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THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

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Chicago professional sports on the rise eventually

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College's commitment to diversity doesn't hold water

» ZOË EITEL
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



In the Office of Student Diversity and Inclusion, two people are covering all the work that used to be handled by up to five employees. Of these two people in what was previously the Office of Multicultural Affairs, only one can be considered multicultural.

At a college that touts its commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion—the part of Columbia's Strategic Plan that seems to be talked about the most—this is disappointing and unacceptable. This staff shortage resulted from the departure of former Director Kimberly Weatherly, who also served as the African-American Cultural Affairs coordinator; former LGTBQ Culture and Community Coordinator Lex Lawson; and former Asian-American Cultural Affairs Coordinator Ramona Gupta.

Weatherly's August departure left the position of Multicultural Affairs director vacant, and Associate Dean of Student Life Kari Sommers—a white woman—has filled the role in the interim. While Sommers is presumably doing her best to help the office overcome losing the majority of its staff, she is not someone who students of color or those in the LGBTQ community can relate to.

The other person who is still in the office is Rogelio Becerra-Ramirez, who is the coordinator of Student Engagement and Diversity and formerly held the title of Latino Cultural Affairs coordinator. As reported on Page 3, Becerra-Ramirez has taken on some responsibilities in the office that he is not necessarily comfortable with or qualified to speak on—such as the culture and struggles of black, Asian and LGBTQ students.

Not only have those two been left to shoulder the important task of keeping student diversity and inclusion a focus of the college and helping student organizations to do the same, but Sommers is also still serving as associate dean of Student Life and as an adjunct professor in the Business and Entrepreneurship Department. This begs the question: How important is student diversity and inclusion to the college if the office dedicated to those values is being left to sink under the weight of so many responsibilities and

a director who cannot dedicate all of her time to the role?

This is not a knock on Sommers and Becerra-Ramirez, who bear heavy responsibilities and doing all they can. This is a criticism of the college that just posted a job listing for the SDI director position Sept. 29—almost two full months after the previous director left.

As reported on Page 3, the SDI Office will undergo a restructuring, and the three vacant coordinators will not be filled but will be restructured to include a total of three employees—two intersectional coordinators and the director. But it is not known when that will happen or who will fill those positions. A long timeline wouldn't be surprising as Columbia tends to make changes and progress at a snail's pace.

Besides the Undoing Racism workshops the college has held for faculty and staff the past two years and the appointment of a dean of Academic Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, the college doesn't have much progress to point to in regards to its DEI goal. There are four job postings for assistant professors in four departments as part of the Academic DEI office's targeted cluster hire, which will attempt to bring in tenure-track professors with expertise in diversity issues. However, these professors would not start until fall 2018, according to the job postings.

It's clear to me that the college wants to be inclusive, increase its diversity and has good intentions at heart, but doesn't quite know how to accomplish that in a manner and timeframe that will help currently enrolled students, rather than unknown students in the distant future.

Also, did the college think no one would notice the absence of "equity" in the new office's title?

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New Student Diversity and Inclusion Office in search of new staff

» **CONNOR CARYNSKI**
CAMPUS EDITOR

THE SEARCH FOR a director and coordinator is underway in the new Student Inclusion and Diversity Office as a short-handed staff continues to provide programming.

Formerly known as the Multicultural Affairs Office, the SDI Office changed its name and unveiled its new location on 618 S. Michigan Ave. Building's fourth floor Sept. 7, as reported Sept. 11 by The Chronicle.

Although the new office offers amenities, such as a meditation room, a computer lab with printing capabilities and a student lounge, only two staff members work there: Rogelio Becerra-Ramirez, Student Engagement Diversity and Support coordinator, and Kari Sommers, SDI's interim director, associate dean of Student Life and adjunct professor in the Business and Entrepreneurship Department.

Becerra-Ramirez said the college is interviewing to fill the director position but is unsure when the new director will start or how many of the three empty coordinator positions will be filled.

"We will develop more initiatives as the new director comes into place," Becerra-Ramirez said. "Even though we've had a lot of help from the interim director, Kari Sommers, it's honestly me running these events."

Sommers did not respond to multiple requests for an interview.

Vice President of Student Affairs Sharon Wilson-Taylor said in an Oct. 26 emailed statement to The Chronicle that the SDI Office will continue to provide student support services, cultural celebrations and workshops relating to diversity and inclusion while working toward its goal of increasing faculty, staff and student involvement.

"A search is currently underway to fill the director and coordinator positions," Wilson-Taylor said in the statement. "It is our hope that a new director will be hired sometime in November. Until the time the director position is filled, Kari Sommers will serve as the interim director."

Wilson-Taylor said in an Oct. 27 emailed statement that the office is being modeled differently than the Multicultural Affairs Office and will include three positions. New positions include a Director of Student

diversity and Inclusion, a Student Diversity and Inclusion coordinator of Programs and Services, and a Student Diversity and Inclusion coordinator of Events and Engagement.

"Positions at SDI are not being eliminated," Wilson-Taylor said in the statement. "They are being reorganized by function rather than by constituency, with an emphasis on intersectionality. This is so that all students—including differently abled, veterans, Native American, and others—feel included, and have access to the support they need."

The search for a new permanent director started when former Director Kimberly Weatherly announced she would be leaving the college August 2016, according to Becerra-Ramirez.

When Becerra-Ramirez first started at Columbia in June 2016 as the Latino Cultural Affairs coordinator, he said only three other people worked in the office. The other coordinator positions included LGBTQ Culture and Community coordinator, Asian-American Cultural Affairs coordinator, and African-American Cultural Affairs coordinator.

Becerra-Ramirez said shortly after he was hired as Latino Affairs coordinator, former LGBTQ Coordinator Lex Lawson stepped down, followed by the resignation of Weatherly, who was also the African-American Cultural Affairs coordinator, who left the college in August along with former Asian-American Cultural Affairs Coordinator Ramona Gupta.

Gupta, who currently works as associate director of Diversity and Inclusion at the University of Illinois at Chicago's College of Pharmacy, said managing workloads was a challenge even before she left the college because the LGBTQ Culture and Community coordinator position was empty throughout the 2016–2017 school year.

A Change.org petition was started during the Spring 2017 Semester pushing for the college to fill the LGBTQ coordinator position following Lawson's September 2016 departure and a lack of response from college administrators, which put a halt to supportive initiatives, as reported Feb. 3 by The Chronicle.

"Right now, with one full-time person and one person who is filing in on interim

basis, but also has so many other duties, I can only imagine in terms of their workload—how they are managing and their ability to serve the needs of all the students who come to SDI Office for student organizations or not," Gupta said. "I'm sure it is really challenging right now."

Senior business and entrepreneurship major and Chinese Students and Scholars Association President Ran Yan said although she and her organization still receive the same services from the office, the atmosphere is different since the former coordinators left. Yan added that many responsibilities fell onto Becerra-Ramirez after the coordinators' departure and that she preferred when there was one coordinator for each office.

"He has such a big heart and chooses to help everyone, but now it just seems like he is too overwhelmed with so much work on him," Yan said. "The Student Diversity [and] Inclusion sounds so nice, they merged everything, but you cannot

merge everything on one person's shoulder. That is more like a burden that is too much."

Becerra-Ramirez said it is important to have a diverse staff because, as a Latino man, he is not entirely familiar with other cultures and their struggles, such as Asian-American or African-American individuals. Sommers has voiced concern about stepping into the interim position as a Caucasian woman, Becerra-Ramirez noted.

"I appreciate [Sommers] taking the time to express her own concerns that as a white woman leading this office, she told her higher ups that it simply wasn't right," Becerra-Ramirez. "She was even hesitant of taking up the office here because she didn't want students to get the idea that she was here to stay and that she was comfortable in her position. She has done a really good job at making sure that the office stays afloat, knowing it is just me doing the day to day thing."

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»PHOTOS ERIN BROWN/CHRONICLE



The LGBTQ culture and community coordinator, Asian-American cultural affairs coordinator and African-American cultural affairs coordinator positions are being replaced by two intersectional coordinator positions in the new Student Diversity and Inclusion Office.

Offensive costumes: all tricks, no treats

» MOLLY WALSH
CAMPUS REPORTER

DRESSING UP ON Halloween is an age-old tradition deriving from the Celts, but in the past few years, interest has spiked in politically incorrect costumes, according to statistics from Google Trends.

This year, schools such as the University of Texas at Austin and the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota distributed fliers describing what costumes to avoid for Halloween, according to the schools' websites and student news publications.

For example, among offensive Halloween costumes are Kmart's "Men's Arab Sheik Costume," which misuses the traditional outfit worn by royal Arabic-speaking people. Party City also offers a "Hey Amigo" costume that depicts a man riding a donkey

while wearing a sombrero and poncho. Multiple different companies also offer a "Pocahontas" costume, which appropriates the traditional garb worn by indigenous people, and there are many more examples.

Sean Johnson Andrews, associate professor in the Humanities, History and Social Sciences Department, said the recent focus on offensive costumes is an opportunity for discussing what makes a costume offensive.

"[A politically incorrect] costume would be one that is either intentionally or unintentionally insensitive or maybe even intentionally insults other cultural groups you may or may not be a part of," Johnson Andrews said.

Halloween celebrants risk offending someone if they wear costumes that depend on stereotypes to identify themselves

as a member of another culture, Johnson Andrews said.

Sarah Shaaban, director of Student Organizations and Leadership, who helped arrange the Columbia contingent for the Oct. 21 Art in the Dark Halloween Parade, said sensitive and careful consideration is necessary when planning campus events or programs to create an inclusive environment in which everyone can enjoy the holiday.

"It is important to have conversations around cultural appropriation or dressing up in a way that is disrespectful to another culture or race," Shaaban said.

Faculty and staff on college campuses should monitor whether students are wearing offensive Halloween costumes and have educational conversations with them regarding racism and cultural appropriation, Shaaban said.

Sheila Baldwin, associate professor in the English and Creative Writing Department, said although she does not see offensive costumes on Columbia's campus, tolerance for offensive costumes, such as blackface, is pervasive on other campuses.

"Any costume[d person] that doesn't take into consideration what they are wearing would be offensive to someone—who they may sit next to in a classroom or who they may sit next to in a boardroom meeting—are the most offensive," Baldwin said.

Johnson Andrews and

Baldwin said the surge of politically incorrect costumes may be an effect of the alt-right movement and the country's current political climate and administration.

"The presidential administration of the U.S. permit these kinds of costumes to be worn and to be celebrated. Like 'Look at me, I can do this' because that's what the leader of the free world is saying," Baldwin said.

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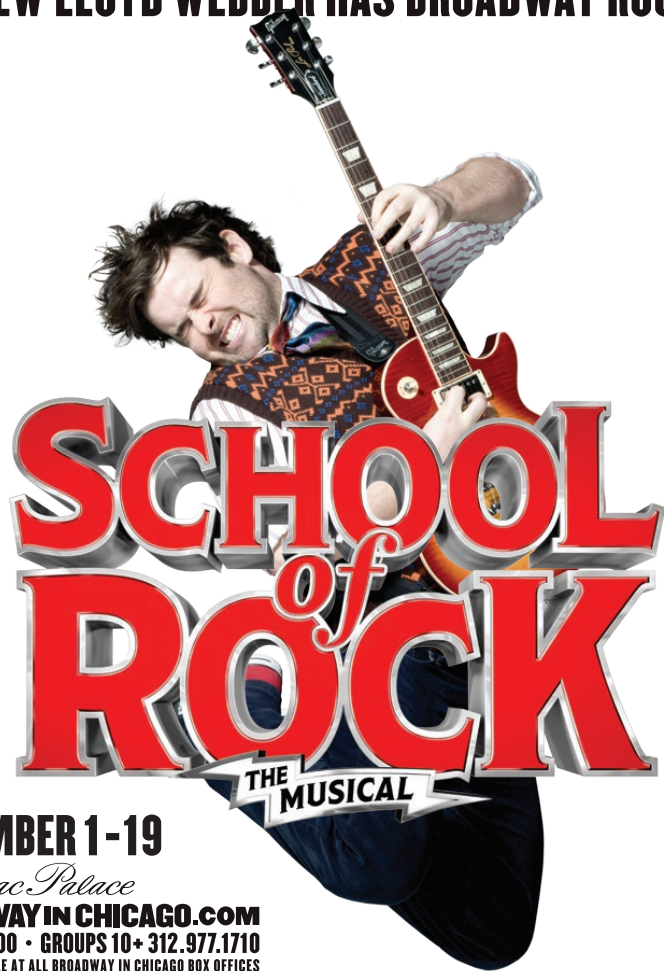
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Professor stitches together activism, empowerment

» OLIVIA DELOIAN
CAMPUS REPORTER

AN EMBROIDERED CLOTH stitched by a Columbia adjunct has gone viral in response to the accelerating allegations of sexual harassment and assault against film producer Harvey Weinstein.

