer and freelancer, was commissioned to photograph John John's clocks for Toriski's book.

"I was only like the third person to ever see these clocks and when I saw them I was mind-blown at first," McComb said. "I wanted to stay and photograph them for hours."

Sheila Baldwin, a Columbia professor of English and African-American studies, thinks understanding the kinds of stereotypes on display in the Negro Clocks exhibit is key to eliminating bias.

"[John John's work was] very shocking to look at," Baldwin said. "Those kinds of images help you see things in a different light. The kinds of images [John John has] are so wonderful to see because they do spark conversation."

mmccall@chroniclemail.com



Courtesy of JENNIFER NORBACK

John John's clocks are symbolic of his own experiences with oppression. Growing up as a gay male in Chicago, John John identified with the struggle of the Civil Rights movement. He said each clock draws from a particular experience he had during the year it was created.



» **HONEY**

Continued from PG. 27

the audience, not just a traditional, stuffy performance.

As he started playing the first notes of his set, he said, “We are We/Or/Me and we’re going to play some sad songs for you.” He later followed up this bit with a story about writing a song while watching “Spider-Man 2.” Finishing off, he ended by describing the band’s only happy song, “Old Joy,” as an upbeat tune about grief.

The set offered more than just humor and personality. With a stripped-down approach to a Mumford & Sons-meets-Fleet Foxes sound, the music felt warm and inviting. Playing tracks off his new album such as “Light Inside Us” and “Time,” We/Or/Me’s set united folk-lovers, as the story-telling genre should. The group he sur-

rounded himself with was obviously talented, shown by their skilled guitar playing, mastery of the stand-up bass and use of a shruti box—a wooden instrument used to produce drone. The melodies were catchy and the lyrics were simple but effective. The nearly empty room was quickly filled when Irish-born, Chicago-based We/Or/Me took the small stage and totally owned the crowd.

By the time headliner Honey and Buffalo set up, the crowd had shrunk to about eight people. Sitting at the feet of a lively band playing for an empty room is awkward, which really robs the desire to dance along.

Maggie Schultz and Kennedy Greenrod are the duo behind Honey and Buffalo, and paired up a few years ago to release a self-titled album in March 2012. They have each perfected bird-like country

vocals, and the accompanying saxophone, keyboard and stick bass gave the guitars and drums character.

Playing songs like the upbeat, soulful “June” with the lyrics “She was dressed in lover’s lace/ They danced in whiskey fields/ He ain’t no saint but he ain’t no crook,” Honey and Buffalo aim for an old-timey, Southern feel that isn’t too serious, unlike We/Or/Me’s poignant lyrics, such as “All the days/ Where have they gone” set to emotionally charged music.

Honey and Buffalo’s songs were just too upbeat and cheesy to complement the rest of the lineup. The corny artistry of Honey and Buffalo was wasted on an audience that really wanted more of the refreshing gloom We/Or/Me supplied in the small intimate space of Schubas.

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



Photos Grace Wiley THE CHRONICLE

Ireland born, Chicago-based band We/Or/Me is the musical alias of Bahhaj Taherzadeh (middle). Although he is a one-man-band, he tours with accompanying musicians. Taherzadeh’s Feb. 11 set at Schubas included a guest stand-up bass player who enlivened the show.

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TOP 5




Jennifer Wolan Assistant Campus Editor




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**BLOG: The Laughing Squid**



The Laughing Squid aggregates some of the most entertaining and hilarious videos, pictures, animated GIFS, illustrations and posts on the web. New updates appear a couple times an hour and prove to be just as practical as they are funny. In addition to the humor aspect, several adorable how-to recipes are posted as well as some of the cutest novelty items that can be found on the web.

Check it out at [LaughingSquid.com](#)

**VIDEO: Marcel Adams' YouTube channel**



Staring into a camera that is uncomfortably close to his face, Marcel Adams unashamedly declares his love for peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. The high-pitched squeal he makes is unbelievably hilarious, and that's just one of the dozens of gems on his YouTube channel. He takes all the videos at an awkwardly close range, enhancing the hilarity. Although it's nothing more than a vlog, Adams has a great sense of humor and mocks himself just as easily as he mocks everything else, and watching him laugh at his own jokes is a great way to waste some time.

Check it out at [YouTube.com](#)

**EMBARRASSING MOMENTS**

**Drowning:** I was pretty fat when I was a kid and my cousin could do a lot more than I could. While playing in the tubes on a lazy river, my cousin would swim in and out of her tube. Unfortunately, when I tried, I got stuck underwater and almost drowned.

**Middle school:** Let's get real, most of middle school was an embarrassment, but the most memorable embarrassment was my "let's pierce my lip by myself" idea. I did it. Not only did it look really terrible, it was very clearly infected. The front of the piercing never actually connected to the back. What was I thinking?

**Cheerleading:** I, for some reason, decided to become a cheerleader my sophomore year of high school. During the homecoming routine, I dropped the senior flyer and she landed right on her back. Oops.

**Traveling:** The first time I traveled to a different country without someone looking over my shoulder was a disaster. I rented a bed at a hostel in Krakow, Poland for a week. My first morning, I was very hungover and walked to the bathroom, which was unfortunately in the kitchen. While everyone was eating their free breakfast in the kitchen, I stood there in my birthday suit. Face palm.

**CS Magazine:** My first "real" internship was at Modern Luxury Magazine. On my first day, I met the editorial staff and the senior editor, and she asked my name. I responded, "Good, you?" This may or may not happen to a lot of people, but I just can't forget the look on her face. I was just so nervous!

**THINGS I'M OBSESSED WITH**

**Shellac manicures:** This is an obsession that began this past summer and I'm ashamed to say I've paid for a shellac manicure every two weeks since. I've gotten to the point that I can barely function unless my nails are perfectly manicured. I don't think I'll ever be able to go back to the crust nails I had before.

**Kanye West:** I'm not sure why I'm obsessed with Kanye, but I am. Ever since I attended his concert in December, I haven't been able to stop thinking about him. I quote his lyrics in my sleep and dream of rapping with him at the United Center. I think part of myself really identifies with Kanye's insanity and I'm not ashamed of it.

**Vapiano:** Vapiano is a fairly new Italian-American restaurant located on the corner of Wabash Avenue and Monroe Street. They specialize in pizza and pasta. It's a sit-down restaurant and I usually go by myself. If that isn't a testament to my love for this place, I don't know what is.

**Lululemon:** For those of you who don't know, Lululemon is an extremely overpriced brand of yoga wear. However, it's another expensive habit I've acquired. Now, when I get paid, I start thinking about my next purchase from Lulu and ways to get more. Plus, since I've started doing yoga regularly, I obviously need it so I can workout in style.

**San Pellegrino water:** I didn't know I was such a fan of carbonated water until I tasted San Pellegrino. This obsession started back in September and now the only thing I'm thirsting for is this specific brand of bubbly H<sub>2</sub>O. The only thing better than cracking open a new bottle is squeezing fresh lime into it.

**SONGS TO SING IN THE SHOWER**

**"Take It Off" by Ke\$ha:** This song is a great first track on your shower ballad playlist because it's a perfect transition from the shower preparation process to the shower itself. You can even play with the lyrics a little. "There's a place down the hall where the water starts to fall it's a hole in the stall, it's a cleaning free-for-all, take it off!" You get the idea.


**"Talk Dirty" by Jason Derulo feat. 2 Chainz:** This is a great song to play once you start getting into the shower zone. The song's lyric "Talk dirty to me" is great inspiration for all that cleaning you're about to accomplish.

**"Wrecking Ball" by Miley Cyrus:** This song is great for the dramatic side in all of us. You can even pull a Miley and shed a couple tears. You're naked, so why not go all out? This song also offers an opportunity for prop usage. I tend to use my loofa as a wrecking ball.

**"Africa" by Toto:** This song should be performed toward the middle of your shower. The heat is just right, shampoo starts to lather and you're feeling pretty good. Why not feel like you're being blessed by the water in your own shower?

**"Someone Like You" by Adele:** Unfortunately, you're nearing the end of your shower. Your roommates may be a little irritated with the excessive length of time you've been in there, and it's time to start facing the realities of life outside the shower. It will be cold and your towel will no doubt pale in comparison to the warm embrace of those shower walls; nevertheless, it is time to move on.

FEATURED PHOTOGRAPH



Carolina Sanchez THE CHRONICLE

Real-life couple Amy Heidemann and Nick Noonan met at Berklee College of Music before forming the pop duo Karmin. The group performed Feb. 9 for a large crowd at the House of Blues, 329 N. Dearborn St., as part of the band's first headlining tour.

