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Columbia Chronicle (12/10/2001)

Columbia College Chicago

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COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

Volume 35, Number 12

Columbia College Chicago

Monday, December 10, 2001

Inside
this week



Commentary

Student Financial Services Office needs improvement

Pages 10 and 12



A&E

'Lord of the Rings: the Fellowship of the Ring' movie review

Page 17



Sports

Teenager hits it big

Back Page

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Firsthand account from Ground Zero



Danielle Dellorto/Chronicle

Police officers and rescue workers converse during downtime at Ground Zero. See story page 6.

Student claims college denied him 'due process' over dorm eviction

○ Columbia officials legally restricted from discussing details of disciplinary action

By Ryan Adair
Executive Editor

When a loving relationship turns sour, it's not unusual for the parties involved to have disputes over what went wrong or even argue about property the two may have shared during their time together.

Nearly two months ago, Columbia photography senior Dennis Gaebel, said he found himself in such a situation. Little did Gaebel realize that the events of Oct. 10 would forever bar him from living in Columbia's residence center at 731 S. Plymouth Court, and in his own words, change his life indefinitely.

Originally from Rochester, N.Y. Gaebel had been dating a fellow Columbia student for about four years. The two ended the relationship last year on a positive note, according to Gaebel. As the fall 2001 semester began, Gaebel, who said he had purchased a computer for his girlfriend during the prior year, began to wonder when she would be paying him back. Gaebel said the two had agreed that she would pay him in full for the computer. On Oct. 10, Gaebel, who lived in Columbia's residence center, said he confronted his ex-girlfriend about payment for the computer and demanded that she settle her debt. His ex-girlfriend, who is not a resident of Columbia's dorms, sought refuge in the room of Mary Kate McMahon, who is one of the residence assistants in the 731 building.

Gaebel proceeded to McMahon's room to confront his ex about the money issue. Once there, an argument ensued and Gaebel said he stepped inside McMahon's room. After being told to leave repeatedly by both his ex-girlfriend and McMahon, Gaebel departed to "blow off some steam." On his way out of the Polk Street entrance of the dorms, he was detained by security until

Chicago police arrived soon after and arrested Gaebel on charges of criminal trespassing and battery. He then spent six hours in confinement until early the next morning.

After meeting with Sharon Wilson-Taylor, Columbia's dean of students, and upon returning to the dorms, Gaebel received notification that he was evicted from the residence center due to the events of Oct. 10.

In a letter dated Oct. 12, Wilson-Taylor requested Gaebel move out of the dorm by the following week, writing: "I have decided that your behavior violated the Student Code of Conduct when you failed to comply to the request made by an appointed college official [McMahon] to remove yourself from the room in order to diffuse the situation. It is best for you and the residence life community if you were to no longer reside at the facility."

Gaebel believes he received a raw deal. "I wasn't given a chance to correct the problem. They just immediately arrested me, abused me and threw me out," he told the *Chronicle*.

Neither his ex-girlfriend nor McMahon could be reached for comment. The charges of battery against Gaebel originated from McMahon, who, in an incident report obtained by the *Chronicle*, said: "I continued to demand that Gaebel leave my apartment, [he] then started to force his way further into my apartment, pushing his chest into mine, waving his arms over me..."

Gaebel maintains that he did not intentionally harm or touch McMahon.

No Columbia official, including Wilson-Taylor, who made the decision to evict Gaebel, could comment on the incident due to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, which legally bars all administrators from discussing the details of this case. "Any disciplinary records cannot be divulged," Wilson-Taylor said.

See **Eviction**, page 2

Virus attacks college email

○ According to MIS office, only 40 percent of complaints had virus infection

By Katie Walsh
Commentary Editor

The "Goner" email virus which swept through thousands of personal and corporate computers last week, hit Columbia's email system, nearly causing havoc for faculty, staff and administrators.

The virus is initiated when an attachment is opened under the email subject line "Hi." The text of the email says, "How are you? When I saw this screen saver, immediately thought about you I am in hurry [sic], I promise you will love it!" It is classified as a worm by computer companies because of its ability to spread itself to other computers through the Internet or other networks.

After the virus spreads, it freezes the computer and begins destroying files. The virus spreads by attaching itself to email addresses on a user's computer and sending the program to those addresses.

The virus is now listed as being at "outbreak" status by virus protection software company McAfee.com and is traveling across the globe. An "outbreak" status has not been given to a virus since the devastating "Love Bug" virus in May 2000. According to Reuters, the anti-virus software firm, TrendMicro Inc. reported almost 50,000 infections across Europe.

Both TrendMicro and McAfee.com believe the virus originated in France, though the first infections were recorded in the United

States and South Africa. Reuters also reported that MessageLabs Inc., a British-based email security out-sourcer, claimed to be receiving more than 100 copies of the virus a minute since last Tuesday morning.

Anti-virus officials say that the virus is particularly dangerous because it targets and destroys certain files, mainly anti-virus and firewall software. The virus attempts to disable the software, forcing the user to re-install the software to prevent further infections.

Here at Columbia the Management Information Systems Office received more than 100 phone calls regarding the virus. Bernadette McMahon, chief information officer at Columbia, said that only 40 people did actually get the virus.

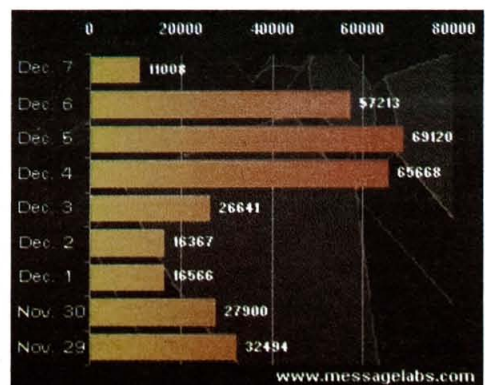
"We had it [the virus] isolated at the server level within an hour so no new ones came in. We only ended up cleaning out what was already in the system," McMahon said.

"The MIS help-desk technicians went to help out. We had everything done within 24 hours," McMahon said.

Columbia email users were notified of the virus by a universal voice-mail message. Those who reported the virus active on their computer were instructed to shut down the computers until the virus could be cleaned off.

"Everyone panics when something like this happens. In the scheme of things of how many pieces of equipment we have on campus it really wasn't that much of a problem here," McMahon said.

Anyone who suspects that they may have the virus should contact the MIS help desk at (312) 344-HELP.



Daily virus count shows the virus interception figures for the past week.

News and Notes

College hosts evening at MCA

Columbia will host an evening at the Museum of Contemporary Art on Wednesday, Dec. 12, from 6 to 10 p.m. The entire college community is invited to view and discuss two of the museum's current exhibits. "The Short Century: Independence and Liberation Movements in Africa, 1945-1994" and "The Artist as Liberator," a panel discussion starting at 7:30 p.m., are two of the featured events.

Admission is free with a valid Columbia ID. The MCA is located at 220 E. Chicago Ave. The evening is sponsored by the Office of Student Affairs, the Art and Design, Photography, Film, English and Liberal Education departments, the Diaspora Project for Cultural Awareness and the Black Student Union.

Web site shows student work

Ex-Libris is the name of a collection of Columbia student and alumni work that will be displayed on the Internet. When complete, it will be advertised to arts and media companies, and is viewable by students' friends and family.