The embroidery, shared by celebrities over social media as a way to stand up for victimized women, reads “Boys will be Boys” with the second “Boys” crossed out and replaced with “held accountable for their f--king actions.” Some celebrities who shared the work include Rose McGowan, Emily Ratajkowski and Tracee Ellis Ross.

Shannon Downey, adjunct professor in the Design and Business and Entrepreneurship departments, said she initially made the

cross-stitching in October 2016 as a statement against then-presidential candidate Donald Trump, who had stated in a 2005 video he could grab women inappropriately and get away with it because he was a celebrity.

Downey said she is surprised to see her work get so much exposure now, as opposed to when she created the stitching.



» PHOTOS COURTESY SHANNON DOWNEY

Shannon Downey said she encourages her students to create meaningful artwork as she has through embroidery.

“I’ve been really humbled and honored by the fact that so many women are using that piece as the illustration to go along with their stories,” Downey said. “People using my image in that way is the most magical use of my work that I could ever think of.”

Downey’s inspiration for the stitching came from a childhood memory of her mother’s reaction to the statement “boys will be boys.”

“I remember my mom coming home one day and being like, ‘I hate that expression; what is this boys will be boys? This is ridiculous. No, they will be held accountable for whatever they do,’” Downey said.

Richard Zeid, associate professor in the Design Department, said Downey’s dedication to advocacy for human rights is characteristic



Downey has created several versions of the viral stitching since her original statement against Trump in 2016.

of both her artistic work and teaching methods.

“The work she’s done and the notice she’s gotten for it [are] a testament to her commitment to her beliefs,” Zeid said.

Downey said she works activism into the classroom by encouraging her students to create meaningful, world-changing work.

Gretta Goldstein, 2017 graphic design alumna, had Downey for her “Management for Designers” class and said Downey’s optimism made the class exciting to attend.

“Every aspect of who she was seemed to be trying to bring

activism and being a better person into it,” Goldstein said. “That was the first time I saw someone who was doing it all the time.”

Goldstein now works as a graphic designer at Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, a Native American sovereign nation near Minneapolis, and said Downey’s influence has aided her in working with and honoring a culturally sensitive area.

“If there’s one word to embody [Downey], to me it’s ‘empowerment,’” Goldstein said.

Downey said she feels spreading activism is a necessity in America because of the current political climate.

“I’m sort of a perpetual activist; I don’t know how not to be,” Downey said. “It’s my medium in order to spread a message and ask people to consider things, think about things differently, stand up, say something and [then] do something.”

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BSU to discuss mental health, black community

» OLIVIA DELOIAN
CAMPUS REPORTER

COLUMBIA'S BLACK STUDENT Union is hosting its next meeting called Suffering in Silence Nov. 1 to create and encourage discussions about mental health awareness within the black community.

The event, which will take place at 618 S. Michigan Ave., will feature anonymous student videos that share personal struggles in overcoming mental illness.

Deonna Bolden, vice president of Operations for BSU and a junior fashion studies major, said she decided to focus on mental health because of her personal experience with mental illness and the lack of discussion about the topic within the black community.

"It was important for me to create a space for our members," Bolden said. "Letting everyone

know that it's OK to get help, and it's not something you need to be embarrassed about or afraid to do, which is why I titled [the meeting] Suffering in Silence."

Bolden said she will share her own struggles after showing the videos and hopes the project will provide a platform for other BSU members to do the same.

"Me taking this leap forward, speaking in front of all of our members, especially with the position I have, I hope that it allows our members to be able to open up as well," Bolden said.

Briana Fennell, vice president of Marketing at BSU and a junior business and entrepreneurship major, said the meeting should emphasize the reality of mental illness and hopes it will encourage further discussions about the topic within the black community.

"[With BSU] sparking this conversation, we hope people are honest about their journey and they're honest about their mental health in saying, 'Yes, I'm going

through something, but I will not let that take over what I want to be," Fennell said. "I just hope people [are able to] get in touch with their feelings."



» MACKENZIE CROSSON/CHRONICLE

Black Student Union's Vice President of Operations Deonna Bolden said that she hopes the group's next meeting will create an open discussion regarding members' experiences coping with mental illness.

Cameron Hubert, BSU president and a junior cinema and television arts major, said it is well-known that mental health is an important issue for college students because of all the stresses they face, which is why BSU wants to offer full support for its members.

"You want to create spaces to say that we are here for you for peer support, and that your story isn't the only story in that I can connect with you, I can empathize with you and I got you," Hubert said.

Bolden said Columbia does well supporting students with mental health, adding that she has personally used resources from the counseling services and student affairs offices, but students may not be comfortable using the services themselves.

"We welcome any and all students and faculty to our meetings, and we want everyone to come because it's really important for us to get the word out but also for other people to see what we're talking about because it's important for all students," Bolden said.

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Columbia alumnus sells innovative watches

» **TESSA BRUBAKER**
CAMPUS REPORTER

MARK PARA STARTED collecting vintage watches at age 12 during a visit to Europe to see family and has had an interest in them ever since. He said he was always fascinated with the movements and inner workings of the watches he's collected over the years.

Now Mark Para, a 2012 design alumnus, is raising money via Kickstarter to fund his watch company Carpathia Watch Co., which he created with his wife, Helena Para.

When he decided to create his own line of watches, Mark Para said he looked at watch startups on Kickstarter and saw very little creativity, which inspired him to try to create something new and unique, like having them represent

old-fashioned watch designs with a modern update.

So far they have raised more than \$11,000 of their \$65,000 goal and have four designs for sale on CarpathiaWatches.com.

"Everybody else is doing this, but they're not doing it the way I envisioned it, so I ventured out to

do that myself and designed my own watch," Mark Para said. "[I used] inspiration from other vintage watches that I acquired over the years."

About two and a half years ago, Mark started creating prototypes and searching for manufacturers, Helena Para said. His passion for watches inspired her own interest in them as well, and with his hard work and dedication, they were able to perfect their designs and launch the Kickstarter campaign, she added.

"I love that we're two regular people that made this thing happen," Helena Para said. "We're not some millionaires or company throwing money at a new venture that's going to make us a ton, it's really a passion project."

Mark Para said their products are entry-level luxury watches with the look of a modern watch design but with the elements and quality of a vintage watch. The logo has a canary bird and the name of the company also refers to the Caparthian mountains in Poland.

Rob Funderburk, creative industry liaison in the Career Center, said he remembers Mark Para as someone who was extremely dedicated in his design studies when he was a student. Funderburk held several meetings with Para to assist him with his career path.

"I'm not surprised at all to see him become an entrepreneur and to go so far as to source manufacturers and find ways to get his design work implemented and become real," Funderburk said.

Helena Para said their goal is to keep the company between the two of them so it remains special. They plan to release new editions of the watches every few years if they become successful.

Mark Para said he hopes these watches' timeless, classic design passes down through families.

"I'm just proud that I was able to bring my vision to life," Mark Para said. "It's a lot of hard work and dedication, and you're not getting paid for it, so it's rewarding when you finally have the product at hand."



Mark Para, a 2012 design alumnus, created his own watch company with his wife and has the products for sale on his website. The watches should be shipped to customers and collectors by March 2018.

» COURTESY MARK PARA

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DOD, FROM FRONT

» MACKENZIE CROSSON
PHOTO EDITOR

COLUMBIA'S LATINO ALLIANCE student organization served up student musical performances, artwork and tacos at its Oct. 27 Día de los Muertos celebration at Stage Two, 618 S. Michigan Ave. Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is a holiday observed in Mexico and other Latin-American countries to honor the spirits of the dead. Adriana Baca, Latino Alliance president and sophomore cinema and television arts major, said she hoped the event would share part of Mexican and other Latino cultures with the Columbia community in a fun, interactive way, adding, "This is a celebration of life."



» PHOTOS MACKENZIE CROSSON/CHRONICLE



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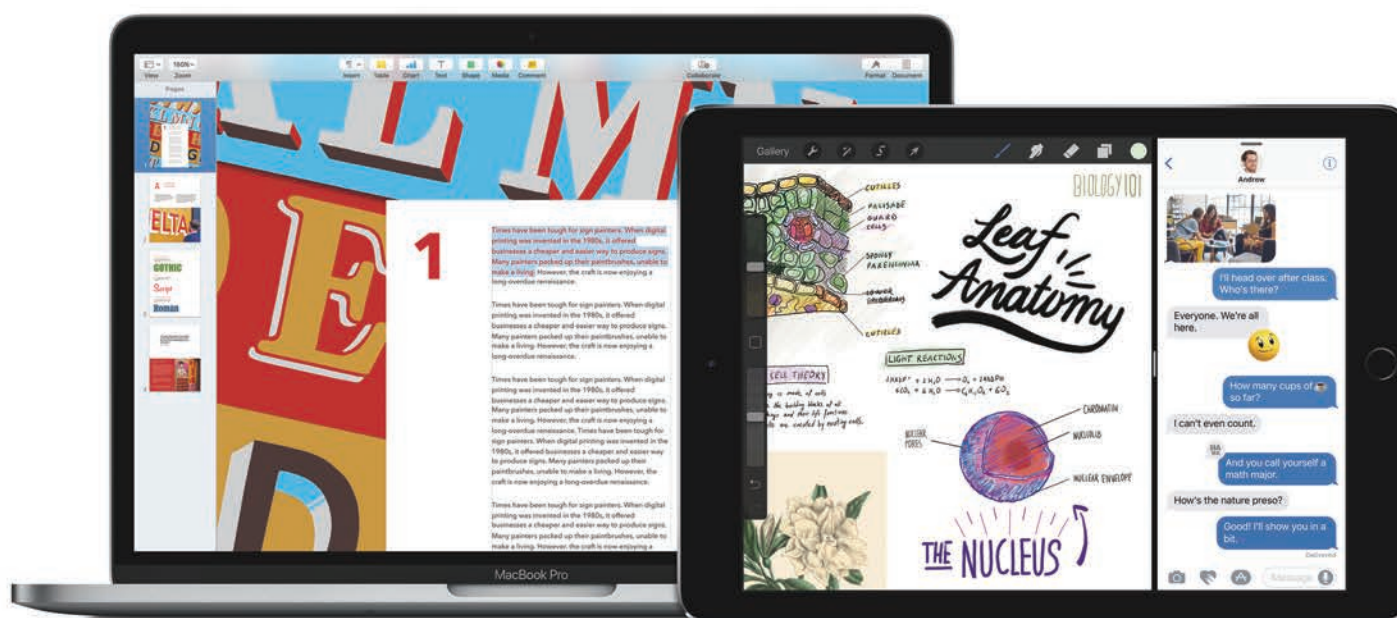
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Logan Square mural remembers neighborhood before gentrification

» **MIRANDA MANIER**
ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER

JUSTINE BAYOD-ESPOZ, SPOKESWOMAN for community organization Somos Logan Square, remembers a Logan Square from her childhood that was filled with families. It was a safe, comfortable and predominantly Latino neighborhood where she could come home from school and find kids playing in the streets while blasting music from her bedroom window for her friends to enjoy below.

Children could stay outside until midnight during the summer, she said.

Now, Bayod-Espoz said, she rarely sees working class families or hears music. Instead, she sees 20- and 30-something singles going to and from bars and walking their dogs.

The neighborhood's lost atmosphere that Bayod-Espoz remembers as a child in the '80s is depicted in a mural on the corner of Kedzie and Milwaukee avenues—on a bus station wall outside the Logan Square Blue Line stop. This mural is being painted by multidisciplinary artist Sam Kirk and muralist Sandra Antongiorgi.

"This is an opportunity to take a look at what was developed in Logan Square by people in the community," Kirk said. She added that it was a chance to use places and memories—which were noted by youth groups and community leaders with whom

she and Antongiorgi met during the development process—as visuals for the project.

Antongiorgi and Kirk explained that those visuals depict the musicality that has disappeared from the neighborhood's streets, as well as children playing near fire hydrants, and acknowledging Logan Square's intergenerational diversity.

"We celebrate our elders and we celebrate our youth," Antongiorgi said. "You'll see a woman that represents the elders in the community, and then you'll also see young people, maybe a guy who's in his early 20s."

Ald. Carlos Ramirez-Rosa (35th Ward) spearheaded the mural's development,

and his office was specific about how it wanted ideas for the mural to be incubated, Kirk said.

"The alderman was particular about making sure the community's voice was involved in the concept development for this piece," she said. "That was a perfect fit for [Antongiorgi and I, because we] are big on making sure the community's voice and what the people think and feel are part of the mural."