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# REVIEWS

## SCREEN



“American Idol” season 13

Yawn. So far the contestants have already made it past Hollywood week and the judges have picked the top 30. But this season is just a bore. The judges never have anything interesting to say, nor do they give the singers any specific criticism. —V. Morton



“Shanghai Tower” by raskalovit

Climbing a tower that’s 2,073 feet tall in the middle of the night seems completely insane. This video of a man climbing Shanghai Tower will have you sitting on the edge of your seat even though it was filmed with a GoPro. Thank God for GoPros. —J. Wolan



“You’re Mine” by Mariah Carey music video

This video is packed with the sparkly, nude euphoria you’d expect from Carey. Although Carey looks great, I wish she would wear more clothing and present herself a little classier. Overall, this piece was OK, but Carey could do something more creative. —T. Walk-Morris



“The Bachelor” season 18

Juan Pablo is certainly not worth the cattiness and drama engulfing the group of women; in fact, no man is. If Pablo really wants to find a good stepmother for his daughter and a perfect match, he should try anything but this show. —S. Schlieder



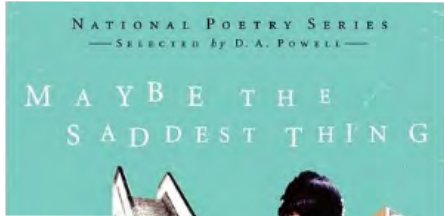
## PRINT



Cosmopolitan’s

“20 Best pieces of Advice for 21-year-olds”

Cosmopolitan compiled a list of the staff’s best advice. Rule No. 16: “Ain’t no shame in getting some,” unless you’re still counting the number of men you sleep with, then refer to rule No. 15: “Go home at 2 a.m.,” because nothing good happens after 2 a.m. —N. Craig



“Maybe the Saddest Thing” by Marcus Wicker

A poetry book based on the thoughts and experiences of a suburban black kid, this was absolutely relatable, especially reading through and seeing “love letters” to Bruce Leroy and Pam Grier. Cover to cover, this book is great. —L. Jackson



“One More Thing” by B.J. Novak

Novak’s collection of short stories and jokes would be great cut into snippets and placed into the context of a much longer story, but as it stands, the stories land in the gray area between too much information and not nearly enough —E. Earl



“Volunteers smuggle Sochi dogs out of town” by Nataliya Vasilyeva

After the Russian government announced it would slaughter stray dogs in Sochi, I was horrified. But this Feb. 12 USA Today piece about a man’s effort to rescue the dogs reminded me there are still good people in this world. —M. Castellucci



## MUSIC



“The Devil is a Lie” by Rick Ross

As usual, when Rick Ross and Jay Z collaborate on a track, it’s full of gangsta rap over a slick beat, and that’s the problem. This single sounds like a song you’d listen to on a long drive, but the lyrics aren’t substantive enough to make me want to buy it. —T. Walk-Morris



“So Long, See You Tomorrow” by Bombay Bicycle Club

Bombay Bicycle Club did not disappoint with this new album. Every song has a different sound, which makes it a joy to listen to. The album captures the band’s traditional sound while incorporating some new tweaks to keep it fresh. —K. Davis



“Eric Church” by The Outsiders

The Outsiders sound like a modern pop band with a little bit of country. I don’t know how I feel about that because I hate country but I love pop. The song is catchy but not enough for me to really appreciate it or bother buying it on iTunes. —J. Wolan



“All of Me” by John Legend

This song is what girls dream about walking down the aisle to. The beautiful piano in the background and Legend’s voice make this a tear-jerker. Anything Legend sings is guaranteed to be amazing, but this song takes it to another level. —C. Turner



## RANDOM



Ian McKellan and Patrick Stewart’s Bromance

These two extremely iconic, knighted character actors share a brotherly bond that most wish they had with their best friend. It’s impossible not to smile when a picture of the duo appears on your Twitter feed or Tumblr dashboard. —M. McCall



Heart-shaped donuts from Dunkin’ Donuts

Dunkin’ Donuts has created a cookie dough-filled, heart-shaped donut for the Valentine’s Day season. The brownie batter-filled donut is decent, but it’s nothing compared to this new cookie dough creation. It’s incredibly rich and very satisfying. —N. Montalvo



The Winter Olympics

Since I started watching this year’s coverage of the graceful luge, the glamorous figure skating and my new favorite ‘sport-that-isn’t-really-a-sport,’ curling, I want to slap myself with a shiny bronze medal for ever doubting the Olympics. —K. Rich



Beer

Thank you for always being there on my good and bad days. You’ve rarely let me down with the exception of getting me wasted a couple times, but I’ll take the blame. Thank you for always understanding me. I don’t know what I would ever do without you. —V. Morton



## ratings



No— just... no.

Uhhmm, WTF?

It’s whatever.

I can dig it.

EPIC!





CAMPUS EDITORIAL

# Free community college could boost education access

**TUITION AND EDUCATION-RELATED** fees have steadily increased in recent years, and state governments have begun debating measures to reduce the cost of higher education. In Tennessee, Oregon and Mississippi, legislators have presented plans to make community college free for two years, which could increase access to higher education but requires high standards to prevent dropout rates from increasing.

The Tennessee Promise program, which will be implemented by 2015 if passed, would draw from the Tennessee lottery fund to provide qualified students with two years of free community college, according to the Tennessee government's documents on the program, which is open to Tennessee high school applicants who attend county meetings. Each year, qualified students must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid, take 12 credit hours, maintain a 2.0 GPA and complete eight hours of community service to keep the scholarship. The scholarship expires after two years of community college, at which point students must graduate or begin paying tuition.

The biggest question is how this will be funded. The professors must still be paid, and if many high school graduates no longer have to pay tuition, the state governments have to set aside funds for the programs, and many have tight budgets as it is. Although Tennessee's budget is surprisingly balanced compared to other states, Oregon's and Mississippi's are not, according to a June 2013 analysis by Washington, D.C.-based think tank The Tax Foundation.

The idea is solid—educating more people is not a bad thing, but it needs to translate into practice. The negative effects of not going to college have increased throughout the years—millennials who do not attend college are more likely to live in poverty than previous generations, according to a Feb. 11 Pew Research Center report.

Making higher education more accessible may be a gateway to upward economic mobility. Only 59 percent of college students at four-year universities finished their degrees in 2011, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. At two-year colleges, the graduation rate in 2011 was only 31 percent. If the free tuition program results in more dropouts, it will have failed, so the requirements should be more stringent than a mere 2.0 GPA and include community service to encourage students to perform better.

The American Council on Education opposes enacting these policies on a larger scale, stating that offering community college for free could decrease already falling enrollment at four-year universities. However, the argument is flawed in a number of ways. First, many students attend community colleges before transitioning to a four-year institution. Second, in many cases, community colleges do not offer the same quality of education as four-year universities, so those seeking an optimal education still have to look for more formal college programs.

Offering free community college would be a significant leg up for many low-income students. At an average cost of \$3,264 per academic year, according to the College Board, the cost of community college can inhibit some capable but financially limited students from pursuing postsecondary education. Setting the GPA standard for free tuition higher would make sure capable students have goals to work toward and would help prevent increased dropout rates.

College is becoming more and more valuable, and as the cost increases, states making financial provisions for students show good judgment. Waiving tuition could be a stepping stone to economic mobility, a healthier economy and a smarter investment in the country's future professionals.

POLITICAL CARTOON



Kayla Koch THE CHRONICLE

CITY EDITORIAL

# Police clock in, budget clocks out

**THE CHICAGO POLICE** Department's current strategy of transferring officers from their desk jobs to the streets successfully reduced crime in 2013, but it carried an unreasonably high price tag. The overtime bill ran up to \$103.5 million, nearly \$10 million more than the department projected in the 2013 budget. The overinflated cost raises questions about how effectively the police department is utilizing its resources and whether its strategy is sustainable.

Although crime dropped 18 percent in the city from 2012–2013, according to city data, the CPD's use of overtime is far less effective than simply hiring more cops. Instead of sinking its ballooning budget into increasing existing officers' hours, the department should devote its funds to hiring more police officers, which would create jobs and avoid stretching resources so thin.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy have put off hiring new cops, redistributing officers from desk jobs to beats instead, according to a Jan. 31 mayoral press release. McCarthy has contended that it is cheaper to pay officers overtime than hire new ones and pay their salaries, pensions and benefits. However, the spending has reached a tipping point at which hiring more officers costs little more than paying the same officers to work excessive overtime. With salary, health insurance, pension and benefits,

hiring new officers is not cheap, but the police department needs to strike a compromise to promote sustainability and hedge up the department's budget. Spending so much on overtime and not investing in officers cannot go on.