This is a chance for students to show their work to the world. Students can submit art that will be displayed on the Web (excluding video), and the work doesn't have to be related to their major. The collection is not a competition—there is plenty of space—and students will be able to maintain full control and ownership of their work. The collection will focus on students' work such as text (poems, stories, rants, essays), images (photos, graphics, pictures of paintings or sculptures) and links to Web sites. Students can send their submissions and questions to ex_libris2001@hotmail.com. The deadline for submissions is Dec. 12.

Sounds from starving artists

Senior Seminar students at Columbia are producing a CD for homeless musicians. The class is going to record several different Chicago homeless artists' music, on local Chicago streets. The CDs will be produced at the Sound Scape Studio in Chicago.

After recording each artist's music, CDs will be made available for sale in mid-January. Please help contribute to this cause by purchasing a CD from the local artists. For more information, contact Michael Kolar at (312) 829-1288.

College seniors sponsor drive

Several Columbia seniors are sponsoring a food, toy and clothing drive in partnership with Catholic Charities and the Boys and Girls Club of Chicago. Now through Dec. 17, boxes will be in the lobbies of all main campus buildings. The Columbia community is asked to drop off any non-perishable food items, toys, clothing and jackets to benefit those in need.

Help needed to promote film

Krys Conerly and James Hodges of Rasurrection [sic] Entertainment are looking for sponsors to promote their upcoming short film, "Red Roses." It's a reality-type drama, with talented, skilled and colorful actors that depicts what really goes on in the lives of young, developed and quick-minded individuals.

Conerly and Hodges are looking for any help related to financing, marketing and other methods of getting their short film out to the public sector, where it can be noticed. "Red Roses" will be shot on digital video format and will run about 30 minutes long. You can contact director and editor Hodges at (312) 493-1447 or send him an email at jamesishorus@hotmail.com.

Screening series continues

This week's edition of the Wednesday screening series will feature a showcase for work created in the last two semesters in various alternative form classes, including Production III and Experimental Video.

Students are invited to view the screening on Dec. 12 at 6 p.m., 1104 S. Wabash Ave., screening room 302. For more information call (312) 344-6708.

If you have an upcoming event

or announcement, please call

the *Chronicle's* news desk

at (312) 344-7255.

Around Campus



Guest speakers at 'What do these people have in common?' information session about individuals with disabilities that took place on Dec. 3 in the Hokin Annex. The event was sponsored by the Conaway Achievement Project.

Eviction

Continued from Front Page

Soon after his removal, Gaebel enlisted the help of Zafra Lerman, head of Columbia's Institute for Science Education and Science Communication. Lerman, a noted human-rights advocate and ethics expert, had never met Gaebel prior to the incident, but felt strongly about defending him.

"Columbia acted unwisely and in haste by calling the Chicago police. One of our good students was handcuffed, taken away in a squad car, written up in a police report and issued a court date," Lerman said.

Gaebel appeared in court in the beginning of November and has been ordered by law to stay away from the 731 building.

Also during the course of events, Gaebel requested a committee hearing to review the incident. The committee consisted of Wilson-Taylor and committee chair, Lynn Pena, as well as seven other members. They all heard testimony from several witnesses who saw the incident unfold in the dorms. Gaebel said he was made to sit with his face to the wall during the hearing and could only speak through another person.

Gaebel feels a major discrepancy in the proceedings occurred since many of the incident reports brought to the committee from the various witnesses and parties involved were not signed or dated. Several of the reports that did have dates listed were signed and dated on Oct. 17 or 18. "They basically evicted me, then filed complaints," Gaebel said.

Lerman was given five minutes to speak to the committee on Gaebel's behalf.

"I felt sick to my stomach," Lerman said of Gaebel being forced to sit with his face to the wall. "I was surprised I did not see billy-club-wielding thugs standing in the room. The layout reminded me of the conditions of detainees from countries such as the former Soviet Union, Cuba and China, where I work on human-rights abuses."

Despite the committee hearing and efforts by Lerman, Gaebel remains barred from Columbia's residence center and has just recently found an apartment to live in for the remainder of his time at the college.

Two months after the incident, he feels the college was still too hasty in making a decision to permanently remove him from the residence center. He claims he was denied due process and the right to be treated fairly.

"This has disrupted my school work and turned my world upside down," he said. "I feel like a number, not a student. Things happen in this school that is not in the grasp of our knowledge."

As for Lerman, she maintains a strong opinion about the way Columbia administration handled the Gaebel incident. "This school has thrown out onto the streets of Chicago a good student whose parents live halfway across the country and had entrusted the well-being of their son to the hands of Columbia's administration," she said.

Lerman also takes issue with the newly published student disciplinary guidelines, which the school just recently circulated. Formally titled, "Guidelines for Responding to Disruptive Student Conduct," the document does not address several issues, according to Lerman. She said topics not covered in the guidelines include the circumstances under which a faculty or staff member should call the Chicago police about a student disruption.

Lerman also stated that she is very concerned with the last sentence in the guidelines document, which says: "The vice president of Student Affairs' decision shall be final."

"It is well-known that, in a democratic society, even the decision of the president of the country is not final and can be appealed," Lerman said. "We cannot allow ourselves, as an educational institution, to ignore democratic practices."

College a step closer to starting dorm project

○ Administration seeks approval of dorm proposal from City Council

By Jill Helmer
Assistant Editor

The college is expected to be one step closer toward the construction of its new super dorm this week, reported Executive Vice President Bert Gall at the College Council meeting Friday, Dec. 7.

According to Gall, the proposal for the new dorms should receive approval from the Chicago City Council this week.

In the latest update of the project, the number of the beds Columbia will have in the dorms has increased to 690, and a search will begin for businesses to occupy the retail space on the first level of the building, according to Gall.

Gall said ideally, he hopes to find two large retailers to rent the spaces, so the area can be divided into two equal

parts—one to the north and on the south side.

In other council news:

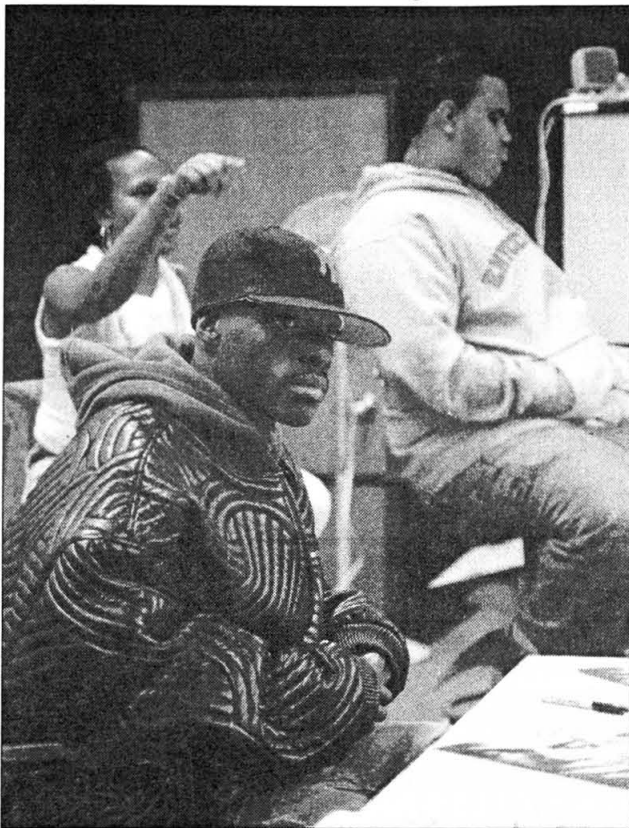
The generator project will take place over the holiday break in the 600 S. Michigan, 623 S. Wabash, and 1104 S. Wabash buildings. Electricity will be cut to all these buildings over break while the project is completed.

