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Arts & Culture: Theophilus London celebrates 28th birthday with Bottom Lounge crowd, See pg. 17



Opinions: Sugar, spice and everything nice! Girl power is back with a vengeance, See pg. 31



Online exclusive video
Election night coverage of Fioretti, Garcia and Emanuel

10 WEEKS LEFT
SPRING 2015

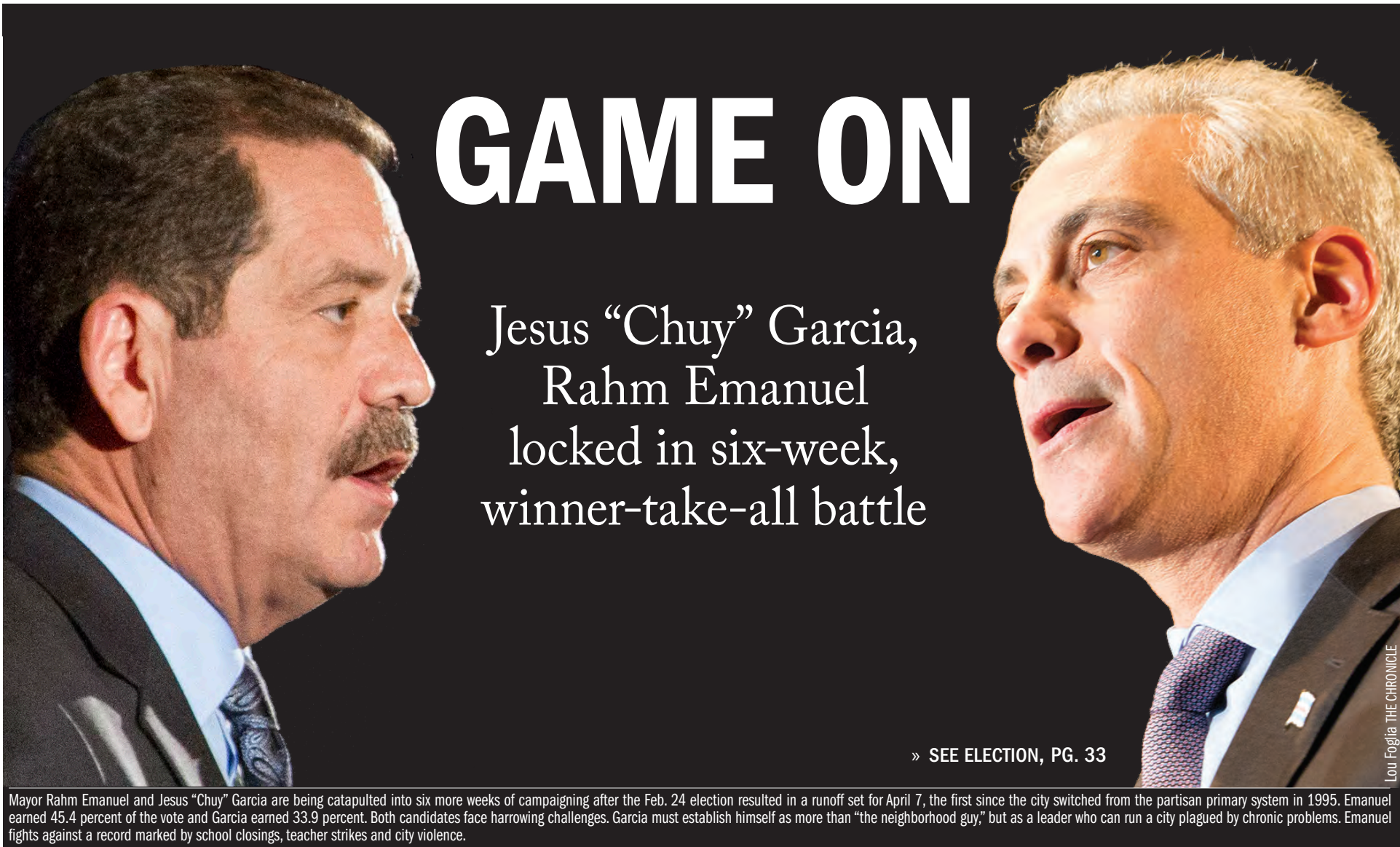
THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

No. 1 Non-Daily College Newspaper in the Nation

MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2015

THE OFFICIAL NEWS SOURCE OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

VOLUME 50, ISSUE 21



GAME ON

Jesus "Chuy" Garcia, Rahm Emanuel locked in six-week, winner-take-all battle

» SEE ELECTION, PG. 33

Lou Foglia THE CHRONICLE

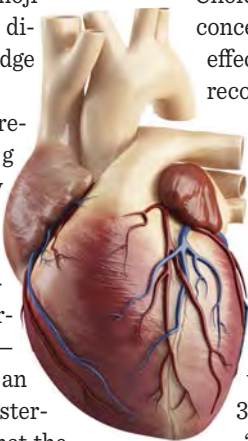
Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Jesus "Chuy" Garcia are being catapulted into six more weeks of campaigning after the Feb. 24 election resulted in a runoff set for April 7, the first since the city switched from the partisan primary system in 1995. Emanuel earned 45.4 percent of the vote and Garcia earned 33.9 percent. Both candidates face harrowing challenges. Garcia must establish himself as more than "the neighborhood guy," but as a leader who can run a city plagued by chronic problems. Emanuel fights against a record marked by school closings, teacher strikes and city violence.

Cholesterol exonerated, maybe

MAX GREEN
Sports & Health Editor

TWO SUNNY SIDE up eggs and a strip of bacon graced the cover of Time magazine in March 1984, forming the distressed, frowning caricature of a human face. The message imparted to the American people by this proto-emoji was simple: Ditch dietary cholesterol to dodge heart disease.

However, recent research—including analyses of many early studies that may have mistakenly established a link between cholesterol in the diet and coronary artery disease—has slowly mustered an appeal for dietary cholesterol, at least enough so that the Dietary Guidelines Advisory



Committee has taken notice. The United States Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health and Human Services determine dietary recommendations for the American public based on a scientific report published every five years by the DGAC. Among other changes, the 2015 report declared "Cholesterol is not a nutrient of concern for overconsumption," effectively abolishing the recommendations that have served as a linchpin of medical practice for half a century.

The pre-existing recommended daily allowance for cholesterol, enacted in 1977, was 250–300 milligrams—two eggs clock in at about 375 milligrams. "We reviewed the literature, and cholesterol was one

of those guidelines that has just been kept," said Alice H. Lichtenstein, professor of nutrition science and policy at Tufts University and vice chair of the 2015 DGAC. "The effect of dietary cholesterol in isolation was actually quite small, there was no reason to carry it forward."

Subcommittees of DGAC members formulate specific questions after reviewing the prior report and determine which areas of diet, health and nutrition need to be re-reviewed because new data may have been generated, according to Lichtenstein. She said the new research has indicated that the biomarkers that indicate a risk factor for cardiovascular disease are more closely related to the types of fat ingested, such as saturated or polyunsaturated, rather than cholesterol—

» SEE CHOLESTEROL, PG. 15

Columbia's 2016 budget hints at deep cuts

JACOB WITTICH
Campus Editor

ALTHOUGH IT IS early in the Spring 2015 semester, the college is already making preparations for the next academic year's budget, a move that will result in staff reductions and budget cuts and require departments to project financial needs months earlier than in past years.

Preparation for the 2016 fiscal year's budget began the week of Feb. 16, and the college is taking a new approach to the budget-building process, according to a Feb. 18 email to faculty and staff of the college from Michelle Gates, vice president of Business Affairs and CFO, and Stan Wearden, senior vice president and provost.

Rather than using current spending as a base for the following year's budget, the college has developed firm budgeting targets to cut spend-

ing across the college, according to the email.

"The college has been running a structural deficit for years now," Wearden said. "You can't sustain that for very long because we're spending beyond our means."

Wearden said every department will experience budget cuts this year, but the intensity of those cuts will be determined based on whether a department is running structural or chronic deficits and how much revenue it generates.

"In past budgets, if we've had to take a cut, we've distributed that cut [equally] across the board," Wearden said. "But that's not a strategic way of doing things because some departments have [historically run] structural deficits."

Although budget reductions will occur, the email states no budget

» SEE BUDGET, PG. 10



CAMPUS

Provost discusses faculty compensation • PAGE 4



SPORTS & HEALTH

The science behind the "munchies" • PAGE 11



FEATURE

Uncovering racism in cosplay • PAGE 20



METRO

Metra goes mobile • PAGE 39

EDITOR'S NOTE

TYLER EAGLE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Budget cuts too harsh on struggling departments

BEING A COLLEGE student, I understand what it's like to have a seemingly insurmountable pile of bills staring at me. Burdened by the limited funds at my disposal, the reality of having to prioritize financially requires me to make tough decisions—do I skip \$5 martini night at Bar Louie or not? In a world where expenses surpass revenue, there is little room for frivolity.

It's an existence that almost makes me sympathetic for Columbia and its financial state. Like so many of its loan-saddled students, the college's financial outlook is a little grim, especially if the news that departments must construct next academic year's budget months earlier than normal is any indicator.

As outlined in the Front Page story about the college's budget, Stan Wearden, senior vice president and provost, and Cindy Gonya, associate vice president of the Office of Budget, Planning & Analysis, are meeting with department chairs to discuss expected reductions to their allocated funds for the 2016 academic year. As reported in the story, reductions are expected to hit departments that have been operating with structural deficits—departments that have seen enrollment declines—which will result in the elimination of some full-time positions.

The college is not in an enviable position. It has to make hard decisions in order to preserve the college's future, including mandating reductions that may spawn terminations. What is even more troubling than the college's financial state is the idea and practice of reducing funding to departments and centers without addressing the underlying issues that contribute to low enrollment or decreased revenue.

It is essential that departments participate in generating prospective students, but it should not be their focus because their primary function is to direct and author curriculum. Successful colleges have successful admissions offices. It's hard to identify Columbia's office of Undergraduate Admissions as successful college's a trend of declining enrollment. Rather than punish the departments, maybe the college should hold its primary recruitment center and its leadership accountable.

Yet again, it is also hard to ignore the fact that the Department of Development is still lagging, devoid of donations similar to the large-scale ones secured in the past by current administrators—such as Jon Stern, vice president of Development, and Kwang-Wu Kim, president and CEO—at their previous colleges.



A college without a successful trend of fundraising—especially a nonprofit private college with an expected cost of attendance north of \$40,000—is doomed to fail.

The college should also be more transparent in its budgeting process, informing students of impending cuts to their programs and departments, if any at all. Furthermore, it should highlight the reductions it imposed on its administrative level. It is only fair for administrators to feel the crunch, too.

The budget process also comes at a time when news of a potential increase in class sizes and decreased course offerings are trickling down to the student body. Such news is slightly mystifying, especially because the college's most-used classrooms struggle to accommodate full class sizes.

If larger classes and abridged individual instruction—and the seemingly continuous trend of ignoring the faults and failures of the college's most integral parts—is a part of the future Columbia, I am fearful for the lower classmen and future students.

teagle@chroniclemail.com

FEATURED PHOTO



Kelly Wenzel THE CHRONICLE

Ambassador Ian Kelly and Linda Zamrowski of the Chicago Passport Agency speak about careers in foreign and civil service on Feb. 26 at a Here to Hire event hosted by the Portfolio Center at the 623 S. Wabash Ave. Building. The event series brings professionals on campus to meet with students to potentially hire them on the spot.

THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

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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.

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The Chronicle
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HR evaluates staff salaries

SAM VINTON
Campus Reporter

TO ASSESS CURRENT positions and responsibilities of full- and part-time staff members, the college announced Feb. 9 in an email that the Office of Human Resources has launched a comprehensive staff compensation study.

Michelle Gates, vice president of Business Affairs and CFO, said information gathered through the study will be used to create standardized job descriptions for employees. This classification structure will help the college make market comparisons to use when determining salaries, as well as help staff members assess career mobility, she said.

"This is a fairly common thing for businesses when you're trying to ensure that you have comparable jobs," Gates said. "The reason we're doing it now is that there has not been a strong structure in place and we're confident that we have quite a bit of inconsistency within the current structure."

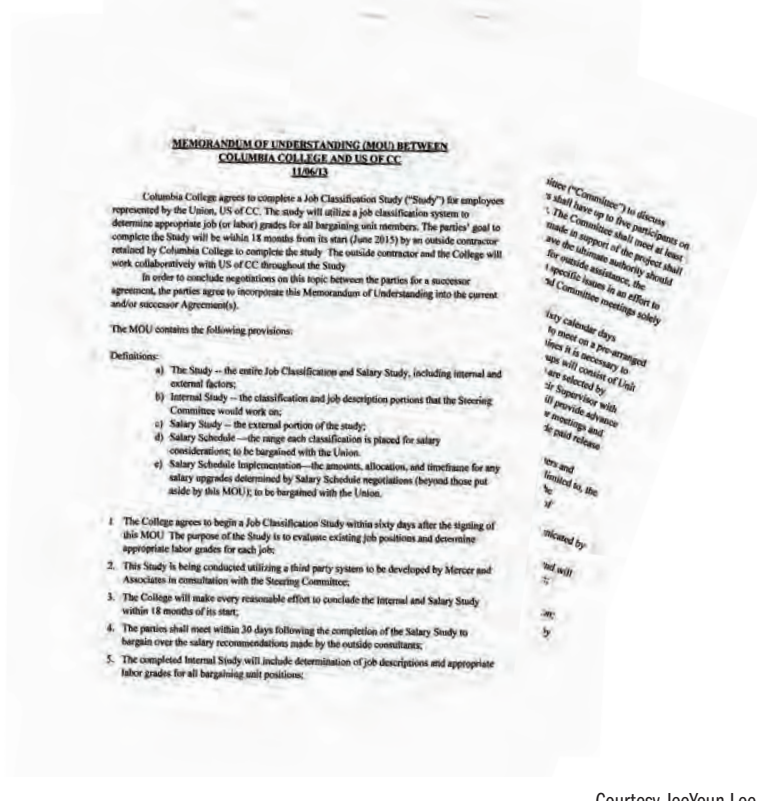
Accurate job classification has been an issue at the college for years,

said Nick Hoepfner, president of the United Staff of Columbia College, the college's staff union. Restructuring of the current system is something the US of CC has supported since the creation of the union's original contract in 2009.

According to Hoepfner, the US of CC's original contract included a memorandum of understanding in which the college would conduct some type of job classification study, but no study was ever conducted.

The college started to commission a study in 2007 but failed to follow it through to completion, making a job classification study a point of contention during staff bargaining when the current contract ended in 2012, Hoepfner said.

"Members have said that there isn't any transparency or equity across the campus between job titles and salaries," said JeeYeun Lee, secretary of the US of CC and union representative on the compensation study steering committee. "There's no real rhyme or reason to how salaries have been determined, so we wanted to make sure that there was a system that was clear."



Courtesy JeeYeun Lee

In November 2013, a memorandum of understanding was signed by US of CC and the college.

Gates, who was not employed by the college when the original contract was in place, said the fact that a study had not been completed in previous years was likely due to a lack of resources, funding and competing priorities.

Unable to design and complete the study internally, the college

hired Mercer, a global human resources consulting firm. According to Gates, the decision to use Mercer was based on the company's experience and the competitive price.

The first step toward conducting the study requires employees to fill

» **SEE STAFF, PG.10**

VP Berg to leave college

JACOB WITTICH
Campus Editor

IN A FEB. 27 collegewide email, President and CEO Kwang-Wu Kim announced that Alicia Berg, the vice president of Campus Environment responsible for a multitude of projects including the construction of the Media Production Center and the renovations of the eighth and ninth floors of the 623 S. Wabash Ave. Building for the Art + Design Department, will leave Columbia March 13.

Berg accepted the position of assistant vice president of Campus Planning + Sustainability at the University of Chicago, where she will report to the university architect to enhance the university's history focus, encourage neighborhood revitalization and develop collegewide sustainability initiatives.

"At this point in my career, I think about what I really love to do, and that is to manage projects that improve the built environment for people," Berg said. "There is so much capital development that's going on at the University of Chicago, and I am excited to be a part of such an ambitious program that will improve the campus and learning environment for years to come."

Berg first joined Columbia in March of 2004. She has served the college community for 11 years, contributing the college's signature aesthetic and managing various development projects throughout this period.

"During her tenure at Columbia, Alicia has been a force for change," Kim said in the email. "Under her leadership, our campus acquired a distinctive look and feel, building safety and code issues were successfully addressed and many of our key teaching and learning environments were significantly enhanced and improved."

Berg said she is leaving Columbia with many memories of her work and colleagues whom she will miss.

"I think my biggest accomplishment [at Columbia] is forming the incredible team that we now have in Campus Environment, facilities and security," Berg said. "We are proactive and effective, and that's entirely because of the great people I was able to assemble."

According to the email, a reception in honor of Berg's service to Columbia and in celebration of her new position at the University of Chicago will be announced soon.

jwittich@chroniclemail.com

» **SEE CHAIR, PG.10**

Creative Writing announces new interim chair

MEGAN BENNETT
Campus Reporter

AS THE SEARCH for a permanent chair of the Creative Writing Department continues, interim chair Matthew Shenoda announced he

will step down at the end of this semester. Tony Trigilio, a professor in the department and director of the poetry program, is set to assume the interim chair's duties this fall.

Shenoda has been the interim chair since the merge of the fiction,

creative nonfiction and poetry programs in the Fall 2013 Semester. The college's national search for a permanent chair ended unsuccessfully last year, so Shenoda continued to serve as the interim chair, as reported May 12, 2014, by The Chronicle.

Shenoda said he planned to serve as the interim chair for only two years and is ready to leave the position but continue teaching in the poetry program.

"These leadership positions—especially one explicitly interim from the beginning—should not last a very long time," Shenoda said. "I have done what I felt has been necessary to establish a foundation for the new department, and I am very happy to pass the torch and have someone else begin to build on that."

Suzanne Blum Malley, interim dean of The School of Liberal Arts and Sciences, said she and Stan Wearden, senior vice president and provost, offered Trigilio the position because his current experience with the department made him a qualified candidate.

Blum Malley said Trigilio will likely serve two years, and a national search for a chairperson is aimed to relaunch during the 2016-2017 academic year, with a permanent replacement ideally starting in the Fall 2017 Semester.



Courtesy JACOB KNABB

Tony Trigilio, professor in the Creative Writing Department and director of the poetry program, will assume the position of interim chair of the department in the fall, replacing current chair Matthew Shenoda, who has held the position since 2013.

'No guarantees' for faculty salary increases

SAM VINTON
Campus Reporter

FACULTY SALARY INCREASES cannot be guaranteed for the upcoming academic year, Stan Wearden, senior vice president and provost, told the college's Faculty Senate Feb. 27 at its monthly meeting.

The announcement comes in response to recent concerns raised by faculty members regarding the Feb. 18 email sent out by Wearden and Michelle Gates, vice president of Business Affairs and CFO, about budget cuts throughout the college that will allow for the allocation of financial resources to other areas of the college, including compensation rewards for faculty and staff.

"I think some faculty were delighted to see this and some felt concern that there was no mention of cost of living adjustments in that letter as well," said Peter Carpenter, president of the Faculty Senate.

During the meeting, Wearden made it clear that faculty salary increases are dependent on multiple factors, including reaching the planned target for collegewide budget cuts and hitting the college's fall enrollment mark.

"I don't want people to leave here with any false hope [about salary increases] at all," Wearden said. "We would love to be able to give salary increases, but these

are two big hurdles that have to be cleared before we can do that."

Even if these targets are met, the administration will have to determine how to create a pool of funds to go toward salary increases, because implementing sweeping increases across the college would not allow any significant increases in salary to occur, Wearden said.

Wearden also said that cost of living increases have become a low priority due to current low inflation

rates and the college's generous benefits packages.

"Although I recognize and am sympathetic to the need for a cost of living increase, at least it doesn't have the same sense of urgency as it has had in previous years," Wearden said.

While raises are not guaranteed, Wearden stressed the importance of faculty compensation and finding ways to give out faculty raises for promotions.

"I think it's unconscionable that we don't do that," Wearden said. "What's a promotion if there's no raise? To me, that's priority one."

According to Wearden, the college's compensation rates are not in line with those of other institutions, averaging lower salaries at every rank level. Wearden said this process is important to the college but will take time.

Wearden said he and Gates stressed the importance of com-

ensation for high-performing faculty because it is something that he and President and CEO Kwang-Wu Kim believe in doing.

"That's how you keep our high performers, so that's the reason that you saw that language in there," Wearden said.

When concerns were raised about how merit-based compensation would be determined, Wearden said it would be necessary to determine a set of criteria—a process in which he hopes to involve the Faculty Senate.

During the meeting, the Senate also discussed the possibility of creating a position for a liaison between the faculty and the provost, with the goal of creating a strong faculty voice within the provost's office. The proposed title for this position is Provost Administrative Fellow.

"I think the idea of the administrative fellow is very attractive and in line with what other schools are doing," said Eric Scholl, associate chair of the Television Department. "I really like the idea of being able to try out an administrative role."

Details on the position are still in development regarding which faculty members will be qualified for the position. The Faculty Senate and Wearden hope that the position will be created by the Fall 2015 Semester.

The next Faculty Senate meeting is set to take place on March 20.



Kaitlin Hetterscheidt THE CHRONICLE

Stan Wearden, senior vice president and provost, attended the Faculty Senate's monthly meeting on Feb. 27 to discuss faculty salary increases, among other issues.

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Music Department Events

Monday March 2

Progressive Rock Ensemble 1 in Concert 12:00 pm

Tuesday March 3

Music Student Convocation 12:00 pm

Wednesday March 4

Music Student Convocation 12:00 pm

Wednesday Noon Guitar Concert Series* 12:00 pm

at the Conaway

Progressive Rock Ensemble 2 in Concert 7:00 pm

Thursday March 5

Donald Neale in Concert: The British Invasion 7:00 pm

at the Sherwood

Friday March 6

Jazz Gallery in the Lobby* 12:00 pm

Jazz Forum* 2:00 pm

Chiarts Classical Guitar Ensemble in Concert 7:00 pm

at the Sherwood

* Events marked with an asterisk do not give Recital Attendance Credit

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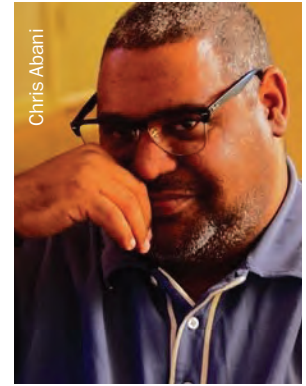
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Edwidge Danticat
Claire of the Sea Light



Chris Abani
The Secret History of Las Vegas



Audrey Niffenegger
Raven Girl



Marlon James
A Brief History of Seven Killings



Bernice L. McFadden
Loving Donovan



Mitchell S. Jackson
The Residue Years



Regina Taylor
stop. reset.