Fighting gentrification in the neighborhood is about more than reflecting on the past, Bayod-Espoz said. Though she thinks it might be difficult for this to be

illustrated in a mural, she wishes for projects like Antongiorgi and Kirk's to show the authentic struggle gentrification creates and to make passersby uncomfortable with its reality.

"I would like to see some kind of depiction of people who have gone through trials and hardships because they're losing their homes and community," Bayod-Espoz said. "But I would also like to see hope. If I could depict it any which way I could, I would depict it as a cycle. I would depict it as what we're losing, but also coming back and gaining more."

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A still-in-progress mural looks to recapture Logan Square's misplaced community. The images for the mural were conceived after the muralists met with community groups in Logan Square.



LIVE

» **ARIANA PORTALATIN**
MANAGING EDITOR

from my desk chair

Harry Styles groping incident is sexual assault

A fan groped singer Harry Styles as he performed at the We Can Survive breast cancer benefit concert in Los Angeles Oct. 22, prompting conversation on sexual assault and harassment within the entertainment industry.

In a video posted on Twitter, Styles is shown performing his song “Kiwi,” during which an overzealous fan overstepped boundaries and grabbed Styles’ crotch as he approached the front row on his knees. Styles seems to immediately swipe at the fan’s hand before making his way back to the center of the stage.

Many spoke against the action and viral hashtag #RespectHarry soon followed to remind fans that Styles is deserving of the same respect as everyone else. This isn’t just about Harry, though. It’s about Harry and every other artist and entertainer with fans who think they are entitled to touch someone without their permission just because they are in the spotlight.

The incident follows recent sexual assault allegations made within the entertainment industry, including those against film producer Harvey Weinstein, screenwriter and film director James Toback, former President George H.W. Bush, musician Jeordie White, also known as Twiggy Ramirez, photographer Terry Richardson, and many more.

Though support is growing for outing alleged harassers, some people still don’t see the problem of touching someone else without consent. Some people have justified the fan’s groping and have even gone as far as to blame Styles for the incident.

“What kind of backwards world are we living in where people are whining about a female grabbing a rock star’s crotch? Did Elvis ever whine about it?” one person wrote online.

TMZ also distastefully posted a video on its Twitter account Oct. 24 of its staff discussing the incident, asking, “Is Harry Styles just asking to get his crotch touched?” A few staff members were making excuses for the incident in the video.

But despite what they say, he wasn’t asking for it. Touching someone



inappropriately without consent is assault and should not ever be tolerated no matter who the victim is.

Also, Styles should not be blamed. Getting close to fans during a performance is not uncommon and is typically appreciated by fans, who also regularly reach out to grasp artists’ hands. Styles is a musician, and it is not abnormal for him to want to get closer with his audience to provide them with a better performance. But just because he wanted to connect better with his fans does not give them the right to grab him sexually. Failing to understand this can lead to artists separating themselves from their audience. Fans are not entitled to anything other than a performance, especially not an artist’s body.

It’s important for people to realize this. According to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, a national anti-sexual violence organization, there are 321,500 victims—aged 12 or older—of rape and sexual assault each year in the U.S., which means someone is sexually assaulted about every 98 seconds. Although women and girls experience sexual assault at a higher rate, men are not excluded. About three percent of American men have experienced an attempted or completed rape in their lifetime, and one out of every 10 rape victims are male.

No matter how excited a fan may be, the emotion does not give them the right to touch the performer. There is a line of respect and boundaries, and those were crossed when this audience member groped Styles.

aportalatin@columbiachronicle.com



Wednesday, Nov. 1

ANIMALS AS LEADERS & PERIPHERY

Vic Theatre
3145 N. Sheffield Ave.
7:30 p.m.
\$34

Monday, Oct. 30

ARCADE FIRE

United Center
1901 W. Madison St.
7:30 p.m.
\$24.95+

Thursday, Nov. 2

THE WEEKND

United Center
1901 W. Madison St.
7:30 p.m.
\$64+

Wednesday, Nov. 1

THE MAINE

House of Blues Chicago
329 N. Dearborn St.
5 p.m.
\$25

Friday, Nov. 3

THE USED

Aragon Ballroom
1106 W. Lawrence Ave.
6:30 p.m.
\$35

FROM THE FRONT ROW

Conor Mason, lead singer of English rock band *Nothing But Thieves*, played a sold-out show at Lincoln Hall, 2424 N. Lincoln Ave., Oct. 25.



» ERIN BROWN/CHRONICLE

Café turns coffee into ‘Sip of Hope’

» **KENDRAH VILLIESSE**
ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER

BECAUSE A CUP of coffee can go a long way, a Logan Square café is creating a safe space for support and a morning pick-me-up.

A Sip of Hope, 3039 W. Fullerton Ave., is the product of a collaboration between nonprofit Hope for the Day and Dark Matter Coffee, a café and coffee roastery, and is scheduled to open in spring 2018,

offering customers reassurance and access to staff counselors.

To make the café a safe space, the volunteer staff will be trained in mental health services, said Jonny Boucher, founder and CEO of Hope for the Day, which provides education on suicide prevention. A hundred percent of the shop's sales will go to Hope for the Day.

“It’s not to say that, ‘Oh, we’re bringing great coffee to Logan Square,’” Boucher said. “It’s giving people the option to be a part of something and have a great cup

of coffee and know that you are able to walk in there and get the support that you need.”

Working in the music industry in 2010, Boucher, a 2009 advertising alumnus, woke to the news of his boss taking his own life.

Boucher said he was still struggling with losing both his aunt and uncle to suicide, and the losses inspired him to act.

“I came up with the slogan ‘It is OK not to be OK,’” Boucher said. “I wish I could have told my aunt and my uncle and the friends I had lost

» **KEVIN TIONGSON/CHRONICLE**

that what they are going through was something that wasn’t going to be forever and they didn’t have to go through this alone.”

He founded Hope for the Day in 2011, using his passion for music and art to relay messages of mental health awareness and suicide prevention, Boucher said. The goal is to encourage conversations about alternatives to suicide, he added.

“What is interesting is between that time from when I started it and now, mental health is being talked about a little bit more,” Boucher said. “It is still not at the place where we need it to be. People break the silence but it is just left there.”

Death is an uncomfortable topic, and suicide takes it to another level, said Leila Ellis-Nelson, outreach coordinator for Roosevelt University’s counseling center.

“Once [you] have the understanding that you have the ability to get someone connected to a resource and that you yourself can be a resource, you start to take a more proactive stance in the lives of other people when they are

dealing with suicidal ideations,” Ellis-Nelson said.

Hope for the Day also provides support to other organizations. Sebastian Klein, president of the Angel Forever Foundation, founded the organization after he lost his daughter, Angel, in June to suicide. Klein said he stumbled upon a Hope for the Day tent at Warped Tour 2017 and had its full support in creating an organization to honor his daughter.

With the newest partnership between Hope for the Day and Dark Matter Coffee, Klein said the coffee shop’s name, A Sip of Hope, hits home for everyone.

“The name in itself, just a sip of hope draws attention,” Klein said. “All of us, whether we are suffering from a mental illness, or we are walking around thinking life is wonderful and everything is great, we are all still suffering from what I call ‘the void.’ We are searching and looking for something.”

Visit ColumbiaChronicle.com for additional reporting.

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Hope for the Day, an organization that provides suicide prevention counseling, is partnering with Dark Matter Coffee to create a coffee shop that provides mental health awareness and suicide prevention at 3039 W. Fullerton Ave.

'Call Me by Your Name' is an ode to first love, new beginnings

» **BROOKE PAWLING STENNETT**
DIGITAL MANAGING EDITOR

From the moment "Call Me by Your Name" begins, everything on screen is significant: the sheen of sweat, the glare of the sun, the sway of the apricot trees. Even the Northern Italian setting becomes its own character with old paved roads and stunning, bold architecture.

Adapted from André Aciman's 2007 novel of the same name, the heart-wrenching film, set in 1983, follows the developing relationship between Elio—an intelligent 17-year-old played by Timothée Chalamet—and Oliver—an all-American graduate student played by Armie Hammer, chosen by Elio's professor father to come stay at the family's villa.

The film is directed by Luca Guadagnino with screenplay by

James Ivory, best known for directing the 1987 film "Maurice," and will be released Nov. 24. Since its premiere at the 2017 Sundance Film Festival in January, "Call Me by Your Name" has been praised by critics everywhere for its languid storytelling through touch and not

just words. The film currently has a 97 percent on Rotten Tomatoes.

Chalamet and Hammer have undeniable chemistry while lying together on a countryside that's only accentuated by the summer's baked heat. Each scene is a potent concoction of bare skin, rippling



Timothée Chalamet (back) and Armie Hammer star as Elio and Oliver in "Call Me by Your Name." COURTESY SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

muscles and damp hairlines, giving the film an overall sensual tone that triumphs over most modern romance movies.

But the sensuality never usurps that the film is, at its core, a coming-of-age story. Elio spends his summers pre-Oliver picking apricots off the trees, writing music, riding bikes with friends and, as he says it, "waiting for it to end."

He moves throughout life as every other 17-year-old: desperate to be an adult and infuriated when anyone assumes that he isn't one already. Chalamet's natural charm and Elio's buoyant playfulness incite as much laughter as they do wistful sighs. When he starts sleeping with his friend Marzia, portrayed by Esther Garrell, his conflicted emotions remind us what it is like to want too much all at once.

Though Guadagnino's decision to cast straight actors for these roles has been criticized, the moment Hammer leans over Chalamet lying down on the long grass to kiss him for the first time, it's clear that this movie was cast

FILM REVIEW

correctly. Elio and Oliver's desperate longing and sometimes brutal flirting is uplifting, joyful and, at times, overwhelming.

If there is one scene that will cement the film's place as one of the greatest of the last decade, it is Elio's father's closing monologue. After Oliver goes back to America, Elio sits beside his father in his study and receives the kind and accepting words every child deserves to hear.

Whether he and Oliver were friends or maybe more, they had something special. Elio must nurse that pain and joy because it will change him for the better.

Elio grows throughout the film, and Chalamet uses his body to portray that confidence in small, definitive ways. Whether he is learning how to stand taller, hug tighter or embrace the lessons learned, the film is one long ode to first love and how it transforms us.

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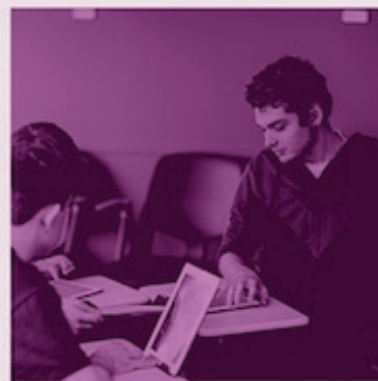


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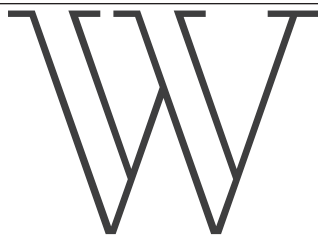
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Career Center

Literature, art 'pop up' at Athletic Association

» MIRANDA MANIER
ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER

THE CHICAGO ATHLETIC Association hotel is a historic pop-up bar landmark, and one more is on the way.

The first pop-up paid homage to the Cherry Circle sailing team of the early 1900s. Another decorated the Backroom bar with specimens from the Field Museum.

Next on the schedule is Art Shoppe, a retail and gallery space that explores the intersection of literature and visual art. It offers catalogues, zines and art books alongside art installations and a gallery wall.

Art Shoppe had a soft opening in early October and will have a grand opening party Nov. 3 at 6 p.m. It will remain open until at least the

end of 2017 and is a collaboration with JohallaProjects, an artist and writer collective.

Anna Cerniglia, JohallaProjects' founder, has consulted on CAA's programming in the past, but Art Shoppe is the first event she thinks truly represents JohallaProjects.

The Chicago Art Book Fair inspired the Art Shoppe's exploration of literature and art, Cerniglia said, and will be held at CAA Nov. 16-19. The pop-up is an opportunity to draw attention to the Art Book Fair and also provide a place where people can come to add to their book collections, she noted.

Patrick Hatton, CAA's general manager, said in an Oct. 26 emailed statement that the hotel's programming goal has been to "build playful, inclusive programs and experiences that speak directly to various local artistic and cultural communities."

Cerniglia explained that the programming focuses on education. Art Shoppe's retail plan is a departure from this strategy, but Cerniglia said it still falls "under the umbrella" of CAA's mission by



Art Shoppe is the current pop-up residing in the Chicago Athletic Association, offering both a retail and gallery experience.

» PHOTOS: ERIN BROWN/CHRONICLE



The Chicago Athletic Association hotel has hosted a number of pop-ups over the past few years, primarily bars.

featuring Chicago artists, communities and cultures.