The student government association was approved by President Carter at the Board of Trustees meeting. The board itself didn't approve the association because it was not within their bylaws to do so.

Searches will commence this month for permanent deans for the schools of Liberal Arts and Science, Media Arts and Fine and Performing Arts, according to Steven Kapelke, provost and vice president of academic affairs. The search for the dean of the Graduate school is already underway.

Theater department Chair Sheldon Patinkin of the Academic Affairs Committee said work is underway to shift the starting date of classes earlier so that the semester ends before the holiday break. The shift is planned for 2004, but there is some debate as to whether the plan is feasible, according to Gall.

A special delivery



Dwayne M. Thomas/Chronicle
Bad Boy artist G-Dep and DJ E-Nyce answer questions during their visit to Columbia. The Q&A was sponsored by Columbia Urban Music Association.

Hokin book drive Word Up to benefit children in need

○ One of this year's senior seminar community service projects will compete with Word Up for donation

By Wing Fai Yim
Staff Writer

The Hokin Center is sponsoring Word Up, a new- and used-book drive for needy Chicago children.

"The program will only focus on children," said Hokin Center Coordinator Julie Caffey, who is managing the drive, along with the Center Director Carol Ann Brown. Last year the donation boxes collected toys for needy children, but the response was not as good as expected.

"Brown came up with the idea of donating toys for children last year—this year she changed her idea to donate used or new books for needy children," Caffey said.

The collected books will be donated to various organizations, such as the Rush Hospital, and other women's associations in the local community, Caffey said.

Caffey said the doctors at Rush prescribe a reading program to help children who have literacy problems because they found out many parents do not help their children read even if they know their children have reading difficulties. The reading program will help children to increase their literacy and reading abilities in the future.

Since the donation boxes are put in each lobby of many school buildings for two

weeks, they have in the past become trash cans, collecting garbage like fliers, gum papers, and bottles, the *Chronicle* found.

Steve Heinicken, a fine arts freshman, said that he has not seen any of these donation boxes at all. However, he mentioned he has not been paying close attention.

Meerly Jerome, a television and film sophomore, said she thought that anything, such as old shoes, clothes and socks could be donated.

"This is a cool program," Jerome said. "I have not seen anyone dump their trash into the bin."

Music business student Molly Morgan said she hasn't seen any boxes in the 623 S. Wabash building, where she said she does not take many classes.

Caffey said she does not know how many books have been collected so far. The donation boxes will be gathered Dec. 19, right before the holiday break.

The Word Up boxes have a little competition for donations this year, though. Every semester, students in senior seminar classes—which are required for graduation—must formulate community service projects.

This year, one class has decided to do a food, clothing and toy drive and has placed donation boxes in the lobbies of all campus buildings.

The drive is soliciting nonperishable food items, clothes, coats and new toys, which will be collected Dec. 17 and donated to the Boys and Girls Club and the Catholic Charities of Chicago.

Kevin B. O'Reilly contributed to this story.

College community reaches out to international students

○ Program launched to give students a choice to share the holidays with faculty and staff

By Kela Ellis
Staff Writer

Some students won't be going home for the holidays because vacation comes with a price, said Gigi Posejpal, associate dean of International Student Affairs.

Because students can't afford to travel across the world to celebrate with their families, faculty of the Office of International Student Affairs, Multicultural Affairs and Asian Cultural Affairs offices have launched a new program called "Beyond Columbia Borders," which gives international students a choice to share the holidays with faculty and staff of Columbia.

Faculty members have offered to invite students with no place to go for the holidays to their homes in previous years, but until recently Columbia didn't have a program that supported that idea, Posejpal said.

"The interest has always been there, but now it's formalized," she said.

International Student Adviser and Head Coordinator Symon Ogeto said this program will be a learning experience for both faculty and students on culture and diversity. Of Columbia's 579 international students, 82 countries are represented, Ogeto said. Because of events on and before Sept. 11 there have been misconceptions of other cultures, Posejpal said.

"If we're going to build an understanding, we have to interact with one another," she said.

Graduate student Suhair Al-Qadasi agrees and said learning about American culture is part of the reason she is participating in the new program. Qadasi said she has spent holidays with a faculty member in previous years and they have learned about each other's background and religions.

"I think this program gives Americans the opportunity to see non-Americans differently," she said. Qadasi believes this program will be beneficial to all international students whether they can afford to go home or not.

"If we're going to learn about one another, we have to start doing it now," Qadasi said.

Inspired by the University of Illinois at Chicago's International Thanksgiving fellowship program, Ogeto has started a program that will extend through all holidays, Posejpal said.

Different from UIC's program, where students are charged a fee and are paired with a family who is randomly selected, Columbia's holiday program is free and students can choose which faculty member they will spend the holidays with.

One thing asked of students who participate in this program is they follow the rules of the host's home, Ogeto said. Some faculty may have certain alcohol or other restrictions that they want students to follow, he said.

The response to this holiday program has been positive, Ogeto said. So far, three students are participating and a small number of faculty members have immediately responded in reaching out to international students. Ogeto said he is not expecting a large number of people to participate in the beginning, but hopes that the program will continue to grow throughout the years.

New office serves Asian students

○ Chau Quach named coordinator of the Asian Cultural Affairs Office

By Laura Pliego
Staff Writer

The Columbia College Multicultural Affairs department recently increased its staff and number of programs by adding yet another office. The Asian Cultural Affairs Office was recently established, bringing Chau Quach on the staff board as coordinator.

Slowly, students are getting familiarized with Quach, considering she is a part-time coordinator and assumed her position at Columbia in November 2001. Not only is Quach of Asian background, but she has worked with the Asian-American non-profit community since she was a freshman in high school.

"I'm specifically familiar with the Asian-American youth dealing with identity crisis," Quach said. She's dealt with Asian-American youth from countries like Vietnam, Thailand and Indonesia. Her knowledge is global as well as local.

Quach is a community activist and has served on government projects such as Mayor Richard Daley's Youth Trash Force where she worked to bring the voices of Asian-American youth to issues of police brutality and after school activity.

She graduated from Northwestern University in 1999 with a bachelor's degree in journalism and international studies.

"I've always liked the arts and I've always had an affinity toward using journalism and other artistic expressions as a cultural bridge among different people."

Mark Kelly, acting vice president of Student Affairs, said that in order to fulfill the needs of the growing number of Asian students it was important to find an approachable individual who could understand their concerns by responding effectively to their needs.

Before accepting her position at Columbia, Quach worked with Asian immigrant and refugee high school and college students. Coordinating leadership and cultural awareness workshops and outreach programs geared toward these students were among her main responsibilities. She also taught English in Japan as part of the Japan Exchange Teaching Program, which allowed her to travel throughout East and Southeast Asia.

Quach feels there is always a need to serve different groups and her extensive knowledge and background with the Asian community allows her to help Asian-American individuals with different needs.