Plus, some officers are earning more in overtime than a new officer's starting salary, upward of \$90,000 in some cases, according to the overtime report. The city has stated that it employs approximately 13,500 police officers, but that number is actually closer to 12,500, according to Pat Camden, a spokesman for the Fraternal Order of Police, the Chicago police union. The department needs to hire more officers to aid those working excessive overtime. They also need programs to address the root causes of crime in Chicago's neighborhoods to avoid needing to hire even more police.

The high overtime bill not only damages the city's already precarious financial state but also highlights a lack of accountability. If the city issues the CPD a blank check for overtime regardless of the planned budget, it primes itself for abuse, even if it is done in the name of public safety. The money that goes into the police department's overtime fund does not earn a significant return on investment, either, and the department would be better off hiring fresh officers instead of spending the same amount on overtime paychecks.

The swelling overtime pay is only a symptom of what plagues the police department—there is rampant crime in Chicago and too few officers to respond when issues crop up. Police officers can volunteer for overtime shifts, but that may not be efficient when officers are exhausted and have to keep track of many crimes at once.

Instead of calling in police to respond to crimes and paying too few officers too much in overtime, the CPD should hire more officers and put them on patrol. McCarthy may contend that the payout costs more over time, but he also needs to consider the future of the department. If current officers continue to exceed their salaries in overtime earnings and then retire in a few years with no new officers to replace them, the department will be consumed with debt and have no officers to fight the crime that will continue to plague Chicago. Part of McCarthy's responsibility is to think about the welfare of the CPD, but it is also his responsibility to consider the good of the city as a whole. Part of that consideration is thinking about the sustainability of the department that fights and prevents crime for the sake of Chicago's citizens.

The department should consider long-term results before paying out obscene amounts in overtime. The budget is a foreshadowing of the future of the city.

*For more information about the 2013 CPD overtime pay report, see the article on Page 37.*

Editorial Board Members

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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



# Aiken not invisible anymore



**ELIZABETH EARL**  
Opinions Editor

**AMERICAN CELEBRITIES HAVE** influence over popular opinion: They endorse products, support political candidates and even run for political office. Sometimes they have enough clout to win, as in the case of Ronald Reagan, who won the 1980 presidential election against incumbent Jimmy Carter. So with the recent announcement of “American Idol” Season 2 runner-up Clay Aiken’s bid for Congress, the ridicule should be tempered with serious consideration.

Aiken announced his candidacy for Congress in North Carolina’s 2nd District in a Feb. 5 YouTube video filmed in the house where his mother, a victim of domestic

abuse, brought him up as an infant. He said the state needs better infrastructure to support the unemployed and less fortunate, voicing bipartisan ideals of changing the system to assure that making a living is possible on a minimum wage. Aiken is running as a Democrat in traditionally Republican Raleigh against incumbent Renee Ellmers, who jabbed at Aiken’s second-place finish in “American Idol” and said he “must be bored” when she was interviewed Jan. 29 about rumors of Aiken’s candidacy on the political radio station WMAL.

The politically aware should not snort with derision at Aiken, though. Despite his rise to stardom via “American Idol,” Aiken has a number of very real qualifications, such as working with UNICEF and being appointed to a special education commission by former President George W. Bush. He has also taught special education in North Carolina for several years, and despite his celebrity status, he is aware of the issues that affect the state. Instead of criticizing politicians as many do, Aiken has decided to do something about it.

There has probably never been a better time for an unlikely candidate to run for office.

The national approval rating of Congress has fallen from 20 percent to 12 percent during the last four years, according to a Feb. 10 Gallup poll. The average historical approval rating for Congress is 33 percent, which is still shockingly low, but the current approval rating is a dip that comes in the wake of October’s frustrating budget standoff. As Aiken points out, Ellmers voted against the proposed budget on Oct. 16, joining the GOP effort to blackmail the government in exchange for a budget deal. That fact could make her unpopular when Congressional elections come around this fall, despite her 14 percent lead over the competition in the 2012 election.

Historically, when political approval rates for incumbents are low, a third-party or long-shot candidate can sneak by. For instance, independent presidential candidate Gary Johnson garnered approximately 1 percent of the national vote in the 2012 election, a much higher margin than most third-party candidates earn, according to Federal Election Commission documents. Aiken is not a third-party candidate, but he is certainly not a career politician.

Celebrities have won significant races in the past when incumbents’

approval ratings were low. Former President Reagan, a wealthy Hollywood movie star, took the presidential election in 1980, earning 51 percent of the vote after President Jimmy Carter’s approval rating fell to 34 percent in 1980, likely because of the Iranian Hostage Crisis. While Reagan was ridiculed at the time for running for public office, he won the presidency and is idolized by the Republican Party today as a hero of conservatism. However, Reagan was a long-shot candidate who might not have won if Carter’s approval rate had not fallen.

Arnold Schwarzenegger, a bodybuilder and movie star, is another case of a politician’s unpopularity putting a long-shot candidate in office. Former California Gov. Gray Davis was forced into a vote recall after questions were raised about his re-election in late 2002, and the special election in early 2003 handed Schwarzenegger the position. He had never held an elected office before, but with Davis’ plummeting popularity and statewide skepticism about the growing deficit, Schwarzenegger secured 55 percent of the vote.

North Carolina could do a lot worse than Aiken, and after

Congress’ record-breaking doing nothing year, the House could see a revolving door effect. Americans are dissatisfied with both national parties—74 percent said they believe America needs a third party to balance Washington politics, according to an Oct. 11 Gallup poll. A third party takes a lot of effort and organization to form, and because founding a party is a long and complex process, there is no assurance that the end result will be satisfactory.

If Americans really want to see a change, they need to be informed voters. Congressional representatives are major influential players in national policies, so voters should make sure they at least know the names of the candidates for their districts. After so much national frustration with Congress during budget season—and the rest of the year, for that matter—the politicians may be scrambling to keep their seats. If voters really are unhappy, they actually have the chance to fire Congress, as the bumper sticker goes. Raleigh residents should give Aiken a chance in the upcoming election—he may be the first step to action in a gridlocked Congress.

eearl@chroniclemail.com

## Did you attend community college before enrolling at Columbia?

STUDENT POLL



I didn’t really feel the need to. When I got out of high school, I came straight here. I don’t think any [community colleges] are [of good quality].

**Lydia Thompson** junior fashion studies major



I’ve gone to Harold Washington [College] just to get some cheap credits done. Columbia was the next step toward getting a real, substantial degree.

**Steve Deines** sophomore audio arts & acoustics major



I didn’t simply because I wanted to venture out of my community ... I had my eyes on Columbia for a while and I just dove right into it just to explore.

**Dania Mukahhal** junior art + design major

# Don’t nobody give a #\*&^ about swearing



**LINDSEY WOODS**  
Editor-in-Chief

**MY FASCINATION WITH** four-letter words and their variations began at age 3 with the words “fire truck.” I was just learning how to speak and my parents thought it was funny to make me say “fire truck.” Unable to enunciate, my garbled English made it sound like I was saying “f--k.” Adults thought it was hilarious and I loved the attention even though I had no idea why people were laughing.

Much to my parents’ dismay, this s--tty party trick followed me into adulthood, making me the proud sailor-mouthed woman I am today.

A fellow potty mouth recently GIFed her way across the Internet

with the help of an expletive. Ashley Wagner, a Team USA figure skater, crinkled her face disapprovingly and mouthed the word “bulls--t” when she got her scores for the Feb. 9 women’s short program ice skating event at the Sochi Winter Olympics. The footage and resulting GIF went viral almost immediately.

Wagner’s cursing was more funny than offensive, evidenced by the mocking comments and blog posts that followed. Although people weren’t mad about it, the GIF certainly wouldn’t have had much of an impact if she had used softer language.

Wagner said the right thing at the right time. After losing an Olympic medal, no one expected her to say “Gosh dang it!” or “Golly gee!” But as with any kind of power, cursing should be carried out carefully and with intent.

My parents still say cursing makes people sound dumb, but it’s not that f--king simple. Cursing for lack of a better word or as a reflex is stupid, but dropping a well-timed F-bomb can be eloquent and powerful. It can even help manage pain, according to a 2009 study published in the neuroscience journal *NeuroReport*.

A 2011 follow-up to that same study found that while releasing a string of expletives can help ease pain, the soothing effect is lessened if subjects swear on a regular basis. Similarly, swear words lose their power if used too frequently.