"Literature and art go hand in hand," Cerniglia said. "When there's a visual piece, there's obviously text that goes along with it. They support each other, so I figured that [would be] a good introduction for people who are not normally in the art world to start viewing art. I want [art] to be accessible."

Compared to online shopping, the Art Shoppe's tactile experience

creates accessibility, said Stephen Eichhorn, an artist featured at Art Shoppe and represented by JohallaProjects.

"The ease of being able to walk into a space and start looking at materials that are best viewed in person is great," Eichhorn said. "The most important part of [Art Shoppe] is making [art] accessible and not so much 'the other' or existing in the bubble that is the fine art world."

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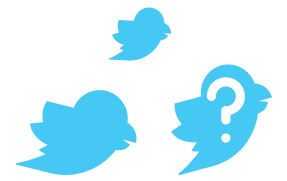
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@ALittleBirdieToldMe: #anonymous Twitters bring marketing satire to your feed



Story by Jonathon Sadowski
Design by Patrick Casey

On his daily commute in Chicago Transit Authority vehicles, Bus constantly looks over his shoulder. He is paranoid that people will see his phone. Sometimes he has to pocket the device to finish business outside.

Only a handful of people—not even his family—know what Bus does with his phone. Others have had their suspicions. He denies them all.

Bus doesn't currently hold any incriminating documents. He is not a government insider or corporate whistleblower. He is not ordering a hit and definitely is not playing solitaire. He runs an anonymous parody Twitter account followed by a little more than 1,200 people. It is called the Double Deuce, a personification of CTA's route 22 bus.

"I like the air of secrecy," said Bus, who declined to reveal his true identity and spoke over the phone under the condition of absolute anonymity. He requested to be called "Bus" for this story. "There is no reason for people to know who I am."

The Double Deuce is not the only anonymous Chicago-themed Twitter account. It's not even the only CTA-themed account. However, the account is among the most vulgar and offensive. Its bio simply

reads "I'm a complete s--t show." Its coarseness is surpassed perhaps only by the legendary, nationally popular @MayorEmanuel account, created by former Columbia professor Dan Sinker, that lampooned Mayor Rahm Emanuel during his initial 2011 mayoral bid.

Anonymous Twitter accounts have been used for everything from political satire to marketing, with brands using snarky humor and pop culture references in the same way as accounts usually reserved entirely for humor. Companies' social media accounts have become memes all their own.

Anonymity has its perks: People respond better to faceless branding that still has some personality, said Ryan Smith, assistant professor of Instruction in the Business and Entrepreneurship Department who also curates the previously anonymous CTA Fails Twitter account that retweets CTA horror stories. CTA Fails has more than 18,800 followers.

"Nobody cares about me," Smith said. "Nobody cares if it's a random person, but when there's this brand behind it, people can relate to it. It comes with hashtags, and it became the vocabulary that people are using every day. They're like, 'Oh, CTA fail!'"

Companies have even picked up on the explosive response to the type of humor anonymous parody accounts deliver. After the entity known to the world as Riot Fest Twitter Person took over the music festival's official Twitter account in 2012, its follower count ballooned.

In the first few months after the transition, the amount of followers on Riot Fest's account more than doubled to about 15,000. Now, more than 67,000 people track the

festival's rude, sarcastic and irreverent tweets. Two graphs from social media analysis site SocialBlade comparing Riot Fest's tweeting frequency and total follower count have nearly identical lines. The more RFTP tweets, the more followers they garner for the festival, to nearly analogous results.

RFTP's online demeanor is intentional, RFTP told The Chronicle, to match the festival's "underdog, anti-corporate, corporate" reputation. But there are differences in its Twitter, Facebook and Instagram presences: The former is the platform on which RFTP can totally let humor hang loose.

In a June 27, 2016, tweet, RFTP responded to someone who had said, "I just don't understand why [Riot Fest] can't be free" with a scathing low blow to the original tweeter's intelligence: "I'm sure there are lots of things you don't understand."

"We're smartasses on [all the platforms, but] Facebook is a lot more like, 'Here's actual information that you guys need to go to this festival,'" said RFTP, who manages all of Riot Fest's social media accounts. "There's no drunken Facebooking at 1 o'clock in the morning, but there is drunken Twittering at 1 o'clock in the morning. The platform lends itself to that a lot more where you can shoot off 15, 20 tweets in a row, and it's not a big deal."

Despite the way social media managers stay out of the spotlight by remaining behind brand logos and generic accounts, their personalities make companies seem more human and relatable, RFTP

said, adding that the anonymous persona is part of the appeal because the accounts lose some of their allure if identities are revealed.

"Clearly, it has to be [working for Riot Fest]," Smith said. "You hear people talk about it, even if you don't really go to Riot Fest. I've never been to Riot Fest ... but I know about their Twitter account."

The trend extends beyond Twitter accounts as corporations look to add humor and novelty to their marketing.

Toilet paper brand Charmin has taken on the persona of a "playful instigator" through its social media presence, said Kellie Snyder, senior account supervisor with MSLGROUP New York, the public relations firm in charge of Charmin's snarky social media accounts.

"What better place to showcase that character than via social media?" Snyder wrote in an Oct. 27 email to the Chronicle. "Our fans seem to gravitate toward the account because it seems very 'real life.'"

After reports about a police search for a female jogger who poops on people's lawns, Charmin tweeted Sept. 20 that the brand was offering a year supply of toilet paper to the "Mad Pooper" should she turn herself in.



@robdelaney ✓

@Charmin my daughter was killed by a bear yesterday when she tried to offer it toilet paper, you son of a b---h
7:49 AM - 3 Aug 2012

@Charmin ✓

Um, Charmin Bears are animated. We do not advise offering real bears toilet paper. Leave the wild animal wrangling to @OldSpice
10:36 AM - 3 Aug 2012



@tacobell ✓

Always get the extra taco. Better to be safe than sorry.

7:00 PM - 18 Jul 2017



@DennysDiner ✓

"you're eating dessert for breakfast? what are you, eight?"

first of all, yes.

11:03 AM - 17 Oct 2017



The next f--king person who asks me when the lineup comes out is banned from Riot Fest for life.

10:08 AM - 18 Sep 2017

Riot Fest

For Robert Morvay, a junior theatre major, companies simply being amusing or exploiting meme culture is not enough. Deliberate effort and audience empathy are essential for a desirable response, he said.

"Anyone can go on Facebook, see a meme and try and translate it to their food or whatever product they're trying to sell as hastily as possible," Morvay said, adding that Arby's is an example of pop culture marketing done right.

Arby's creates cardboard sculptures of anything from anime to video games with the restaurant's packaging material. One such online ad recreated the cover of Tim Burton's classic "The Nightmare Before Christmas" with a hash brown taking Jack Skellington's place in front of the moon, which in Arby's ad is simply a cardboard saucer.

Diner chain Denny's also posts bizarre quips, and many of them have almost nothing to do with the actual food.

"Have you ever been to Chicago and seen *The Bean*?" a Denny's tumblr post reads. The picture accompanying it has an actual singular coffee bean in place of the real-life sculpture.

Marketing campaigns such as these are what millennials respond to best and will continually return to, Morvay said.

"What's really working for millennials is not being a faceless corporation," he explained, "and showing that you can be friendly, funny, diverse [and] human."

Some brands—most famously fast-food burger chain Wendy's, which boasts more than 2 million Twitter followers—have taken to engaging in online feuds with competitors. Wingstop and Wendy's had a good-natured Twitter rap battle

Oct. 2 that all started with Wingstop spitting some virtual bars while riding a viral tweet's coattails.

The tweet that started it all was a picture of a Wingstop and a GameStop next to each other in a shopping center, with the caption "Isn't this that Migos song" as a reference to the inescapable "Bad and Boujee." The real lyrics are "raindrops, drop tops." After Wingstop laid down its verse, Wendy's pitched in with a reference to Kendrick Lamar's "HUMBLE." and told Wingstop to "Sit down, be humble."

Hilarity ensued.

Feuds like Wendy's are likely planned in advance to drive business to both companies involved, said Emily Lonigro Boylan, an adjunct professor in the Communication Department who teaches the course "Writing for Social Media."

"If everybody is talking about a topic or brand, the old saying is 'There's no such thing as bad publicity,'" Lonigro Boylan said.

The prospect of gaining visibility with another brand's fanbase is also a reason to pull off cross-marketing stunts such as on-the-spot feuds, Smith said. However, it is not a new concept: When Smith managed a website for retired World Wrestling Entertainment wrestler The Honky Tonk Man, Smith would pick fights with other retired WWE wrestlers for publicity.

"This promotion would help—hopefully—get these guys booked on more shows, or get them autograph signings," Smith said. "We would often do it without telling the other wrestler, so sometimes

they would think this was a real, legitimate beef going on."

However, controversial and provocative tweets do not always pan out in the tweeter's favor. Although Bus does his best to avoid calling out specific individuals—he makes composite characters inspired by real people—The Double Deuce's follower count has stagnated at just over 1,200.

It does not take a deep dive into The Double Deuce Twitter feed to find what some may consider unsavory statements. Twitter issued a statement

Oct. 17 that it is taking action against "abusive tweeters" who harass other users and post nude images of people without their permission. In response, Bus wrote in an Oct. 18 tweet, "I'm in real f--king trouble, d--knoses."

"I offend people," Bus said. "I piss people off. They don't like curse words in their feed, so I lose a lot of followers."

Smith said he avoids being harmful when he retweets commuters' issues. Sometimes people send him pictures of passengers or CTA employees, but when a woman was stabbed to death on the Red Line in 2016, people sent pictures of the body to CTA Fails.

"You're taking photos as this is going on," Smith said of the incident. "Is anyone trying to do anything to help the situation? I ended up not doing anything for a few days after. I was like, 'I can't. This is not worth it.'"

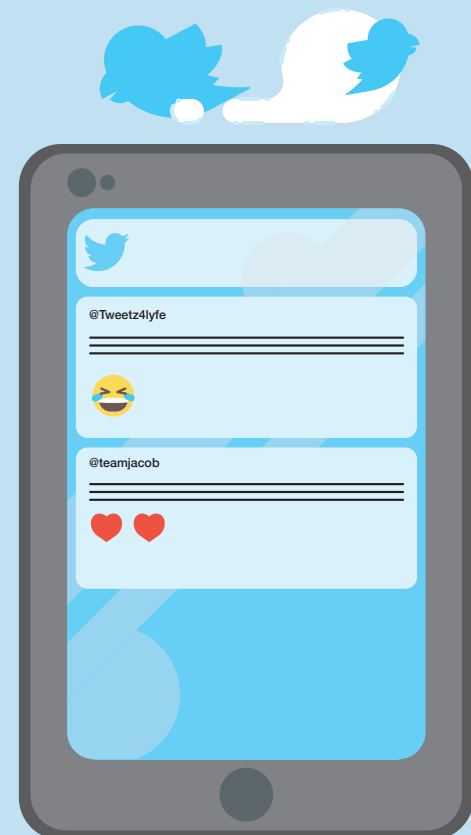
Still, Smith said CTA Fails is an outlet for CTA riders everywhere who hope to have their complaints noticed by CTA, or

at least to laugh along with other riders. For Smith, it is a way for him to cope with the daily gripes of public transportation.

But for Bus, there is more of a sociological reason for running his Double Deuce account, rather than group catharsis: "It's just freeing."

"You can't operate [like I do on Twitter] in the workplace," Bus said. "Nobody can lose it anymore. No one's allowed to yell at another person, and if they do, it's this mortal sin. The best way I decided to tackle it [is to use] an inanimate object."

jsadowski@columbiachronicle.com



@Wendys

Could you please pick up your friends? It has been 3 days!

@emilykochh

20 girls in my dorm legitimately hate me cause when they asked the groupme where a party was I gave the address to wendy's & they went

2:33 PM - 5 Sep 2017



@CTABUS22

This isn't f-----g fall. I'm sweating my undercarriage off. #CTA

2:57 PM - 21 Oct 2017





'Can't Help Falling in Love' with Haley Reinhart

» **KENDRAH VILLIESE**
ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER

There was never a doubt Chicago-native Haley Reinhart would follow in her parents' footsteps after growing up in a musically talented family. After Reinhart climbed onstage at 9 years old to perform alongside her parents' rock band, Midnight, her passion for performing grew.

At 20, the singer earned a spot on "American Idol's" Season 10 and finished

in third place. This led to her debut album, *Listen Up!*, in 2012. Her 2015 rendition of "Can't Help Falling in Love"—first recorded in 1961 by Elvis Presley—on her second album, *Better*, cemented her status as a pop princess.

For her third album, *What's That Sound?*, released Sept. 22, Reinhart put a personal twist on 11 classic '60s songs and introduced three original tracks. Reinhart will be performing her songs Nov. 5 at Lincoln Hall, 2424 N. Lincoln Ave.