"Having an Asian coordinator is definitely an asset. There are many Asian students and until now, I haven't met with any Asian faculty members," said Chris Kim, a senior and a member of the International Student Organization.

Currently, 4 percent of Columbia's student body is composed of Asian students. The Korean Students Association offers support to bilingual Korean students as well as promoting a better understanding of the Korean culture. The OTAKU Japanese Animation and Manga Society is a resource for Japanese students and for those interested in the Japanese culture and different animation styles. Students in the Arts serves to support the Asian student body in all forms of expression.

Quach will be coordinating various events with these organizations as well as being involved in the International Student Organization because of its high number of Asian students.

As the coordinator of the ACA, Quach plans to do collaborative events with other organizations within Columbia as well as other colleges. Because she strongly believes that there is a need to integrate students by having them become familiar with diverse cultures, she is in the process of organizing a group workshop arranged to put an end to hate crimes. Quach is also focusing on having art exhibitions to foster students' work.

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HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

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and the music of pianist

Kirk Brown and his Ensemble

refreshments will be served

Monday, Dec. 10

2:pm Hokin Annex

623 S. Wabash



Sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the English Department

Credit card debt hits college students hard

By Beth Alexander

The Crimson White (U. of Alabama)

(U-WIRE) TUSCALOOSA, Ala.—During his first year at the University of Alabama, Rickey Lingerfelt, a transfer student from Fayette, was offered numerous credit cards around campus. He is now a senior public relations major with three credit cards and what he considers a lot of debt for a college student.

Every year college students make the decision to become a credit card holder, and every year many end up in serious debt. Linda Foster, education administrative specialist for Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Alabama, said the average college undergraduate has almost \$2,000 in credit card debt. Nine percent of college students reported they have between \$3,000 and \$7,000 credit card debt.

So why do students get credit cards?

Karly Mauldin, a junior majoring in social work, recently received her first credit card. Her reason for getting a credit card was simple.

"I got it so I could pay for dinner when I go out with a group of friends and to have something to put other personal needs on," Mauldin said.

T.J. Zito, a University graduate student, decided to get his credit cards to help pay for things he wanted to buy for his girlfriends.

Foster said students have an average of 3.2 credit cards, and about a fifth of college students have four or more cards. How do they get so many?

Students can be bombarded by offers everywhere they turn. They come via e-mail, regular mail, banks or people soliciting in front of a store.

Mauldin found out about her credit card through her boyfriend, but has also received many offers in the mail. Though Zito's cards came from his bank, he has also found offers in his regular mail and e-mail.

The Web site for American Consumer Credit Counseling says credit card companies solicit the average American by mail at least seven times a year.

Robert Manning, a professor of the humanities at the Rochester Institute of Technology, said in his report, "Credit Cards of Campus:

The Social Costs of Student Debt," that parents, stu-

dents and alumni have put pressure on college administrators to restrict credit card solicitation on campuses, if not completely ban it.

In response, 800 colleges and universities enacted policies that restricted solicitation during the 2000-2001 school year.

The University no longer allows a limitless number of credit card solicitors on campus. Susan Herndon, director of union services, said only solicitation of the University Affinity MasterCard could be found at the University.

The presence of this card is allowed because it gives back to the school in the form of scholarship money. The credit card company also offers programs that teach good credit, she said.

Three years ago, other companies were allowed to solicit at the student center, but the change came after students complained about feeling harassed.

Not only do students find applications on campus, but the applications also come to them, in some instances with the help of their school.

Some universities get involved in the solicitation of credit cards to their students by selling mailing lists to the companies. The University of Tennessee recently sparked a controversy because it sold a credit card company mailing information for students and alumni for \$16.5 million.

Janet Griffith, assistant vice president of University Relations, said the University does not sell or give away students' mailing information. But it is available through the Web site and other campus directories. However, she said it is not easy to download the information from the Web site.

So once students get credit cards and the debt that can come along with them, how can they get out of financial trouble?

Newly carded Mauldin does fear going into debt but plans to limit herself and try to not use her card too much simply because it is convenient.

But if that plan does not work, there are ways to get out. Zito, who found himself about \$3,200 in debt, was able to pay it off by paying more than his monthly balance and watching his spending.

But for others, it is not that easy to control themselves, and they must seek professional help. There are several

services that can help for free. Organizations such as the National Foundation for Credit Counseling and Consumer Credit Counseling Services help those in debt by working with their creditors to lower monthly payments and possibly waive finance charges.

Lingerfelt has tried to work things out with his creditors but has encountered problems and is getting ready to get help through a credit counseling service.

Another solution people with severe credit card debt can try is filing for bankruptcy. According to the National Foundation for Credit Counseling, there are two types of bankruptcy: Chapter 7 and Chapter 13. Chapter 7 converts unprotected assets into cash in order to pay off debts. Chapter 13 gives debtors a chance to repay their debts over an extended period of time.

But there is a downside to filing for bankruptcy. It stays on a credit report for 10 years and could lead to problems receiving credit in the future.

Why do companies give cards to students if they have such a hard time paying them off? Paul Camp, an assistant professor in the Department of Consumer Sciences, believes that banks are interested in soliciting college students because they know many of the students are anxious to establish their own credit file.

Manning believes companies go after students because they are more profitable; it is cheaper to solicit on campuses than to older generations. Students are also more likely to form long-term loyalties to companies. Among other reasons, the market replenishes itself every year when new students enter the schools.

Thus far, the government does nothing to help students out when it comes to credit card debt. One proposed federal law, known as the Bankruptcy Overhaul Bill, would have prohibited credit card companies from issuing cards to anyone under the age of 21. The only exception would be if that person had parental consent or was able to show that he or she had the means of repaying the debt. But the bill died in the U.S. Senate in 1999.

At least for now, credit card companies will continue to solicit students, and students will continue to charge. Reuters quoted Manning as saying, "The unrestricted marketing of credit cards on college campuses is so aggressive that it now poses a greater threat than alcohol or sexually transmitted diseases."

University no longer home of The Braves

By AP Wire Service

HAMDEN, Conn. (AP)—Quinnipiac University, which takes its name from an American Indian tribe, announced Monday that its athletic teams will no longer be known as "The Braves."

The school's board of trustees voted to eliminate the nickname, finding that it could be offensive to American Indians, said Lynn Bushnell, vice president of public affairs at the university.

The move came at the recommendation of school President John Lahey and followed a semester of discussions by the faculty senate, student government association, president's cabinet and alumni board, all of which voted to stop using the name.

The decision will affect the school's

the school's 21 varsity athletic teams.

"Although fond of the tradition we've had for 50 years, the university community clearly recognized the difficulties of using a name that has the potential to misrepresent and denigrate an entire group of people," Bushnell said.

Bushnell said the original aim was to honor and remember the tribe once known as the Quinnipiaks but "to do so only through athletics was found to be no longer appropriate."

School officials said students, alumni, faculty and staff will be asked to come up with suggestions for a new nickname.

"We want to build an image that will help strengthen QU athletics, and in doing so create an emblem our athletes and fans will wear with honor and pride," Bushnell said.

Fraternity investigates Iowa City chapter for hazing

By AP Wire Service

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP)—A fraternity at the University of Iowa is under investigation for hazing.

Local and national Phi Delta Theta officials said they plan to issue sanctions against the fraternity.

Fraternity officials said the problems, which involved alcohol and possible underage drinking, occurred last year. There have been no infractions this year, said Marc Mores, national director of chapter services with the fraternity.