For example, no one would be surprised if the notoriously coarse Mayor Rahm Emanuel was overheard telling someone to f--k off, but if President Barack Obama lit up the mic like that, it’d be on the front page of every news outlet.

And it’s not just frequency that determines the effectiveness of four-letter words—it’s context, too.

There are right and wrong times to use curse words. Wagner’s s--t bomb is a good example of how context is the key to intelligent cursing—she just lost an Olympic medal, which is a good time to lay the language on thick.

There are also instances when cussing is in bad taste, like writing a commentary in a college newspaper. That’s why swear words are censored in this article. The newspaper has a policy against certain words, though The Chronicle is more liberal than most—we allow the words ass and bitch—but I am obliged to tame most of the curse words

in this commentary because we have a diverse audience. Besides, censoring dashes still convey the sauciness of the words.

Of course, these standards only apply in public. Let your f--k flag fly when you’re talking among friends—I sure do.

But when is it appropriate to use curse words in public? There aren’t a lot of hard-and-fast rules, except for when children are around. Only an a--hole curses when children are around. Other than that, I find it hard to conjure up a time and place where cursing should be strictly prohibited.

Even the law doesn’t provide a precise answer to when and where profanity is OK. “Obscenity” isn’t protected by the First Amendment right to free speech, but what constitutes obscenity is loosely defined and depends on context. The Miller Test, the legal test to determine whether something is considered obscene, examines both community standards and whether or not a piece has literary, artistic, educational or scientific value.

The law is also a good test for when you should and shouldn’t use curse words to add emphasis. Does it add literary or artistic value to what you’re saying? If so, go for it.

The classroom is an interesting case study of obscenity. Some believe the college classroom should be a formal educational setting, but that’s bulls--t. A room full of adults, especially educated adults, is unlikely to be defiled by the occasional expletive.

Teachers should use a Miller Test-type mechanism to monitor classroom cursing, though. If the word is adding value, let it be. If it’s gratuitous, feel free to get out the mouth soap. Profanity is a reality in most professional settings, particularly artistic ones, and it should be reflected in the learning environment of classrooms.

Of course, students should respect teachers’ wishes. A little healthy debate never hurts, but ultimately an F-bomb isn’t worth an F on your transcript.

While some may say Wagner’s viral expletive after learning her score was inappropriate, it was harmless, hilarious and demonstrated once again the power of four-letter words to underline a point. When wielded correctly and in the correct context, profanity really can be f--king awesome.

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# Police overtime spending exceeds 2013 budget

## Some officers O.T. earnings outpace salaries

MARIA CASTELLUCCI  
Metro Editor

**SOME CHICAGO POLICE** Department officers’ 2013 overtime earnings exceeded their average yearly salaries, rekindling debates about the department’s overtime spending.

According to 2013 city data, two officers each earned more than \$90,000 in overtime, and 215 officers each earned more than \$50,000. Total overtime spending was \$103.5 million, exceeding the \$93 million allotted in the 2013 budget.

In an effort to reduce crime, more officers were encouraged to work overtime in high-crime areas, said Adam Collins, director of news affairs for the CPD.

Chicago ended 2013 with its lowest crime rate since 1972. The

murder rate was the lowest since 1966, and marked an 18 percent decrease from 2012, according to a Jan. 1 CPD press release. Collins said 2013’s low crime statistics are evidence that increasing overtime spending was an effective solution to crime in high-violence regions.

Paying overtime salaries instead of hiring additional officers is a cost-effective strategy, Collins said, explaining that officers working overtime do not receive additional benefits and can be deployed at a moment’s notice. In contrast, new officers must go through a six-month training period before they can take to the streets and receive retirement benefits, Collins said.

Figures are not available for the cost of hiring 1,000 more officers but the starting compensation for

CPD officers is \$69,000, according to an analysis by The Chronicle.

Despite 2013’s low crime rates, the high overtime pay shows poor management on the CPD’s part, said Pat Camden, spokesman for the Fraternal Order of Police Chicago Lodge Seven, a CPD union.

Camden, a retired CPD officer, said public safety is compromised when officers are working long shifts in high-crime areas because mistakes can be made easily when they are tired.

Robert Lombardo, a sociologist in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology at Loyola University, said overtime is a safety risk only when officers are patrolling the streets, though, and most

» [SEE OVERTIME](#), PG. 40

2013

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4	Detective	\$86,947.24
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7	Detective	\$80,117.54
8	Sergeant	\$78,990.59
9	Detective	\$73,801.83
10	Detective	\$72,719.85

Information from City Data

Donald Wu THE CHRONICLE

# City cracks down on puppy mills, pet stores

NATALIE CRAIG  
Assistant Metro Editor

**TO COMBAT CANINE** illnesses, overpopulated pounds and rising euthanization rates, an ordinance introduced to the City Council Feb. 5 would crack down on puppy mills by banning the retail sale of dogs raised by large-scale breeders.

The Companion Animal & Consumer Protection Ordinance, introduced by City Clerk Susana Mendoza, would prohibit pet stores from selling dogs and cats that are not obtained from a government-run animal facility, shelter or humane society. Offenders could be fined anywhere from \$100–\$1,000 a day, in addition to being charged with a misdemeanor, said Patrick Corcoran, spokesman for Mendoza.

Chicago would be among 40 U.S. cities, including Los Angeles, Phoenix and San Diego, to pass an ordinance banning sales from puppy mills, according to the ordinance.

A puppy mill is a commercial dog breeding facility that is often unsanitary and crowded. Puppy mills are usually more concerned with how many dogs they can breed and how much they can charge than creating a healthy environment, said Linda Estrada, director and president of the Animal Welfare League. Most puppies that come from puppy mills are more susceptible to illnesses because of dirty living conditions, she said.



Grace Wiley THE CHRONICLE

A pit bull awaits treatment at The Anti-Cruelty Society, 157 W. Grand Ave. Dogs are often rescued from puppy mills and brought into shelters, which impound more than 20,000 animals.

If passed, the ordinance is expected to boost adoption rates at humane and rescue shelters, which currently suffer from high populations, and control Chicago’s growing stray dog population, which is currently more than 600,000, according to the ordinance.

Chicago Animal Care and Control impounds 20,000 animals every year, which results in the euthanization of more than 9,500 dogs and cats, according to the ordinance. Every year, an estimated 2,000 puppies are brought to Chicago from out-of-state puppy mills and the vast majority of pet stores rely on these breeders, said Cari Meyers, founder and president of the Puppy Mill Project, which educates the public about puppy mill cruelty.

Meyers spearheaded the idea for the ordinance four years ago and handed it over to Mendoza for the City Council to implement.

In spite of the Pet Disclosure Act, which requires pet storeowners to post the breeding information on the cages of the puppies they sell, consumers do not really know where their puppies come from, Meyers said.

“The information that they are getting when they go into pet stores is not accurate,” Meyers said. “They are not being told these are puppy mill dogs. They need to finally know the truth about where these dogs come from.”

While investigating local pet stores, Melanie Kahn, senior

» [SEE PUPPY](#), PG. 41



## ★ ARE YOU THERE, RAHM? IT'S ME, TAXPAYER ★ by Kaley Fowler Managing Editor

# Snow worries

**EVER SINCE THIS** polar hell began a month ago, I've been in a perpetual state of pissed-off. It's too cold to walk to the train, my hair freezes daily and I'm pretty sure I have frostbite. These negative 20 degree days are frustrating, and my annoyance is compounded by the month-long storm of Facebook statuses, tweets and news articles complaining about the cold—something I swore I wouldn't use my weekly column as a platform to do, but I'm past the point of no return; I am freezing and it's time to rant.

Not only does this bitter cold make me want to cry myself to sleep every night, it destroys my bank account. I couldn't tell you how much I've dropped on cabs and food delivery—partly because I can't bring myself to add it up. But I'm not the only one who's broke; the snow is costing the city, too.

So far, Chicago has spent \$25 million on snow removal—\$4.5 million more than the budget allotted for this winter and the start of the next. With more than 60 inches of snow this season, winter doesn't seem to have an end in sight, and the city will eventually have to

figure out how to work around its crippled budget to fund further clean-up. Mayor Rahm Emanuel, an expert at taxing Chicagoans, will have to find the money somehow, so here are a few suggestions.

### Sidewalk speed limits –

Imagine if tourists moseying down Michigan Avenue were ticketed for moving at a glacial pace. Extra fines would be incurred for stopping to stare at the tall buildings, toting a digital camera from 2005, sporting a “Chicago” T-shirt and asking for directions to Navy Pier.