The Chronicle spoke with Reinhart about her album, her Netflix show "F is for Family" and life after "American Idol."

THE CHRONICLE: What was it like performing with your parents so young?

HALEY REINHART: It was a thrill, and it put a lot of things in perspective. I was super emotional after I performed and overwhelmed with pure joy. I knew in that moment, and even prior to that, this was something I wanted to do and take it as far as I could. I am thankful to have watched my parents, who are still happily married, not only make it work but have it be their passion and make their band, Midnight, and other groups live on.

not only shed light on that, but also continue to keep that sense of love and hope intact as we move forward.

How did you get involved with the Netflix Series, "F is for Family"?

They might have heard about me from this other audition tape I did for "The Peanuts Movie." I did a really fun audition. I guess they heard it over a year later, and they told me to come in for a cold read. So I got to meet Bill Burr and cross paths with Mo Collins as I [was] walking in. They told me right away that I got the part. This is my debut in voice acting, and it's neat. I had been a fan of Bill Burr, and now I get to play him as a little boy.

How has your life changed since "American Idol"?

Everything is so different. I moved out to Los Angeles right after the show. Ever since, I have been working hard. This is my third album release and my third headlining tour that just started. I have been doing a lot of voiceover acting. It has opened so many doors and avenues that I would have only hoped and dreamed of.

Visit ColumbiaChronicle.com for the full Q&A

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Haley Reinhart, from "American Idol" Season 10, will play Nov. 5 at Lincoln Hall, 2424 N. Lincoln Ave.

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» **OLIVIA DELOIAN**
CAMPUS REPORTER

- "Witchy Woman" The Eagles

- "Evil Ways" Santana

- "(Don't Fear) The Reaper" Blue Oyster Cult

- "Abracadabra" Steve Miller Band

- "Love Potion No. 9" The Searchers



» **JONATHAN SADOWSKI**
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

- "Lady of Death" I the Mighty

- "Buried a Lie" Senses Fail

- "Panic Attack" Dream Theater

- "Screaming Bloody Murder" Sum 41

- "Walking Dead Man" Black Tide



» **TYRA BOSNIC**
OPINIONS EDITOR

- "Spiderwebs" No Doubt

- "The Witch" The Sonics

- "Pet Sematary" Ramones

- "Bloodstains" Agent Orange

- "I Was A Teenage Werewolf" The Cramps



» **PATRICK CASEY**
GRAPHIC DESIGNER

- "This is Halloween" Nightmare Before Christmas

- "Spooky Scary Skeletons" Andrew Gold

- "Thriller" Michael Jackson

- "I Put A Spell On You" Bette Midler

- "Grim Grinning Ghosts" Haunted Mansion



» **MOLLY WALSH**
CAMPUS REPORTER

- "Ghost" Ella Henderson

- "I Want Candy" Bow Wow Wow

- "Monster Mash" Bobby Pickett

- "Halloweenhead" Ryan Adams

- "Witchcraft" Frank Sinatra



» **AMELIA DETWILER**
GRAPHIC DESIGNER

- "Ghosts That We Knew" Mumford & Sons

- "Ghosts" The Head and the Heart

- "Two Ghosts" Harry Styles

- "Ghost" The Classic Crime

- "(Ghost) Riders in the Sky" Johnny Cash

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CHECK *me* OUT

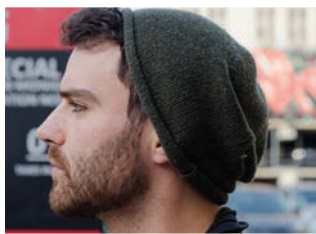
AS THE WEATHER COOLS DOWN, WHAT ARE YOU MOST EXCITED TO WEAR AGAIN?

» PHOTOS MACKENZIE CROSSON/CHRONICLE



Iris Garcia
sophomore fashion studies major

"A scarf—one of those really big fuzzy ones so you wrap it around, and it just looks really cozy."



Paul Ripp
freshman cinema and television arts major

"Denim jacket."



Abigail Mattingly
senior art and art history major

"I'm so excited to wear my turtlenecks. I don't have any good summer clothes, but my turtlenecks are really nice."



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Pumpkin Cheesecake Bread

» **ZOË EITEL**
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

It's that time of year when everything is about pumpkins and ghosts. Although there's nothing spooky about this bread, maybe you can find a friendly vampire, werewolf or ghoulish to share it with. It makes plenty, so bring it to your next monster mash. I know I'll be eating more than a few slices while watching every "Buzzfeed Unsolved: Supernatural" episode on repeat and counting down the days until Halloween. It's the next best thing to taking a huge bite out of a whole pumpkin.



recipe

» MACKENZIE CROSSON AND PATRICK CASEY/CHRONICLE

INGREDIENTS:

- Bread:**
 15 ounces pumpkin puree
 2 cups flour
 2 cups sugar
 2 eggs
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 1 teaspoon baking soda
 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
 1 teaspoon ground cloves
 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
 3/4 cup butter
- FILLING:**
 16 ounces cream cheese, softened
 1/2 cup powdered sugar
 1 teaspoon vanilla

DIRECTIONS:

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees and grease chosen pan(s). I used a Bundt pan.
2. In a large bowl, mix flour, salt, baking powder, baking soda, cloves, nutmeg and cinnamon.
3. In a separate bowl, beat butter and sugar together with electric mixer; add eggs one at a time; beat until light and fluffy, and then beat in pumpkin puree.
4. Slowly add dry mixture until combined.
5. In a separate bowl, mix all filling ingredients until combined.
6. Pour batter into pan until about a third of the way full. Scoop some of the cream cheese filling into the pan and spread it evenly, taking care not to mix it with the batter. Pour more pumpkin mix over the top until it reaches just an inch below the top of the pan.
7. Bake for 30–45 minutes for a Bundt pan. Test with toothpick to ensure bread is cooked through. Depending on the pan you decided to use, you may have enough of both mixtures left for another loaf to share with all your spooky friends.

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top

our staff's
top 5 picks:



Album Review: *Flicker* by Niall Horan

» **LAUREN CARLTON**
COPY CHIEF

Former One Direction member Niall Horan released his first solo album, *Flicker*, Oct. 20, and it's clear he's taken a step away from his boy-band-pop roots and embraced a singer/songwriter vibe. While a few songs such as "Slow Hands," one of the album's leading singles, and "Since We're Alone" sound similar to some of One Direction's hits, others are quite diverse.

Songs such as "This Town," the first lead single, and "Paper Houses" embody the singer/songwriter genre that highlights Horan's ability to evoke emotion through his vocal range and inflection. His lyrical talent is showcased in "Too Much to Ask," the album's final single before release, which was co-written by Jamie Scott. These tracks feature unique melodies with storytelling lyrics that captivate the audience with sound and emotion.

With Horan's guitar playing—something he was only able to dabble in with One Direction—and folksy sound, *Flicker* evokes thoughts of The Lumineers or even Ed Sheeran.

Out of the 10 standard edition tracks—or 13 on the deluxe edition—one song titled "Seeing Blind" features country artist Maren Morris and shows Horan's versatile strengths. The album demonstrates how he has matured since his One Direction days and successfully changed genres.

On first listen, every track might not speak to you. However, if you give it a second chance, it will be hard not to find a little something you can enjoy.

learlton@columbiachronicle.com



HORROR VIDEO GAMES

» **PATRICK CASEY**
GRAPHIC DESIGNER

"Five Nights At Freddy's":

You are a security guard hired to spend your night shift inside a pizzeria called Freddy Fazbear's Pizza. You are alone with creepy animatronics that perform during the day. When it's night, the animatronics are not on their stage but rather behind your door. Don't play this game alone.

"Little Nightmares":

"Little Nightmares" is a creepy, artistic puzzle game in which you are a little girl inside a dark ship filled with grotesque monsters you must evade, and running is the only way to defend yourself.

"Resident Evil 7":

"Resident Evil" is a famous horror franchise. The seventh game, released Jan. 24, is filled with more horrific monsters and lots of action. You're in a house somewhere in New Orleans where a family corrupted by whatever possesses the house stalks you.

"Outlast":

"Outlast" is a heart-pounding game, guaranteed to leave you spooked. With just a camera in your hand, you run away from everything that tries to kill you. Various insane people who want your blood inhabit the asylum.

"Until Dawn":

You're taken through a story about a group of friends who go to a lodge for a reunion. The game is unique because you can play it multiple times and have various outcomes depending on your actions. The game is filled with drama, mystery and some jump scares—a good one to keep you on your toes.



WHOLE FOODS FINDS

» **SAMANTHA CONRAD**
GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Siete Foods' chips & tortillas:

The brand Siete Foods makes amazing grain-free tortillas and chips. When I stopped eating grains, I thought I had to say goodbye to tacos forever, but the almond flour tortillas are a great alternative, and the cassava flour sea salt chips pair perfectly with guacamole.

Simple Mills:

When you think of healthy desserts, you probably think of cardboard-like cookies. Simple Mills makes healthy, delicious and easy-to-make treats with both baking mixes and pre-made boxed products. My favorites are the pumpkin bread mix and boxed chocolate chip cookies.

GT's kombucha:

If you know me, you know my love for kombucha. It's a probiotic tea that's great for improving your overall health. If you're a ginger fan, the gingerade flavor by GT's is a must. It has tons of different flavors to please both your taste buds and your gut.

Hu Kitchen's chocolate:

Hu Kitchen is a restaurant in New York, but its amazing Paleo chocolate is sold in Whole Foods. You may roll your eyes at "healthy chocolate," but it's fantastic. It's sweetened with coconut sugar rather than refined sugar.

Primal Kitchen:

Primal Kitchen is my favorite brand and one of my favorite salad dressing brands. It has several different flavors, but the Paleo Ranch Dressing is best. Ranch used to be one of my favorite foods, and when I found a healthy, dairy-free alternative, I was thrilled.



STRUGGLES OF BEING SHORT

» **JOCELYN MORENO**
GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Elevators:

The door sensors are all the way at the top. Therefore, at 4 feet 11 1/2 inches tall, I have a legit fear of being crushed every time I get in an elevator. Being stuck in the back of a crowded elevator is just as bad. I get knocked over by book bags, and there's no way of avoiding this.

Chairs:

They're supposed to be comfortable, right? Well, not for me. If I try to rest my back against a chair, it stabs the backs of my knees. If a chair has wheels, I roll away, and there's nothing I can do because my legs don't reach the floor. Talk about an awkward meeting.

Clothes:

Jeans are super long. You say, "Just get ankle-length jeans." Yeah, still long. Now you know why my pants are always folded at the bottom. As for shirts, they are more like dresses for me and get wrinkled and bunch up at the bottom.

Shoes:

I'm a size three in kids and have gone as low as a two. Yes, I have tiny feet. It's hard finding gym shoes that don't have either Hello Kitty or glitter on them. Finding heels is even worse. There's few stores that carry an adult size 5 or 5 1/2, so I have to stick to the kids section.

Concerts:

At concerts, I end up spending 99 percent of the time on my tippy toes, and I still am staring at the back of someone's head. If you're over 6 feet tall, please go to the back; I'd like to actually see the stage for once. Sincerely, the small particle behind you.

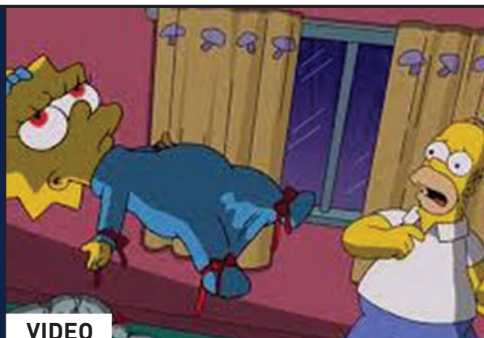


MUSIC

MARSHMELLO, SELENA GOMEZ'S 'WOLVES' 😊

» KENDRAH VILLIESSE
ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER

"Wolves," released Oct. 24 by Marshmello and Selena Gomez, does not disappoint. It is the perfect song for any late-night drive or dance party with your friends. The song begins with soft guitar and Gomez's voice and then progressively shifts into a fast-pace electronic jam. With Gomez's melodic vocals and Marshmello's electronic beats, you are going to bop your head the entire three minutes of the song. It is exactly what Selena Gomez fans were waiting for.



VIDEO

'THE SIMPSONS' HALLOWEEN EPISODE 😐

» BLAISE MESA
METRO REPORTER

"The Simpsons" released its annual Treehouse of Horror special on Oct. 22, showing it's that time of the year again. I don't love Halloween, so a light-hearted comical take on the holiday usually draws my attention, and "The Simpsons" used to do just that. This year's special was lackluster and only a handful of jokes were actually funny, but the rest didn't seem to connect. After more than 600 episodes and 24 Halloween specials, the show seems to be slowing down.