T. Geronimo Johnson
Welcome to Braggsville



Jessie Ann Foley
The Carnival at Bray



Stephanie Kuehnert
Ballads of Suburbia



Kia Corthron
Breath, Boom



Samantha Irby
Meaty



Garnett Kilberg Cohen
Swarm to Glory



Stephanie Kuehn
Complicit



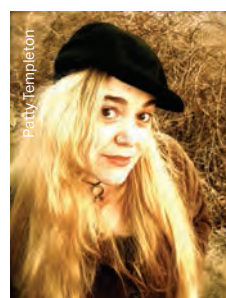
Kevin Coval
The BreakBeat Poets



Amina Gautier
Now We Will Be Happy



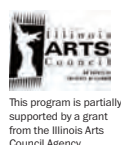
Megan Stielstra
Once I Was Cool



CSE Cooney
Bone Swans



Jay Bonansinga
The Walking Dead: Descent



This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

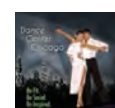


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MAGAZINE

Professor brings blues to American youth

SAM VINTON
Campus Reporter

WHEN FERNANDO JONES, an adjunct professor in the college's Music Department, founded Blues Kids of America in 1989, he envisioned a program in which student musicians could gather to play music they love.

More than two decades later, Jones' vision is a reality. The organization's Blues Camp, now entering its fifth year, provides students ages 12–18 the opportunity to gather for a week of blues instruction, performances and fun.

Jones started the first camp at Columbia in 2010. A dream of his since his childhood, Jones wanted to create a program that promotes the blues genre to American youth, he said. Now, Jones has camps in locations across the U.S., as well as international locations in London and Rome.

Students are selected for the program through an audition process, which takes place at least 60 days before the camp starts. It is a competitive process with approximately 200 spots available for students and other applicants interested in the program, Jones said.

At the camp, students are immersed in blues music, which means they are attending classes, rehearsals and preparing for their own performances. Students bene-

fit from being around like-minded musicians, said Daniel Peetz, a senior music major and summer intern at the Blues Camp.

"It's pretty incredible to see 9-, 10-, 12-year-olds that share that passion," Peetz said. "When you're [that age] you don't really get the chance to explore this genre because it's not on the radio."

Peetz said the camp often helps introverted students come out of their shell and that the program offers students an opportunity to

showcase their talent to friends and family at their final performance at the end of the camp.

"By the end of the week, you see the shyest kids on the first day [act like] a superstar on the last day," Peetz said. "They're tapping their feet, playing with their eyes closed. They're really feeling the music. You see a flower blossom."

Jones, whose career in blues music ranges from performing to producing, said he is a strong believer in promoting music education. Cit-

ing the multiple intelligence theory, first introduced by neurologist Dr. Howard Gardner, Jones said music education is important because everyone learns differently, and music is a form of intelligence.

"When you introduce music to people in a formal situation, oftentimes it's easy to gravitate toward it because it is in them already," Jones said. "People learn differently, and [music] can give them an opportunity to express themselves."

Jones' work with Blues Kids has attracted the attention of music fans and organizations across the country. Gary Matts, president of the Chicago Federation of Musicians, shares Jones' view of blues music education, which is one of the reasons the organization supports sponsoring the camps.

"We think encouraging the continuation of this art form is something that's important," Matts said. "[It's important] that young musicians who have an attraction to this kind of music have an opportunity to be a part of this camp."

Matts also said blues music is an important part of Chicago's musical heritage that transcends racial, economic and international boundaries. According to Jones, this is something on which the organization hopes to capitalize in the future, with plans to expand the camps to Brazil, Venice, and to areas of the Middle East.

"It's a contribution from America to the world that is not political," Jones said. "We look at it as being a language. We want it to be almost an ambassadorial tool of good will."

The Blues Kids of America student musicians are set to kick off this year's Chicago Blues Festival, the largest free blues festival in the world, on June 12–14.



Courtesy GLENN KAUPERT

Fernando Jones, who is pictured above performing with a group of students at the camp, said that the Blues Camp is the crown jewel of the Blues Kids of America brand.

mbennett@chroniclemail.com

Chairman takes over as Lyric Opera CEO

MEGAN BENNETT
Campus Reporter

RICHARD KIPHART, CHAIRMAN of the college's Board of Trustees, is taking center stage as the interim president and CEO of Lyric Opera of Chicago.

The Lyric Opera's former president and CEO Kenneth Pigott died of a heart attack Feb. 13. Kiphart, a long-time member of the Lyric Opera's Board of Directors, will fill the position temporarily until a new president and CEO is selected.

Kiphart has served on Lyric Opera's Board of Directors since 1998 and on its executive committee since 2001, according to a Feb. 18 Lyric Opera press release. He also served as the president and CEO from 2007–2011 before Pigott took over.

Kiphart said he was chosen for the position because of his prior ex-

perience in the role and will serve until the board's annual meeting that takes place in June, when it will vote on a new president and CEO.

perience in the role and will serve until the board's annual meeting that takes place in June, when it will vote on a new president and CEO.

Although Kiphart said he is looking forward to certain elements of the temporary position, he also said the cause for his temporary position is not a call for celebration.

"When you come in the first time [as president], you're excited," Kiphart said. "I'm excited and interested in Lyric, but I'm not coming in under the happiest of conditions."

Kiphart said he and Pigott worked closely together and that he hopes to continue his friend's good work.

"[Pigott] understood music so much better than I did, and he did

work and expects that Kiphart will do well.

"When [Kiphart] decides he's going to help, he goes all the way in," Kim said.

Kim also said Kiphart will be an appropriate fill-in because of his previous experience serving as Lyric Opera's president and CEO.

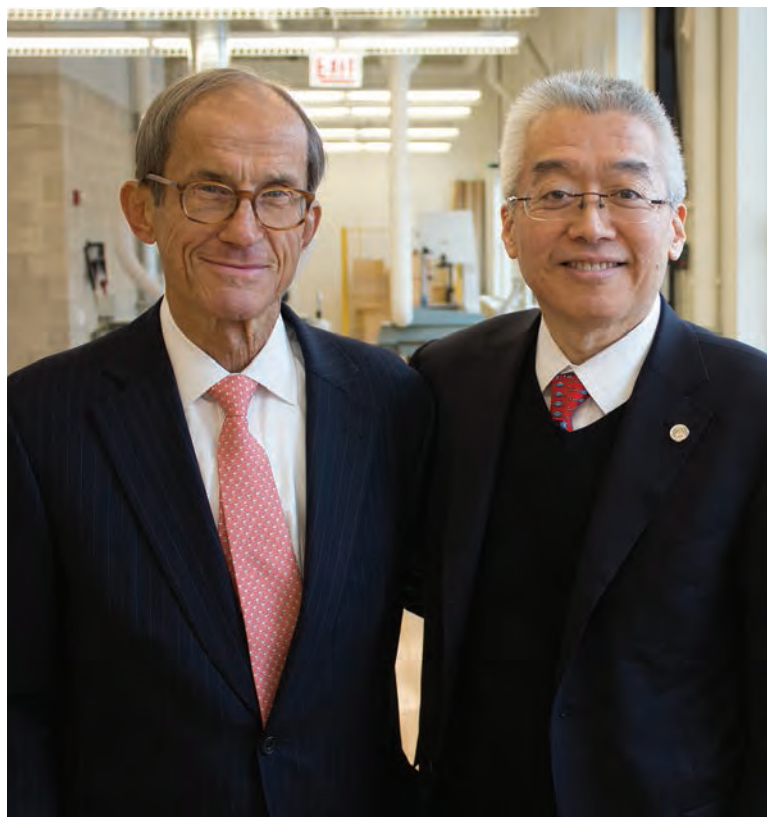
"He knows [the position] inside and out, so I think it's going to be fun for him," Kim said. "They are very fortunate because during this interim, while they're looking for a new person, they have someone they know [who] knows what's going on and knows what to do."

Bobbi Wilsyn, a senior lecturer in the Music Department and the coordinator of the vocal performance concentration, said she hopes a connection could one day be made between Columbia and the Lyric Opera.

The number of students who primarily study opera is not as large at Columbia as it is at other Chicago colleges, but Wilsyn said having a member from the college's board involved in a high position at a fine arts organization could benefit students.

"Music is a universal language," Wilsyn said. "Even if the styles differ, we can all learn from each other. To be associated with this wonderful institution that is a part of Chicago's larger cultural experience—a collaboration would be greatly appreciated."

Kim said creating a formal re-



Courtesy TRAVIS MCKENNEY

Columbia's Board of Trustees Chairman Richard Kiphart will be interim president and CEO of Lyric Opera until June.

relationship between the college's Music Department and the Lyric Opera is not completely out of the question for the future.

"[The Lyric Opera] is sort of a different cultural model, but we're always looking for possibilities, especially if it gives our students some opportunities—that's key for me" Kim, a concert pianist, said.

Having someone like Kiphart supporting Columbia as the chairman for the Board of Trustees is

essential for the college's success, according to Kim.

"I wouldn't have come here if I didn't believe we had a really strong chair who is totally committed, will galvanize the board, help us raise the profile of the institution and get new people involved," Kim said. "Without that, you can't move [and] you can't succeed. [Kiphart] is a linchpin for us."

mbennett@chroniclemail.com

"I'm excited and interested in Lyric, but I'm not coming in under the happiest of conditions."

—Richard Kiphart

perience in the role and will serve until the board's annual meeting that takes place in June, when it will vote on a new president and CEO.

"The general director called and [asked] if I would be willing to as-

a lot of great things," Kiphart said. "He had a great legacy. He took my place and did a great job."

Columbia President and CEO Kwang-Wu Kim said Kiphart is dedicated to his various areas of

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Tuesday March 10th

HERMAN CONAWAY CENTER

1104 S. Wabash Ave., Rm. 504
10AM-11AM

ALEXANDROFF CAMPUS CENTER

600 S. Michigan Ave, Rm. 1301
1:30PM-2:30PM

Wednesday March 11th

HERMAN CONAWAY CENTER

1104 S. Wabash Ave., Rm. 504
9:30AM-10:30AM
11:30AM-12:30PM

Thursday March 12th

ALEXANDROFF CAMPUS CENTER

600 S. Michigan Ave, Rm. 1301
3:30PM-4:30PM
5:30PM-6:30PM

Friday March 13th

HERMAN CONAWAY CENTER

1104 S. Wabash Ave., Rm. 504
10AM-11AM

Columbia
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West Coast alumni office changes location

CARISSA DEGEN
Senior Campus Reporter

COLUMBIA'S ALUMNI RELATIONS office on the West Coast will be relocated from its current location to a new space in the Raleigh Studios lot, 650 N. Bronson Ave., where the college's Semester in LA program is held.

Alumni Relations has been stationed at 6255 Sunset Blvd. for the last 10 years, but the staff has chosen not to renew its lease in order to be closer to Columbia's other offices in California, according to Sarah Schroeder, director of Alumni Rela-

influenced the decision to move the office's location.

"The lease was up at the current location, and it was an opportunity for us to examine our costs and the program," Stern said. "Truthfully, a combination of [being] able to save money but also the advantage of aligning with the Semester in LA program was strong and positive as well."

However, Schroeder said she does not view budget cuts as the reason behind the office's relocation. She said the move primary motivation for the move is that the office's lease is up.

"It's an opportunity for the Alumni Relations staff to more directly interact with the students and the alumni that come and [visit]," Stern said. "Having a closer proximity instead of having to get in a car is quite positive and powerful."

Stern said the move would allow for more alumni and industry professionals to visit Columbia events for students to attend and network.

"We're able to bring our alumni operation closer together with the students and the visitors that come and teach and work with the students," Stern said. "I think that's a very positive situation."

“We're able to bring our alumni operation closer together with the students and visitors that come and teach and work with the students.”

— Jonathan Stern

tions on the West Coast.

"[The move] presented an opportunity to be closer to the Semester in LA program," Schroeder said. "Being there physically and being accessible to the students is great."

Jonathan Stern, vice president of Development, said budget cuts to the Alumni Relations program

"Budgets are being cut across the board, so of course in the department where I work, our funds are being cut along with everyone else's," Schroeder said.

Stern said moving the Alumni Relations office to the same building as the Semester in LA program has no disadvantages.

Concern over the possibility of other programming changes or cancellations was evident after Alumni Weekend—an annual event hosted in Chicago—was postponed and later canceled. However, both Stern and Schroeder said any programming hosted through the Alumni Relations office would not be af-



affected by the move. Stern said there is a possibility that the change of location would attract more speakers and events to the college.

"Moving over to the Semester in LA [building] might enhance the programming," Stern said. "We will have the space and maybe we will do more bringing in alumni speakers apart from the academic classes. I think there's more opportunity for events or collaboration by being there."

Similarly, Jon Katzman, executive director of the Semester in LA program, said that by having the

Alumni Relations office in the same building and down the hall from the program, it will allow for more efficient ways of communication for students to reach out to alumni which could then allow the Alumni Relations office to kick-start their careers.

"We'll be working very closely together to make sure students and alumni have the best possibilities they can have," Katzman said. "I think it's a great move. I'm very excited about it."

cdegen@chroniclemail.com

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The advertisement features a hand holding a smartphone displaying the GatherUp app interface. The app shows a 'CREATE EVENT' button and several event listings: 'DRINKS WITH FRIENDS', 'PRIMA EVENT KATE'S B-DAY PARTY', 'KIM & MATT'S WEDDING', and 'CITY NIGHT CLUB'. To the right, a map of Los Angeles shows various location pins for businesses like Topolobampo, Frontera Grill, Bottlefork, Bub City, Hubbard Inn, and Firecreek Donuts. The GatherUp logo is prominently displayed in the center.

Alum recognized for innovative company

KATLYN TOLLY
Contributing Writer

KYLE HELLER, a 2008 film + video alumnus, is the co-founder of start-up company Cinematique, an online screening platform that has been identified as one of the World's Top 10 Most Innovative Companies of 2015 in Video by Fast Company, a tech and design business publication.

Cinematique, a video-watching website and phone app in which a viewer is able to interact with footage by touching the items on the screen, was launched in 2013 with the mission of enhancing the cinematic experience using interactive video technology. Through the Cinematique platform, Heller

include behind-the-scene footage, information about the actors and the ability to purchase featured apparel, he said.

"[Cinematique] is meant to tell richer stories, keep audiences engaged in the content and evolve the cinematic experience," Heller said.

Cinematique was named No. 7 on Fast Company's list and was ranked among conglomerate companies such as Disney, Vimeo and Dish Network.

"[Being recognized] lets people open their eyes to the possibility of what this can be and how this can change experiencing video," Heller said. "This opens doors for us in terms of new customers or people realizing that we are here for business."

fashion partnerships because they are able to view which items are popular in their market, he said.

Cinematique has partnered with nearly 300 brands, including Louis Vuitton, Gucci, Stella McCartney, Kate Spade and Gap, and has contributors working from cities such as New York, Los Angeles and Hong Kong, according to Heller.

The company has recently launched its mobile app and plans to bring the interactive video experience to public spaces, Heller said.

"We believe in making this more available to people everywhere, pushing the boundaries to where this could be accessible and bringing the value to the viewers so that it's everything that they ever wanted at their fingertips," Heller said.

Heller said Columbia played a significant role in establishing his career because the college prepared him to be a professional by incorporating hands-on approaches and real-world scenarios into its curriculum.

"We are preparing well-educated students who are ready to go out and make their mark in the world in a very broad way, in both the creative industries and beyond," said Mark Kelly, vice president of Student Success. "[A successful student is] someone who has confidence, really



Courtesy KYLE HELLER

Kyle Heller's company, Cinematique, was listed as one of the world's most innovative video companies in 2015.

tested reality and knows that they have something to offer."

After much trial and error working with Los Angeles agencies, Heller said he became notably successful in the film industry in 2010 for establishing a commercial, film and production studio called Variant based in Los Angeles. Variant has produced more than 50 commercials, music videos and feature films. In the meantime, Heller said he was building Cinematique for nearly two years before its June 2013 launch.

Heller said he explored his innovative thinking by partnering with Randy Ross to create Cinematique, which Heller said has the ability to make the viewer feel deeply connected to a video.

"[Columbia] is not putting people out to compete for existing jobs," said Bruce Sheridan, chair of the Cinema Art + Science Department. "It puts people out to create new work, and Kyle is a great example of that."

chronicle@colum.edu

“**[Cinematique] is meant to tell richer stories.**”

— Kyle Heller

said viewers can select items of interest as they move across the screen without disrupting the video. Once the video is complete, the viewer has access to a personalized boutique of items, which may

Cinematique benefits manufacturers by giving them access to viewers' rankings, helping to identify the most-selected items, Heller said. This makes the interactive video experience appealing for

Fashion Study Collection goes after hours

JALEESA KEY
Contributing Writer

ALL COLUMBIA STUDENTS are welcome to swing by the temperature-controlled eighth floor vault in the Fashion Study Collection. It has added something new to the overall experience: Salons.

To allow students the opportunity to study and engage with designer garments, the Fashion Study Collection's curators have reinvented its After Hours sessions as salons, which take place in the resource center room on the eighth floor of the 618 S. Michigan Ave. Building from 10 a.m.–6 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month.

"I wanted to encourage more people to come in and use the collection," said Jacqueline WayneGuite, the collection's manager.

The Fashion Study Collection's vault has more than 6,000 pieces with the oldest garment dating back to the 1840s. When choosing garments, WayneGuite said she picks the ones that enhance the college's fashion curriculum, and sometimes even relies on faculty and student donations. The collection's committee votes on garments to add to the vault because space is limited.

Each salon will feature a different theme with coordinated garments, accessories, books and magazines from the collection, WayneGuite said. Past themes have included Latin designers,

outerwear styles and beaded jewelry, she said.

WayneGuite said she tries to keep the themes varied, making some of them fun and whimsical while others are history-based, construction-concentrated, or strictly designer-oriented.

Last month's wedding theme included classic wedding gowns from different decades along with

culture-inspired pieces, including an orange and gold screen-printed Japanese Uchikake kimono, a wedding dress from Afghanistan, a wool courthouse wedding dress from the 1940s and honeymoon ensembles.

WayneGuite said salon attendance may decrease throughout the semester depending on the types of assignments students do in class.

"Not every salon is going to appeal to everyone," WayneGuite said. "But I want to try to hit all of the different groups of our students."

Trevor Greig, a senior interdisciplinary journalism and fashion studies major and a student intern at the Fashion Study Collection, said students should utilize the collection to help complement their education.

"A lot of students really don't realize what we have in the collection," Greig said. "You can find anything in here from a classic Chanel skirt suit to a vest made out of seal gut."

Adreanna Tyson, a senior fashion studies major who volunteers in the Fashion Study Collection, shared similar sentiments and said she always uses her downtime to do her own research.

"I enjoy looking at all of the periodicals and books in the Fashion Study Collection," Tyson said. "That's going to help my designs and collections in the future. I even ask [WayneGuite] to pull some pieces for me."

WayneGuite said she hopes to add contemporary pieces, 3D printed garments and neoprene garments from Carolina Herrera's spring/summer 2015 collection in the near future. She said she has to narrow down her choices when adding to it because the collection is running on a small budget.

"We would love to have more contemporary pieces that are innovative examples of design housed in the Fashion Study Collection," WayneGuite said. "It depends if the right piece presents itself at the right price."

The next salon will be held March 11 from 10 a.m.–6 p.m. on the eighth floor in the 618 S. Michigan Ave Building. The theme is "Magnificent Mile."



Courtesy JALEESA KEY

Located on the eighth floor of the 618 S. Michigan Ave. Building, the Fashion Study Collection houses more than 6,000 garments that are resources for Columbia students.

chronicle@colum.edu

» **BUDGET**
Continued from Front Page

reduction will be mandated to simply cut costs. However, budget reductions could affect programs and staffing within the college.

“We have [a] duplication of services around schools and colleges,” Gates said. “We have things that we’re centralizing that while we’re going to reduce some [full-time employees], we expect to not only centralize the services, but also be able to provide better resources.”

Gates said she chose budget targets and gave them to the vice presidents who then decide how to meet those targets within their areas. Departmental access to the college’s

online budget system opened Feb. 19 and will remain open through March 11. This year’s budget-building process has been accelerated. Gates and Wearden plan to submit the budget to the Board of Trustees for approval in May, which is earlier than in previous years.

“[The accelerated budget-building process] is absolutely going to be challenging, but it’s challenging for the right reasons,” said Mark Kelly, vice president of Student Success. “We have some very hard work in front of us with many other competing responsibilities, but in the end it’s the right decision [and] I fully support it.”

To ease the burden of the budget’s preparation, Wearden and

Cindy Gonya, associate vice president of the college’s newly created Office of Budget, Planning & Analysis, will meet with department chairs through the end of the week of March 2 to discuss budgeting specifics. Additionally, Gonya will be available to provide assistance and fact-based resources to staff members having difficulties with their budget planning.

“The new [Office of Budget, Planning & Analysis] is there to help provide analysis and [to] support the provost, the schools and the college departments—administrative and academic—in looking at their budgets and trying to understand how they align with spending patterns,” Gates said.

Department chairs Tim Cozzens of the Art + Design Department, Steven Corey of the Humanities, History & Social Sciences Department, Onye Ozuzu of the Dance Department, Susan Imus of the Creative Arts Therapies Department and Carol Rozansky of the Education Department and Alicia Berg, vice president of Campus Environment, all declined to comment on the 2016 fiscal year budget-building process.

Wearden said that in addition to tackling the college’s deficit, he hopes the limitations placed on next fiscal year’s budget should allow for the reallocation of some resources to important areas of the college.

“We hope to free up some resources to address some of the

needs we have as a college, including needs to improve our facilities, to improve our technology and to give a merit pay increase to high-performing faculty and staff.”

Additionally, Gates said they do not plan on reducing the budget in areas of the college relating to upgrading and maintaining campus facilities and classrooms.

“[The new budget] will be beneficial in two ways,” Wearden said. “One [is] it will have us living within our means, but the other is that we’re making these cuts large enough so that they help us address some critical needs that we haven’t been able to address in quite some time.”

jwittich@chroniclemail.com

» **STAFF**
Continued from PG. 3

out a job description questionnaire that Mercer designed, which would ask them to provide detailed information about their job responsibilities. This includes what activities employees spend the majority of their time on, as well as detail what tasks they perform annually or periodically, Gates said.