**Pink mustache tax** – I don't care if you're a Lyft driver, brandishing a fuzzy pink mustache on the grill of your vehicle is effing ridiculous. Drivers caught on the road with car stubble should be issued severe traffic violations and heavily fined.

**City Hall swear jar** – F-Bomb Rahm would likely fill this jar by himself. If the mayor and his cohorts had to drop a quarter every time they let a profanity fly, the budget would be flooded with extra cash. Emanuel could even use the leftover change to solve the city's impending budget crisis—I'm sure

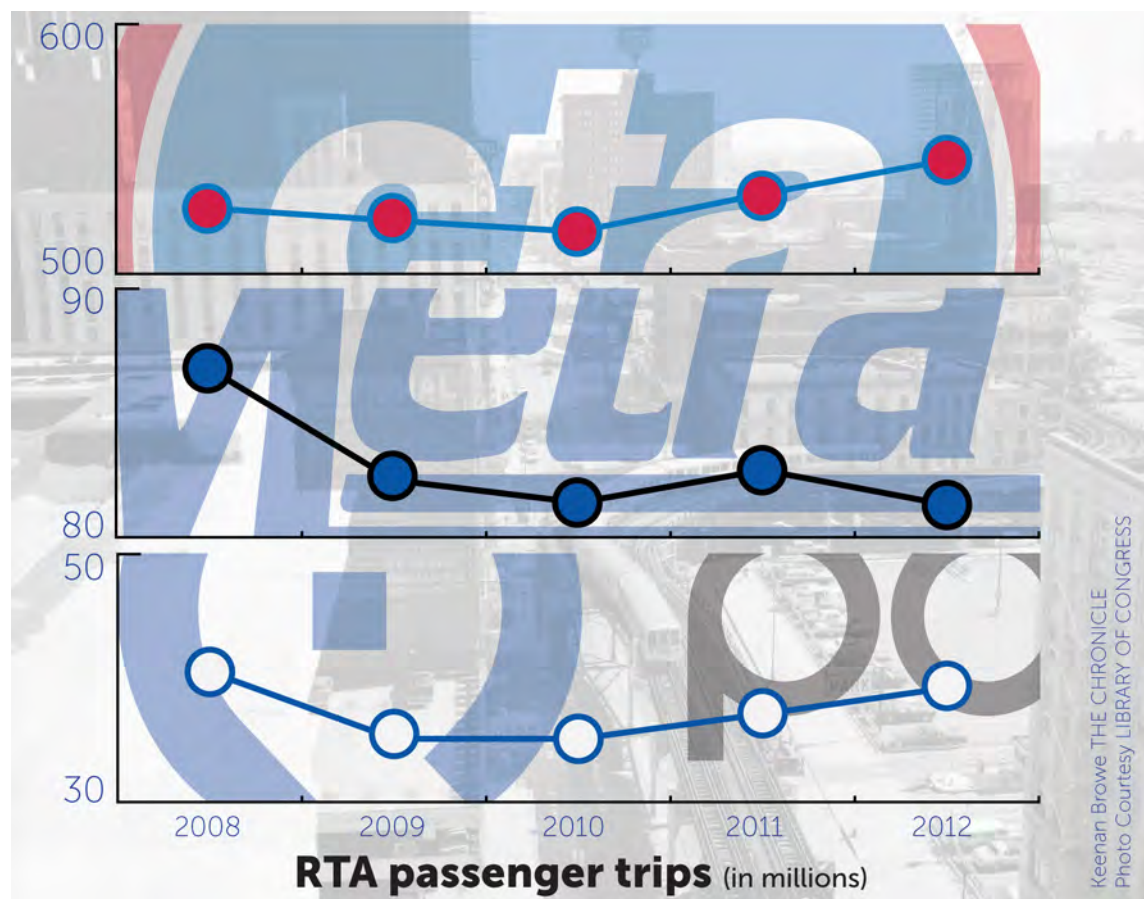


there would be enough to foot the bill for snow plows *and* pensions.

**Dibs permits** – What better way to pay for winter clean-up than take advantage of motorists who would rather die than park more than a block from their front door when there's snow on the ground? A city sticker would add some legitimacy to all those metal folding chairs lining the curb.

**You-had-a-medical-emergency-on-the-CTA-and-now-every-one-is-20-minutes-late-to-work fee** – We've all been here. The train stops because someone fainted or something, and your morning is ruined. It sucks that you had a medical emergency, but it sucks for the rest of us too, so pay up.

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# Recession takes toll on Metra

**NATALIE CRAIG**  
Assistant Metro Editor

**MORE COMMUTERS THAN** ever are turning to public transit, although Metra was left out in the cold during the Great Recession as commuters heavily relied on the Chicago Transit Authority, according to a Feb. 6 study by the Regional Transportation Authority.

Despite the recession, combined ridership on the CTA, Metra and Pace increased 1.9 percent from

2008 to 2012. However, the CTA was the only agency to gain ridership, with a 3.7 percent increase, according to the study.

During that period, Metra ridership experienced a 6.3 percent decline from 2008's record-high numbers. Meg Reile, a Metra spokeswoman, said the company's ridership is contingent on the job market.

“In 2008, the economy was going stronger than it had in decades and the job market was

growing,” Reile said. “Once that downturn occurred, the unemployment started rising, and our ridership is heavily tied to the working commute market.”

The Pace Suburban Service experienced the same decrease in ridership after an increase of 3.6 percent in 2008, followed by a 14.5 percent decrease in 2009. Between 2010 and 2012, the agency saw a 5 percent increase in ridership.

» SEE TRANSIT, PG. 41

## NOTABLE *native*

**VANESSA BUCCELLA**

Occupation: CEO of BFF Bikes Neighborhood: Albany Park



Courtesy VANESSA BUCCELLA

**NATALIE CRAIG**

Assistant Metro Editor

**VANESSA BUCCELLA GREW** up in a small Arkansas town and always dreamed of living in a big city. After she was accepted to New York University's film school, she realized she could not attend because of financial reasons and eventually decided to attend Columbia College. As she drove up Lakeshore Drive for the first time in 1997, she realized Chicago is where she truly belongs. As she settled in, she quickly became involved in the fun and active lifestyle the city has to offer.

After graduating with a film degree and honors in 2000, Buccella started working as a film editor in 2006. When she bought her first road bicycle in 2008, she decided to join a cycling team. After becoming more involved in the cycling community, Buccella realized that she loved being a cyclist and film editing was no longer her passion.

Buccella still works as a film editor for a media outlet and is currently on the board of the Illinois Cycling Association. Her love for cycling has inspired her to begin a woman-oriented cycling business, BFF Bikes, with her friend Annie Decker Byrne.

The Chronicle spoke with Buccella about being a business owner, opening BFF Bikes and living in Chicago.

**THE CHRONICLE:** What is the mission behind BFF Bikes?

**VANESSA BUCCELLA:** Our main mission is to fill a hole. The only segment of the population that is experiencing a fair amount of growth in the sport are women. There are woman products out there that bike shops don't carry because they don't want to take a risk on buying a product that people don't buy. Men own a lot of bike shops and they don't know what women want to buy. Annie and I have never worked at a bike shop, but we have been women cyclists for a really long time so we know what we want. Our approach to BFF Bikes is to have a shop that caters to us. We want to be really inclusive, no bike snobbery. If you have never ridden a bike, you haven't since you were a kid, if you are an experienced racer or you are

buying your first bike, you are going to get treated the same. We want to get more women out there riding. We want to have a community and a space where it's not just about riding bikes, but learning more about cycling and coming together.

**Why did you move to Chicago?**

I'm not from a huge town. Moving to Chicago, I remember very distinctly driving up here and coming up Lakeshore Drive and going underneath the overpass at McCormick Place and just seeing the skyline of the city for the first time. I was just like, “Oh my god, this is the place for me.” I had a big-city brain living in a small town and I immediately fell right in with the action and fun of living in Chicago. I don't think I was ever homesick once I moved here.

**Did you run into any conflicts when you first opened BFF Bikes?**

Being in a partnership has its challenges. I'm probably the more argumentative one. It's helping me to see where I can be at fault and where I'm stubborn, which is good for me. The other challenges are just finding the money. It was hard to find a location because a lot of landlords don't want to rent to a new company. It's all a challenge; there is nothing easy about putting up a new business.

**What advice would you offer new business owners?**

The reason I'm opening up a business like this is because I am obsessed with it. I wouldn't open up a business unless it was about something that I'm absolutely obsessed with because it's just so much work. If it is something you really feel like you can add to the world or be in [a] niche that nobody else is, then go for it.