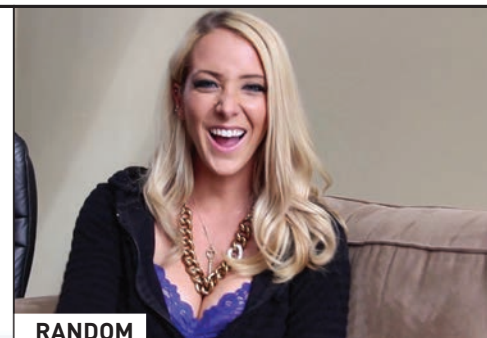


VIRAL

T.J. MAXX TWEET 😊

» BROOKE PAWLING STENNETT
DIGITAL MANAGING EDITOR

The people who can go into a T.J. Maxx and not walk out with everything they see should be celebrated in this society. As a broke college student, shops like T.J. Maxx are supposed to be my safe haven, but it's actually the worst place I could go to. If I see anything below 10 dollars, I sneak it into my cart and tell myself it's two fewer cartons of Ben and Jerry's ice cream on the grocery list that week. It's nice to know I'm not alone in overspending on things I really don't need.



RANDOM

JENNA MARBLES 😊

» TESSA BRUBAKER
CAMPUS REPORTER

YouTube queen Jenna Marbles is a goddess, and if you haven't watched all her videos by now, you need to. I could sit and watch hours of her dressing up her adorable dogs in costumes, watching her destroy her hair with do-it-yourself perms, shaving off her eyebrows and covering her face in rhinestones. Jenna is a ball of sunshine everyone needs in their life. In such a serious world, it's great to just sit back and let Jenna Marbles entertain you with her random videos.



MUSIC

I THE MIGHTY'S 'WHERE THE MIND WANTS TO GO/ WHERE YOU LET IT GO' 😐

» JONATHAN SADOWSKI
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

Progressive rock band I The Mighty's third full-length album with Equal Vision Records, released Oct. 20, takes a turn toward pop rock with varying degrees of success. Bangers like "Pet Names" and "Degenerates" do a good job keeping things interesting and catchy, but cringe-worthy lyrics on tracks like "111 Winchester" leave a lot to be desired. As a longtime fan, I cannot see myself coming back to half these tracks after the first few weeks, but the other half are among some of the group's finest.



VIDEO

KLAY THOMPSON DOPPELGÄNGER 😊

» JACKIE MURRAY
METRO EDITOR

A strikingly similar but definitely more out-of-shape Klay Thompson caused havoc in Oakland and the Oracle Arena as Youtuber Big Daws took advantage of the fact he could be the Golden State Warrior shooting guard's doppelgänger. A video released Oct. 18 shows Daws dressed in uniform and walking around downtown meeting with fans, signing autographs, taking pictures and playing one vs. one games in the parking lot. Nobody even batted an eye and told Daws to make sure to score 30 points that night.



VIRAL

COUPLES COSTUME IDEAS 😊

» ZOË EITEL
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

I've missed Vine terribly since the social media platform died in 2016, so any meme that uses vague Vine references is top notch in my book. You had to be a Vine connoisseur to understand some of these. These tweets involve two people—or things—from popular vines and frame them as cute couple Halloween costumes. A couple of my favorites include Chris and his sibling, who doesn't know the difference between weed and a crayon; and Rebecca and her friend—who was hanging out with Kaitlyn yesterday.



RANDOM

JOE JONAS ENGAGEMENT 😐

» MOLLY WALSH
CAMPUS REPORTER

Joe Jonas recently revealed his engagement to "Game of Thrones" star Sophie Turner. Turner is 21 years old, meaning any Jonas Brothers fan born in 1996, like me, had a chance. After years of telling myself "Seven years is too big of an age gap for him," I have been proven wrong. I'll just continue to sing along to "This is Me," alone, with no Joe Jonas to harmonize with. To the girl who said she was going to kill me at the Burnin' Up Tour for buying the last shirt, go ahead. There's nothing to live for anymore.

Offensive costumes are too scary even for Halloween

The air is crisp, the leaves have turned bright shades of red and orange, and Halloween is upon us. Those of us too old to go door-to-door are contemplating staying in for a Halloween movie marathon with candy we had to buy ourselves or showing off fun costumes that will scare or delight our friends.

Some costumes have no place in Halloween festivities, though. Instead of dressing as a classic witch or ghost, some use the holiday to don offensive costumes that ruin the spirit of the season.

On Oct. 18, People Magazine posted a list of some of the most offensive costumes of 2017. The list includes zombie versions of celebrities who have recently passed away—like Carrie Fisher or Tom Petty—and costumes that make light of current social movements, like athletes

who kneel during the national anthem. It's hard to list all the costumes that deserve to be condemned. There are the costumes that sexualize children from shows or movies; satirize the likes of Harvey Weinstein, making light of the abuse he committed; and inappropriately joke about political issues that affect thousands of families, one example being the sold out "Border Babe" costume parodying border patrol between the U.S. and Mexico.

Obviously, this isn't the first year with an abundance of unsuitable costumes. Insensitive costumes have become such a staple of Halloween that seeing a cringe-worthy costume is just as common as being offered candy corn.

Even celebrities have been caught not taking the time to think of who they may be hurting with their costumes. In 2016,

Hilary Duff and her then-boyfriend Jason Walsh dressed as a pilgrim and Native American respectively for a Halloween party. It wasn't until users took to social media to express their disdain for the costumes—which perpetuate the mistreatment of Native Americans by the pilgrims—that Duff posted an apology.

When Macklemore dressed as what resembled a stereotypical Jewish person for a surprise concert in May 2014, it showed insensitivity existing year-round for the diverse cultures around us.

We may not have to worry about costume companies marketing rip-offs of traditional Native American garb for trick-or-treaters until next October, but native communities will still have to face the same disrespect when festival-goers don headdresses from trendy shops or when sports fans paint their faces red for a Cleveland Indians game. Maybe we didn't have to see someone dressed as a stereotype of a Mexican person on Halloween, but we will have to brace for Cinco de Mayo and the onslaught of sombreros this spring.

Not everyone who chooses to wear distasteful costumes does so out of malice. Some genuinely do not know the harmful impact of these costumes, and often they have no one to explain why a costume is offensive. Educated people have a duty to inform those who do not have the same level of understanding why their costume is offensive.

Disrespectful costumes can perpetuate or normalize dangerous ideas, but education can prevent costume wearers from making a decision they may regret later on. Holding a dialogue about culture or race is vital in the political climate we're facing, and the benefits of such conversations will leave us with a better world view and a sense of responsibility to respect those around us—Halloween or not.

Some will scoff at the idea of being told their costume choices are offensive. They will claim any criticism is taking the fun out of Halloween and that political correctness has gone too far. The best rebuttal to these questions is this: "What is so great about making fun of other people's identities?"

Intro to intersectionality: All women deserve our attention



COMMENTARY

» TYRA BOSNIC
OPINIONS EDITOR

A teenage girl who migrated to the U.S. from Central America has finally been allowed her right to an abortion, and her case exemplifies the need to make feminism intersectional.

The 17-year-old girl, referred to as Jane Doe in court documents to protect her identity, was detained by the U.S. government in Texas while trying to cross the border illegally in late September.

Soon after her detention, she learned she was pregnant and began seeking an abortion. Because of a Trump administration policy against facilitating abortions for detained minors, the girl and her lawyers were forced to fight the government for her bodily autonomy in court.

A U.S. appeals court decided against allowing Jane Doe to get an abortion Oct. 20 until a sponsor who could claim custody of her could be found. At the time of the decision, the girl was already 15 weeks pregnant and nearing another legal obstacle: A Texas law that, except in special circumstances, bans most abortions after 20 weeks.

After the girl's lawyers pushed for judges to hear the case again, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals overturned the initial ruling Oct. 24. The girl's lawyers are now working for an order to allow her to have an abortion within days, or else the Texas abortion restriction will force her to travel hundreds of miles to an out-of-state abortion provider.

The latest development in the court case should bring relief. A young woman should never have to bear the burden of a child she is not ready to carry, but it was a long journey for the law to stand on the side of justice. Jane Doe's case is a single story in a larger narrative many immigrant women live.

Like many others, the girl risked her life to come to the U.S. to escape an abusive household, according to an Oct. 20 Washington Post article on the initial court decision. Instead of finding safety, she continues to face the dangerous intersection of sexism and xenophobia. In response to such societal evil, and in an effort to resist unjust government policies, we must cross those same intersections

among race, immigration status and gender to uplift and empower all women.

In mainstream feminism, the idea of intersectionality is often lost. Many protest against the gender-based wage gap, for example, citing that women earn 78 cents for every dollar a man earns. Generalizing the wage gap in this way subtly erases the realities of women of color. Black women and Hispanic women earn 65 percent and 58 percent, respectively, as much as white men, compared to white women who earn 82 percent, according to a July 1, 2016, survey by the Pew Research Center.

Recognizing that many will not experience womanhood the same way because of factors like race or immigration status is important in fighting for empowerment for all women.

In a 1981 presentation, poet, activist and feminist leader Audre Lorde summarized the importance of intersectionality in just one sentence: "I am not free while any woman is unfree, even when her shackles are very different from my own."

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Why not write a letter to the editor? At the bottom of Page 2, you'll find a set of guidelines on how to do this. Let us hear from you. —The Columbia Chronicle Editorial Board



COMMENTARY

Women, diversity needed across all galaxies

» SAVANNAH EADENS
METRO REPORTER

As Galen Erso is interrogated by Director Krennic in the opening scenes of the 2016 “Star Wars” anthology standalone “Rogue One,” Galen’s wife, Lyra, is killed by one of Krennic’s death troopers. Audiences everywhere mourned the loss of a brand new female, matriarchal character for a few seconds. Then it was on to the next scene in a galaxy far, far away.

Fans of the “Star Wars” universe are now pushing for more diverse characters by using the Twitter hashtag #SWRepMatters.

Many using the hashtag argue that more women of color characters are needed—with actual storylines and character dimension, rather than shadow characters that are introduced and killed in the same scene.

Science fiction and fantasy were once considered genres for young-adult and middle-aged men, but science fiction films are now watched by audiences of all ages and genders.

During the opening weekends for the highest grossing science fiction and fantasy films of 2015, U.S. audiences featured a mix of men and women at a 60–40 ratio, according to a 2015 article from MTV.

The original “Star Wars” trilogy was far from diverse. Billy Dee Williams and James Earl Jones were the only people of color with substantial speaking roles, and Jones only voiced Darth Vader without appearing on screen. Women were not represented

much better and few, other than Carrie Fisher, had speaking roles.

In “The Force Awakens,” released in 2015, Finn’s character was played by John Boyega, a black actor. “Rogue One’s” 2016 release was a step toward more diverse characters that included Baze Malbus, Cassian Andor and Saw Gerrera. However, not only are all of those male characters, but they’re not returning because all of them were killed off.

Lack of representation extends beyond the “Star Wars” universe, however.

According to a 2014 study by Lee & Low Books, only 8 percent of the top 100 domestic grossing science fiction and fantasy films of that year star a person of color as a protagonist, and none of those were women. Two percent of protagonists had a disability, and there were no LGBTQ protagonists.

A 2014 UCLA Hollywood diversity report noted that minorities are a third of the U.S. population but remain under-represented in Hollywood. If pop culture is supposed to reflect modern society, then women and people of color need to be shown on the big screen.

“Star Wars” will be taking a step in the right direction if the rumors are true that “Episode VIII” will include a strong Asian woman as a lead character, but further improvement is needed. Other film productions need to follow the steps “Star Wars” is beginning to take because marginalized people need to see characters who are holistic and inspiring. Children need to know their heroes look like them, and every galaxy needs diversity.



» JOCELYN MORENO / CHRONICLE

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» BROOKE PAWLING STENNETT
DIGITAL MANAGING EDITOR

Sexual health education continues to be important

A report released Oct. 23 in the online publication Pediatrics responded to recent studies revealing a significant need for improvement in the way pediatricians teach patients about sexual and reproductive health, despite suggested guidelines put in place by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the government and other medical organizations.

The report provides multiple ways that pediatricians can ensure basic rights are supported for their patients, including being aware of positive office culture, providing a safe space for patients to open up, making offices more LGBTQ friendly and involving families in the discussion.

Providing opportunities to have confidential discussions surrounding sexual and reproductive health is important in a pediatric office setting and can help young patients, according to the report. Navigating the task of achieving and maintaining healthy sexuality involves many components, including the physical, social and emotional changes adolescents and young adults experience.