“[The questionnaire] is fairly detailed, and obviously there’s some time that has to be committed to it, which we’re aware of,” Gates said. “There are several different points at which there’s an opportunity to look at the information and ask questions about it.”

Throughout February, the Office of Human Resources hosted infor-

mational sessions for the college’s employees and managers, which were intended to assist with filling out the questionnaire.

According to Gates, the questionnaire will go through several levels of review, beginning with direct managers and ending with the college’s vice president. Gates said the college is aware that this process is time-consuming for all parties.

“There are several other projects going on right now, so HR may need to be a little flexible on the final timeline,” Gates said. “The goal is for [the study] to be accurate for everybody’s sake.”

One of these projects could be the budget-building process for next school year, which requires department chairs—who often act as staff supervisors—to assist in budget cuts.

Despite these changes, Gates said the staff compensation study will not necessarily result in salary changes or job eliminations.

According to a memorandum of understanding between the college and the US of CC, which was issued on Nov. 6, 2013, there is no intention of reducing employee salaries as a result of the study or any new classification system.

“[The staff compensation study] is not something for staff to be afraid of,” Hoepfner said. “This is something that we are in favor of that was bargained for by the staff union, and it’s an attempt to bring some order and some proper compensation to the staff positions here at Columbia.”

svinton@chroniclemail.com

» **CHAIR**
Continued from PG. 3

Trigilio said he is excited about the new position and the chance to expand on the work Shenoda has already completed and that they will be working together this semester to make the transition smooth.

“I see what I’m doing as a continuation of what he’s already done,” he said. “I really have great respect for what he’s done, and I think he’s done an amazing job.”

Trigilio said the qualifications needed for a successful chairperson include having an extensive background as an administrator, and the search is being held both internally and externally by the college.

Shenoda said he thinks it would be a better idea to have an interim

chair from within the college community for now and bring in a permanent chair after the department has laid a more solid foundation.

“It’s perfectly appropriate to have interim leadership in a time of transition to create a foundation,” Shenoda said. “In terms of transition plans and leadership, it’s wise to do rather than bring someone in from the outside [who] doesn’t have as much of a history with the place.”

As a senior faculty member, Trigilio said he has no problems communicating and collaborating with other members of the department and cannot wait to start working with them as the interim chair.

“It will be really tense, hard work, but it will be exciting, too,” he said.

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Renegades soccer dominating the field

NANCY COOPER
Sports & Health Reporter

CAPTAIN WILL MONTES, a senior creative writing major, has been quietly rebuilding the Renegades' soccer team roster since last fall.

The rebooted team has been up and running for several weeks and has high hopes for a strong season this semester after narrowly missing qualifying for the championship last fall, according to Montes.

"[The team] came really close last year," Montes said. "We were one [win] out from the championship and we lost in a shoot out. This year, I want the team to win it all in this league."

The team competes in the Chicago Fire and Recreation league's eight-game season, which is different from the outdoor league they were involved with the last time around. The Renegades won their first two games 10-3 and 8-5, making them officially undefeated.

"It is looking a lot better than we looked last semester," said

Ryan Darbro, co-captain and music major. "I think we are going to do very well."

Darbro said playing with a fresh roster and in an organization such as the Chicago Fire and Recreation league is helping the team achieve its goal of finishing with a positive record. The team also prefers playing indoors as opposed to the outdoor league they were a part of last semester, he said.

"It is better than the outdoor

season in the fall," Darbro said. "That was more of a Sunday recreational league, and this is more competitive, and that is what I think the team was looking for."

Co-captain Nic Ten Grotenhuis, a freshman business & entrepreneurship major, said he got

involved with the team last fall because he played regularly in high school and wanted to continue the sport at Columbia.

"As a team, we probably want to be winning, but it's mostly for fun and for exercise," Ten Grotenhuis said. "Getting to know people on the team has been [great, too].

I met some people on the team last year that I started a band with, and

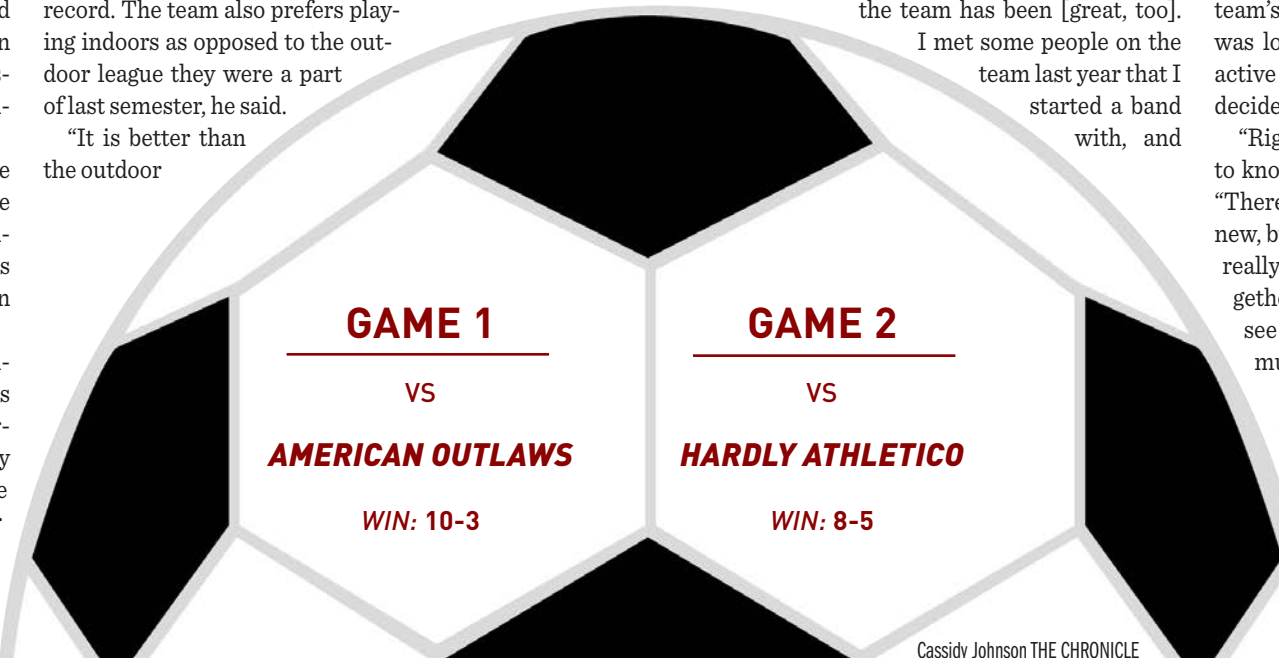
I thought that was pretty cool."

The league is a co-ed one and requires two female athletes to play every game in order for the Renegades to compete on a weekly basis, Montes said.

Halle Mariner, a junior cinema art + science major, is one of the team's female players. She said she was looking for a way to be more active at the college and ultimately decided to join the Renegades.

"Right now we are really getting to know each other," Mariner said. "There are a few people that are new, but knowing each other works really well. We work really well together as a team. I think I want to see that growing more, and communication is key."

Montes said the indoor soccer league plays with boards, meaning the ball never goes out of bounds, making the game more intense and competitive because the clock does not stop.



Cassidy Johnson THE CHRONICLE

» **SEE SOCCER**, PG. 13

Neurological basis for munchies now less hazy

ABBY SEITZ
Sports & Health Reporter

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN

marijuana and the sudden hunger smokers experience is a little less hazy thanks to researchers at Yale University. Researchers have discovered the neurological basis for "the munchies," or the increased appetite that occurs as a side effect of smoking marijuana. The study, published Feb. 18 on the journal Nature's website, found that when activated by marijuana, the neurons in the brain that typically suppress appetite trick the brain into thinking it is hungry, regardless of actual hunger.

"If those neurons are turned off in response to exposure to cannabinoids which are known to promote hunger, what we found was that it was the exact opposite of what we anticipated," said Tamas Horvath, lead author and professor of com-

parative medicine at Yale University. "These cells that would normally promote your fullness became the drivers of hunger. What happened is the cannabinoids flipped the brain circuit that governs eating and all of the sudden, the guy who is supposed to be the brake becomes the accelerator."

Researchers in the study injected the cannabinoid CB1—a type of lipid found naturally in the human body and in marijuana—into the brains of mice. Researchers discovered that CB1 prompted nerve cells, specifically pro-opiomelanocortin (POMC) cells, to secrete hormones that promote appetite, even though those cells typically secrete appetite-suppressing neurons. According to the study, when POMC activity was limited by researchers, the mice did not eat.

"The novelty is that you really flipped the [brain] circuits' function 180 degrees, which was not known before that," Horvath said. "That would be the underlying

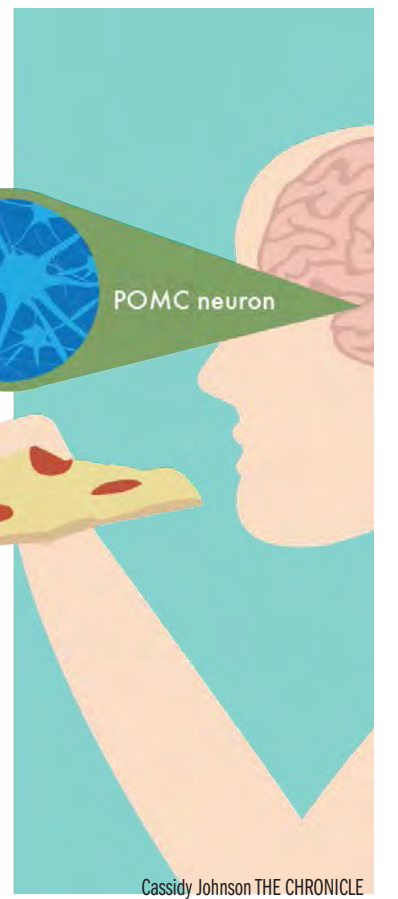
cause for overeating in response to cannabinoids once you are in a state of fullness."

If further research proves that the same is applicable to the human brain, Horvath said the findings could be used to develop novel methods of treating those afflicted with diseases that suppress appetite completely with medications.

"It suggests that when you are in situations where you have no appetite, such as cancer patients or HIV patients, that potentially you will have a novel avenue to make them eat and have them fight diseases," Horvath said.

Francesca Filbey, an associate professor at the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences at the University of Texas at Dallas who studies neural mechanisms, suggested that the study's findings could be used to treat weight-related issues.

» **SEE MUNCHIES**, PG. 13



Cassidy Johnson THE CHRONICLE

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| <p>MONDAY, MAR. 2</p> <p>Chicago Blackhawks vs. Carolina Hurricanes</p> <p>Time : 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Place : United Center</p> <p>Where to watch : CSNC</p> | <p>TUESDAY, MAR. 3</p> <p>Northwestern Wildcats vs. Michigan Wolverines</p> <p>Time : 8:00 p.m.</p> <p>Place : Welsh-Ryan Arena</p> <p>Where to watch : BTN</p> | <p>THIS WEEK IN SPORTS</p> <p>260612</p> | <p>THURSDAY, MAR. 5</p> <p>Chicago Bulls vs. Oklahoma City Thunder</p> <p>Time : 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Place : United Center</p> <p>Where to watch : TNT</p> | <p>SUNDAY, MAR. 8</p> <p>Renegades Soccer vs. Bakgat Without Borders</p> <p>Time : 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>Place : Private Bank Fire Pitch</p> <p>Where to watch : N/A</p> |
|--|--|---|--|---|



Hold my meniscus, they called me frail

HOW CAN TWO neighbors disappoint Chicago sports fans in two hours?

Blackhawks star Patrick Kane got shoved into the boards Feb. 24, fracturing his left clavicle. His neighbor, Chicago Bulls point guard Derrick Rose, reported knee pain that night and had an exam and MRI to confirm a medial meniscus tear.

As a Bulls fan and particularly a D. Rose fan, it was an "Are you kidding me?" moment when I got a text alerting me of the knee injury. I didn't believe it, so I looked into it myself. I wasn't about to be fooled. This inconvenient truth hit me like a bus swerving on the ice-covered Chicago streets.

But then I realized that this team was built to withstand a fall if it happened again. The Bulls have three other point guards on the team, so they do not need to find a replacement.

Rose is expected to return in four to six weeks after having his meniscus repaired Feb. 27. Having it repaired rather than removed means he might tear it (again) when he comes back (again), but he should focus on overcoming the injury mentally, not physically. Based on the current estimated return time, there will still be a few

regular season games left before the playoffs begin.

Bulls rookie and backup forward Doug McDermott, more commonly known as Dougie McBuckets, had knee surgery in December and came back this season. A knee injury isn't the end of the world or even the end of a player's season.

Still, if the Bulls are worried about having three point guards rather than four, then they might consider signing one of their former point guards—Nate Robinson. Nate the Great led the Bulls to a triple-overtime victory in the playoffs a couple seasons ago and showed that he is the sparkplug the Bulls need to overcome a deficit.

However, sticking with the point guards they have means more playing time for the remaining three. Aaron Brooks, Kirk Hinrich and E'Twaun Moore are all capable of running the floor, and all three have proved this season that they produce promising numbers given the minutes.

On a different note, the Bulls may be forced to play better defense now that they are without the at-will scoring that comes with having Rose on the court—they simply cannot outscore opponents without him. Reverting to coach



ABBAS HALEEM COPY CHIEF

Tom Thibodeau's defense-oriented style of play can keep the Bulls in the playoff picture.

In the long run, the Bulls need to continue to build their roster the way they did this season—making sure they have enough depth to be able to play through any injury plague the team may suffer. Keeping a surplus of point guards means they do not have to rely on Rose.

This Bulls team prepared to win with or without Derrick Rose, and although he is a great addition, basketball is ultimately a team sport. The team has a deep roster with blooming young stars and will prove to fans that no single injury will stop the stampede of success that is the Bulls.

ahaleem@chroniclemail.com

FEATURED ATHLETE

GABBY MAY

Sport: Gymnastics Team/School: UIC Flames



Courtesy GABBY MAY

ABBY SEITZ

Sports & Health Reporter

GABBY MAY, a senior English major at the University of Illinois at Chicago, is the captain of the women's gymnastics team. In addition to previously serving as a co-captain. May has been the UIC Female Student-Athlete of the Year for two straight years, as well as a member of the All-State and All-Conference academic team. May was also a member of Team Canada and won two bronze medals at the 2010 Commonwealth Games, an international competition between teams from the Commonwealth of Nations. A versatile athlete, May competes in all four events: vault, bars, beam and floor.

Having first enrolled in gymnastics classes at the age of 4, May has been competing ever since. Originally from Winnipeg, Canada, she heard about UIC and its gymnastics program from a former high school teammate. She fell in love with the college, city and atmosphere after touring the school. She graduates in May and wants to enroll in graduate school, hoping to stay in Chicago.

The Chronicle spoke with May about being a college athlete, handling her hectic schedule and her love for Chicago.

THE CHRONICLE: How did you get involved in gymnastics?

GABBY MAY: I saw some kids doing cartwheels in my schoolyard and I wanted to be able to do that, too, so I insisted that my parents sign me up for gymnastics classes.

What made you want to compete at the college level?

It's something that I've always wanted to do. I knew about it when I was 10 years old, and there were some other girls from my gymnastics club who had done it, and I just knew it was something that I would really enjoy.

What is the most challenging part of being a college athlete?

The most challenging part is balancing everything. We practice 20

hours a week. Plus, there's a full course load and having time for friends and being in touch with them. It can be difficult at times to get everything to work out in your schedule, but in the end, it's a challenge that I enjoy. I'm able to make it work for me.

What does a typical week entail for you?

Typically, I will go to class in the morning and then I will have an afternoon/early evening practice and then go home and study. Often, I wake up early to study in the morning and I do that on a Monday-to-Friday basis. When the weekend rolls around, it's a competition day one day of the weekend. The other day would be a study and catch-up day for me. I'm a very high-energy person, so I like being busy, and I don't mind not having a lot of downtime.

What is your favorite memory from your time as a gymnast?

I would say all of my very best memories are with my team. Whether we win or lose, we are a very close-knit team and they're some of my best friends. We have some great times together. We celebrate the victories and we share the defeats, and it's like a bond that I will never have again in my life.

Outside of gymnastics, what do you do for fun?

I love to read and write. Those are two of my big passions. I also like to cook as well. I try to do that as much as I can.

Why do you want to stay in Chicago after graduation?

I love the city and it feels like home now. I think I [was] always meant to be a big city girl. Winnipeg is not very big. I love the atmosphere and there's always something to do in Chicago. There are always so many different things going on. The city is a fast-paced environment that I really like.

aseitz@chroniclemail.com

WEEKLY WORKOUT



BEGINNER INTERMEDIATE ADVANCED

LOU FOGLIA

Senior Photo Editor

LUNGES ARE AN easy way to evenly tone and sculpt several muscles in the body. Working lunges into an exercise regimen can contribute to better balance and work critical parts of the body, such as the hips

and gluteal muscles. Keep from straining the joints by using the proper technique and posture in this exercise.

1. With the body vertical, face forward. Keep the chin raised and shoulders back.

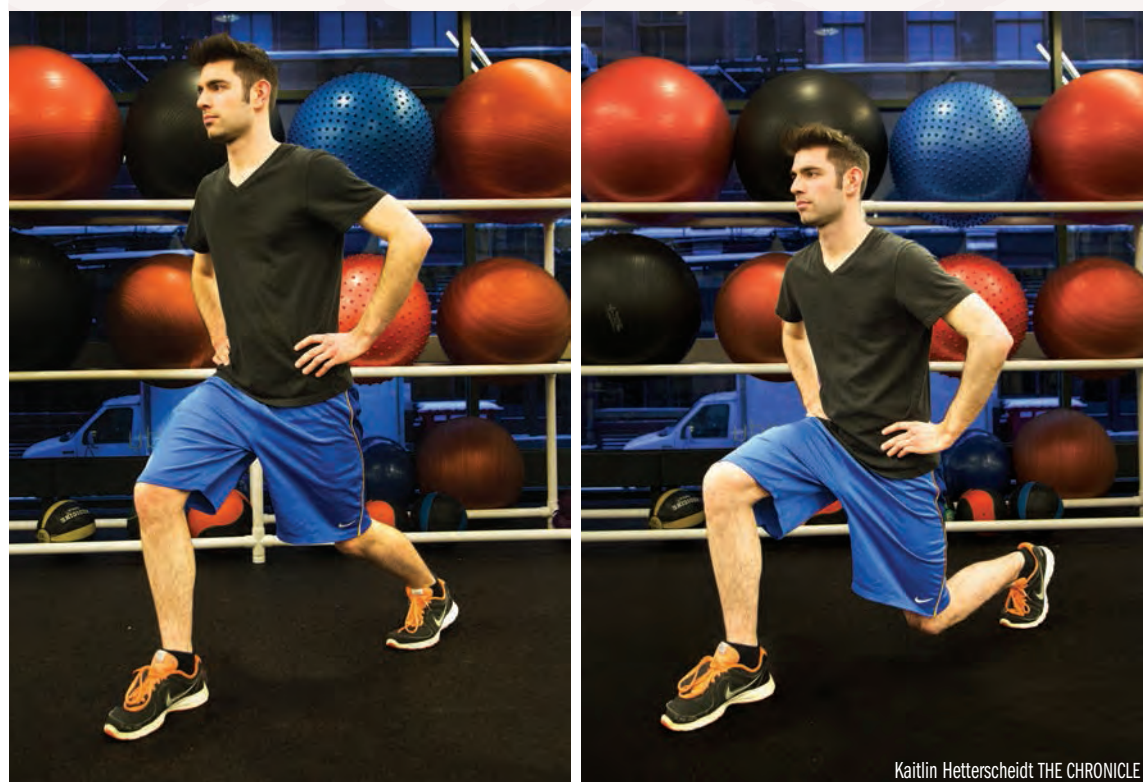
2. Carefully step forward with one leg. Keep facing forward and concentrate on posture while maintaining balance.

3. Gently lower the hips and bend the knees to a 90-degree angle. The knee should be level directly above the ankle of the extended leg.

4. Keep the back leg bent but away from the ground. Hold with steady breath.

5. Rise, straighten legs and gradually return to a vertical position.

lfoglia@chroniclemail.com



Kaitlin Hetterscheidt THE CHRONICLE

Utah air pollution linked to increased suicide risk

ABBY SEITZ & ELIZABETH KAIKAI
Sports & Health Reporter & Contributing Writer

IT HAS BEEN well established that exposure to air pollution can contribute to a range of health concerns such as respiratory inflammation, cardiovascular disease and cognitive impairment, especially in younger demographics. Research from the University of Utah has linked short-term air pollution exposure—as little as two to three days—to an increased risk of suicide, especially in male and middle-aged populations.

The study, published in the Feb. 12 edition of *The American Journal of Epidemiology*, found that Salt Lake City residents who committed suicide between 2000–2010 had experienced short-term exposure to nitrogen dioxide and fine particulate matter. Utah is considered part of America's western "suicide belt," as suicide rates are significantly higher in states such as Arizona and Nevada, compared to the rest of the nation.

Nitrogen dioxide is a toxic by-product of fossil fuels. Its presence in urban environments is primarily linked to automobile traffic and can trigger the formation of harmful secondary pollutants in the air, like ozone and particulate matter.

"Most of the population of Utah lives in mountain valleys," said Amanda Bakian, co-author of the

study and assistant research professor of psychiatry at the University of Utah. "We experience winter-time inversion, where air pollution gets trapped in our valley floors, and that's why we were particularly interested [in Utah]."

After reviewing the records of more than 1,500 local residents who committed suicide, researchers concluded that the suicide rate is 20 percent higher when an individual is exposed to increased levels of nitrogen dioxide in the days before their deaths. People aged 36–64 were 20 percent more likely to commit suicide after being exposed to nitrogen dioxide; the study also reveals that men are 25 percent more vulnerable than women.

"Our findings suggest that air pollution might contribute to suicide, but more research needs to be done to understand any causal links between air pollution and suicide," Bakian said. "More studies in different populations in different parts of the world would need to be done. Our next step is to actually understand what might be the underlying characteristics that make some people more vulnerable to air pollution exposure than others."

Bakian's prior research, published in April 2014, revealed a correlation between poor air quality and an increased suicide risk, whereas this study delved deeper into which populations are more



STOCK PHOTO

According to the American Lung Association, 19.4 million metric tons of nitrogen oxides are released into the air annually via manmade sources, such as burning fuels.

vulnerable. Researchers have hypothesized possible causes underlying the relationship between air pollution and suicide, including the physiological effects.

"Air pollution induces a hypoxic state," Bakian said. "A hypoxic state has an effect on one's brain chemistry and therefore can increase one's risk of suicide."