**Do you have a life motto?**

The reason I'm doing this is because I cannot be the person who is waiting to retire to live their life. We're not on this planet for very long and you can't wait until you retire to enjoy yourself. You only live once, as they say.

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## » RIDE-SHARE

Continued from FRONT PAGE

customers who oppose the regulations and discuss how Lyft could successfully stop the ordinance's passage, according to a Feb. 11 email from Laura Copeland, Lyft Chicago's community manager. According to the email, more than 5,000 people called their alderman to oppose the ordinance.

While Lyft worries that the ordinance would harm business, cab companies and drivers do not think the suggested regulations are strict enough. Major cab companies filed a lawsuit against the city Feb. 6, calling for ride-shares to be regulated as stringently as cab companies are regulated.

Cab companies must pay a minimum of \$300,000 for taxi medallions and the city's 6,800 operating cabs pay more than \$24 million annually in taxes and fees, which ride-share companies do not incur, according to a Feb. 5 letter from Aldermen Edward Burke (14) and Anthony Beale (9).

Burke and Beale proposed a resolution to eliminate ride-share companies entirely because they are a violation of Municipal Code, which states only taxicab companies can lawfully transport passengers.

Ade Dada, a local taxi driver, said it is unjust that ride-share companies do not have to pay the same expensive license and insurance fees as cab companies and that they take business from taxi drivers.

"I heard some [ride-share drivers] make about \$1,000 a week; that's what I would make if I was working 16 hours a day," Dada said. "If [the city] really wants to do anything, I think they should get rid of [ride-share companies and allow it] in only neighborhoods."

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the 2012 median income for taxi drivers in the United States was \$22,800.

Not only do ride-share companies take customers from taxi drivers, they are also uninsured, posing dangers to passengers, said Dave Sutton, spokesman for the Taxicab, Limousine and Paratransit Association. A 6-year-old girl was hit and killed by an Uber driver while crossing the street in San Francisco on Jan. 31 and the company did not abide by commercial insurance regulations, refusing all liability, Sutton said.

"In that exact same instance, a legitimate taxi cab company would possess insurance to somehow try and compensate for the family's pain and suffering," Sutton said.

Brad Saul, president of the Chicago Disability Transit, said he supports the proposed ordinance because it would place more safety and financial responsibility on ride-share drivers.

"Why are any of these places exempted from what the cab companies need to do?" Saul said.

Sutton said despite common misunderstanding, ride-share companies are the same as taxi companies because they provide the same public transportation.

"What we would simply like to see is one set of regulations," Sutton said. "We are taxi companies and so are these companies."

mcastellucci@chroniclemail.com

**Proposed Regulations for Ride-Share Companies**

- Provide city with revenue**  
Drivers to pay city's ground transportation tax
- Vehicles screened**  
21-point annual inspections
- City registration**  
\$25,000 + \$25 per driver
- Insurance requirements**  
• \$1,000,000 commercial liability  
• \$1,000,000 general liability
- Transparency of Status**  
• Visible signage/emblems on active cars  
• Apps must display:  
— driver's license & picture  
— license plate number  
— vehicle's insurance policy
- Drivers' standards**  
• Structured training  
• Criminal background checks  
• Drug tests
- Businesses to be recategorized**  
as "Transportation Network Providers" (TNPs)

Keenan Browne THE CHRONICLE  
Information from OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

## » OVERTIME

Continued from PG. 37

CPD officers receiving overtime are detectives, investigators or sergeants, who spend the extra hours doing paperwork, avoiding the majority of safety risks.

Collins said detectives put in the most overtime because their positions often require court proceedings, surveillance and continuation, all of which are covered by overtime pay because they are added hours.

**“When you have to spend \$100 million to show our public safety, somebody missed the ball somewhere.”**

- Pat Camden

The top 10 officers earning overtime in 2013 were either sergeants, forensic investigators or detectives, according to the data.

Camden said relying on overtime work is not a smart tactic because police are an investment in the city's overall and future public safety, and opting to pay overtime in lieu of hiring new officers does not encourage further investment in the future of the department because new officers are not being hired frequently and the number of veteran officers is not increasing substantially.

"When we spend money on hiring younger officers coming into

the force at the end of the year ... five years from now you're going to have a veteran officer instead of \$5 million in overtime," Camden said. "It is a case of poor management on somebody's part. When you have to spend \$100 million to show our public safety, somebody missed the ball somewhere."

David Kelly, executive director of the Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation, an anti-violence youth organization in the Back of the Yards neighborhood, said real safety comes from revitalizing communities rather than relying

on police to increase safety.

"Everybody has to be involved and one of the pieces that have been neglected for a long time is the power of community," Kelly said. "Putting resources back into the community ... [to] make the decisions[about] where their increased resources should be and then participate in that, I think that's ultimately what's going to change things."

For more about the 2013 CPD overtime pay report, see the editorial on Page 34.

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» **PUPPY**

Continued from PG. 37

director of the Puppy Mill Campaign for the Humane Society of the U.S., found most puppies that come from mills have been the subject of multiple animal welfare violations, despite what operators told customers about their operations. Dog owners do not usually find out where their dog came from until it has fallen ill with a preventable disease Kahn said.

"We get calls every day from consumers across the country who unknowingly purchased a puppy mill dog from a pet store," Kahn said. "They end up spending thousands of dollars in veterinary fees trying to save the dog from an illness and sometimes the dogs end up dying."

Estrada said she sees dogs that come from puppy mills daily, and they are close to death or ill.

"We see [dogs that] have horrible skin conditions, eye conditions, hip displacement and so many genetic defects," Estrada said. "When the puppy mills produce them they aren't getting the proper medical treatment. They just worry about the buck that they will make."

The inhumane and unsanitary upbringing and breeding methods used by puppy mills affect more than just the dogs, Kahn said. Diseases can spread to owners and pose a threat to the city's overall health, such diseases are called zoonotic, she said.

Distemper is a common zoonotic disease among puppy mill dogs and is contagious to humans and can even result in death. Happiness is

Pets is a commercial pet store located in Illinois and Wisconsin that allegedly sold puppies with distemper in 2011, Kahn said.

Zack Schloemer, assistant manager of Happiness is Pets in Downers Grove, Ill., said he did not know anything about the allegations and that all dogs that come to Happiness is Pets have had distemper vaccinations and are administered a second distemper vaccination upon arriving at the store.

"Our breeders are all [United States Department of Agriculture] certified and we're family-owned," Schloemer said. "We actually have our owners go out [to kennels] and they look at the breeders' kennels to make sure they aren't doing anything they aren't supposed to be doing."

Schloemer said the company's humane procedures make him feel comfortable working there.

"If there were something to be worried about, I definitely would not be working here or want to even associate with them," Schloemer said.

Although puppy mills have become a nationwide concern, Chicago's ordinance could encourage other states to enact similar bans if it passes, Kahn said.

The only way Chicago can have an impact on this issue is by preventing pet stores from selling puppy mill dogs in pet stores, Kahn said.

"If [storeowners] told consumers the truth about where they buy their dogs, the consumers would not buy dogs," Kahn said. "The pet stores lie."

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» **TRANSIT**

Continued from PG. 38

"Our market is different [from the CTA]," Reile said. "Far more of their riders are transit dependent. They have no car options. If they want to travel, they have to use public transportation. Our ridership for the most part is not transit dependent. They are choice riders."

There are a number of factors that play into Chicagoans' transit choices, said Brenna Conway, campaign director for the Active Transportation Alliance.

"We're happy to see that regionally more people are choosing transit; however, we do recognize that it's difficult for many suburban people to take transit," Conway said.

crease the frequency of their buses and trains."

Marisa Schulz, assistant director of the Chaddick Institute for Metropolitan Development at DePaul University, said their research shows Metra not only lost commuters during the Great Recession, but that people who live in the suburbs had less expendable income to visit the city for leisurely activities.

Families dealing with unemployment had to scale back on spending, and Metra also had to make cuts during the recession that contributed to the decrease in ridership, Schulz said. Suburban commuters are looking for a quick, easy and affordable way to get to the city and Metra struggles to provide that, she said.

there and make more people aware of the programs."

Conway said ridership can be increased by adjusting routes, increasing frequency of trains and establishing a unified fare system that riders can use to pay for Metra, Pace and CTA fares.

Conway also said Chicagoans and transportation agencies need to focus on improving the local transit system rather than comparing it to other cities because it limits the city's progress.

"If we just compare ourselves to other cities, we will just be limited to looking at cities that have similar transit systems," Conway said.