The fact that any pediatric office is lacking the aforementioned qualities is mindblowing. How can offices that are supposed to be helping young people not provide an open, safe space to have confidential discussions about their health?

This is especially true for LGBTQ kids who are already lacking in the sexual health education department. There is limited diversity when sexual and reproductive health is taught in school. Often it is breezed over by teachers, and the only real option taught to young people is abstinence. So the fact that young people aren’t getting opportunities to ask their pediatrician about sexual and reproductive health is a scary thought.

The topic of “sex” has become entirely too taboo in our culture, even when the discussion surrounding it can benefit young people. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly 230,000 babies in 2014 were born to teenage mothers. By incorporating



more opportunities for young people to raise questions about sex, the number of unplanned, teenage pregnancies, sexually transmitted disease cases and HIV cases can decrease.

Many parents are scared of allowing their children to ask questions about sexual and reproductive health, and sometimes rightfully so: Some are too young, which is why it’s important to start out with a one-on-one with the pediatrician and patient where the child can ask health questions and build trust. The report suggests incorporating confidentiality and alone time with a patient at about age 11. Building trust helps for the future, when both the parent and the young person are ready to talk about sexual and reproductive health. Everyone should always be comfortable and encourage each other to ask questions, and the report encourages pediatricians to involve parents as much as possible.

Parents have to understand that sexual and reproductive health is a necessity, and pediatricians should be utilized as a resource. These are licensed medical professionals who will give accurate, important information that is not just about sex. Pediatricians are also trained to recognize signs of abuse in family or romantic relationships.

Pediatricians and offices are responsible for doing everything they can to make sure that their patients are comfortable, healthy and educated about their bodies. If these kids aren’t getting the proper education from their school, parents or pediatricians, how will they accurately learn?

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Worry not Chicago sports doomsday preppers, better years are on the way

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» KEVIN TIONGSON/CHRONICLE



» MONICA WESTLAKE/CHRONICLE



Chicago sports fans have never experienced a season when the White Sox, Cubs, Bulls, Bears and Blackhawks simultaneously had winning seasons, but change could be on the way, according to sports experts.

» JACKIE MURRAY
METRO EDITOR

AFTER FAILING TO capture the 2017 National League Championship Series, the Cubs shattered their fans' dreams of Chicago being home to a back-to-back world champion team—an all-too-familiar tale of disappointment.

The defending champions could only muster one win against the Los Angeles Dodgers in an overall disappointing postseason run that ended in an 11-1 loss, which has left Chicago sport fans scratching their heads as to what went wrong.

"It can never be the start of a slump [for the Cubs] because you have an activist front office," said George Castle, longtime Chicago sports journalist and author. "It is simply the laws of average in baseball, and it proves the difficulty of winning the World Series."

Chicago sports fans have never enjoyed a year when all of its professional teams have played winning seasons, according to teams' record data. The city's teams tend to slump and rise in trends, as seen reflected in its two MLB teams, one NBA team, one NFL team and one NHL team—which has won three Stanley Cups since 2009.

To avoid a 2017 season repeat, the Cubs have to make some crucial offseason roster changes, Castle said. There is a hole in their starting pitching lineup that needs to be filled by two or more pitchers, most

likely from outside organizations because the Cubs' pitching options in their minor league system are lacking, he added.

This move potentially calls for trading one of the team's young stars—rumored to be Javier Baez, Ian Happ or Kyle Schwarber—to make the deal, but Castle assured that the team is in reliable hands.

"The organization, baseball-wise, is in the best shape it's been [in] probably since the 1930s because of the front office, [and] their success in drafting hitters and their ability to put together a contending team," Castle said.

While the Cubs are contenders now, the White Sox are looking to contend within the next few years, Castle added. Since winning the World Series in 2005, the team has played eight losing seasons—five consecutive—including a 72-90 season just two years after being world champions.

The 2005 season's success was an unpredictable one-shot set of "happy circumstances," so the team was not built to repeat in the following years, said Rich Lindberg, a White Sox historian and author.

"The Sox didn't have a great [minor league] system and [are] only now rebuilding to the point where their system is expected to be very productive," Lindberg said. "We're hoping that within the next two seasons, the team will again return to contention and perhaps go to the World Series."

Lindberg explained that White Sox General Manager Rick Hahn has done a remarkable job turning the team around since he took the position starting in the 2013 season. Trading away costly veterans and the team's lead pitcher Chris Sale has produced a young rookie group close to emerging as major league stars, he added.

"After 12 years of relative futility with a few winning seasons, [the Sox have] turned the page and began copying the success blueprints of other teams ... who acknowledge that to get to where we want to be, we're going to have to strip down the machine—literally take it apart and rebuild it," he said.

Since 2007, the Bears have only had two seasons with at least 10 wins and are now looking to its young stars to lead. Rookie quarterback Mitchell Trubisky, who gives the team and fans hope, has changed the landscape of the team, said Adam Jahns, lead Bears writer for the Chicago Sun-Times and adjunct professor in the Communication Department. The team has a solid plan in place built on their 2017 first-round, second overall, draft pick, and the team has gone 2-1 since he's been the starter, Jahns added.

"You have a lot of young players on both sides of the ball producing, becoming more vocal [and] noticeable, a lot of different valuable [qualities] for the Bears every single week," Jahns said. "They need their young faces to become faces of the franchise."

The team that will face the most hardships this year and may not be a playoff contender for some time is the Bulls, which Castle calls the most "poverty-stricken" team in Chicago's sports landscape.

In June this past offseason, the team traded away its all-star small forward and shooting guard Jimmy Butler to the Minnesota Timberwolves, which was a "glaring" sign for longtime Bulls fan Brian Welk, reporter for The Wrap, native Chicagoan and current Los Angeles resident. The team is tanking, and the trade from the "incompetent" front office was a sign the team does not care about this season, he added.

"It always felt like we could be a playoff contender, but that completely changed this year," Welk said. "We went from this borderline-playoff team to literally the worst team in the NBA, so I have totally checked out."

To bounce back for future seasons, Castle said the team needs to be more strategic in its draft picks as the Bulls' recent picks have been subpar and have not been impactful players.

"[The team] got a lot of good value out of [Butler], but they're going to have to get several Jimmy Butler's, plus someone of even higher quality in the next couple of drafts," Castle said. "The Bulls [will] have to have a superstar in there somewhere."

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Tuition, checks & balances



» ERIC BRADACH
MANAGING EDITOR

Lawmakers need to act on student borrower safeguards

Illinois lawmakers have a golden opportunity to right a wrong Gov. Bruce Rauner committed against students during the current veto session.

Rauner vetoed Senate Bill 1351, which would have created the Illinois Student Loan Bill of Rights, Aug. 25 after it passed both state chambers. The Senate already voted to override the veto Oct. 25, 37-19. Now it's up to the House to enforce stricter regulations to protect student borrowers when they return to session Nov. 7.

The Illinois Student Loan Bill of Rights, which was introduced Feb. 9 by state Sen. Daniel Biss, who is also a candidate in the democratic gubernatorial primary, would safeguard student borrowers by prohibiting student loan servicers from misleading borrowers, requiring companies to properly process payments, explain all repayment options and inform borrowers they may be eligible to have their loans forgiven due to a disability or problems with the school they attended.

These regulations may seem overly burdensome to some, but U.S. student loan debt has reached a point at which it can be classified as a national crisis.

More than 42 million Americans have student loan debt with more than \$1.4 trillion in outstanding balances. That's more than two and a half times what they owed a decade ago, and it has demoralized those only trying to gain an education and contribute to the U.S. economy. However, a coalition of the Federal Trade Commission and 12 attorneys general filed 36 lawsuits against allegedly fraudulent student loan debt relief companies, accusing them of scamming American student borrowers out of more than \$95 million, as reported on Page 34.

About 51 percent of Americans aged 25-39 with at least a bachelor's degree and outstanding student loan debt say the lifetime financial benefits of their degree outweigh the costs. Sixty-nine percent of those in the same category without outstanding student loan debt say the financial costs were worth it, according to an Aug. 24 Pew Research Center report.



The average Illinois student borrower has \$29,271 in outstanding loans, according to the Institute for College Access and Success. Rather than grant Illinoisans securities against those who prey on others in the financial abyss, Rauner yanked those measures from becoming law.

Conflict between Rauner and Democratic legislatures triggered more than two years of state budget stalemate, which created doubt about Illinois' future among students.

These student borrower protections could provide an incentive for young individuals to stay in the state. Unfortunately, Rauner was blind to this despite continuously promoting laws that could bring more people to Illinois.

Rauner said the bill would be too much of a burden on an already complex student loan process and would force the state to monitor an industry that should be the responsibility of the federal government. But California, Connecticut and Washington, D.C., already have variations of a student loan bill of rights, and other states are also exploring similar ideas, according to a Sept. 10 Chicago Tribune article. So why can't Illinois have those protections?

The bill passed the House, 63-48-1, May 31. Eight votes shy of the veto override threshold. It's imperative that state lawmakers who voted against it to buck to the other aisle and create the Illinois Student Loan Bill of Rights to protect the next generation, which should be their number one priority, from those who are looking to take advantage of their desperation,

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Nationwide student loan crisis triggers relief fraud

» ERIC BRADACH
MANAGING EDITOR

ABOUT \$40,000 DEEP in student loan debt, Deyatres Dewalt heard an advertisement on the car radio that seemed too good to be true.

Dewalt called the company, Teldebt Solutions Inc., in April 2015, and within the first half ring, a representative answered promising that he could have her entire federal student loan debt forgiven. The caveat was a \$500–\$700 fee. The red flags started flashing, and she requested to read the contract before signing up for its services.

The salesman emailed the contract to review the same day, but Dewalt said she could not access the electronic document until she signed it. Despite the salesman's pleas in follow-up calls, Dewalt refused and broke communication.

However, during the initial phone call, Dewalt provided Teldebt with her Federal Student Aid ID, answers to her FSA website security questions and her debit card information. Armed with this vital information, the company withdrew \$167 from Dewalt's account. She called the company five times the same day with no answer. As soon as the company got her money, it turned into a "ghost town," she said.

"[I] could not reach anybody, I couldn't find any additional phone numbers. The 1-800 number that was broadcast was set to go to voicemail at that point," said Dewalt, a 34-year-old physician's assistant senior at Arizona State University.

Dewalt was finally able to reach a Teldebt representative, threatened legal action and filed a complaint with the Better Business Bureau,

which prompted the company to refund her money.

"I was aware [of student loan debt relief scams]," Dewalt said. "I thought [Teldebt] was a scam from the beginning, but I was at the point when bills were piling up and it hit me with how much I was going to come out of school owing. [So] I tried and I proved myself right."

Dewalt is one of more than 42 million Americans struggling with her portion of more than \$1.4 trillion in student loans, the second largest segment of U.S. debt after mortgages, according to the Federal Trade Commission.

A coalition among the FTC, the Washington, D.C., and 11 state attorneys general, including Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan, is trying to safeguard against those who would take advantage of financially desperate students by cracking down on student loan debt relief scams.

The nationwide initiative called "Operation Game of Loans" encompasses 36 lawsuits against alleged fraudulent student loan

debt relief companies, accusing them of using deceptive and false promises and taking more than \$95 million from American student borrowers, according to an Oct. 13 FTC press release.

Two of the companies are based in Wood Dale, Illinois, a Chicago suburb west of O'Hare International Airport. They are Teldebt Solutions, Inc., which involuntarily dissolved Sept. 8 and FDATR, Inc., which conducted business under the names Federal Student Loan Relief and Federal Tax Relief, according to Madigan's lawsuit.

"Student loan debt relief scams are successful because borrowers are not receiving the information they need to repay their loans," Madigan said in an Oct. 13 press release announcing the lawsuit. "Student loan debt relief scams rob



borrowers of the money they could be using to pay down their student loan debt."