The link between air pollution and suicide risk is likely a correlation more than it is a cause, according to Beate Ritz, a professor of epidemiology at the University of California, Los Angeles.

"[The environment] does play a big role because humans have been—as all mammals are—in tune with the environment and react to the environment," Ritz said. "However, we are made to sustain a lot of impact without committing suicide, so it's really baffling that they find this correlation. For me, this is just correlation. We don't know if this is more."

More than 90 percent of those who commit suicide have a diagnosable mental illness, according to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. While suffering

from a mental disorder can contribute to suicide risk, other risk factors also make an individual more vulnerable to committing suicide.

"There are multiple chains involved with depression," said Mark Reinecke, a professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Northwestern University. "Genetics and biology definitely play a role, along with loss and environmental stress and certainly cognitive factors or the way that [individuals] look at the world."

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» **SOCCER**

Continued from PG. 11

"I forgot how fast indoor soccer is," Mariner said. "It's good, just a lot more fast-paced. We are out there for the entirety of the 28-minute periods and it's kind of difficult. We can't run too much because we don't want to get burned out and be exhausted for the rest of the game. I am trying to get used to that again."

Mariner said the male players are more competitive in their own way, and it would be nice to have other girls to diversify the competition.

Montes said bringing in more female players would help the Renegades achieve what is a main focus for him in the future: recruiting enough players to create a competitive recreational team.

"I just want the team to stay together so that it's not completely for new people," Montes said. "You have a core group of people so you can expand and make multiple teams. My goal is to have multiple teams in different leagues."

Mariner said the team is still accepting players interested in joining the team.

"We are a fun group of people," Mariner said. "We enjoy playing soccer for fun, but we also like to be competitive and win as well. We welcome everybody."

The Renegades play every Sunday and practice every Tuesday at 9 p.m. at the Flats at East-West University, 829 S. Wabash Ave.

ncooper@chroniclemail.com

» **MUNCHIES**

Continued from PG. 11

"One particular use this study could certainly have implications for is the mechanism that [scientists] could target for enhancing the positive effects of cannabis," Filbey said. "For instance, there has been a drug in Europe that has been used to try and suppress appetite in individuals that have problems with weight. In a way, this study could inform us how those mechanisms might be used for the same goal."

aseitz@chroniclemail.com

» **CHOLESTEROL**

Continued from Front Page

a waxy, fat-like substance naturally produced in the human body and found in cell membranes.

"The cholesterol molecule is one of the most important ones we have in our body," said Dr. Uffe Ravnskov, an independent investigator who has spent decades researching the link between diet and heart disease. "The highest cholesterol concentration is saturated in the brain—you can't think without producing cholesterol in the brain every second." "The highest cholesterol concentration is saturated in the brain—you can't think without producing cholesterol in the brain every second," Ravnskov added.

Ravnskov said he used to call the medical establishment's campaign against dietary cholesterol the "greatest medical scandal of

modern times," but the reasons for the long-standing vilification of saturated fat and cholesterol in the diet are complex and rooted in both human psychology and economics. Once an idea—like

the cholesterol-heart hypothesis—gains traction in the scientific community during the course of nearly 50 years, it can be a challenge for researchers to view

new data or the results of re-examined data in an unbiased light. It can also be difficult to garner funding for studies that call into question ideas that have existed for so long that they have become cemented in the minds of researchers as fact.

"One thing is for sure, [the cause of heart disease] is not cholesterol," Ravnskov said.

The journal *Open Heart* published a meta-analysis in December 2014 of all of the randomized controlled trials conducted prior to 1977 that were used as evidence for the original USDA cholesterol recommendations. Fergal Grace, a reader in physical exercise physiology at the University of the West

of Scotland and co-author of the study, said there had never been a re-evaluation of the data

that formed the basis of cholesterol's initial and enduring condemnation. "We're looking through a telescope, looking at the evidence available at that time," Grace said. "Having run [the analysis], it turns out that there was no effect really. It really sat on the zero line, and the zero line says it doesn't favor the control group or the intervention." Dietary studies in particular are notoriously difficult to run because they are conducted over long periods of time and many unsuspecting factors can influence the results. One of the major confounders is the goal of looking at the role a single nutrient can play in the body. For example, if a study participant is

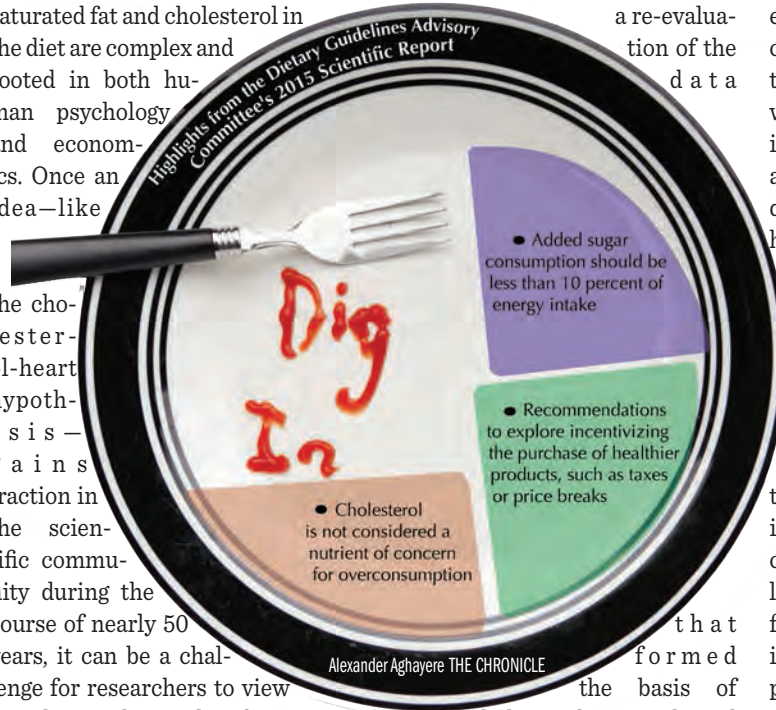
replacing fat with carbohydrates, or carbohydrates with proteins, total energy intake is not taken into account. The original thought behind the cholesterol-heart hypothesis was that cholesterol in food would increase cholesterol in the blood, and this would lead to greater risk of death from cardiovascular disease, he said.

"The best [data available showed] that there wasn't randomized controlled trial evidence that would support the introduction of the dietary guidelines," Grace said.

Lichtenstein said in addition to the new recommendations regarding cholesterol intake, the 2015 committee reviewed new scientific literature relating to coffee and caffeinated beverages as well as focusing heavily on consumers' dietary patterns. An emphasis was also placed on environmental sustainability in food production.

"We felt it was important to emphasize that one should always consider the whole dietary package and not just individual foods or nutrients," Lichtenstein said. "When one thing goes up in terms of food, something else goes down. Even if you consume the highest quality diet and it's in excess of energy needs, you will gain weight and you won't gain the benefit of those healthier choices. Whatever is said, it needs to be in the context of achieving and maintaining a healthy body weight."

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NOVICE



SOUS CHEF



GURU

Vegetable Shrimp Pasta

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups rotini pasta
- 1/2 cup chopped green onions
- 1/2 cup cherry tomatoes
- 1/2 cup bottled Alfredo sauce
- 1/2 cup fresh, shredded parmesan cheese
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 cup shrimp

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Saute shrimp for 7 minutes.
2. Boil pasta for 7 minutes or for recommended time on package. While the pasta is boiling, chop green onions and slice cherry tomatoes in half.
3. Once the pasta is done, strain the water, return pasta to the pot and add remaining ingredients.
4. Stir together for 3 minutes and serve.

FAVORITE RECIPES



Lou Foglia THE CHRONICLE

KATHERINE DAVIS
Associate Editor

PASTA IS A must for any true carb-lover. However, regular pasta consumers tend to forget to eat proteins and vegetables because most pasta dishes are just noodles and sauce. This dish, which includes shrimp, green onions, cherry tomatoes and an Alfredo cheese sauce, is great when I want to get my noodle fix and need adequate nutrition.

Start by sautéing the shrimp. I use medium-sized shrimp, but jumbo shrimp works, too. Shrimp is my favorite, but chicken and tofu are good protein substitutions, too.

Once the shrimp is done, set it aside and begin boiling water for the pasta. You can use any shape of pasta you prefer. I use rotini because the little grooves collect the cheese sauce, making each bite twice as good. I add olive oil and salt to the pot of boiling pasta for extra flavor, but that is optional.

While the pasta is boiling, chop the green onions and slice the cherry tomatoes. For those who do not like green onions or tomatoes, tasty substitutes include spinach, broccoli and bell peppers.

Once the pasta is done, strain the water, return pasta to the pot and add the remaining ingredients. Stir

together until cheese is completely melted and blended with the Alfredo sauce.

This recipe calls for a minimal amount of Alfredo. However, for a creamier dish, add up to a cup.

Make sure to serve this dish while it is hot. There is nothing worse than crusty pasta. Luckily, this dish can be refrigerated if you make too much or are planning to eat it later. It will taste just as good if it is microwaved. For students on the move who are addicted to pasta but need a source of protein and vegetables, this is a healthier option.

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BOTTLES



Theophilus London 'Can't Stop' Chicago

BAXTER BARROWCLIFF
Arts & Culture Editor

LIKE HIS 2014 album *Vibes!*, Theophilus London's Feb. 23 birthday performance at the Bottom Lounge, 1375 W. Lake St., was a melting pot of musical styles, sounds and vibes.

The Brooklyn-based rapper performed with a live band, an uncommon practice in the hip-hop world, but one that changed the venue's atmosphere for the better. London took the stage following Father, an Atlanta-based rapper best known for his song "Look at Wrist," who performed alongside his Mac-Book-powered backing band, which was just as exhilarating as it sounds.

London's performance followed suit with his unconventional style. His brand of hip-hop is sometimes referred to as alternative hip-hop or PBR&B, a nod to the beloved hipster beer, Pabst Blue Ribbon. London, donning mostly black street clothes—including his sunglasses—opened his set with the hypnotic track "Water Me." Standing center stage, peppered with blue light and posed behind a mic stand, he brought the audience a show that was part bass-thumping hip-hop, part guitar-driven rock and part sway-with-your-partner R&B slow jams. The start of his performance caught the audience off guard, with most attendees likely mistaking him for a roadie rather than the usually fashionable man they see in his music videos.



Nohemi Rosales THE CHRONICLE

Brooklyn-based musician Theophilus London celebrated his 28th birthday by playing the Bottom Lounge, 1375 W. Lake St., while touring for his 2014 album *Vibes!*

A more proper opening song took place immediately following "Water Me" when London performed "Can't Stop," the energetic fourth track from *Vibes!*, featuring Kanye West, the album's executive producer.

West himself did not make an appearance, but London's solo performance was enough to jumpstart the energy of the couple hundred fans who gladly sang along with the song's catchy hook, "Can't,

can't stop/ you can't stop my love/ Can't stop/ you can't stop my love."

London's album may not break a sales record, but the artist has cultivated an eclectic fan base, including college-aged hip-hop aficionados

wearing the latest gear from Stussy and bounced their outstretched arms alongside aging hipsters.

London's show happened to be on the same day as his 28th birthday, something the Trinidadian rapper did not hesitate to share with his fans, often running to his laptop on the side of the stage to play a song to celebrate. The crowd even honored London by singing "Happy Birthday," much to his enjoyment.

London made it a point to interact with his audience. When leading into "Do Girls," London requested that everyone get as loud as possible, but when they failed to do so, he stopped the band and said, "Hold up, hold up. That's not right. They're not loud enough," and started again, giving the audience more explicit instructions.

London allowed a handful of female audience members to go on stage and pose with him as he performed. He also granted the Chicago audience the pleasure of meeting an attractive young lady he referred to as his girlfriend by bringing her center stage between songs.

Transitioning from his extensive variety of songs, both new and old, London's energy increased throughout the performance to the point of emitting high-pitched shrieks during the musical breaks of his songs and even hitting the drummer's cymbals with his own drumstick. London's singing kept

» SEE LONDON, PG. 27

Latina writers to discuss immigration, Chicago literature

GINA SCARPINO
Arts & Culture Reporter

AS A PRECURSOR to its spring programming, the Chicago Humanities Festival, an organization dedicated to bringing humanities into daily life, is holding an event featuring author Cristina Henríquez and local poet and director Coya Paz on March 18 at the Instituto Cervantes of Chicago, 31 W. Ohio St.

Henríquez is the author of "The Book of Unknown Americans," a novel that follows two Latin American families as they migrate to the U.S. and move to Delaware. Henríquez said the concept for the book started by using lines of language and a story.

"I was inspired by this idea that my dad, who was an immigrant from Panama, came to the United

States in 1971," Henríquez said. "He has a very ordinary story, but to me, that's why it was an important story.... I thought it would be nice to tell not exactly his story, but stories like his of ordinary immigrants who are coming to the country for many different reasons."

Henríquez said she was focused on developing the characters and providing emotional attachments for the readers while she was crafting "The Book of Unknown Americans," rather than solely focusing on immigration.

"I knew writing about immigrants was in some way writing about immigration, but to me, they're different things," Henríquez said. "I wanted to write about the human stories behind the policies and behind the system that is immigration. When I thought of it in that

micro way instead of a macro way, it was really helpful and much easier to be able to get through writing the book."

Paz, the festival's second featured speaker, was raised in five South American countries before permanently moving to the U.S. in 1987. Her immigration and experience in different cultures impacted her writing in many ways, she said.

"Any time you have a transnational experience, whether it's visiting another place or living in another place and having to adapt to living in a new place, [it] gives you a productive sense of strangeness," Paz said. "You're able to see how a country or place is working in a way that's not always visible when you grow up in it."

» SEE CRISTINA, PG. 27

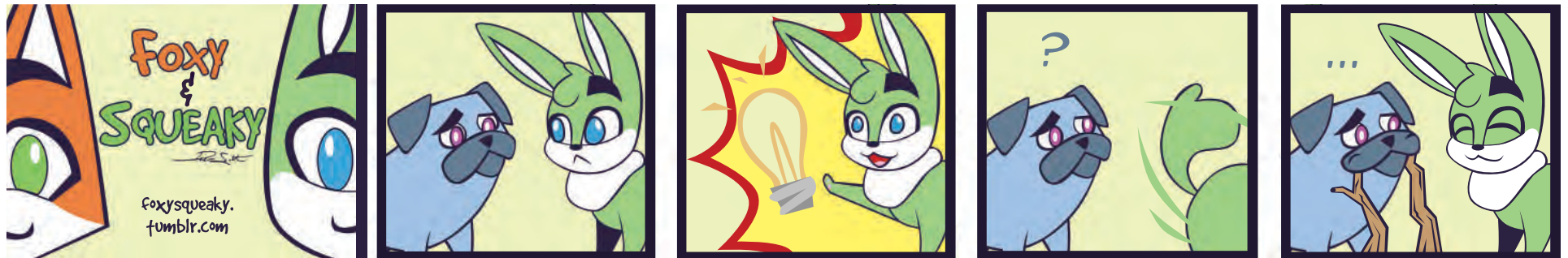
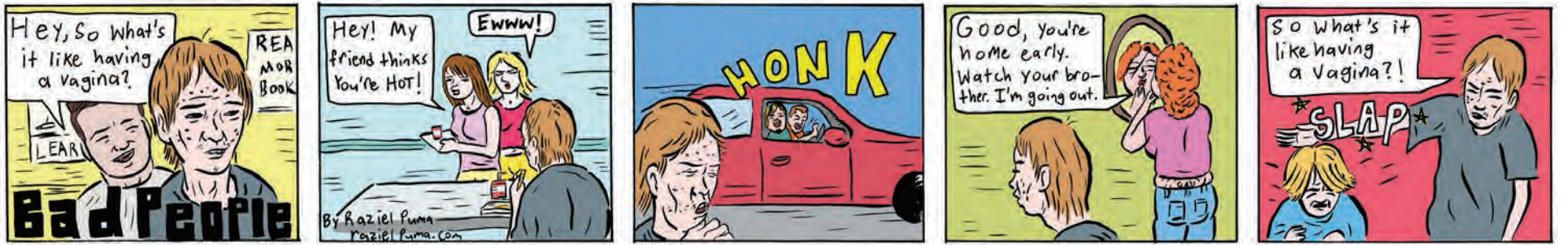


Courtesy MICHAEL LIONSTAR

The Chicago Humanities Festival will be holding a panel discussion with Cristina Henríquez (above) and Coya Paz on March 18 in the auditorium in the Instituto Cervantes of Chicago, 31 W. Ohio St.

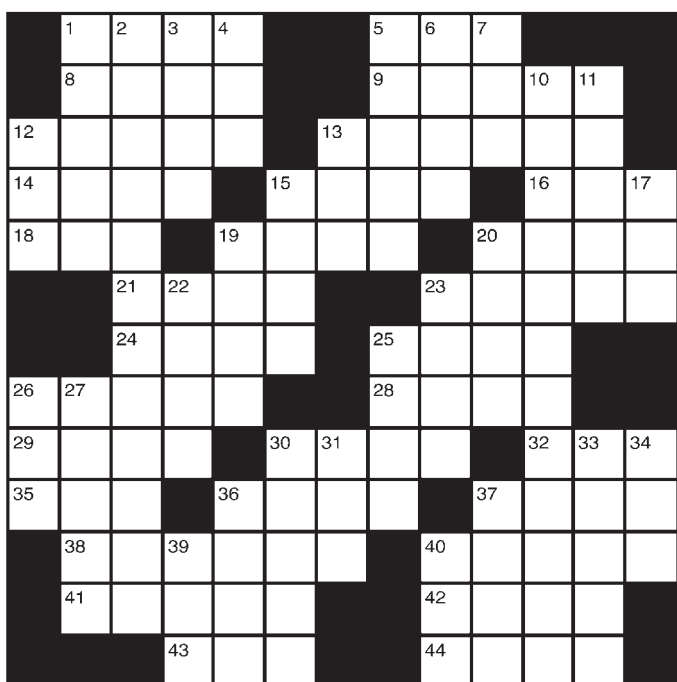
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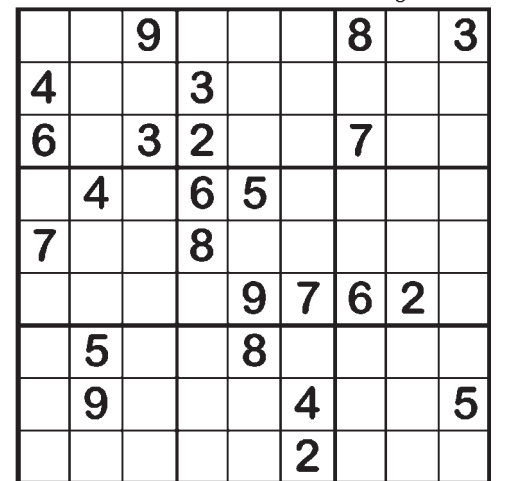
- 1 "___ Trek: Deep Space Nine"
- 5 "Not ___ Stranger"; Frank Sinatra movie
- 8 "The ___ Red Line"; film for Sean Penn and Nick Nolte
- 9 Actor and director ___ Lee
- 12 Drinks for Norm on "Cheers"
- 13 Tooth coating
- 14 "A Farewell to ___"; Gary Cooper movie
- 15 Robert ___ of "The Sopranos"
- 16 Actor Diesel
- 18 "___ Given Sunday"; Pacino film
- 19 Long-running Broadway musical
- 20 Judy Garland's eldest
- 21 Male deer
- 23 O'Brien of late-night TV fame
- 24 Oz visitor
- 25 Severeid or Stoltz
- 26 Dunne or Castle
- 28 Sitcom for Alan Alda
- 29 "___ Poppins"
- 30 "___ & Dumber"; Jim Carrey film
- 32 Mornings, for short
- 35 "What Kind of Fool ___?"
- 36 ___ Ramirez of "Grey's Anatomy"
- 37 "See ___ Run"; movie for David Arquette
- 38 Composer Irving ___
- 40 Jon Provost's role on "Lassie"
- 41 Grouch of "Sesame Street"
- 42 Actor Sandler
- 43 "Judging ___"
- 44 Declare to be untrue

DOWN

- 1 Isaac or Howard
- 2 "___ of Laura"
- 3 Broadcasts
- 4 Hosp. floor supervisors, usually
- 5 Lou Grant's portrayer
- 6 Practice for a boxing match
- 7 Shoot carefully
- 10 Actor on "Person of Interest"
- 11 Audrey Hepburn's role in "My Fair Lady"
- 12 Lamb's cry
- 13 Alan Cumming's role on "The Good Wife"
- 15 "Othello" villain
- 17 Fabray, to friends
- 19 "10 Things I ___ About You"; Heath Ledger movie
- 20 "___ & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman"
- 22 Randall or Danza
- 23 Grumpy person
- 25 Actress Samms
- 26 "___ Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!"
- 27 Title role for Sylvester Stallone
- 30 Place where milk is produced
- 31 "Ode on a Grecian ___"
- 33 "I Saw ___ Kissing Santa Claus"
- 34 Pig's home
- 36 Close noisily
- 37 "West ___ Story"
- 39 TV brand
- 40 Just a ___; somewhat

Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.



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DIFFICULTY: ★★★★★



Answer to Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 3 |
| 4 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 2 |
| 6 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 4 |
| 9 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 8 |
| 7 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| 5 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 1 |
| 2 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 7 |
| 3 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 5 |
| 8 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 6 |

'Videos 4 U' series helps people speak their minds



Courtesy WILL KANELLOS

The first video of the "Videos 4 U" series titled "I Love You" includes a couple who has been dating for eight years that finally works up the courage to say "I love you."

SPENCER HALL
Arts & Culture Reporter

COMMUNICATION IS DIFFICULT enough among strangers, but is especially so when dealing with saying something as simple as "I love you."

The popular WBEZ radio program "This American Life" has partnered with filmmaker Bianca

Giaever and New York production company "m ss ng p ces," to allow people to better communicate through their new web series, "Videos 4 U," in which Giaever makes customized video shorts for people who have something they need to say to someone.

Giaever, who gained recognition for her student films "Holy Cow

Lisa" and "Scared Is Scared"—which was named USA Today's "Best Web Video of the Year" in 2013—came up with the idea after moving to New York after college.

"It was not always as planned out as it is now," Giaever said "I didn't always know what the story would be—that depended on what people wrote in about."

The films include the people who submitted their stories to be featured in the personalized shorts. The first video, posted Feb. 12 to the "This American Life" blog, called "I Love You," is about a couple who spent eight years together but never said the words.

The video includes much of Giaever's distinct style, which caught the eye of "m ss ng p ces" founder Ari Kuschnir when he saw her film "Scared Is Scared" in 2013. Kuschnir said he wanted to work on a project with Giaever because of her distinct directing style.