Conway said the problem is the growth of Chicago's transit system and that there must be a way to ex-

**“Our ridership for the most part is not transit dependent. They are choice riders.”**

- Meg Reile

Over the last five years, Metra had a difficult time with both its leadership and fare increases, Conway said. These factors could have influenced riders, but Conway said the city, county and state should direct more funding to public transportation and make it more accessible to more people.

"The transit agencies are doing a pretty good job," Conway said. "They are working hard to provide a good service for transit riders. In a lot of cases they do not have the resources that they need to build new lines and extensions and in-

Metra is working to make more businesses aware of reverse commuting options, which would allow businesses to participate in a benefit program that allows Internal Revenue Service deductions for transit, cutting employees' transit costs while increasing Metra ridership, Reile said.

"It's an incentive," Reile said. "You can save money on your income taxes because these costs can be allocated as pre-tax income. It's existed for a while, but it's another way [to save money] as the job market shifts. It's always good to go out

pand the system's capacity to support the growth.

As the economy grows stronger and the job market steadily recovers, Schulz said she expects an increase in ridership for Metra and Pace systems.

"I think people will see a change or an uptick in the recession," Schulz said. "Jobs are doing better and more people will be turning to Metra and Pace. They are going to have more funds to improve their routes."

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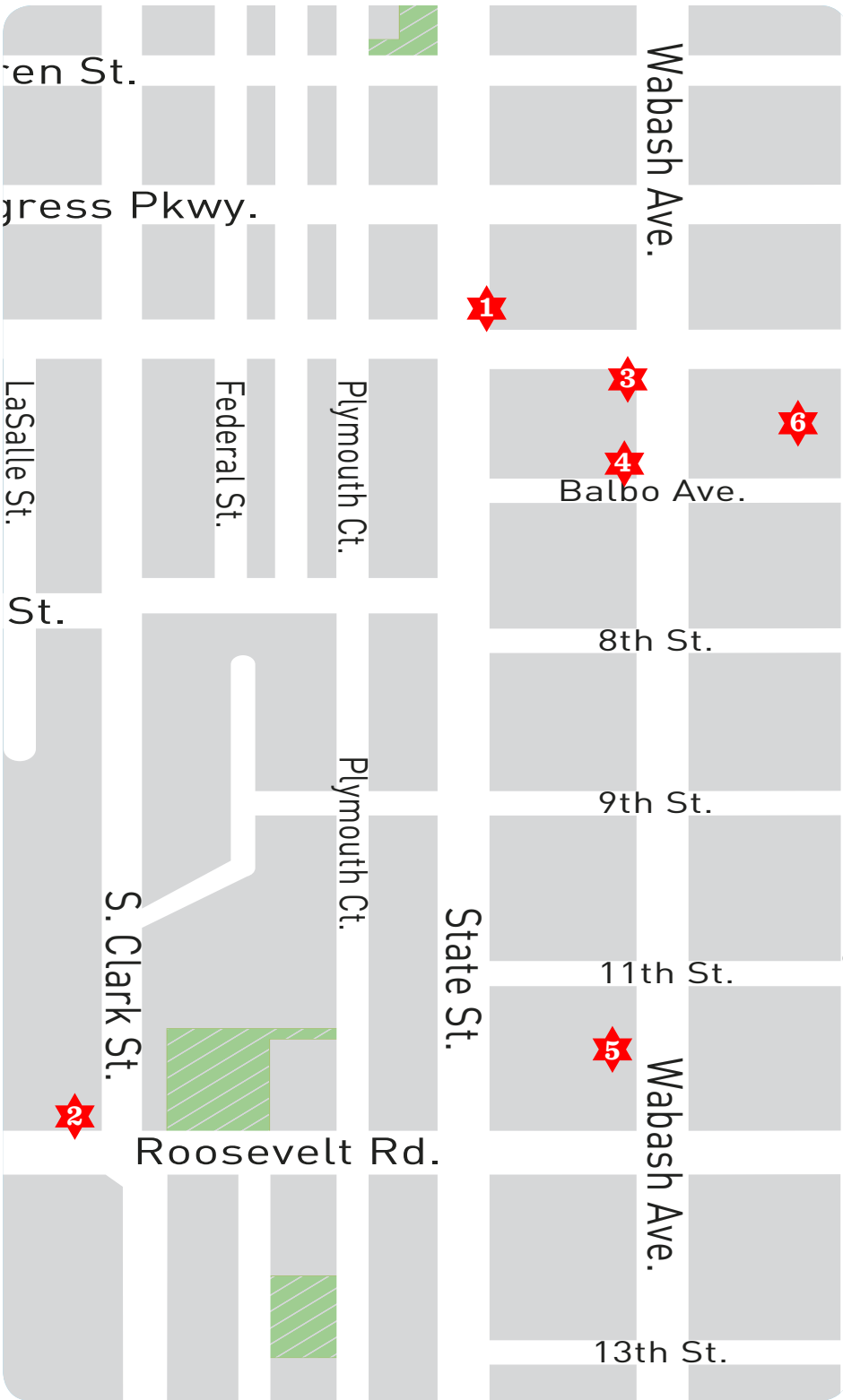


# FEATURED PHOTOGRAPH



Carolina Sanchez THE CHRONICLE

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie visited Chicago Feb. 11 to participate in a luncheon hosted by the Economic Club of Chicago at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers, 301 E. North Water St. Christie, chairman of the Republican Governors Association, came to the city to raise money for the organization. Christie said he is disappointed with his staff for their role in the George Washington Bridge scandal, closing the bridge in Fort Lee, N.J. as revenge because the town's mayor did not endorse Christie.



## OFF THE BLOTTER

- ### 1 Wayward weed

A University Center security guard called police Feb. 12 after finding a gram of marijuana in a second-floor hallway of the dorm building at 525 S. State St. The guard told police that he saw a plastic bag containing marijuana on the floor and no students in the hallway while on patrol. Police disposed of the marijuana when they arrived.
- ### 2 All fired up

A Target security guard called police Feb. 11 after a customer told him he saw flames shooting from the bottom of a car in the store's parking garage, 1154 S. Clark St. The Chicago Fire Department extinguished the fire, which was contained to the engine compartment. The vehicle owner told police she recently had the valve cover gaskets replaced.
- ### 3 Baskin bum

The owner of the Dunkin' Donuts/Baskin-Robbins at 600 S. Wabash Ave. notified police Feb. 10 that a man had been sitting in his restaurant for several hours without buying anything. The owner told police he asked the customer to leave several times but he refused to do so. Police took the man into custody and he was taken to the station for processing.
- ### 4 License to steal

A man reported to police Feb. 12 that his license plates were stolen from his red sedan while it was parked at 640 S. Wabash Ave. The man told police he left his car unattended for several hours and upon returning noticed the license plates were gone. There was no damage to the vehicle and the plates have not been recovered.
- ### 5 Dunkin' numbnuts

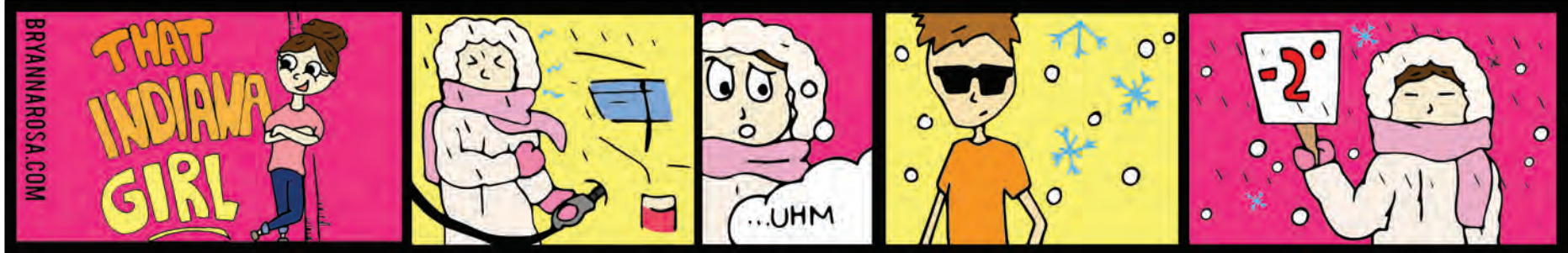
A Columbia staff member reported to police Feb. 12 that her Dunkin' Donuts gift card was being used without her permission. She told police she threw away the card in the 916 S. Wabash Ave. Building and got the app. Police found the gift card in the possession of a co-worker, who said she found it in the trash. She was taken into custody for further questioning.
- ### 6 Disappearing duds

A 36-year-old woman reported that \$350 worth of clothing was stolen from her room at the Renaissance Blackstone Chicago Hotel, 636 S. Michigan Ave., on Feb. 12. The woman told police she left her hotel room Feb. 11 and returned the next day. She immediately noticed the items were missing when she returned to her room. An internal investigation is ongoing.