Police began an investigation after a complaint from a former fraternity member.

The University of Iowa and Interfraternity Council declined to comment on the allegations. Mores said fraternity officials are cooperating with the university as part of a joint investigation.

"Right now we are working on our own set of sanctions to make sure the chapter moves forward in a positive direction," Mores said.

The allegations against Phi Delta Theta come in the wake of a settlement in a wrongful death lawsuit over the 1995 alcohol-related death of another University of Iowa student.

Matthew Garofalo, 19, of Elgin, Ill., was a pledge with Lambda Chi Alpha. He died after a night of heavy drinking at a fraternity party.

Unseasonably mild weather draws Hoosiers outdoors

By AP Wire Service

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (AP)—Unseasonably mild weather has granted Indiana one of the warmest autumns in years and beckoned Hoosiers to enjoy summer activities at a time when they are normally preparing for snow.

The temperate conditions drew 129 golfers to the Indiana University golf course last weekend in Bloomington. The course had just 158 players in all of December last year.

The weather is bringing plenty of other people outside as well, some wearing shorts and T-shirts. In a scene that looked more fitting for June, a dog was seen chasing a butterfly along a Bloomington sidewalk.

Temperatures have been far above average for weeks.

November's average high of 60.3 degrees was the highest since records were started in 1870, according to Bob Pruitt of the National Weather Service in Indianapolis.

"By December, it's cold or starting to get that way," Pruitt told The Herald-Times. "But we're not seeing any signs of it. It's going to stay this way for a while."

Winter arrives Dec. 21, but Pruitt isn't making any predictions about a white

Christmas. So far, central Indiana has received only a trace of snow this fall.

The average annual snowfall is 20 inches. Ski World in Nashville, Ind., doesn't need real snow. It has machines to make its own. But the park does need cold weather.

"We're waiting for Mother Nature to start cooperating," said Phyllis Risky, who has operated the ski center since 1988. "We're really excited about opening, but we need the temperatures to get into the low 20s and stay there for a few days."

Last year, Ski World had its earliest opening ever, Dec. 8. It has always been able to open by Dec. 25.

"We moved here from Michigan, and we've gotten used to the weather not being as predictable," Risky said. "But I don't get too worked up about it. You can't control the weather."

The mild conditions have also been helpful for construction workers and others who labor outside.

But Pruitt said farmers would like to see a good snowfall to replenish moisture levels in their fields.

"Rain because of the runoff and evaporation doesn't supply the same benefits as snow does for farmland," Pruitt said. "So we could use some snow. But it may be a while before we get it."

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A view from Ground Zero, NYC



Photos by Danielle Dellorto/Chronicle

Clockwise starting above: A memorial outside Ladder 20 in the Soho section of Manhattan. Only blocks from Ground Zero, this department was among the first on the scene and lost 15 of the 40 firemen that responded to the rescue.

Above, right: One of the prayer stations near Ground Zero.

Lower, right: The man holding the gas mask was the owner of a company in the World Trade Center that lost hundreds of employees. He took his wife and daughter down to see the wreckage on Thanksgiving.

Below, left: Recovery crews work around the clock to clean up the massive wreckage from the World Trade Center.

Below: A prayer statue placed on the corner of Broadway in Times Square.



By Danielle Dellorto
Correspondent

Columbia student Danielle Dellorto recently traveled to New York City to volunteer with her mother at Ground Zero. A reporter with WJOB-AM radio in Hammond, Ind. Dellorto also decided to document her experiences on the streets of Manhattan for both the radio station and the Chronicle.

We planned the trip at the last minute so our flight left Thanksgiving morning from Midway Airport. After three hours of security checks, we boarded our packed flight and were on our way to New York City. It was bizarre flying into midtown Manhattan and not seeing the famous twin towers. A New Yorker was sitting behind me and I heard her simply say, "My God."

Nonetheless, Manhattan was an astounding sight to see and I couldn't wait to get into the city. My journalistic curiosity had me dying to see everything with my own two eyes.

Ground Zero in lower Manhattan was something I thought I was prepared for but I quickly realized just how mistaken I was. Since the disaster of Sept. 11 I have followed the latest developments and read stories about many of the victims. And although I did not know anyone who was lost in the tragedy, something inside me has been especially drawn to it. But as I mentioned earlier—nothing could prepare me for what I was about to see.

I hailed a cab, told him my destination and was quickly off. As we darted in and out of traffic, I began feeling a little nervous. Was I really ready for this? As the cabby announced we were almost there and pointed out the smoke billowing up into the sky, I felt a lump in my throat.

I got out of the cab and was amazed to see the thousands of people crowding the streets surrounding Ground Zero. I made my way through the crowd to see a sight that is unimaginable. My mouth dropped open at first glance and I soon felt tears streaming down my face.

Ground Zero was so much bigger than I thought it would be—the wreckage goes on for blocks. Seeing the devastation with your own eyes makes the television images of the disaster pale in comparison.

It was hard to watch the firefighters spray water on rubble that had not stopped burning for more than two months. It was almost unbearable to watch cranes scoop up debris that contained hundreds of sheets of paper flitting out.

It seemed like a movie set, like it could not be real. To look at the smoking rubble and to realize that 14 floors of office space were compacted down to three feet was a truly surreal experience. And on top of the dreadful sight—there was an eerie silence.

Thousands of people packed the streets but strangely the only sounds were that of the cranes, emergency sirens and the soft, muted cries of those nearby. Most people looked utterly shocked at the site of Ground Zero, many with their hands covering their mouths.

But along with the sadness came a sense of comfort as nearly every building, fence and street corner had makeshift memorials for the victims. As I walked down the streets, I stopped and read many of the cards and posters that decorated the city. It was pleasing to see how many people wrote from as far away as California, Texas, England, India and Australia.

On one building I spied a poster that a child drew of an American flag. On the top corner, the child wrote: "Thank you for risking you [sic] life for other people. I am sorry that your friends and family died."

It really touched my heart. And it was truly astonishing to see hundreds of people crowd around the prayer stations that were set up sporadically throughout the area.

The tragedy brought much love and support to our country. Patriotism was stronger than ever in the Big Apple. There were flags all across the city, hanging from buildings or pinned to hats and coats. Construction workers had flag stickers on their hard hats and homeless people draped them on their shopping carts.

And as I walked across Manhattan, I came across a firehouse—Ladder 20, to be exact, which is only blocks from the World Trade Center. These men were among the first on the scene Sept. 11.

The station's dark brick walls were now covered with cards and posters, but what made these walls significant were the photographs of the many men who lost their lives trying to help a frantic city. Most of the men were young and their photos were accompanied by other photographs of their families.

The tragedy suddenly became harder to cope with after being able to put a face, a family and a location to the victims.

I walked inside the station and up to two firefighters thanking them for being so courageous. They smiled and told me they lost 15 of the 40 men who worked at their station.

One of the firefighters said that he couldn't believe they had lost 15 of their "brothers."

"Fifteen is too many to lose in a single day," he said sadly.

"What are you talking about, man, one is too many to lose," said the other fireman.

I wish those of you reading this could experience what I experienced. I wish you could see the damage and heartache of New York City is faced with every day. We have the luxury of turning the television off, or closing the pages of a magazine when we have seen too much. They don't.