"Bianca is one of the best examples of, 'Here's somebody that didn't even start off as a filmmaker,'" Kuschnir said. "[She] comes from the world of radio producing and [her] stories work, first as audio, then as video. That's pretty powerful when you can do that."

By blending her radio and filmmaking talents, Giaever had the chance to work with "This American Life" for a radio story, which ultimately led to her working relationship with host Ira Glass and the "Videos 4 U" web series.

"I worked with them on some radio stories and talked to them about possibly doing an internship," Giaever said. "Then I ran into Ira [Glass] at a dance performance and pitched him these ideas."

For Kuschnir, whose company works mostly on branded content, "Videos 4 U" is a dream come true.

"When I came to the U.S. [from Colombia] in '99 to go to film school, the two main things I discovered that were incredibly influential were 'This American Life' and 'The Daily Show,'" Kuschnir said. "They informed me in different ways in the context of what I missed or what life was like in the U.S. It was like catching up in a way."

Will Kanellos, an editor for the video production company and the "Videos 4 U" series, said this series is a passion project for everyone involved with the series.

"It was incredible to see how people rallied around it and wanted to help us," Kanellos said. "I think having such an interesting story and this strange opportunity to help somebody in such a personal way helped inspire a lot of the passion behind this."

Kuschnir said he wanted to work on a project that connected deeply with people because there are so many meaningless videos on the Internet, and he said he thinks this does just that.

"There's a lot of s--t on the internet," Kuschnir said. "So the best you can hope for is to just make little meaningful pieces that connect with people. We already have a couple thousand views. I call those meaningful hits. I know every one of those really counts, and that's part of what keeps me going."

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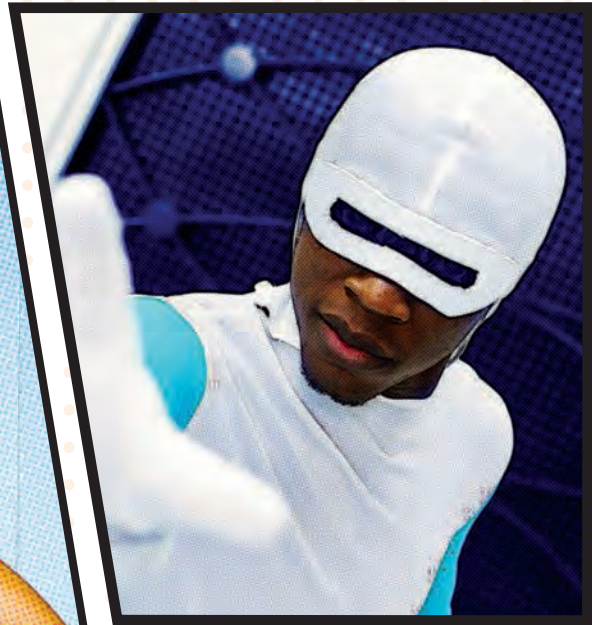
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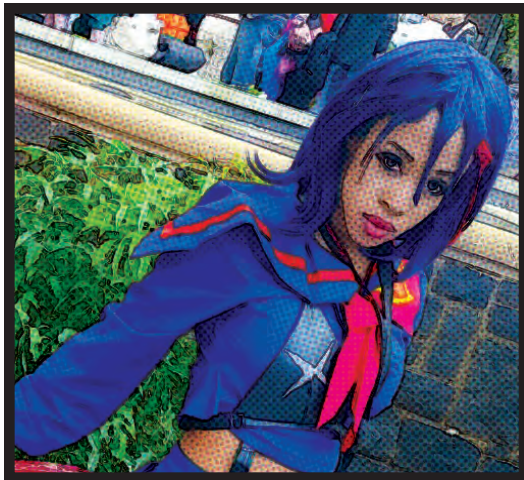
THE WORLD OF BLACK COSPLAY

**DISCRIMINATION, REJECTION,
INVISIBILITY OF THE BLACK
COSPLAYING COMMUNITY**

*Written by Jacob Wittich, Campus Editor
Designed by Andrea Cannon, Senior Graphic Designer*



Photos Courtesy of Tiffany Adams, Robin Angelique, Johnathan Green, Jessica Kennan, Katreia Lux, Cristol McMillian, Jibrii Ransom, and Krissy Victory



Krissy Victory, a junior theatre major from Saginaw Valley State University in Michigan, poured money, sweat and tears into crafting the perfect costume for Midoricon 2014, an annual anime-themed convention in Oregon, Ohio.

Victory is an avid cosplayer—someone who dresses up and acts like a fictional character. In preparation for the convention, she recreated Madoka, a popular character from Puella Magi Madoka Magica, an anime and manga series about a group of girls who battle witches.

Victory's costume was well-received at the convention. Other cosplayers complimented her outfit, praising her ability to recreate the original character's look. She garnered accolades for her costume's hand-stitching and for her vibrant pink hairstyle with giant pink, silky ribbons.

Her photos as Madoka became some of her most popular on social media platforms, receiving praise similar to what she drew at the convention.

It was a nasty shock for Victory when her photo was posted to a website with a caption saying "n---rs can't do cosplay because of their dark skin tone and they ruin characters because of how they look."

The website, which is managed by a young white man, continued to attract criticism of Victory's portrayal. Madoka, like most anime and manga characters, is white, while Victory is black.

The post revealed a silent truth about the racism in cosplay that stems from a group of people who believe ethnic portrayals of white characters ruin it. Dozens of people made comments about Victory's race.

The revelation isn't a new one but rather a recurring theme in the cosplay community.

"Every time I see something about myself, it's never, 'Her cosplays are bad' or, 'It's poorly constructed,'" Victory said. "It's always about my skin tone. 'She's too dark for that cosplay' or, 'It doesn't look good on her because she's black.' It hurts my feelings. It's rude and inconsiderate."

Cosplay, a term derived from the words "costume" and "play," is a common practice within fandom communities in which members dress as their favorite characters from an anime series, TV show, comic or video game and identify as that character. Cosplay is a way of expressing admiration for a character and having a good time with friends who have similar interests, Victory said.

Most commonly, cosplay is a staple at anime and fandom conventions, but people might also cosplay for other occasions, such as small group gatherings, club meetings and movie screenings.

"There are a lot of games, movies and music that [inspire me] and the fantasy of wanting to be those characters, [which] I am able to do in cosplay," Victory said. "It's a piece of art to me. It's like an art form of you being someone else."

Despite fellow cosplayers being united by similar interests and the hobby's strong focus on creativity, the type of discrimination black cosplayers face for dressing as white characters is not uncommon. It happens online and in person at convention centers and other cosplay gatherings.

Andre Duval, a sophomore music major, started cosplaying in 2012 when he attended Anime Central, an annual anime convention held in Rosemont,

Illinois, and learned very quickly that the community was not always supportive of black cosplayers.

"I was cosplaying Nightwing, who is [Batman's] first Robin," Duval said. "I heard all kinds of stuff walking from the convention center like, 'Oh look, it's Blackwing,' or, 'It's N---rwing!'"

Another issue black cosplayers face is watching white people do blackface to cosplay as black characters. One such incident caused a social media frenzy in October 2014 when a cosplayer in Germany went blackface in order to look like Michonne, a character from "The Walking Dead."

Harry Crosland, a government systems analyst from Largo, Maryland, said he was initially offended when he saw the girl's cosplay of Michonne, but after talking to her about why she did it, he understood she meant no harm.

"She didn't know it was offensive [to do blackface] and she had a very huge love of the character as well, but the general idea for anybody is before you consider doing such a thing you have to know your audience and know the other people's culture," Crosland said.

man, Superman or Captain America," Wilson said. "I didn't know it was going to be socially acceptable for me to be a character of another race."

To increase visibility of the black cosplay community and highlight some of the issues that black cosplayers deal with, Chaka Cumberbatch, known as Princess Mentality Cosplay by her peers, started #28DaysOfBlackCosplay, a movement throughout the month of February in which various black cosplayers were highlighted every day through Twitter and Facebook.

According to Crosland, who helped organize #28DaysOfBlackCosplay, the movement was created as a celebration of Black History Month and has received an overwhelming amount of support from the cosplay community.

"What we wanted to do with this movement was to show that there are people out there of color who cosplay as characters regardless of who or what they are," Crosland said. "It's really done a lot for people in the community."

#28DaysOfBlackCosplay is an important movement because it gives visibility to black cosplay-

#28DaysOfBlackCosplay is generally viewed as a positive movement within the black community, but Kennan said there has been a counter reaction in which some people don't understand why a similar hashtag does not exist to celebrate white cosplayers.

"They feel that black cosplayers or black people are being sensitive and say, 'Well, you don't see us having a special day,'" Kennan said.

However, #28DaysOfBlackCosplay is important because black cosplayers go largely unnoticed, and the movement seeks to give black cosplayers more visibility so they can be incorporated into the cosplay community, according to Kennan.

"I've heard that it's helped people's kids to see blacks in a positive light because when you look at the media out there, you don't have a lot of positive [portrayals] of black imagery," Crosland said.

There are very few superheroes or characters in pop culture that are black, and showing that black people can cosplay as white heroes helps to increase the amount of positive portrayals of black people, Crosland said.

According to Joan Miller, a graduate student in performance theory at New York University's Tisch School of Theater, black cosplaying can highlight issues of racial politics in media representation.

"Cosplay is one of the ways in which we can create a dialogue between media consumers

and media producers," Miller said. "[Black cosplay] is a way of generating media images that are generally not produced. It's a good way to enter into dialogue and to show people who have the power and the means of production that these are the kinds of images we want to see and that we deserve representation."

Jill Thompson, a comic book creator who has worked on many popular characters including Wonder Woman, said she sees nothing wrong when people of other races cosplay as her characters and is instead delighted that somebody would identify with her characters enough to dress as them.

Additionally, she said she would like to see more diverse characters of varying backgrounds and ethnicities portrayed in popular comics, but only if the diversity comes naturally and is not forced for the sake of seeming diverse.

"People tend to write what they know, and I would rather have things accurately portrayed," Thompson said. "If they are just shoved in there and don't really bring anything to the story, then no, I don't want to see that."

There is a shortage of black artists and writers in major comic companies such as Marvel and DC, Crosland said. Introducing a more diverse pool of superheroes and characters starts with hiring more diversity among their creators, he said.

"It's not just people of color—it's women, people from other cultures [and other backgrounds]," Crosland said. "Every group of minority people needs more representation because when you go to these conventions, you mostly have white male creators in there, and when you have young kids looking at their favorite superheroes, they get more attached when they see someone that looks something like them."

jwittich@chroniclemail.com

"Every time I see something about myself, it's never, 'Her cosplays are bad' or, 'It's poorly constructed.' It's always about my skin tone."

— Krissy Victory

Victory said it is important to put an end to discrimination against black cosplayers because there are a lot of black people interested in cosplay who are too afraid to participate because they do not want to be subjected to racial slurs or harassed for the cosplay characters they choose.

"We are very overshadowed, which is unfortunate, because of our skin tone," Victory said. "A black cosplayer can do the exact same cosplay as a white cosplayer, but by the end of the day it's always going to be the white cosplayer that gets more recognition."

Additionally, black cosplayers struggle to seek visibility at convention centers. When they are not being criticized for cosplaying as characters of a different race, black cosplayers are often ignored for their costumes, and photographers and other convention attendees will pass them up on photo opportunities, Victory said.

"Photographers sometimes don't work with people because of their race," Victory said. "We get photographers saying they don't want to work with [our] skin tone because it wouldn't look good in their portfolios."

Michael Wilson, a deputy sheriff at the Mahoning County Sheriff's Office in Youngstown, Ohio, has been cosplaying for nearly four years. He said it is important to put an end to discrimination against black cosplayers because it can discourage black people with an interest in cosplay from participating in the hobby.

Wilson said he first became interested in cosplay in 2011 when he decided to make his own costume for Halloween. Wilson opted to be the John Stewart Green Lantern, who is a black representation of the Green Lantern.

"One of the reasons I chose him was because I didn't know it was socially acceptable to be Bat-

ers who might not otherwise receive it, Wilson said. This exposes black cosplayers to other cosplayers in the community who are experiencing similar feelings and struggles, allowing them to meet each other.

Wilson said it was not until he saw other black cosplayers that he felt more comfortable cosplaying as characters of other races, and he said he hopes the movement could have the same effect on other black cosplayers.

"If one person happens to be scrolling through Twitter, sees the hashtag, clicks it and sees that [cosplay] is really cool and they can do it, too, then mission accomplished," Wilson said.

Jessica Kennan, a sales associate at Victoria's Secret who has been cosplaying for 14 years, said the #28DaysOfBlackCosplay movement is important because it can encourage black children from low-income families to participate in cosplay as a creative outlet that can serve as an alternative to getting involved in illegal activities.

"For myself, cosplay was a place for me to get away from the streets [where] there was drugs, prostitution and other things to get into," Kennan said. "It's something else to absorb yourself in when your neighborhood doesn't have a playground because there's drug dealers down the street."

Teaching black children that they are allowed to participate in cosplay develops positive role models for them in the heroes they dress up as, rather than looking up to the negative influences that might be present in their neighborhoods, Kennan said.

Painter creates creatures to make something of nothing

GINA SCARPINO

Arts & Culture Reporter

ARTIST JESY GROSE lives in a world filled with mystical creatures, and that playfulness shows in her “Mystic at Heart” show at the AdventureLand Gallery, 1513 N. Western Ave., which ran through Feb. 28.

Grose said “Mystic at Heart” has been in the works for about a year now. Although the process of putting the show together was sporadic, she manifested her ideas and focused her energy entirely on the show. Perry Casalino, co-director of AdventureLand Gallery, said Grose’s humorous works fit right in with the young and rising artists who are usually showcased at his gallery.

“A lot of [the art we show] is works on paper or smaller-sized works since we have a smaller gallery,” Casalino said. “[Grose] fits our look and style for the kind of art we show.”

Growing up in rural Illinois, Grose said her art is heavily influenced by real and imaginary creatures, which she uses to expose the wishful ideals of her childhood and bring a sense of playfulness to her art.

“What it means [to expose the ideals of my childhood] is that I use a lot of Band-Aids, spiders and birds dressed like Ws and signifying their playfulness or just how a Band-Aid can represent an ouch,” Grose said. “I saw just how much I was putting

into the art that was me and not just about the creature itself. It’s also about seeing other people as wild creatures.”

Through commenting on Grose’s work, artist Jesse Achramowicz, who works at the AdventureLand Gallery, said her art is filled with both spirituality and humor, which helps her pieces stand out from the rest.

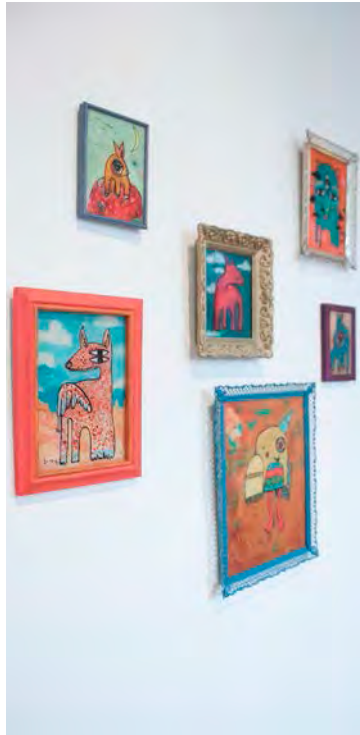
“[Grose] paints on glass and she finds the glass that she paints on herself,” Achramowicz said. “She doesn’t buy the frames either. She scavenges for them, which fits the whole theme of her work. She’s into making something of nothing. The whole imaginary world she’s created is kind of spiritual.”

Achramowicz said it was a pleasure to work on the “Mystic at Heart” exhibit with Grose because she is open about the inspiration behind her artwork.

“[Grose] is an interesting person because she lives in this world of her own,” Achramowicz said. “The more you hear her talk about her pieces, the more her pieces come to life because there’s this faith and belief that she has associated with her work.”

Achramowicz also commended Grose for bringing people into her own personal world through exposing viewers to the creative process behind her art.

“A lot of her creatures are actually real characters in her head and they have roles they play,” Ach-



Gina Scarpino THE CHRONICLE

Chicago-based artist Jesy Grose makes something of nothing by painting real and mythical creatures on glass and using salvaged picture frames as borders for the paintings.

ramowicz said. “Some artists are more shy and don’t really bring you into their world like [Grose] does.”

Creatures have greatly influenced Grose’s art in simple ways that came naturally, she said. When she first started creating art, she was not seeing this use of mythical creatures being used in other works of art in general, she said.

“These creatures are coming from me, so there is this sense of excitement [where I realize this] creativity is flourishing from me,” Grose said. “I feel like I’m tapping into something that’s higher—My

love for Bigfoot and exploring my mind about what these mystical creatures are and where they come from. I want to tap into that realm of how they exist and then how my creatures can exist.”

While walking through her exhibit, Grose said she wants visitors to the exhibit to expand their perception of what crossed her mind while she was creating the pieces.

“[‘Mystic at Heart’ is] an idea for the viewers to be in the moment,” Grose said. “I want people to bring out more [childlike tendencies] within themselves.”

Achramowicz said she hopes viewers feel like they have entered Grose’s world when they walk into her exhibit.

“Sometimes people go to see art and they express feelings of not understanding what the work is about,” Achramowicz said. “[When visitors the pieces,] I want them to feel like they walked into this person’s world filled with these creatures and be able to walk away and feel inspired, like they saw something they wouldn’t normally see.”

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IMDb

Taika Waititi, Jonathan Brugh and one half of the comedy duo "Flight of the Conchords" Jemaine Clement star as vampires learning to deal with the mundane modern world in the vampire film "What We Do in the Shadows," which was released in the U.S. after a crowdfunding campaign.

'What We Do in the Shadows' a bloody good watch

VANN FULFS
Film Critic

THE INEVITABLE STRING of vampire comedies has a long list of failures: Nicolas Cage's ill-conceived "Vampire's Kiss," Eddie Murphy's hack job "Vampire in Brooklyn," the "Scary Movie" creators' "Vampires Suck" and, most recently, Tim Burton's lukewarm "Dark Shadows." Fortunately, a group of plucky New Zealanders get it right in the off-kilter mockumentary "What We Do in the Shadows."

In the film, co-written and directed by one half of the comedy duo Flight of the Conchords Jemaine Clement and the actor Taika Waititi, the two come together to create a montage style well-suited to fit their comedy technique. The film adaptation from the cult TV series

of the same name has been fleshed out and polished into a clever 86 minutes. A patchwork of sketches without much of a plot to them, "What We Do in the Shadows" plays like a top-shelf episode of "The Office," giving an unexpected sentimentality to the bloodsuckers. With the freedom to rebound from failed jokes with cuts and tight editing, the uncomfortably witty pace marches forward without much narrative shackle.

The film takes place in a sketchy flat in Wellington, New Zealand, or "Wellington" as Taika's character Viago pronounces it. Viago calls his roommates for a house meeting regarding the dishes that have not been done in half a century. Able to cope with the vampire life, the flatmates struggle with mundane tasks in a rapidly progressing

world—paying rent, keeping up with the chore wheel and getting into nightclubs. The last of these problems is solved when their recent victim-turned-vampire, Nick (Cori Gonzalez-Macuer), joins the fraternity. Nick aids the group in a conquest for blood and ladies while learning the ways of a true vampire.

Nick challenges the group's dynamic while trying to fit within their culture. "Bat fight!" they scream as the flatmates claw at each other's throats in midair, fighting for the self-titled position of "group bad boy." Nick's premature initiation also draws attention from police and vampire hunters, causing the death of their downstairs neighbor. Demanding justice, the house shouts at him, "Shame, shame, shame," kicking him out for an eternity as the vampire code de-

mands. Nick walks away and asks, "So I'll come back tomorrow?"

The improvisational tone is not an accident—most of the skits were done with a skeleton-like dialogue that relies heavily on the actors filling out the meat of the scenes. The actors are sincere in their uncomfortable conversations and genuinely tragic in moments of failure. After Viago's botched murder, blood-spattered and defeated, he shrugs and says, "Well, at least she had a good time."

Instead of evil murderous vampires living in a dark and stormy castle, the film presents a group of silly dorks living in a crappy flat. The premise is slapped down in the first 15 minutes and hilarity ensues. They get into trouble with the local werewolf gang who treat their werewolfism like a 12-step

recovery program. "We are werewolves, not swearwolves," affirms the alpha werewolf Anton, played by the hilarious Rhys Darby. Taika avoids his long-lost lover who, now 94, awaits their long-lost date. Vladislav fumes over the aftermath of his relationship with his ex-girlfriend The Beast. The protagonists' hijinks rack up more than an hour of footage edited together like a loose sketch show.

For a film that was only screened in the U.S. after being funded through crowdsourcing, it overcomes the disconnect between horror and comedy in vampire films. With a modern approach and amusing ensemble, "What We Do in the Shadows" is an entertaining way to spend an evening.

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**THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT CARTOONS IS
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AUDIOFILE

Nashville's Moon Taxi rides through thriving Music City

SPENCER HALL
Arts & Culture Reporter

THROUGHOUT THE LAST several years, Nashville, Tennessee, has become one of the most prolific rock scenes in the U.S.

With musicians like Jack White and The Black Keys migrating to the "Music City" in the last decade, Nashville has transformed from the Honky Tonk capital of America to a leader in today's rock music. Tennessee-native band Moon Taxi has been there since the revival began.

After vocalist Trevor Terndrup, guitarist Spencer Thomson, keyboardist Wes Bailey, bassist Tommy Putnam and drummer Tyler Ritter formed the band in 2006 at Belmont University in Nashville, Moon Taxi grew into one of the most talked about bands in town. It has played the Bonnaroo stage and soldout shows across the country since releasing its debut album, *Melodica*, in 2007.

The Chronicle asked Ritter about the band's rise to becoming hometown heroes, working in the Nashville music scene and what is in store for the future.

THE CHRONICLE: How has the band's rise in popularity in the last few years affected the band?

TYLER RITTER: We really appreciate the overwhelming fan support that we have. It's been an incredible journey traveling the country playing for five to 10 people sometimes and now consistently playing to 800-1,000.

What have been some of the band's musical influences?

All five of us have very different and unique backgrounds when it comes



Courtesy DON VANCEAVE

Nashville, Tennessee, native band Moon Taxi made a name for itself in the last few years as one of the Music City's thriving fastest-rising alternative rock bands.

to who influenced who or what musical heroes we each had. Everyone came from a home where our parents were music fans, so needless to say there is a big classic rock influence in a lot of our ideas. For me, it was all about the drumming greats and the bands that they were part of: John Bonham, Neil Peart, Keith Moon, Danny Carey, Steve Gadd. I could go on forever.