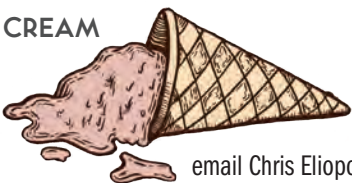


# Free Ice Cream

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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Assiduously written for our readers by  
The Chronicle Staff Oracles

- ARIES** (March 21–April 20) There is a slight chance you will accidentally dial emergency services after attempting to dial out of your office tomorrow.
- TAURUS** (April 21–May 20) Just because you are single doesn't mean that you have to spend all of your time partaking in "Downtown Abbey"-thons. Get off your ass!
- GEMINI** (May 21–June 21) After downloading the new Mavericks update from Apple, you will be severely disappointed despite the hype.
- CANCER** (June 22–July 22) You will get stuck with an absent Adam on your next group project, so be sure you remember to kick his ass next time you see him.
- LEO** (July 23–Aug. 22) Valentine's Day is over. Let's all stop crying about the fact that two of your co-workers are dating.
- VIRGO** (Aug. 23–Sept. 22) Chicago seems a lot more bearable now that it's over 10 degrees. Time to put on those short-shorts!
- LIBRA** (Sept. 23–Oct. 23) Don't wait too long to eat the leftovers from your date on Friday. You will find that it will revisit you pretty quickly upon consumption.
- SCORPIO** (Oct. 24–Nov. 22) Your ability to grab all the corner slices of pizza before everyone else will make you look like a selfish ass this weekend. Don't do it.
- SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23–Dec. 21) Your relationships are tangled up after Valentine's Day like a cheap pair of earbuds. Too bad you can't get new relationships at CVS.
- CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22–Jan. 20) Spotify is stalking you. There's an 80 percent chance it will get offended when you play "We Are Never Getting Back Together."
- AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21–Feb. 19) There is always something good waiting around the corner... The corner of Harrison Street, and it is chicken.
- PISCES** (Feb. 20–March 20) "The Walking Dead" would be a lot more accurate if it were set in a dorm lobby at 8 a.m.

## HOROSCOPES

## CROSSWORD

**ACROSS**

1 Sea (Fr.)  
4 Amer. Standard Version (abbr.)  
7 Inlet  
10 Pledge  
11 Social affair  
12 Old-fashioned oath  
14 Vega (2 words)  
16 Concerning (2 words)  
17 3 (Rom. numeral)  
18 Pueblo Indian  
20 Office of Economic Development (abbr.)  
21 Feminine (abbr.)  
22 Universe (pref.)  
24 King of Athens  
28 Plant slip  
31 Wings  
32 Twitch  
34 In the past  
35 Brain ridge

**DOWN**

1 Gardener's caste  
2 Case or box (Fr.)  
3 Fluidity unit  
4 Endeavor  
5 Withier  
6 Seaweed

**ACROSS**

37 Hunting cry  
39 Polish border river  
41 Family member  
42 Hawaiian fish  
44 Tag  
48 Uncle (Scott.)  
49 Disease (pref.)  
51 Immense  
53 Joyous  
54 Former cloth measure  
55 Poultry  
56 According to (2 words)  
57 Female ruff  
58 Guido's note (2 words)

**DOWN**

7 Portuguese coin  
8 Shame  
9 Rhine tributary  
10 Felish  
13 Month: abbr.  
15 Orkney fisherman's flut  
19 Distress signal  
21 Noted psychiatrist  
23 Admonish  
24 Insult  
25 Eng. cathedral city  
26 Orgy  
27 Pose  
29 Alan  
30 New (pref.)  
33 Grain beetle larva  
36 Salt (Fr.)  
38 New sugarcane shoot  
40 Blacksnake  
42 Angolia (abbr.)  
43 Nul  
45 Tree stump

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EVENTS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
<b>"The Harold"</b> 10:30 p.m. iO Theater 3541 N. Clark St. (773) 880-0199 \$5+	<b>Mecca Flat Blues</b> 9 a.m.–6 p.m. Chicago Cultural Center 78 E. Washington St. (312) 744-6630 FREE	<b>Hot Chocolate Crawl</b> 6 p.m. XOCO 449 N. Clark St. CitySwarmChicago.com \$49	<b>Third Symphony of Gustav Mahler</b> 7:30 p.m. Harris Theater for Music and Dance 205 E. Randolph St. (312) 334-7777 \$40+
FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	
<b>"Supernatural Chicago"</b> 7:30 p.m. Excalibur Nightclub 632 N. Dearborn St. (312) 266-1944 \$25	<b>"Bauhaus: Its Legacy in Chicago and Beyond"</b> 2 p.m. Edgewater Branch Library 6000 N. Broadway (312) 742-1945 FREE	<b>"Twin Peaks"</b> 7 p.m. Delilah's 2771 N. Lincoln Ave. (773) 472-2771 FREE	

symbol  
KEY

Film

Culture

Art

Food

Nightlife

Exhibit

Reading

Theater

Holiday

WEATHER

AccuWeather.com Seven-day forecast for Chicago							
MONDAY	MON. NIGHT	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
A wintry mix possible <b>36</b>	Partly cloudy <b>23</b>	Partial sunshine <b>39</b> <b>25</b>	Considerable cloudiness <b>44</b> <b>30</b>	Periods of rain <b>46</b> <b>30</b>	Clouds and sun <b>41</b> <b>30</b>	Cloudy <b>48</b> <b>17</b>	Mostly cloudy and colder <b>33</b> <b>11</b>

WORLD NEWS



» Hollywood child star Shirley Temple, who cheered film audiences during the Great Depression, died of natural causes Feb. 10 in her California home, according to a Feb. 11 CNN report. Temple later became a diplomat as Shirley Temple Black in her later life after retiring from acting at 22 years old in 1950 and marrying oceanographer Charles Black. Temple was 85.

» Nearly 300,000 residents of Iraq's western province of Anbar were displaced because of fighting between security forces and Sunni militants, according to a Feb. 12 BBC report. This is the highest number of displaced residents because of the violence since 2008, and the report stated there are currently 1.1 million internally displaced people who have been affected by the violence since 2003.

» Eight cars on display in the Sky Dome at the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, Ky., were swallowed by a sinkhole Feb. 12, according to a same-day CNN report. The sinkhole was reported to be 40 feet wide and nearly 30 feet deep. The total cost of the damage to the iconic vehicles has not yet been determined but is substantial, according to the museum director.

» Belgian lawmakers debated Feb. 12 about whether to grant terminally ill minors the right to ask to die. On Feb. 14, the bill passed overwhelmingly with an 88 to 44 vote. Legislators have clashed over the bill, questioning its medical rationale. The euthanasia bill stipulates that children must obtain approval from their parents prior to being granted the right to die.

CHICAGO HISTORY



Feb. 17, 2003

ON THIS DAY in Chicago history, 21 people died and dozens were injured in a stampede at the dangerously crowded "E2" nightclub. The stampede was triggered by a fistfight and the use of pepper spray inside the cramped club. Among the deceased was a former Columbia student, 24-year-old DeShand Ray.

ARCHIVE



Feb. 18, 2002

THIS WEEK IN 2002, The Chronicle reported that Columbia purchased a million-dollar-plus software system that would provide students access to class registration, admissions and financial aid. The Jenzabar software system, which included a student portal, would be rolled out in fall 2003.

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TWEETS OF THE WEEK

**Neil Tyson Degrasse**  
[@neiltyson](#)  
WINTER OLYMPICS: The continuous display of Earth's gravity, coupled with the absence of friction —plus occasional gunfire.

**Conan O'Brien**  
[@ConanOBrien](#)  
I love to go up to Spanish people and say, "any FLANS for the weekend?" They love that.

**Ricky Gervais**  
[@rickygervais](#)  
Does any one know if there is a charity that funds trained guards to protect elephants or other animals against poachers?

**The Dark Lord**  
[@Lord\\_Voldemort7](#)  
Shia Lebeouf has reached a 'Dolores Umbridge' level of annoying.

WEEKLY INSTAGRAM

**Instagram**  
Photo of the week  
We #love our #city! And most of all, we love you. Happy V-day fellow #Chicago-ans! Photo by @angelacconners #chicago #ccc #longexposure #chigram

BY @CCCHRONICLE  
FEBRUARY 14, 2014