Every day they must walk out their doors and see a sight that is truly unbelievable. Ground Zero goes on for blocks, and there is no way to ignore it. New Yorkers will never have the luxury of turning it off.

It was hard to put the whole experience into words, but there is one thing I know for sure: I will always remember the smoke billowing from the wreckage, the eerie silence of thousands of people, the thick smell of disaster that loomed throughout Ground Zero, and—most importantly—the strength that the people of New York City possess.



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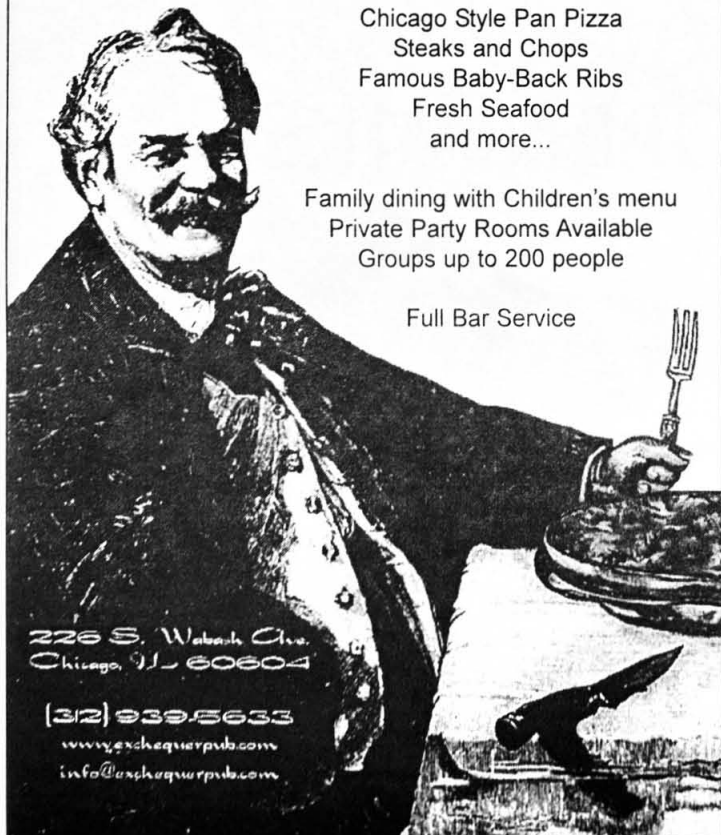
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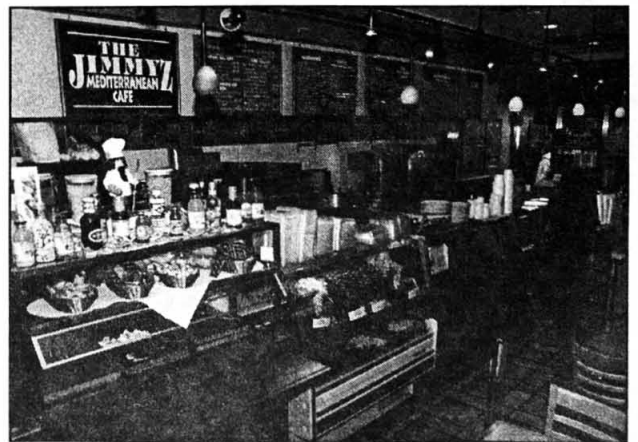
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- ◆ Teams will be taken on a first-come, first-serve basis. Teams should consist of 8-10 players and at least 2 players of each sex must be on every team. Please note that 1 player of each sex must be on the court at all times during the game.
- ◆ All Teams must submit a \$30 entry fee. Cash only. Additionally, every individual player must complete an information packet before the season begins. Please submit all fees and packets to The Marvin Moss Student Center at Roosevelt University. Fees must be paid between 9am and 5pm Monday-Friday only. Packets may be turned in Monday-Friday 7:30am to 9:00pm.
- ◆ Any other questions? Please call the Marvin Moss Student Center at Roosevelt University at 312-341-2430 or Student Activities and Leadership at Columbia College at 312-344-7042.

COMMENTARY

Cloning: An opportunity, not a crisis

By Georgia Evdoxiadis
Copy Editor

Science fiction is now science reality.

Advanced Cell Technology announced in the Nov. 25 issue of *e-biomed: The Journal of Regenerative Medicine* that the group had successfully cloned human cells. The report, also published at www.scientificamerican.com, instantly started a chain reaction of controversy. Individuals and organizations all over the world began to release statements condemning the research.

President Bush said two weeks ago that cloning is "morally wrong, in my opinion." The Vatican also made a statement opposing the advance under the premise that life begins at conception.

The doomsday predictions were not far behind.

The National Right to Life Committee's legislative director, Douglas Johnson, wrote on the organization's Web site that "unless Congress acts quickly, this corporation and others will be opening human embryo farms."

What all of these groups failed to notice is that scientists, including those who cloned the first mammal, Dolly the sheep, were already discounting the validity of Advanced Cell Technology's claims. Additionally, none of the embryos made it past the eight-cell stage, a meager accomplishment at best.

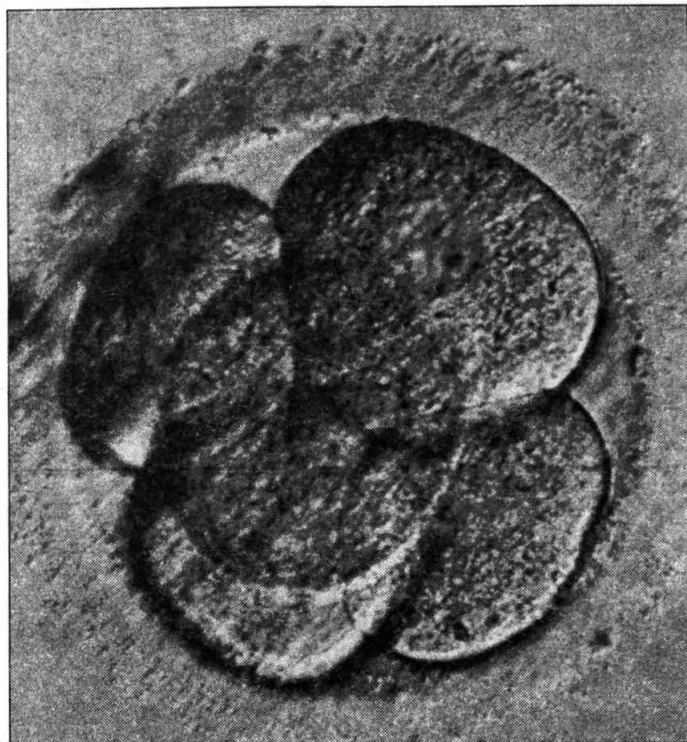
But more important than whether the research is a breakthrough or not is whether scientists should be trying to break through at all. Most of the arguments against cloning are uneducated, at best.

First, the scientists were not trying to clone human cells for transplantation into women's wombs. They were attempting to advance stem-cell research, hoping to find treatment for debilitating and fatal diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. Advances in therapeutic cloning could also cure spinal cord injuries. These scientists could conceivably eliminate the need for organ donors, saving thousands of lives a year. They are not mad scientists out to create genetic mutants in an attempt to take over the world.