What do you think of the current Nashville music scene?

I love it. The music scene has grown so much in the past 10 years that I've lived in Nashville. There's a great sense of camaraderie among this ever-growing rock scene, but with a nice, healthy dose of competition thrown in there. Everyone wants to succeed, but you get excited when you see your buddy's band

kicking ass as well. The competitive nature of Nashville—especially when we were starting out—was and still is a major driving force for us to do what we do at the highest level and quality possible.

Nashville radio stations seem to treat you guys like hometown heroes. How would you say the band has been received outside of Tennessee?

Everyone at Lightning 100 [radio station] has been a champion of the band for the past several years, and we even went to Belmont [University] with a few of the [DJs]. I wouldn't call us hometown heroes, but we love the fact that we get to call Nashville home. I can't imagine us starting out anywhere else with the same end result. We started out playing in Nashville at a little joint called Windows On The Cumber-

land—may it rest in peace—once a month or so, and then hitting up college towns that were anywhere from an hour to three hours away. We would just do these short, two- or three-day loops for the weekend. The reactions of our Nashville fans versus other markets are all overwhelmingly positive, but Nashville knows how to throw down.

What would you say was the band's first big break?

Our Bonnaroo set in 2012 definitely shot us into the eyes of so many more people. I don't think we're a band that's had a "break" yet, or will ever have whatever a "break" is. We've been doing this for so long that we can see this gradual ascent over the years, and after Bonnaroo, that rise just started to go up faster and steeper.

How would you describe your genre?

We never really thought of ourselves as a "jam band" in the beginning, but we were. There's still a lot of psych elements in our tunes, and definitely moments of shred, but we have some incredible songwriters in this band, and that's become the focus—writing great songs that people can connect with. We're a rock band that can bust out some crazy jams when we want to.

Is there a sense of community among Nashville's rising bands?

It's definitely a community, 100 percent. We all know so many of these guys, some from the Belmont days, but mostly from hanging out around town. I love going to shows when we're at home, whether or not I know anyone in the band that I'm seeing. Every now and then I find myself at a show or a particular bar, and it's almost like a reunion of sorts because everyone just happens to be off the road at the same time. That maybe happens two or three times a year, but it's fun to catch up with buddies that are out there touring and trade stories.

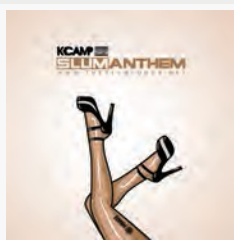
What can fans expect to hear next from Moon Taxi?

The next record is in the works, and we've been playing three of the new songs at shows recently. The fan reactions have been overwhelmingly awesome, so we are super pumped to get this record rolling. We're also very excited to be working with producer and engineer Jacques King on this next one. Whatever we wind up calling this next record, I think it'll be our best to date.

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STAFF PLAYLIST

"Songs to get you movin' on the dance floor"



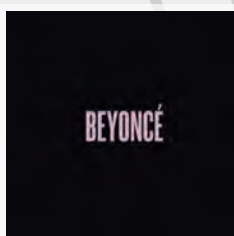
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Katherine Davis, Associate Editor

7/11 Beyoncé
F--KING PROBLEMS A\$AP Rocky
DANCE (A\$\$) Big Sean
HOLLABACK GIRL Gwen Stefani
FANCY Iggy Azalea



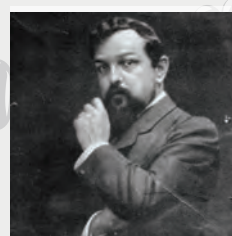
Ethan Stocking-Anderson, Office Assistant

PRIVATE EYES Hall & Oates
CHE CHE COLE Antibalas
LONG LIVE THE JAZZ Swindle
HEAVY ROTATION Slide Five
MAD WORLD Tears for Fears



Baxter Barrowcliff, Arts & Culture Editor

OFF THE WALL Michael Jackson
MESS AROUND Ray Charles
LET ME CLEAR MY THROAT DJ Kool
HEART OF GLASS Blondie
I'M SHAKIN' Little Willie Johnson



Max Green, Sports & Health Editor

AFTERNOON OF A FAUN Claude Debussy
PRELUDE IN G. MINOR OP. 23 NO. 5 Sergel Rachmaninoff
THE RITE OF SPRING Igor Stravinsky
VIOLIN CONCERTO IN D. MAJOR OP. 77 Johannes Brahms
VIOLIN CONCERTO IN E. MINOR OP. 64 Felix Mendelssohn

Sound OFF

Gaga sings her way into next season of her career

EVERY SO OFTEN, Lady Gaga breaks the mold she previously set for herself and surprises the masses—at least those viewers who don't know her too well.

Gaga graced the Oscars stage for the first time on Feb. 22, performing a medley tribute to "The Sound of Music," after which the 1965 film's star Julie Andrews appeared on stage with tears in her eyes—she even gave Gaga what appeared to be a very genuine hug.

Gaga's performance maintained the perfect balance of showcasing her quirky personality while paying homage to one of the most beloved and iconic musicals of all time.

Her rendition of the vocals once sung by Andrews drew overwhelmingly positive responses from fans and critics—the sort of "Who knew Gaga could hit that note?" reaction that offends long-time fans—aka Little Monsters. However annoying the surprise at Gaga's true talent can be, she is definitely on a roll.

The pop singer took to Twitter Feb. 25 to announce her upcoming role on the next season of the FX horror anthology "American Horror Story," which is set to run in October.

Gaga's surprise tweet read, "Make your reservation now."

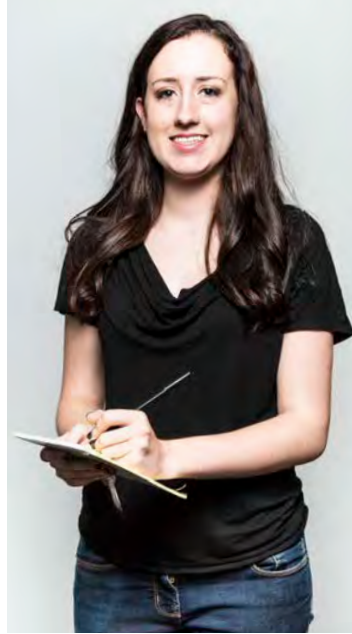
#GagaAHSHotel," and included a short video clip of her teasing the fifth season's theme, "Hotel," over the show's creepy and iconic backing sound.

While some might find the announcement of Gaga's upcoming FX role surprising, the singer has dabbled in acting in the recent past with the 2013 thriller "Machete Kills" and the 2014 drama "Sin City: A Dame to Kill For." And if those films weren't strong enough examples of her acting potential, Gaga's daily lifestyle should qualify her as a respectable actress—her persona itself is an act she has managed to keep up since she rose to fame in 2008, manipulating the public's perception of her as she pleases.

Those manipulations are not always 100 percent effective, though. Despite the fact that Gaga's diehard fans usually understand her motives, the general public can take a lot longer to catch on, at no fault of their own. Gaga's 2013 album, *ARTPOP*, is a prime example of when her creativity can be misinterpreted and, in turn, go completely unappreciated.

The album was meant to be Gaga's most personal release to date, emblematic of all that was important to her at the time and

KYRA SENESE MANAGING EDITOR



an album that was supposed to be all her and none of her label. But *ARTPOP* received mixed reviews, most of which leaned toward the negative, and an album the singer clearly expected to receive praise drew a significant amount of criticism and could have cost the singer her career if she didn't make her next few moves carefully.

Gaga's Oscars performance coupled with her upcoming role on "American Horror Story" should be more than enough to remind viewers exactly why Gaga is considered a woman of many talents. Her work throughout this next year should give her the opportunity she has recently been seeking to prove her artistic vision, talent and merit.

ksenese@chroniclemail.com



Thursday, March 5

WOLF ALICE

Subterranean
2011 W. North Ave.
8:30 p.m.
\$12-14, 17+

Monday, March 2

CASHMERE CAT

Lincoln Hall
2424 N. Lincoln Ave.
8 p.m.
\$15, 18+

Friday, March 6

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Metro
3730 N. Clark St.
8 p.m.
\$12, 18+

Tuesday, March 3

MOON DUO

Empty Bottle
1035 N. Western Ave.
9 p.m.
\$10, 21+

Friday, March 6

THE DEAD WOODS

Bottom Lounge
1375 W. Lake St.
8:30 p.m.
\$10, 17+

Wednesday, March 4

HOSTAGE CALM

Schubas Tavern
3159 N. Southport Ave.
7 p.m.
\$12

Saturday, March 7

TWEEDY

The Vic Theatre
3145 N. Sheffield Ave.
8 p.m.
\$35, 18+

Wednesday, March 4

POWER TRIP

Beat Kitchen
2100 W. Belmont Ave.
7 p.m.
\$12, 17+

Sunday, March 8

THE LIFE AND TIMES

Empty Bottle
1035 N. Western Ave.
9 p.m.
\$10, 21+

CHECK ME OUT



JAMES BRODIE
senior photography major



JUSTINE CLARKE
junior television major



DOMINIC WENDEL
junior television major

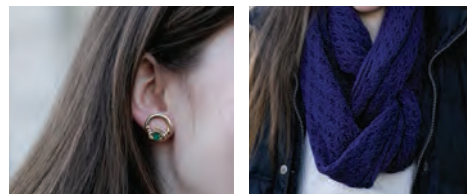


DEANNA SYLVESTER
senior fashion studies

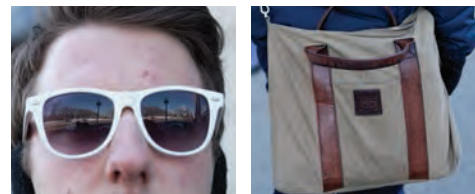
IF YOU COULD BE THE LOVE CHILD OF ANY TWO CELEBRITIES, WHO WOULD IT BE?
"The adopted son of David Bowie and Andy Warhol."



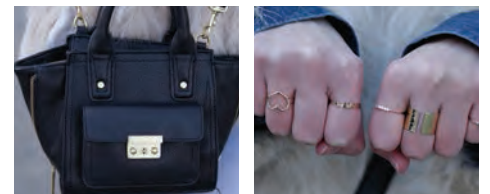
IF YOU COULD BE THE LOVE CHILD OF ANY TWO CELEBRITIES, WHO WOULD IT BE?
"Oprah Winfrey and Liam Neeson."



IF YOU COULD BE THE LOVE CHILD OF ANY TWO CELEBRITIES, WHO WOULD IT BE?
"Beyoncé and Steve Harvey. I really like his mustache."



IF YOU COULD BE THE LOVE CHILD OF ANY TWO CELEBRITIES, WHO WOULD IT BE?
"Kanye West and Nicole Richie."



Real emotions run deep in 'Coming Out Simulator 2014' video game

COLIN MCINERNEY
Contributing Writer

"COMING OUT SIMULATOR 2014" is exactly what the title implies. Those who have never experienced the very personal process of coming out as gay or bisexual can now get a sense of what the experience entails with "Coming Out."

Originally released in June 2014, the game, now available in a mobile-friendly browser version, remains completely free to play and was recently announced as a contender for the Excellence in Narrative Award at the Independent Games Festival. The game offers a fresh perspective to players who have never gone through this experience. "Coming Out" reinforces the belief that reenactment is the best way to understand it, and the game fosters one of the strongest feelings of empathy possible, short of actually coming out.

Creator Nicky Case, known online as Nutcasenightmare, rose to prominence in 2008 through Newgrounds.com, a website that hosts Flash animations and games of all kinds. He first gained recognition through his "The Game" series, a satirical trilogy of games lampooning popular culture, political events and Internet memes. His most recent work, "Parable of the Polygons," is a collaboration with mathematician

and YouTube vlogger Vi Hart and serves as a playable experiment on the nature of gentrification. Case has proven himself not only as a game designer but also as an artist. His projects tend to provoke and question cultural and societal norms more than aim for complex gameplay.

The argument about whether games are a form of art is a tired one. Realistically, games are equal to all other forms of creative media. Whether a specific game is a work of art or not depends on the intent of its creator. While each game may have artistic qualities it shares with other works—games or otherwise—art needs to be creative and somewhat novel. This can be a hard pill to swallow for some game enthusiasts because games are primarily sold as a form of entertainment—a perception that often promotes the idea that all games must be fun, and those games that are not are simply bad.

"Coming Out" is not the most playful game. Its simple interface is designed to mimic that of a text message conversation, prompting players to pick from three dialogue options in response to certain lines from the game's characters. This game does not need mechanical fidelity, though. It is more in line with what Telltale Games creates—a narrative-driven game

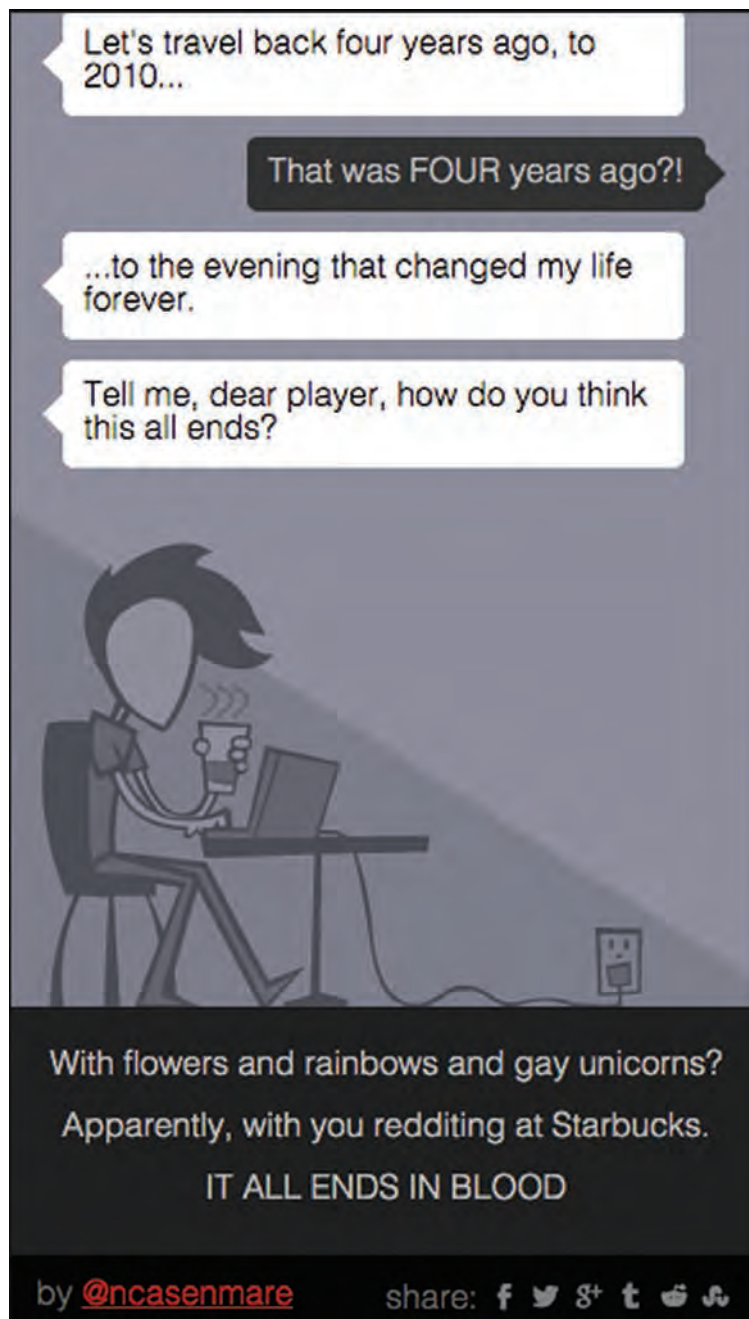
that intends to capture a scene, or in Telltale's case, a fictional story and world. "Coming Out" is meant to tell a story honestly and relies on the player's investment in the story.

Case describes the game as a story of half-truths. The game's story is a slightly fictionalized account of Case coming out to his family. Players can choose to respond to the conversations with Case's family members very directly, dance around the issue or remain mostly silent. The conversation initially occurs between Case and his mother, but eventually his father joins in. The game offers three alternate endings, and all three are revealed in the order the player chooses.

The game fits snugly within the recent renaissance of vignette games that rely more on capturing one particular moment than just attempting to cast a broad net or tell an epic tale. "Coming Out" captures something some might consider mundane but manages to transform the experience into one that feels realistic and important. Even heterosexual players can learn from the game and appreciate how relatable it can be through its simple yet meaningful interactions.

The game is not only accessible, but it also accomplishes its goals in a mere 20 minutes. "Coming

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The video game "Coming Out Simulator 2014" allows players of all orientations to experience coming out.

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Nohemi Rosales THE CHRONICLE

Rapper Theophilus London is touring for his 2014 album *Vibes!*, which was executive produced by Kanye West.

» **LONDON**
Continued from PG. 17

the integrity of each song's performance intact by releasing animal-like screams at the appropriate times without disrupting a rendition of one of his slower songs, like the popular single "Flying Overseas." It was a definite high point for many in the audience who sang along over the pre-recorded chorus that features Solange Knowles.

London's opening act, Father, joined him on stage to perform "Look at Wrist" once more. This performance featured a mostly pre-recorded track from Theophilus' MacBook, with Father jumping

in on a verse occasionally and London bouncing around the stage with Father's Atlanta crew.

After performing most of his 2014 album, London brought the show to a close, thanking the audience for an amazing birthday and extending an invitation to his after-party down the road on Ashland Avenue. The audience thanked London and the band with howling cheers and applause for an amazing performance. It was a night that differed from the average hip-hop show, and fans were aware that Theophilus London is nothing close to average.

bbarrowcliff@chroniclemail.com

» **CRISTINA**
Continued from PG. 17

Paz said she was not familiar with Henríquez's work until the release of "The Book of Unknown Americans" last year. She said she loves the book and when she rereads it, she always highlights parts of it that resonate with her.

"[The Book of Unknown Americans] captures the strangeness of coming to a new place and having to learn how to do the most basic things," Paz said. "[Henríquez] captures that very disorienting feeling of being in a new place so well."

Corrina Lesser, associate director of programming and education for the Chicago Humanities Festival, said Henríquez worked for the festival on a 2012 event and the festival programmers are honored to have her back. Although Paz is new to the festival, Lesser said the organization is happy to host these two dynamic, up-and-coming Latina writers that are based in Chicago. Henríquez and Paz tell stories in beautiful ways that reflect the core values of the Chicago Humanities Festival, Lesser said.

"What we are at the heart of our organization is talking about the human condition," Lesser said. "[Henríquez] is an amazing writer and [The Book of Unknown Americans] has some really powerful stories about family and what it's like to belong in the United States as a foreigner. Those are experiences many of us have had or have a relationship to."



Courtesy CORRINA LESSER

"The Book of Unknown Americans" by Cristina Henríquez follows two Latin American families as they immigrate to Delaware.

At the event, Lesser said she is excited to have the chance to see these two promising young writers speak and hopefully help them gain recognition in Chicago's renowned literary community.

"I don't think either [Henríquez] or [Paz] are household names yet," Lesser said. "I hope this event gives

people that haven't taken a chance on reading [Henríquez's book] an excuse to check out her work. I hope it opens up a conversation about what it means to be a Chicagoan and what it means to make a home here."

gscarpino@chroniclemail.com

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TOP 5



NOT SAFE FOR WORK
YOUR ONLINE TIME WASTERS OF THE WEEK

BLOG: "My Modern Met"

Filled with countless pieces of art, photographs and curious designs, "My Modern Met" serves as an online "city" for art enthusiasts to explore. The work presented on the site is meant to inspire and rejuvenate all kinds of people around the world. One post, titled "Grandma's Superhero Therapy," helped a 91-year-old, depressed Holocaust survivor feel happier: A photographer took photos of her as a superhero saving her city. This website is sure to make viewers feel something.

Check it out at: <http://www.MyModernMet.com/>

VIDEO: "#MashUpMonday" by Kenny and Warren G

Smooth jazz saxophonist Kenny G teamed up with '90s rapper Warren G on "Jimmy Kimmel Live" Feb. 23 for the next installment of the show's "#MashupMonday" series. The duo, dubbed "Kenny and Warren G" by Kimmel, performed the rapper's G-funk classic "Regulate" and paid homage to classic hip-hop with an impromptu "raise your hands in the air" section. "Kenny and Warren G" follows other mismatched Kimmel collaborations.

Check it out at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L4E4MWLzKrg>

Jahcelyne Patton Social Media Editor

REASONS ASTROLOGY PLAYS A MAJOR ROLE IN MY LIFE

Relationships: Astrology signs can prevent you from dating the wrong person. The compatibility of two signs can predict whether a couple will be successful or fail miserably. Horoscopes also serve as helpful information when getting involved with someone who may not be best suited to your personality. It's better to do research and find your most compatible match than to get hooked up with the wrong person and pay the price.

New opinions: There are often questions about why people are the way they are or why people have interests and dislikes. Astrology sorts out explanations of personal life, relationships, work life, school and even offers daily advice through horoscope apps and websites. Learning all of these aspects of life from an astrological perspective can open the mind to different ideas.

Daily living: Horoscopes are a different way of thinking. The birth chart is designed in a way in which everyone is described depending on the month they were born. Astrology can resolve conflict and describe every aspect of life. Your horoscope can make you aware of possible situations that will take place later that week, month or year.

Self-growth: People begin to learn about the positive and negative personality traits that their sign embodies, they can become cognizant of the tendencies they don't like and make a change for the better. All viewpoints are related, and astrology may know more about people than they know about themselves.

Fun: At the end of the day, astrology is a fun hobby. It allows you to start new friendships and share commonalities with people you wouldn't normally talk to. It's a lot of fun to discuss similarities and differences among signs and form relationships. It isn't fun when people are skeptical and question every part of it. Let it be.

Caitlin Looney Opinions Editor

REASONS PEOPLE SHOULD READ MORE

You learn things: Reading helps you learn things you may not already know. Reading teaches you about the intricacies of the human condition while also informing you of basic things you may never have considered learning more about; things such as the significance of a dance card in a formal ballroom setting or why you shouldn't engage in incest—even if it's with your third cousin and you got permission.

You look smart: People who read books just look smarter, and often tend to be, because at least they had the ingenious—but also exhausted—idea to bury their head in a copy of "Lolita" in order to look more worldly and cultured. Some people may not want to look smart, but (hopefully) no one wants to look dumb.