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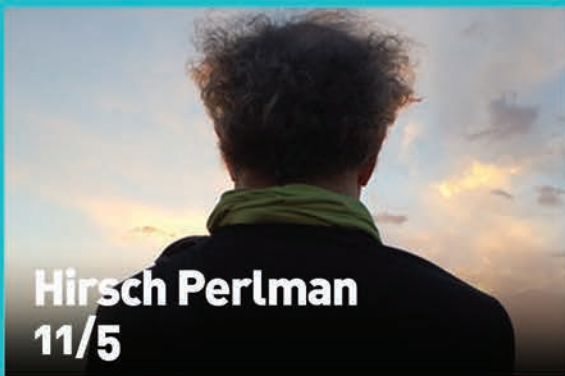
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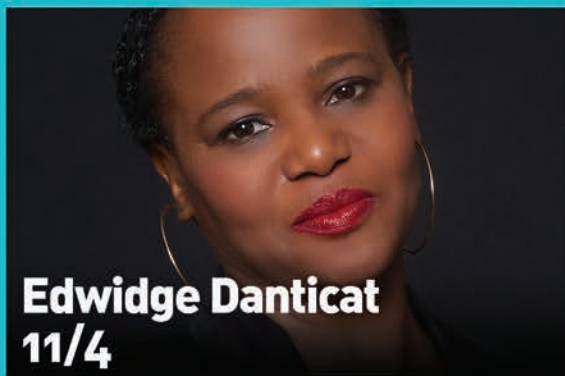
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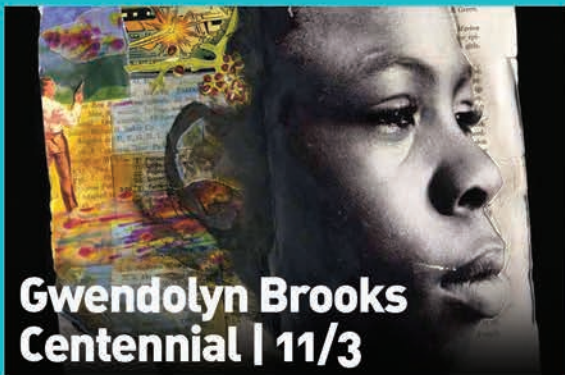
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Higher taxes called on to drive city improvements

» **BLAISE MESA**
METRO REPORTER

CHICAGOANS COULD SOON be seeing increased fees when riding in an Uber or paying their cell phone bill if the mayor has his way.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel's 2018 budget proposal asks that cell phones and land lines registered to a Chicago area code be billed an additional \$1.10 per month—totaling \$5 a month per line when added to previous fees—to finance the modernization of the city's 911 call center.

A 15 cent increase to the existing fee for rideshare services, such as Uber or Lyft, would bring the total fee to 67 cents per ride. Another 5 cents would be added in 2019. The funds generated by these taxes would assist Chicago Transit Authority projects, as reported Oct. 20 by The Chronicle.

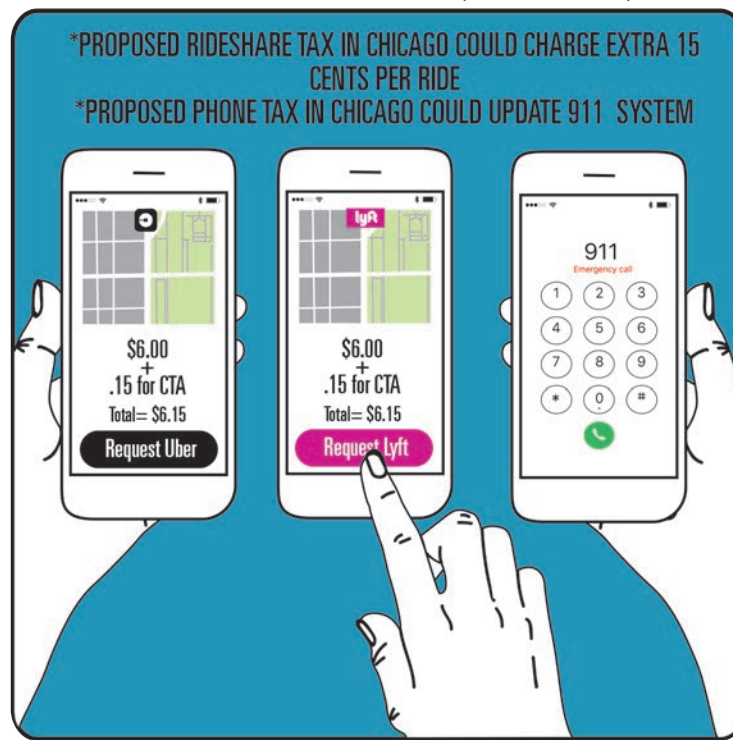
The spending proposal is scheduled to be voted on during City Council's Nov. 8 meeting.

"How many times [does the city] need to come back to taxpayers and rely on [them] to modernize a system," said Chris Lentino, manager of Chicago Outreach at Illinois Policy—a nonprofit libertarian think tank. "Chicagoans [already] bear one of the highest tax burdens in the country."

Chicago has the highest U.S. city sales tax and among the highest property taxes in the country, Lentino noted.

The city was not taxing the right avenues for success, but this rideshare tax should be better, said John McCarron, contributing columnist for the Chicago Tribune and adjunct journalism lecturer at DePaul University.

Rideshare services are a relatively new, taxable growth area



» INFORMATION COURTESY MAYOR'S 2018 BUDGET ADDRESS

developing around the city that is "overdue" and could be a more effective practice, rather than just relying on sales or property taxes, according to McCarron.

According to a 2015 survey by Pew Research Center, urban

residents are seven times more likely to use rideshare services than people in more rural settings. Additionally, people ages 18–29 are nine percent more likely to use rideshare services than someone in their 30s or 40s.

"[The rideshare tax] doesn't shock me," said Katelyn Lavin, a senior multimedia journalism and public relations double major, who said she uses rideshare services four or five times a week. Chicagoans are already overtaxed, she added.

This isn't the first time Chicago has increased taxes to help revamp the 911 call line. City Hall increased the phone surcharge by \$1.50 a month per line in September 2014, according to a June 25, 2014, press release.

"People pay a lot of money for their cell phones, especially if you have a large family [and] have to pay for everyone," said senior multimedia journalism major Alyssa Collins. "Implementing another \$1.10 [hike] is ridiculous."

If approved, these taxes will join the possible amusement tax increase, which would tax venues based on the total amount of seats, as reported Oct. 23 by The Chronicle.

Visit ColumbiaChronicle.com for additional reporting.

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Food deserts still plague South Side neighborhoods

» SAVANNAH EADENS
METRO REPORTER

WHEN SHOWTIME'S "THE Chi" wrapped filming at a convenience store set in North Lawndale, a dumpster's worth of food and household supplies was left behind, shining a spotlight on the neighborhood's status as a food desert.

The food and supplies used to decorate the set at 19th Street and Kedzie Avenue were thrown out rather than donated to one of the 15 pantries in the area.

North Lawndale is one of 22 Chicago communities that does not have large grocery stores or supermarkets—qualifying it as a food desert—according to a July 2012 report by the Virginia Commonwealth University Center on Human Needs.

State Rep. Sonya Harper, D-Chicago, has lived in West

Englewood her entire life, a South Side community that does not have grocery stores within walking distance in the neighborhood.

"Experiencing people in my family dying from preventable, diet-related diseases at a very early age prompted me to want to study [food deserts]," Harper said.

House Bill 3157, introduced by Harper Feb. 9 and signed by Gov. Bruce Rauner Sept. 8, requires the state Department of Agriculture to analyze Illinois' food deserts and the health impacts they cause within those communities.

"Every year, members of the General Assembly will now get a report detailing locations in the state that are food deserts," Harper said, "so that we can take proactive steps to remedy those areas [so] people aren't left out because they live in a neighborhood where retailers may not want to go."

ZIP codes, not genetic codes, are the most impactful life expectancy predictor, said Dr. Terry Mason, Cook County Department of Health chief operating officer. Mason is among others in Chicago working to examine and eliminate food deserts in the city and its suburbs.

According to the VCU study, Chicago residents in communities with no supermarkets are 25–46 percent less likely to have a healthy diet compared to communities with the greatest access to stores.

Mason said a lack of access to grocery stores contributes to health issues such as high blood pressure, diabetes and obesity. Lack of access to nutritious food means citizens have to replace home-cooked meals with fast food meals, he added.

"When you have a generation of people whose bodies won't operate or have diseases at an early age, think about what burden that may place on the generation behind them," Harper said.

Visit ColumbiaChronicle.com for additional reporting.

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» COURTESY FRANK BERGH

Showtime's "The Chi" created this convenience store for a set, then threw away all the food used as props in North Lawndale—one of Chicago's worst food deserts.

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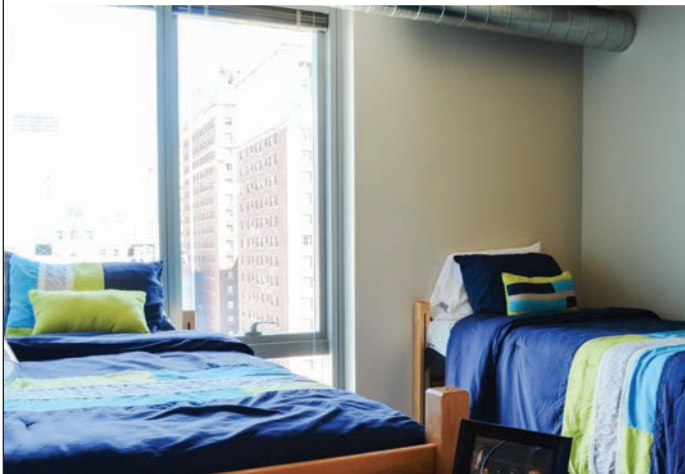
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» BLAISE MESA
METRO REPORTER

After close friends and family members were diagnosed with cancer, Sarah Rittner needed an outlet—somewhere to talk about her experience. She turned to Gilda's Club for group counseling that ended up changing her life in more ways than she anticipated.

Gilda's Club is a nonprofit organization that provides support for people affected by cancer. When Rittner is not working for AllianceChicago as an assistant research director, she spends her time as an outreach volunteer and member at Gilda's Club Chicago, 537 N. Wells St. Rittner has been with Gilda's Club for 14 years spreading Gilda's Club's message. She also had a hand in setting up Gilda's Latino program.

The Chronicle spoke with Rittner about her time at Gilda's Club and experience with cancer.

THE CHRONICLE: How would you describe the environment of Gilda's Club?

SARAH RITTNER: It's a very warm, welcoming and fun place to be. Most people expect some sort of hospital or a place where the emphasis is on medicine, but it is not like that. You are not judged or treated differently. Everyone at Gilda's Club is there for a reason. They see you as more than just a patient or caretaker. It really feels like you're in a clubhouse rather than a hospital.

How has Gilda's Club helped you personally?

It gave me the opportunity to meet other people my age who were dealing with similar situations. Cancer has touched me a couple times in my life. When I was younger, I was very close to a teacher at my high school. She was misdiagnosed and passed away from metastatic breast cancer at 45. I had an aunt who passed away



As a volunteer coordinator and member at Gilda's Club Chicago, 537 N. Wells St., Sarah Rittner spreads the club's message and helped set up the Latino Program.

from leukemia, and my dad was diagnosed and passed away from metastatic renal [kidney] cancer.

My 20s and 30s were a lot different from other people's. I was in my late 20s when my dad was diagnosed, and my friends wanted to go out and do fun things, but most of my weekends were spent going back to help my parents. My family was all going through the same pain, and I could see they were struggling, so it wasn't as easy to talk to them.

Meeting people with similar stories at Gilda's Club opened up new avenues for me. I did not really know anybody who had been through similar situations, and strangely enough, talking to strangers really helped me get through it. I can't emphasize enough that it changed my ability to live while my dad was sick. I am still in touch with some of these people. The staff has always been a constant support to me and my family. They make you feel like

you're the only one in the crowd even though they serve thousands of people annually.

Do you think you make a difference in people's lives?

I always hope that I am helping to give back and make a difference in people's cancer experience. Going through the same things they have, I know there is nothing more valuable than someone who can relate.

One person had lost a loved one a few weeks before they came to Gilda's Club, and they were inconsolable. They just couldn't move forward, and all I told them was to come back one more time. They ended up coming back and have since grown and excelled in Gilda's Club. They were able to live a happy life with their family all because of their time they spent here.

Visit ColumbiaChronicle.com for the full Q&A

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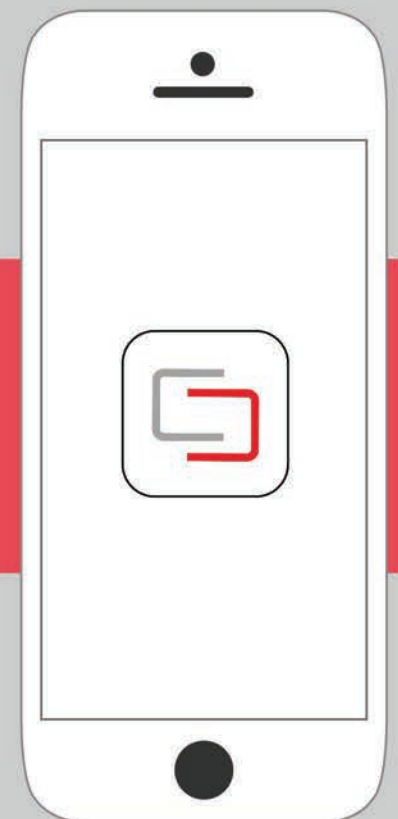
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