Secondly, anything that the Catholic Church (which is still opposed to birth-control pills) or the National Right to Life Committee (whose members hold poster-size pictures of bloody fetuses and scream "baby-killer" at women entering clinics to get pap smears) has to say about stem-cell research is pretty worthless, in my opinion. I want to hear from doctors, scientists, and bio-ethicists when I want information about stem-cell research. At least they know what they're talking about.

What about reproductive cloning, you ask? Well, I don't think it's such a big deal. Twins are genetically identical, and isn't there more to a human being than his or her DNA? In the ancient Animist tradition of Myanmar, people believed that twins were evil, and would kill them (and banish the parents too) out of fear. We are thinking in the same primitive fashion when we superimpose mental images of an Arnold Schwarzenegger movie over what a clone really is, or would be.

Just making cloning illegal is not going to solve these complex ethical issues. Even if it is outlawed, someone, somewhere will do it anyway. It is time for us to



stop burying our heads in the sand and to face the inevitability of cloning.

Let's discuss it and formulate ways to make it as moral a practice as possible. It would have been foolish to try and ban the research to develop the nuclear bomb or heroin, and it is ridiculous to assume that we can legislate this scientific advancement away.

And to the people whose only argument is that we are playing God, I say this: We have been playing God since the first time a person committed murder. Isn't it better to create and save life than to destroy it?

Find more opinions online at www.ColumbiaChronicle.com

Student Financial Services needs a lot of work

Are you having some trouble with financial aid this year? Maybe the Financial Aid Office is not returning your phone calls. There's a reason for this, there is no Financial Aid Office. Surprised? Well you shouldn't be. The Financial Aid Office merged with the Bursar's and Cashier's offices in November to become the Student Financial Services Office. The *Chronicle* reported the merger in early October. That was the first and last time it was ever mentioned in this newspaper.

The merger was meant to make the registration and financial-aid process easier for the students. Students can now sign off on their financial aid, receive their account statements and pay their bill all on one floor. While this is a good plan and will eventually benefit students, the present situation is not so bright.

The first problem is the lack of communication between students and the administration. Obviously, not everyone read our Oct. 1 story about the merger, and if they did, not everyone remembered it. It would have been nice if the new department had announced the merger more widely. They should have sent a mass email or placed an ad in the *Chronicle*.

The second and much greater problem is apathy on the part of the former Financial Aid Officers. The *Chronicle* has received numerous phone calls from students and

parents with questions about the Financial Aid Office, such as, "What happened to it?" and "Why isn't my Financial Aid Adviser returning my call?"

The new office does not have Financial Aid advisors, yet they continue to receive calls from students. It has Financial Aid Specialists, who deal with students' questions. Their services are provided on a walk-in basis, unlike the former Financial Aid Office where the students dealt with the same advisers every time. The problem is that the former financial aid advisers simply don't return calls. They have left students out to dry this semester and that is unacceptable. While we are sympathetic to the fact that the advisers are not obligated to return phone calls, it is impolite not to return students' calls, some of who are just coming to Columbia for the first time.

Understandably, it is no longer their job to answer students' questions, which leads back to the first problem, which is the Student Financial Services Office failed to give students a new number to contact with their questions. If the college wants to implement new services and open departments that better serve the student body, they need to come up with a plan to properly inform students. Otherwise, the changes result not in more services for the students, but more hassles.

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Beware of scholarship scams; trust Columbia

By Julie Shamon
Staff Writer

Need money? Everybody does, especially since these trying times have redefined our normalcy and placed us in economic hardship. A recent *Chicago Tribune* article (Oct. 24) said, the war on terrorism put America at an economic stand still, tapping into the Illinois College Fund for extra money. Instead of backing their nation's unstable financial system, companies nowadays are downsizing, eliminating thousands of people in an effort to stabilize profits.

Now, with job prospects down, parents and students are trying to make ends meet. While tuition costs and loans continue to haunt students, adding further insult to injury are "non-profit" companies opening shop on the Internet, luring poor and desperate students and their parents to purchase help, and claim thousands of dollars in scholarships and aid.

The Federal Trade Commission works for the consumer warning them of deceptive and unfair business practices on the Internet. Recently, the FTC reported scholarship scams are making money from students by guaranteeing scholarships. The scams are disguised to be convincing and persuasive. They employ tactics by sending you unsolicited emails, proclaiming that you are a finalist in contest, or by claiming that based on merits, you can get up to \$20,000 in free money. For an up-front fee varying between \$5-\$695 or sometimes more, you can obtain an easy how-to guide or help from their "professionals" when filling out forms for student aid, or finding scholarships based on your qualifications and background.

Targeting a specific audience, these businesses are eager to sell their bogus services like the College Financial Counselor at www.findcollegeaid.com. To get you in, they say, "Seven billion went unclaimed last year because eligible students did not apply." They use devious tactics to get students to divulge

sensitive material such as bank account or credit card numbers, asserting that "to be considered," or to "confirm eligibility" you must send your tax and other financial information. Other gimmicks found on the College Financial Counselor Web site state that by following their methods "we can dramatically increase your financial aid 'eligibility' by thousands of dollars." Sure, their "superb staff" assists you but also, "obviously cannot guarantee any results." Total out-of-pocket expenses for College Financial Counselor is \$199 for a FAFSA answer sheet package, which supposedly helps you fill out the free financial aid form in order to get maximum benefits. Of course, it's only use is to ensure you filled it out correctly but the company never puts a 100 percent guarantee on anything.

There are some legitimate sites, but they are few and far between. Following some Web site's gimmicks and phony guarantees will fill some businesses pockets, not yours. Vagueness swamps these advertisements to make you feel more secure. How do these statements, provided by the FTC, make sure you will not lose, but gain several amounts of money:

"The scholarship is guaranteed or your money back"

"You can't get this information anywhere else."

"I just need your credit card or bank account number to hold this scholarship."

"We'll do all the work."

"The scholarship will cost some money."

"You've been selected" by a "national foundation" to receive a scholarship—or "You're a finalist" in a contest you never entered.

If you ever come across these statements, do not divulge information from your pocketbook or grab your checks; these are fraudulent programs designed to make others richer. Avoid these sales pitches and contact the FTC right away at (877) FTC-HELP. There you can let them know how these Internet companies are trying to take your money.

In the meantime, if you need any assistance finding a scholarship or filling out any forms for aid and scholarships, visit the Student Financial Services Department at Columbia. You can work with someone you trust who will answer all of your questions.