You can talk about cool stuff: Since you read something cool, now you can talk about something cool. Hopefully with other people who also made the decision to read something cool because otherwise you're talking to yourself, but still. When you talk about cool stuff, it makes it seem like you just knew about that cool stuff without having to actually engage in the strenuous activity of picking up and reading a book.

Your parents will be proud: You may have struggled through a remedial reading comprehension afterschool program, but now you can make Mommy and Daddy proud because you read "50 Shades of Grey." You didn't have to see the movie! You can go home and speak intelligently about your analysis of the stigmas surrounding the BDSM community and how inaccurately it is portrayed in the series.

You'll get laid: A wise man named George Carlin once said, "If you go home with somebody, and they don't have books, don't f--k 'em!" And he is right because nobody is trying to get in bed with a big ol' dumb dumb.

Ethan Stocking-Anderson Office Assistant

UNORTHODOX ISLAND GETAWAYS

Mahé: Considering the inclement weather we've been brutalized with in Chicago, I have to put a tropical paradise with year-round 80-degree temperatures first. Mahé is the central island of the Seychelles, an island nation off the east coast of Africa in the Indian Ocean. Known for being environmentally conscious, 42 percent of the islands are nationally protected. For good reason, too: Mahé has some of the most immaculate beaches out there.

Zealand: Yes, that's just plain old Zealand, not that new-fangled country down by Australia. Zealand is the largest Danish island and one of the most populous in Europe. Located in the Baltic Sea between Sweden and Germany, this island is full of 17th century castles and gothic cathedrals.

Burj Al Arab: OK, there may not be much to the island itself. It's man-made in Dubai near the coast formally known as Chicago Beach after the engineering company that used to manufacture oil tanks there. Go there today and you'll find the tallest hotel in the world, complete with a tennis court and helipad.

Vancouver Island: In British Columbia on the west coast of Canada, Vancouver Island is a ferry ride away from Seattle or Vancouver. Kayaking along the rock-strewn coasts will give you some of the most pristine views Cascadia has to offer. Between the mountains and the forests, you'll find a quaint, easygoing climate. You can stay at a cozy bed and breakfast in Victoria. If you're lucky, you might even score a game of Scrabble with old Harold Delaney.

Isla Nublar: In the Eastern Pacific, more than 100 miles away from Costa Rica, Isla Nublar is renowned for its biodiversity and animal habitat. Some may say the wildlife makes this island a dicey destination, but they've spared no expense in making this island as safe as possible.

FEATURED PHOTO



Nohemi Rosales THE CHRONICLE

Artist Heather Green gives a talk at Kruger Gallery Chicago, 3709 N. Southport Ave., on Feb. 25 about her art exhibition, "Victims and Villains." Her paintings are recreations of mug shots that law enforcement officials make available to the public. Through her recreations of mugshots, she examines public reaction to them and analyzes the intersectionality of race, sex and class as aspects of the larger flaws in the U.S. incarceration system.

REVIEWS

Ummm, WTF?
 No—just... no.
 It's whatever.
 I can dig it.
 YAAASS!
 —ratings

SCREEN



“Le Gouffre”

This independent animated short film is one of the best films I have ever seen. The number of awards won by its small creative team is very inspiring. It is on Vimeo, so be sure to check out this 10-minute film. It is entertaining from beginning to end. — **C. King**



“2015 Oscars”

I don't usually bother to watch award shows, but I managed to catch this year's Oscars, although it didn't make me regret my decision to not tune in to past broadcasts. Neil Patrick Harris was an exceptional host, but not much else was memorable. — **C. Johnson**



“A New Wave” by Sleater-Kinney

Sleater-Kinney is back in full force, and the band's new music video has a little help from the “Bob's Burgers” crew. The song's upbeat tempo with the colorful fluid animation from the show will get your toes tapping. It's a must watch for all animation nerds. — **A. Cannon**

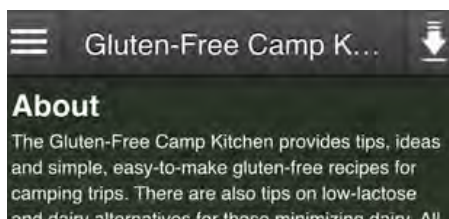


“Dragon Ball Z: Revival of F”

Dragon Ball Z, the most iconic anime series of all time, released a trailer for its latest film. Frieza returns with a vengeance like never before, and his angst level is at 9,000. It's the heavy-weight rematch of the century: Goku v. Frieza. Fight! — **A. Aghayere**



APPS & TECH



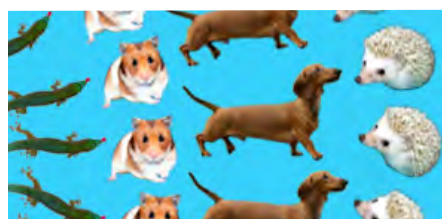
Gluten-Free Camp Kitchen app

This app makes gluten-free cooking effortless. The app provides ideas for quick and easy recipes, which is ideal for college students. However, the app should not only include gluten-free ideas but also provide options for all kinds of diets such as low-carb. — **J. Selesky**



Pebble Time

Pebble Technology kicked off its highly anticipated crowdfunding campaign Feb. 17 for its newest watch, Pebble Time. I cannot wait for this watch to come out because of its cutting edge features. For time and style, this could be the best watch of the year. — **J. Hinchcliff**



Cute or Not app

There's a new love connection app, but this one is for your pets. Users can swipe right for cute and left for not, earning badges along the way and uploading pictures of their own pets. That's about all it does. The developers wanted to keep things simple. — **C. Jefferson**



Panic Puffer app

Panic Puffer features a puffer fish floating between pieces of coral. This cross between Flappy Bird and Temple Run makes for an addictive game. The simplicity of tapping the screen and getting power ups makes it seem easy, and I challenge everyone to get this game. — **A. Haleem**



MUSIC



Smoke + Mirrors by Imagine Dragons

The new album shows that the band is not afraid to experiment with different styles, sounds, tempos or tones. Listening to the album in one shot is great, but there are a bunch of instant hits. — **A. Haleem**



“Don't Wanna Fight” by Alabama Shakes

Get a little taste of the future with this recently released song, a sneak peak of Alabama Shakes' next album, *Sound and Color*. If it's any indication of what's to come, the album will definitely be worth the download. — **S. Vinton**



“Invincible” by Kelly Clarkson

Clarkson's latest power anthem, co-written by “Chandelier” singer Sia, is an OK pick-me-up but seems like just a softer version of her last song “Stronger.” I hope she changes it up a little bit for the rest of her new album so I actually want to listen to it. — **M. Bennett**



Fan of a Fan by Chris Brown and Tyga

Even though I usually do not listen to Chris Brown, I gave this album a chance because of his collaboration with Tyga. With trap-house beats and great featured artists such as Pusha T and Wale, this album actually exceeds expectations. — **K. Davis**



PRINT



“Kanye West is currently on a Twitter Apology Tour”

This *ELLE* article by Victoria Dawson Hoff outlines Kanye West's most recent apologetic tweets to artists such as Bruno Mars and Beck. Although West has his mean moments, I still love him for things like this. — **K. Davis**



“Why Do Many Reasonable People Doubt Science?” by Joel Achenbach

In this National Geographic article, Achenbach wrote a compelling article about why there are so many doubts and conspiracies in our society about anything scientific, from vaccinations to the moon landing. — **K. Hettterscheidt**



RANDOM



Dishes

Their use is practical, but cleaning these porcelain pests can often consume time I do not have. Dishes leave behind an expansive amount of dirtied mess that requires washing either by hand or through a several-hundred-dollar appliance. — **L. Foglia**



Pretzel sticks

I like pretzels, but I love pretzel sticks. Salty and crunchy, this snack is perfect for taking to class or work. The only problem is that I tend to get thirsty when I eat a lot of salt, so I always have a bottle of water with me to wash down the extra sodium. — **K. Davis**





Cafeteria a must

THERE IS NO denying the value of cultivating a sense of community among college students, especially Columbia students who are easily isolated in the sprawl of a city campus. Columbia's administration constantly encourages collaboration—"find your creative posse"—but one of the many criticisms Columbia faces is its lack of communal spaces for students. Although Columbia does not have a typical college campus, it should have more places for students to congregate—especially over meals.

Columbia does not have its own cafeteria. The campus has three cafes that offer coffee, tea and some food, but these cafes are few and far between and do not offer extensive menus or allergy-specific menus. The University Center has a cafeteria, but with meal plans only available to on-campus students and strange operating hours, the UC leaves much to be desired in offering food and drink to the campus community and a place to meet, network and socialize.

Columbia is settled in the heart of downtown Chicago, which offers many options when it comes to dining and groceries. From Jewel Osco to Trader Joe's and with a 7-Eleven on every other corner, the city offers many places for students to go and spend money. Why pay for a meal plan if Flaco's Tacos is right across the street? And if each dorm has some sort of kitchen access, there does not seem to be a need for a Columbia-exclusive cafeteria.

Although the city may offer all the things a student may need, there are certain benefits of a Columbia cafeteria that are overlooked—benefits that warrant consideration as the administration moves forward in redefining Columbia's greatness.

Cafeterias play a major role in student retention rates, according to a 2009 Insight Into Student Services iJournal article. A cafeteria would serve as more than just a place to grab a bite to eat, but a place to do homework, hang out and meet fellow students outside of the classroom. Cafeterias keep students on campus and engaged in the college

community rather than having them retreat to their own places, further preventing them from making professional connections and new friends.

A cafeteria would not only serve the students, but also the college as a whole. A cafeteria is an investment Columbia would benefit from for years to come. For parents of incoming students, seeing a fully functioning cafeteria that is available to all students—whether they have a meal plan or not—is reassuring and a major selling point. For incoming students, the draw of a cafeteria that offers a wide variety of food and drink is undeniable—being able to grab a meal without worrying about the cash in your pocket is essential to college students who also happen to be starving artists.

Time is also a factor. Cooking and grocery shopping take time that could otherwise be spent working on assignments and projects. Columbia may be encouraging students to be independent and capable by having kitchens in each dorm, but the time it takes away from focusing on more critical priorities can certainly become an issue for many students.

Giving the option of a cafeteria to all students not only bridges gaps between commuters and on-campus students, but also allows students to use their financial aid more effectively. Rather than spending exorbitant amounts of money at grocery stores and restaurants each week students can utilize their financial aid more efficiently if it is put toward a meal plan that is worth it.

If the administration wants to stand by the pillars instilled in its students, then actively pursuing the implementation of Columbia's own cafeteria should be a top priority—even if a discussion on a slight increase in tuition would be necessary to move forward. A cafeteria would not only offer students a reprieve from the fast-food onslaught of the South Loop and the time-suck cooking can be, but it would offer students a more centralized space for socializing and collaborating.

Journalism standards more crucial than ever

FORMER NBC NIGHTLY News lead anchor Brian Williams has been under fire in recent weeks for fabricating a war story. The allegations that he misconstrued an incident that occurred during his coverage of wartime in the Middle East has led to a six-month suspension without pay. He has since resigned from the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation's board and has been banned by NBC from making public appearances.

Williams' downward spiral has been warranted. For whatever reason—and a multitude of them have been suggested by dozens of think pieces; he is an egomaniac, he wants to be the hero, he is over-compensating—Williams made the decision to mislead the general public by telling a tale that has only served to dig him into a hole he cannot easily climb out of.

Williams is not alone in his need to tell a tale that paints him in a more heroic light, though. Bill O'Reilly has recently been scolded for padding a story more than 20 years ago about the Falklands War—it has been alleged that O'Reilly, like Williams, made false claims about wartime experiences.

The two situations are very different. Whereas Williams was the face of a news source many Americans trusted wholeheartedly, O'Reilly is a talking head who spouts more opinions than news to a very specific demographic.

Nevertheless, both at some point in their careers have been considered journalists. However, the ethics every journalist should abide by seem to have been thrown to the wayside for both of these men in the name of self-aggrandizement.

Journalists—whether broadcast or print—should always be held to the highest standards of ethics by their editors and parent corporations. Ethics need to be more heavily considered in the reporting of news to the general public. Whether it is Fox News or NBC, Americans want to and do trust the news they choose to watch.

Most Americans do not fact-check the news because such a task is not the responsibility of the citizen. It is the responsibility of a team of journalists and editors to go through stories with a fine-toothed comb in order to avoid major falsifications in reporting. An editor cannot stop a high-profile journalist with ego issues from lying outright, but if people are held to higher standards and a strict code of ethics from the beginning, these types of situations could potentially be avoided altogether.

NBC made the right call in suspending Williams for this major indiscretion. Lying in the field of journalism not only cripples the integrity of the journalist, but also breaks the trust many journalists work years to develop with their audience. O'Reilly was not casti-

gated by Fox News but lifted up by a public statement of undying support. Of course Williams and O'Reilly are certainly held to varying standards as their positions are definitively different—one reporting news, the other filtering news through a vitriolic screen of opinions and spitfire.

In turn, Americans have certain expectations for these men and their respective job posts. Williams was expected to deliver factual, in-depth news reports while O'Reilly is expected to deliver incendiary opinions couched in questionable news items. But when Williams actively chose to lie and alter his story, he effectively destroyed his integrity as a person Americans trusted to speak honestly on world events. Very little surprise or uproar has followed the accusations against O'Reilly because he is not trusted in the way Williams was.

As the news industry continues to transform alongside evolving technology and media capabilities, journalists must ardently pursue truth in the face of the temptation to please producers and audiences. Journalists, editors and parent corporations should hold themselves to strict standards of ethics—such as those outlined in the Society of Professional Journalists Code of Ethics—that are meant to keep them from stooping to the level of lying, unfounded speculation and baseless opinions.

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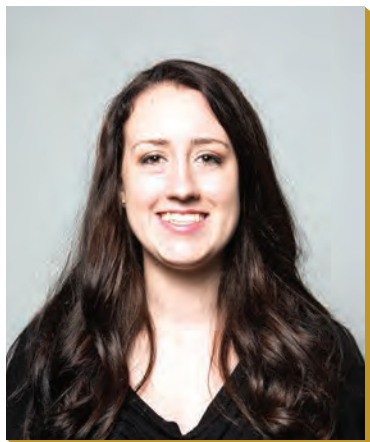
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—The Columbia Chronicle Editorial Board

US finally recognizes LGBT rights as human rights



KYRA SENESE
Managing Editor

equality for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

“Defending and promoting the human rights of LGBT persons is at the core of our commitment to advancing human rights globally—the heart and conscience of our diplomacy,” Kerry said in the statement.

Berry’s new appointment comes at a time when the nation’s LGBT community has seen progress in its ongoing fight for equality. There is still a great deal of work to be done,

statements in support of marriage equality as well as general equality for LGBT people inspired a sweeping change in attitude from the long-standing mindset of politicians in considering LGBT rights separate from human rights.

“Our journey is not complete until our gay brothers and sisters are treated like anyone else under the law—for if we are truly created equal, then surely the love we commit to one another must be equal as well,” Obama said in the

its entirety may be a mouthful, and as a reporter and editor, I find it understandable why some news outlets might think it is acceptable to shorten the official name of Berry’s position. However, what those news outlets seem to have overlooked is that the U.S. Department of State made a calculated choice to use that specific phrasing in Berry’s title in an effort to make clear the distinction that his position is intended to promote human rights

progress toward recognizing human rights for all its citizens. Advocating for an end to violence and discrimination against LGBT people is an admirable goal for the government.

A large part of the nation is still populated with individuals who strongly disagree with marriage equality and other LGBT rights initiatives, but the U.S. government and its politicians should take pride in the decision to implement this international initiative if they want to consider the United States a leading nation.

All people are entitled to their own religious and spiritual beliefs, and many Americans still oppose same-sex relationships, but they should not interfere with the safety and rights of LGBT people. The United States government is well overdue in recognizing this in a serious and productive way.

The United States continues to take pride in being a leading, progressive nation, but often those terms have been used in ways that are simply inaccurate. However, acknowledging the rights of the country’s and the world’s LGBT people as human rights is a step in the right direction and is definitely an initiative a leading nation should pursue.

ksenese@chroniclemail.com

Advocating for an end to violence and discrimination against LGBT people is an admirable goal for the government.

SECRETARY OF STATE John Kerry announced Feb. 23 that Randy Berry, current U.S. consul general in the Netherlands, would begin serving as the United States’ first Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBT Persons.

In his new role, Berry, an openly gay senior diplomat, is expected to advocate for LGBT rights worldwide, focusing on the more than 75 countries in which same-sex relationships remain illegal, according to a Feb. 23 statement from the U.S. Department of State. Berry will be responsible for making efforts to decrease instances of discrimination and violence against LGBT people across the world in addition to promoting international

but much of the United States population and its lawmakers have become more accepting of LGBT people and their rights since President Barack Obama publicly advocated for the legalization of same-sex marriage in 2012.

Previously, Obama was open about his opposition to the Defense of Marriage Act—which allowed states to ignore same-sex marriages legally granted by other states—as well as his determination to repeal “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.” The president’s

2012 interview.

Despite the government’s apparent interest in pushing progress for the LGBT community, a massive oversight on the part of news organizations including Time, came with several media outlets reported Berry’s new title as “envoy for LGBT rights,” though the statement from the U.S. Department of State clearly labeled the position as “Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBT persons.”

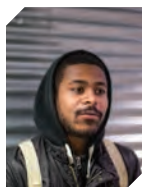
Referring to Berry’s title in

for LGBT people and to spread what appears to be the United States government’s newfound recognition of LGBT rights as human rights.

As a nation that loves to tout itself as one that leads—or attempts to lead—its fellow nations, this new position is symbolic of more than just a change in Berry’s employment, but of a deeper societal transition in the United States and other nations. The position is symbolic of the United States’ continuing

Does Columbia need its own all-inclusive cafeteria?

STUDENT POLL



Yes, I’m always at UIC and they have their own. It should include restaurants, too, or a contract company that makes pizzas and paninis.

Anthony Labon junior business & entrepreneurship major



Yes, I think that’s something they should do because they only have it for residents in the dorms.

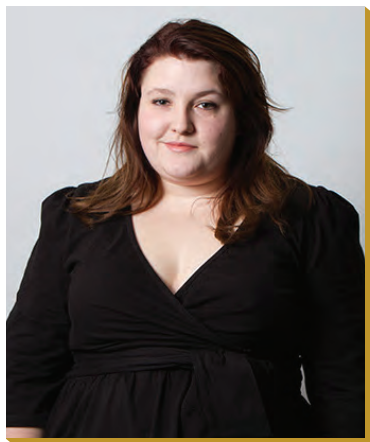
Bianca Cahue senior multimedia journalism major



Yes. It sounds like a good idea. It would be great if it had longer hours for students who have late classes.

Carlos Alva junior fiction writing major

The good, the bad and the sparkly: Girl power is back



CAITLIN LOONEY
Opinions Editor

FOR THE CHILDREN of the ‘90s, girl power came in the forms of the Spice Girls, “Clueless” and even Barbie, among other things. Following the laced-with-low-grade-snake-poison feminism of the Riot Grrrl movement, “girl power” was bubblegum-pink feminism packaged with a pretty bow for young girls and teenagers. The term made feminism more accessible and relatable to youth who may not have known what feminism was.

Often accompanied by the flash of a peace sign, girl power was an empowering yet cutesy philosophy that encouraged young women to be ambitious and assertive—words not often used to describe

little girls. Although many do not subscribe to any form of feminism, girl power is something worth fighting for, especially for the younger generations.

Girl power’s slow but much-needed comeback may be on the horizon, though, and that is something to look forward to. The beloved cartoon “The Powerpuff Girls” is making its return to Cartoon Network in 2016, according to a Feb. 19 Cartoon Network press release. The series, which followed the adventures of three crime-fighting superhero sisters Blossom, Bubbles and Buttercup, was one of Cartoon Network’s most successful and prolific cartoon series. Its revival is a pleasant surprise for those who once sat in front of the television mesmerized by three little girls who always managed to “save the world before bedtime.”

Girl power did not necessarily disappear when “The Powerpuff Girls” went off the air in 2005, but the recent interpretations of female heroes in the media leave much to be desired.

With “The Princess and the Frog,” “Tangled,” “Brave” and “Frozen,” Disney has taken a more regressive approach to girl power. Claims can be made that

“Brave”—in which the princess Merida refuses the forced tradition of marriage and breaks many other princess clichés—is the epitome of girl power. However, Disney undermined any advancement it could have made with its feisty portrayal of Merida when the studio transformed her into a sparkly vixen in May 2013.

How a princess—or any girl—looks should not and does not matter. Disney made the changes to better market her as a toy, which is a fair move because children love sparkles and pretty things, but the company did not take into account the gross juvenilization of a character who could have easily been a new icon of girl power rather than another pretty face with an overtly sexualized body to match.

The obsession with the trope of the innocent-yet-seductive young female character who always ends up in the arms of a heroic-yet-definitely-older man has been exhausted, yet few changes have been made. This obsession is disappointing but not surprising considering the lack of women who are actually animating. Women are least likely to enter the animation field, according to the 2014 Celluloid Ceiling report.

It is not women’s fault that they are not out there revolutionizing the way young female characters are created and portrayed. It has been done right before.

“The Powerpuff Girls”—a show created by a male—subverted the idea of waiting for the boys to show up and save the day. Blossom, Bubbles and Buttercup—with the help of Professor Utonium, who created them with sugar, spice and everything nice along with some Chemical X—are powerful, complex young girls with emotions and passion.

With their balloon-sized heads and rounded little bodies, the Powerpuff Girls lack the usual sexualization seen plastered across princesses and other female superheroes. The trio is far too busy fighting crime and saving the world to bother with the frivolities of looking good and pursuing the attention of the opposite sex—not that they don’t try.

There is something about the show’s use of incongruity that strengthens its underlying feminist lessons, morphing it into a TV show all young girls—and boys—should watch. Although the show’s animation is rife with sparkles, hearts and rainbows, the girls have very distinct,

visceral personalities.

Each girl represents one aspect of the old “What Are Little Boys Made Of?” nursery rhyme: sugar, spice and everything nice. But the “Chemical X” adds layers of complexity, humanity and even darkness that come out when the girls are engaged in what they care about most: saving the world.

The show’s creator Craig McCracken’s intention with “The Powerpuff Girls” may not have been to create the perfect epitomes of girl power. Regardless, the humorous, transformative and even heartbreaking adventures of Blossom, Bubbles and Buttercup have gone above and beyond the typical expectations for a cartoon show about three little girls who are also superheroes, with the richness of its characters and the poignancy of its story lines.

Girl power may not be everyone’s cup of tea. However, having positive female role models on television whose value is not defined by their tiny waists and impossibly long, silky hair, but by their emotional depth and conviction is crucial. Young girls need “The Powerpuff Girls” now more than ever before.

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Lou Foglia THE CHRONICLE



Kaitlin Hetterscheidt THE CHRONICLE

After being forced into a runoff by challenger Jesus "Chuy" Garcia, Mayor Rahm Emanuel addresses his supporters Feb. 24 at Plumbers Hall.

Mayoral candidate Jesus "Chuy" Garcia addresses his supporters at the Alhambra Palace in celebration of the news of a runoff election.

Emanuel, Garcia thrust into April runoff

MATT MCCALL
Metro Editor

MAYOR RAHM EMANUEL is ready for round two against Jesus "Chuy" Garcia, a Cook County commissioner, after failing to get a majority of the votes needed for a Feb. 24 reelection.

The two are now propelled into a charged runoff race. With all precincts reporting, Emanuel received 45.4 percent of the vote, while Garcia lagged behind with 33.9 percent. The two will campaign for the next six weeks, and Chicago voters will decide the winner April 7.

The Feb. 24 turnout tied Chicago's historic low of 33 percent for the 2007 mayoral election—Richard M. Daley's final term.

Against Chicagoans' expectations, Emanuel could not convert his huge war chest and onslaught of political ads into mayoralty.

Emanuel strutted onstage at Chicago Journeymen Plumbers Union Hall, 1340 W. Washington Blvd., on the evening of Feb. 24 with a triumphant look nonetheless and said, "We have come a long way and have a little bit further to go."

As the crowd chanted "We want Rahm," Emanuel pointed over their heads and said, "I want you."

Rahm told his supporters to enjoy the night, promising that "tomorrow morning, I'll see you out at the el stops."

Garcia and Emanuel can expect to face disparate challenges in coming

weeks. Emanuel's name carries a stigma in some quarters while Garcia, despite his long public service career as an alderman, state senator and Cook County commissioner, is not yet a household name for many Chicagoans.

Laura Washington, a political analyst for ABC-7, Chicago Sun-Times columnist and a Winter 2015 fellow at the University of Chicago's Institute of Politics, said even if Chicagoans do know Garcia's name, they do not really know what he stands for.

"That raises the question, 'Where have you been all these years?'" she said. "If you've been around since the days of [Mayor] Harold Washington and you've had all these political positions and offices, why haven't I heard anything about you? His job is both to educate folks about who he is, but also to build a personal relationship and a trust with voters that, 'I'm a guy that you're just getting to know but that you can trust.' That's a lot to do in six weeks."

Garcia labeled himself the "neighborhood guy" during mayoral debates but articulated few solutions to solve chronic metropolitan problems such as policing and education.

"He's going to have to put some meat on the bones of his ideas for turning the city around," Washington said. "His proposal of adding 1,000 police is a classic example. He's been asked repeatedly, 'How are you going to pay for

that?' and he's talked about saving money through cutting overtime, but the experts say that won't even get close."

Emanuel has been seen as a political import from Washington with a short fuse and an attitude problem. Many have criticized "rubber-stamping"—approving decisions without sufficient analysis—by the City Council, which to some voters seems to be in lockstep with the mayor and his policies.

Dick Simpson, political science professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago and former alderman, said Emanuel is no longer invincible. Simpson said the elections are a referendum on both the mayor and City Council, as evidenced by the 19 aldermanic runoff elections threatening to unseat some of Emanuel's loyal supporters.

"Rahm's arrogance, or his inability to involve people in either deciding what to do or being part of doing it after a decision is made [could be an issue]," Simpson said.

Emanuel's move to close 49 Chicago public schools in 2013 attracted vocal criticism from angry parents and teachers. The year before, the Chicago Teachers Union had its first strike in 25 years and Emanuel handled the negotiations with his now signature vitriol, refusing to meet with CTU President Karen Lewis on several occasions.

Lewis dropped out of the race and endorsed Garcia after being

diagnosed with a brain tumor in October.

"The mayor's decision to close 50 schools and drive teachers out on strike for the first time in 25 years was the defining moment for his administration," Garcia said at his election party. "Mayor Emanuel likes to say he makes hard choices, but there is a difference between making hard choices and being hardheaded."

In a city troubled by racism and segregation, both campaigns have made haste on securing black votes. Emanuel and Garcia both tried Feb. 25 to gain the endorsement of Willie Wilson, the black entrepreneur against whom they had run. Wilson received 10 percent of the vote.

After conceding, Wilson said, "We've made a difference in the City of Chicago."

Washington said the black vote is

a significant portion of the electorate and that Chicago's black population is highly dissatisfied with the status quo.

"Whoever can appeal to that vote is going to be in a real good position," she said.

Jim Allen, a spokesman for Chicago Board of Election Commissioners, said the turnout is expected to be higher in the runoff election. The board has already received far more inquiries about April's election than it did about the first election, he said.

"I think it's safe to say it's higher," Allen said. "Normally it's lower in a runoff election, but here, in addition to the aldermanic runoff, you're looking at a mayoral runoff, and that just hasn't happened. This will be new ground for the Chicago electorate."

mmccall@chroniclemail.com



Nohemi Rosales THE CHRONICLE

Willie Wilson thanks supporters and congratulates Emanuel and Garcia at the Swissotel, 323 Upper Wacker Drive.

THE CHI-TOWN LOW DOWN

Voters the real disappointment in Chicago mayoral race

NATALIE CRAIG *MANAGING EDITOR*



resonated well with 10 percent of Chicago voters.

Wilson's voter turnout is a sign that Chicago is ready for something—or someone—different. Emanuel has made some unfavorable decisions as mayor. But why are his decisions and those of past mayors enough to push voters in a different direction toward a candidate who has yet to get his feet wet in politics and doesn't have more than a seventh-grade education? If Chicagoans don't like the city's political state, they have the power to change it by voting.

ncraig@chroniclemail.com

ALTHOUGH HE HELD a steady lead for most of the Feb. 24 mayoral race, Mayor Rahm Emanuel fell short of the 50 percent vote needed to win the 2015 Chicago mayoral election without entering a runoff. Cook County Commissioner Jesus "Chuy" Garcia trailed behind him with a 33.9 percent following.

The fact that there will be six more weeks of campaigning to win over more voters is not disappointing, though. What is disappointing is how many Chicagoans found their way to a voting booth.

According to IllinoisElectionData.com, only 33 percent of registered voters visited the polls on Feb. 24—less than 1 percent higher than Chicago's record-low voter participation of 32 percent in 2003.

Voting—perhaps one of the greatest freedoms afforded to Americans—is a social responsibility, too. The right was barely exercised in this year's mayoral election, though. The low turnout could be attributed to the loss of hope Chicagoans feel in their city's political system, a machine infamously known for scandal, nepotism and corruption. Although each candidate may promise to

change the political structure and the current state of Chicago throughout their campaigns, Chicagoans have heard it all before. Voters may be turned off to the idea of voting because they are cynical or they may think their opinion on a ballot does not matter. This race showed that Chicagoans did not want to vote for Emanuel, but also did not feel inclined to vote for the other candidates either.

Though the race is between the two candidates best suited to be mayor, the decision of who will lead is on hold for the coming weeks as more money is poured into campaigning and promises of what could be.

I predicted Emanuel, Garcia and Alderman Bob Fioretti (2nd Ward) would finish in the top three because of their extensive experience in Chicago politics. However, Willie Wilson, a successful businessman originally from Louisiana, gained more votes than Fioretti, placing him behind Garcia with 10.6 percent of the votes. Although Wilson has admitted that he knows nothing about politics, he has also said that his business knowledge could benefit the city, which

FEATURED PHOTO



Lou Foglia *THE CHRONICLE*

Cassandra Francis, president of Friends of the Parks, takes questions from audience members regarding the placement of the Obama Presidential Library and Lucas Museum of Narrative Art during a Feb. 26 luncheon hosted by the City Club of Chicago at Maggiano's Banquets, 111 W. Grand Ave.

NOTABLE *native*

CHRIS CAMPBELL

Occupation: CEO of Review Trackers Neighborhood: Wicker Park



Courtesy CHRIS CAMPBELL

BIANCA MARTINEZ

Metro Reporter

CHRIS CAMPBELL, a Homewood, Illinois native and DePaul University alumnus, founded Review Trackers in 2012 after working with a major retailer that was in need of a way to track and manage reviews posted by its online customers.

Review Trackers gives businesses the ability to track online reviews from all major review sites in one central location. The website helps business owners listen closely and respond promptly to what customers are saying online. The startup now has more than 10,000 customers in North America.

The Chronicle spoke with Campbell about the tech startup scene in Chicago, Review Trackers and his future endeavors as an entrepreneur.

THE CHRONICLE: How did you come up with the idea to start Review Trackers?

CHRIS CAMPBELL: I was trying to solve my own problem. I was working at a marketing agency and we had a client that was trying to understand what people were saying about them online and realized that reviews were at the center of that. We dove in and tried a bunch of software and we ended up using a human automation. We have a team overseas that was checking thousands of online profiles. It clicked in my head that there had to be a better way.

What is human automation?

We have software that automates the activities we do for our customers. We have a human "quality assurance layer" for every business that gets boarded onto our system. We have found that to be a noticeable difference. We make sure that [we can] double check and verify that all of the info that we have is accurate so the data that we get to our customers is correct and insightful.

How do you feel about Chicago as a place for tech startups?

It is a great place for tech startups. Chicago is a great town [with] a lot of innovations. The work ethic and the town where the great universities and colleges help the workforce create a great environment for startups and tech-based companies.

What is the importance of online crowd-sourced reviews for business?

Reviews are a new form of testimonials. Reviews and testimonials have now evolved to become more transparent when we have sites like Yelp and Google where the negative ones are not filtered anymore. It is a critical part for businesses to stay on top of and also generate reviews for the customers that love them, because those stories are now being shared online and those testimonials are being amplified.

What success has the company seen?

We have restaurants, car dealers, hospitals, retail stores—it's literally everything from a cemetery to a bait and tackle store. It is all over the full spectrum.

Do you consider yourself a part of the tech startup community?

We went through two different programs as a company. [The first is] Chili, where you can go and work from San Diego for six months and [which has] a government grant program where they give you \$40,000 to work on a business. That was back in 2012. Last year, we went through a program called Generator, which is based in Madison and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, [and] is an accelerator that a network of companies has been through, but we also purchased to be in that program as well. It is supposed to be the two communities that I most connect with.

What feedback have you gotten?

One customer told us that we deliver crazy value.

bmartinez@chroniclemail.com

Educational technology startups find ways to improve CPS

SARAH MARTINSON

Metro Reporter

WITH EDUCATION BEING a major issue in Chicago's current political firestorm, politicians, residents and civic organizations are seeking new solutions to age-old problems.

An event called "Game Changers in Education," held on Feb. 25, brought entrepreneurs and educators together to tackle long-standing issues through technology.

More than 225 people attended the event, held on the 12th floor of the Merchandise Mart, 222 W. Merchandise Mart Plaza, in the 1871 office spaces.

During the program, presenters had three minutes to talk about their company and present ideas for improving education. After the speeches, attendees had the opportunity to talk one-on-one with each speaker.

LEAP Innovations CEO Phyllis Lockett opened the event and said educational technology is a \$2 billion enterprise nationwide.

George Kacan, vice president of marketing at CannonDesign, a Chicago-based design firm, said he attended the program to stay informed on what educators and entrepreneurs are doing because their work fuels his own in the way he designs schools and universities.

He said all aspects of education—from the way classrooms are designed to the way curriculum



Kelly Wenzel THE CHRONICLE

Christopher Flint, founder of Infinitech, a digital learning platform designed to meet the educational needs of children with autism, spoke at the "Game Changers" event.

is taught—need to be custom-designed for student learning because one method of learning will not be a perfect fit for everyone. All students have different educational needs, he said.

Kacan spoke about how his niece, who has autism, is unable to get a quality education because most schools do not have teaching methods that address her needs. He said he is glad Christopher Flint, one of the guest speakers, founded Infinitech, a digital learning platform designed to meet the needs of children with autism.

Lockett said technology does not solve all educational problems, but it provides solutions for many difficulties educators face, including low attendance and poor test scores.

"Our schools are facing a lot of challenges, as you know, but what we think technology can do is help provide tools and resources to teachers and students that they don't have right now," Lockett said.

By using technology to engage students, Steve McWade, a fifth-grade teacher at Spencer Elementary Technology Academy, said

he appreciates the opportunities technology offers for his teaching.

"[Students] become curious again, and then they become intrinsically motivated," McWade said. "I think a lot of kids are not always intrinsically, [but] are extrinsically motivated. If we can make that shift from extrinsic to intrinsic, then it becomes more important to them. They test better and take ownership of their learning."

McWade is a recipient of a one-to-one iPad grant from Apple that allowed him to purchase tablets for his students. McWade said there

are countless grants available for teachers to supplement the funding available to them to implement technology into their classrooms.

"Technology helps [principals and teachers] be much more efficient in the classroom," Lockett said. "It's freeing them up so they can go deeper with kids and have more time to collaborate on personal development and help better navigate the different learning experiences for every single student."

Eileen Murphy, CEO and founder of an online reading and writing literacy program called ThinkCERCA, said she thinks educators and school boards are enthusiastic about using technology but lack the funding to implement it.

"There's a big disparity in schools," McWade said. "You may have one school that has quite a bit of resources, opposed to another school that may not have ample resources as well."

Mark Achler, managing director for Math Venture Partners, an investment firm, said educational startups should not be discouraged by the lack of funding available in school systems. He said the education industry is a profitable business venture.

"The ability that technology allows us to reach...millions of students. That's really exciting from a financial perspective," Achler said.

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New DePaul basketball arena, Marriott hotel move to McCormick Place

BIANCA MARTINEZ
Metro Reporter

McCormick Place may be seeing the beginning construction of two adjacent neighbors this summer.

Construction of the new DePaul University basketball arena and Marriott hotel, 625 S. Ashland Ave., will begin in July. The arena and hotel are being built along with the new Green Line stop at Cermak Road, and the event center will open in the fall of 2016, according to a Sept. 13, 2013, Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority press release.

The MPEA chose Chicago-based architecture firm Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects, a firm with more than 20 years of design experience including a 10,000-seat event center at McCormick Place for large conventions and DePaul basketball games, according to the press release.

The Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority owns McCormick Place, which is the largest convention center in North America. There are currently 2.6 million square-feet of exhibition space between the North, South and West buildings and Lakeside Center, according to the press release.

The McCormick Place features 173 meeting rooms, the 4,249-seat Arie Crown Theater and one of the largest ballrooms in the world.

Fred Clarke, senior principal at

Pelli Clarke Pelli, said the company has designed a luminous event center that it hopes will portray the facility in an inviting light for the types of events it will host.

The MPEA Board's decision followed a two-phase Request for Proposals process for architects known for generating public excitement and having more city attractions, according to the press release.

The new building will house large business meetings and DePaul's men's and women's basketball games. It will also be home to concerts and special events, according to the press release.

"The construction will include a 1,200-room hotel to serve as the headquarters for conventions and trade shows, a 500-room mid-market hotel and venues for dining and entertainment," according to the press release.

The Prairie District Neighborhood Alliance, whose members live near McCormick Place, are wary of the plan. President Tina Feldstein said she does not think the construction of the new arena is necessary.

"They believe that by having a 10,000-seat event space that it will attract conventions that they cannot have right now," Feldstein said.

She said there have been difficulties securing bookings for the Arie Crown Theater, 2301 S. Lake Shore Drive, which holds 5,000 people, and that it does not make sense



Courtesy PELLI CLARKE PELLI ARCHITECTS

Construction of the new DePaul University basketball arena and Marriott hotel, 625 S. Ashland Ave. at Harrison, will begin in July and is expected to be completed in 2016.

to build a convention center that holds 10,000 in hopes of having a better turnout for conventions.

"The arena is going to cost \$180 million, half of which is going to be paid by DePaul and the rest is being funded by state bonds," Feldstein said.

She also said there is a large amount of debt from the MPEA, and its purchase of the event center will only add to that increasing financial burden.

"It is one piece of development that we never supported," Feldstein said.

She said she thinks the arena will cause parking problems, traffic problems and other ills. Feldstein also said irresponsible students attending games will negatively affect the neighborhood.

"[The entertainment center] would bring in most shows and more employment, [along with] more money to the city and residents of the city," said Chicago resident Pora Whitlock.

Kenneth Sampson, a Chicago resident, said he thinks the entertainment center will be a great tourist attraction.

"Me, being a DePaul fan of basketball, I can't wait for it," Sampson said. "It is going to be really nice."

He said the hotel and arena will not have negative effects.

According to the press release, the building will be beneficial.

"The addition of the event center will allow Chicago to offer a comprehensive and flexible package allowing for new jobs and tax revenues which ultimately have a direct effect on our economic prosperity," according to the press release.

bmartinez@chroniclemail.com

What Remains

Barbara Diener, Pao Houa Her, Jon Rafman, Lieko Shiga

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Brown and Orange lines undergo renovations

ARIEL PARRELLA-AURELI
Contributing Writer

THE CHICAGO TRANSIT Authority Brown and Orange line rail cars will be renovated this spring, giving them a more modernized look similar to the Red, Pink and Green line cars.

The 3200-series rail cars on the two lines were built in 1992 and 1993, making them the second-oldest rail cars being used on the CTA system, said CTA Spokesperson Ibis Antongiorgi in a Feb. 18 emailed statement. Renovations include improved HVAC systems—which control the heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems—better interior lighting and new electronic designation signs, Antongiorgi said in the email. There are also plans to rebuild the rail cars and improve door motors, wheels and axle assemblies. The train car repairs will extend the life of the cars by another six years at least, Antongiorgi said in the email.

According to Antongiorgi, this renovation is part of Mayor Rahm Emanuel and CTA President Forrest Claypool's plan to modernize the CTA and its infrastructure. It will not only extend the life of the 257 rail cars that will get repairs, but improve their performance, efficiency and reliability as well.

The CTA has been gathering

materials and equipment to prepare for the remodeling since 2013. Antongiorgi said in the email that the equipment takes a long time to plan, produce and turn into a complete product.

"[They] require successful testing of pre-production samples to complete the overhaul," Antongiorgi said in the email.

The email said personnel at the CTA's Skokie Heavy Maintenance Facility will perform the overhaul work over the next two years and should be finished in 2017.

Antongiorgi said in the email that the improvements are going to be a positive change and will get the Brown and Orange lines up-to-date with the majority of the CTA rail system. In addition, the email said the mid-life overhaul will result in lower maintenance costs to the CTA. By replacing the major operations system in the trains, the trains' lifespans will be rejuvenated, preventing small fixes and repairs.

"Customers on the Brown and Orange lines will ride rail cars with improved performance, efficiency and reliability," Antongiorgi said in the email.

Vitaliy Vladimirov, an urban planning student at the University of Illinois at Chicago, said he rides the transit system every day and is all for the Brown and Orange line upgrades.

"Any kind of service to improve



Lou Foglia THE CHRONICLE

As part of Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Chicago Transit Authority President Forest Claypool's plan to modernize CTA infrastructure, the Brown and Orange line rail cars will undergo renovations this spring that to their ventilation systems, interior lighting and electronic designation signs.

ridership is always great," Vladimirov said. "People tend to like riding trains more than they like to ride buses."

He said the ridership is booming on the Brown Line and thinks the new signs will help tourists.

Kendal Dirkin, an associate project manager at Razorfish in Merchandise Mart, said she rides the Brown Line every day to and from work. She said improving the lines can help tourists navigate their way around the city because a lot of

tourists ride the Brown Line.

"It would be more pleasant in a newer and warmer car," Dirkin said.

She compared her experience on the Brown Line with the Pink, Green and Purple lines, saying trains would be newer and fresher if the old cars get pushed out for new cars.

"The electric signs are helpful, like when tourists come, the red light beeps and it shows you where you are and where you are going," Dirkin said.

She added it would be nice if

the renovation helps the Brown Line's speed.

"I always find the Brown Line goes slow," Dirkin said. "I don't know if it's the driver or the older cars, but if it could pick up the pace a little bit, that would be nice.... I think we have a good reputation of public transportation in Chicago and the Brown Line should not fall below people's expectations."

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Metra goes mobile with app payment method

LAUREN KOSTIUK
Contributing Writer

METRA IS SCHEDULED to release a mobile ticket-purchasing system early this summer, allowing riders to pay from their smartphones and other mobile devices.

To promote the upcoming app, Metra is increasing its penalty for onboard purchases to discourage riders from paying with cash after the app is released, according to a Jan. 23 Metra press release. The app is expected to help in the development of a regional app that is being created in conjunction with the Chicago Transit Authority and Pace bus service.

Riders will have the option to pay the on-train fares using their smartphones joined with a credit or debit card or a Ventra account. According to the press release, the app will feature other account management functions, such as the ability to add transit value, load passes onto Ventra cards, check balances and receive real-time account alerts.

Metra is test-running the app before its release to avoid the kinds of glitches that plagued the rollout of the CTA's Ventra card in 2013, according to the press release.

Claire Bernotavicius, a freshman journalism major, commutes via the Metra from Orland Park to Union Station during weekdays. She said she often sleeps on the



Kaitlin Hetterscheidt THE CHRONICLE

Metra plans to launch an app early this summer to make ticket payment easier, by allowing riders to purchase tickets on smartphones and other devices, as well as add transit value to Ventra accounts, according to a Jan. 23 Metra press release. Metra is test-running the app before its release to catch any technical glitches.

train because her commute takes an hour, and it would be irritating to pay using her phone.

Bernotavicius said she also worries about possible glitches that could occur after the app's release. Although she uses the Starbucks mobile app to pay for her drinks, Bernotavicius said mobile ticketing is not something she is completely ready to switch.

"It's kind of a hassle," Bernotavicius said. "I feel like it would take

so much longer than just looking at the little piece of paper."

Steve Guenther, vice president of Digital Auditing Services who commutes on the Metra from Cary, Illinois, said he is thrilled Metra is planning to provide customers with a new way to purchase tickets.

Guenther said he only takes the Metra a couple times per year, but it would be easier to use an app than to wait in line to purchase his round-trip ticket that day. With

mobile ticketing, Guenther said he can purchase his ticket the night before his trip through his phone without a rush. He also said he is not afraid of any possible problems when the system launches.

"If you don't keep your phone charged, your battery can die," Guenther said. "But if you keep on top of it, it shouldn't be an issue."

Alisha Mendez, a senior cinema art + science major, said she commutes to her internship in Mt.

Prospect, Illinois once a week on the Metra. She said she cannot wait for the mobile ticketing service because she will be able to sleep an extra 10 minutes instead of waiting in line for a ticket.

"Better technology for the Metra is a good thing," Mendez said. "They have been the same way for too long and lost a lot of money because of it."

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