Exposure

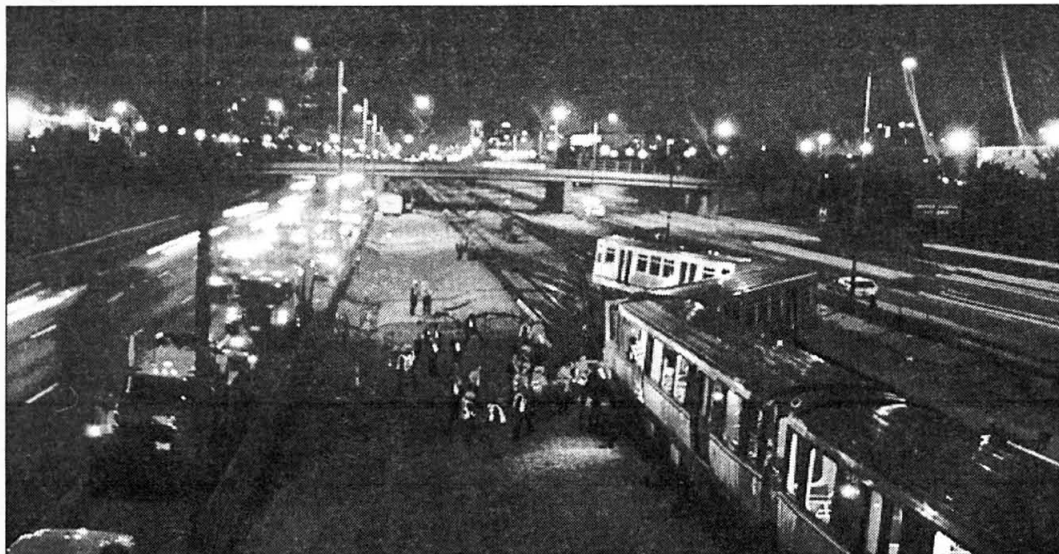


Photo by Yohey Seno/Chronicle

Hindsight is always 20/20

By Anthony Heintzelman
Staff Writer

It's official. This country has gone completely insane. Sure, some ridiculous behavior is to be expected after the Sept. 11 attacks. It would be hard not to panic and act irrationally. But just as Americans are prone to do, we have taken things to a whole new level.

Look no further than the company offering parachutes to people who work in high rises. Parachutes. They have yet to be fully tested, but people are paying hundreds of dollars for them. It's hard to say if the egocentrism of these people who think they could be the targets of terrorism because they live or work in high rises is funny or pathetic.

Even if they were jumping because of something like a fire, there is nothing to say that winds wouldn't blow them directly into the flames or into each other. But that kind of talk puts a damper on things when you're showing off your new parachute around the office.

Or how about the way corporate America has jumped on the patriotism bandwagon? Silly me—and all this time I thought AT&T was run by Stalin-loving communists. And aren't you glad to know that companies like McDonald's support

America? If they really want to help people, why not start by serving food that won't have you running to the bathroom in five minutes?

The worst is the General Motors ad campaign, "Keep America Rolling." Hey, what better way to help America than by putting more money into the pockets of the top people at Buick, Chevy and Cadillac? God forbid they have to take a smaller pay raise than they did last year just because of some pesky terrorists.

If they really want to help America, why not start by re-opening some of the plants they've closed over the years? Of course, they'll find excuses not to. Also, keep in mind that one of bin Laden's biggest grievances is the Gulf War, which was essentially a fight over oil so we could have low gas prices.

How about Flight 587, the plane that crashed in Belle Harbor, N.Y. a few weeks back? Did you already forget about that? Had it happened before Sept. 11, it would have been a huge story. But since it was "just an accident," it has received little attention since, despite the fact that 260 people died.

Hopefully, when all is said and done, we will be able to look back and see some of what has happened for what it really is. Of course, that is, if we haven't forgotten what started it all in the first place.

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COLUMBIA'S VOICES

Early registration editorial filled with inaccuracies

I am writing to respond to the editorial, "Registration plagued by incompetence," from the Dec. 3 issue of the *Chronicle*. While I agree that there is plenty of room for improvement in the present registration process, the unsigned editorial (which read like an individual's personal gripe) was full of inaccuracies and unsubstantiated statements.

First, contrary to the editorial early registration was aggressively promoted with a letter to all students, a full-page print ad in several issues of the *Chronicle*, advertisements on cc.tv, and flyers and announcements in the academic departments. Second, the Academic Advising Office and Freshman Center advised close to 3,000 students in preparation for early registration without a single written or verbal complaint. Third, while the Office of Student Financial Services is going through some growing pains due to new personnel and processes recently put into place, it is clear that students will soon see a leap in service.

The Student Affairs staff and Columbia's faculty are working hard to improve the present registration process and welcome constructive suggestions for improvement. Most importantly, staff and academic administrators are about to embark on a laborious and intensive process to integrate new administrative software that will allow Columbia to offer state-of-the-art online registration. It is not a pipedream, but a reality that will be in place by 2003.

I encourage students to email Marvin Cohen, director of the Records Office, at mcohen@colum.edu, with suggestions for improving registration. He will forward all emails to the appropriate offices.

—Mark E. Kelly/ Acting Vice President of Student Affairs

I would like to thank you for your article regarding early registration and the Financial Aid Office. Last semester I received numerous notices in my mailbox that I had not yet paid my tuition.

Knowing that I had, I contacted the Financial Aid Office only to find out that they had forgotten to enter my student loan into their system. This happened to me again this year.

I also have experienced problems with the Records Office. I was supposed to be attending a different college this semester. I went to the Records Office in March to have my transcripts sent and then paid \$10 to have them overighted.

In May, I received a letter from the other college saying they could not accept me at this time because Columbia never sent my transcripts.

In June, I received a statement from Columbia saying they had finally sent my transcripts. I am still at Columbia and commuting for three hours a day because I could not trust them to send out my transcripts. Perhaps it would be a good idea for the college to hire experienced office workers.

—Erin Parrish/ Theater

Setting story straight on human cloning

I would like to point out a few things regarding the subject of cloning in response to the article "Human cloning comes too soon [Commentary Dec. 3]."

1. What I think is the most important thing to understand regarding the subject as it pertains to the government, is that the federal government has no jurisdiction over private scientific endeavors. There is no place in the *Constitution* where the congress is given power to ban cloning or anything else they don't like.

2. In your article you made the point that a group like Al Qaeda could double their numbers overnight. That is entirely false. Even if they had the technology, they could only create embryos. Those embryos would then take nine months to develop in a womb. These embryos wouldn't be the rapidly aging product of science fiction, they would be normal babies who would take years to grow up. I seriously doubt Al Qaeda wants thousands of crying babies in their hands.

3. Finally, there is a huge difference between cellular life and human life. There are more living cells in a square centimeter of your skin than in one of these cloned embryos. They aren't cute little fetuses with beating hearts, they are little blobs of ribosomes, mitochondria, etc. I'd also like to point out that these embryos have no rights to protection under the U.S. *Constitution* because they are not yet born, and one must be born to be a citizen. I could go on, but I don't want this to turn into a small novel.

—John Duffy

Adamek's story rings true

I would just like to say that I am a transfer student here and this is my first semester. My major is television post-production. This is my first real taste of the "Windy City." I am used to the small suburban town I am from. I must say this semester has been an enjoyable one, meeting all types of people.

I was leaving school when I picked up this paper and read the article "Making change: A code of conduct." [Commentary, Nov. 26] I really enjoyed this article. My mind wanders from time to time about the big change of going to Columbia. There are so many diverse, talented people—it's amazing. It sometimes can be overwhelming.

I liked all the ideas Drew wrote about in the article ("Be risky, be honest, be challenging, be a dreamer, and be a verb.") It was very inspirational to read. I like when he wrote, "Don't ever stop moving." I think that perfectly describes Columbia. And, "Don't be afraid to fail."

I just wanted to thank Drew for putting this article out there on speaking your mind. It made me think!

—Karen Kulovitz

Legalize it!—for medicinal use

In today's politics, we hear a lot about compassion in governance. One area where this compassion is sorely lacking is in the federal policy on medical marijuana. In spite of majority public support for changing current law (73 percent according to recent polls done by Gallup and Pew Research Center) and the backing of scientific experts (the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine), federal policy continues to stand in the way of terminally ill patients who want access to medical marijuana.

In fact, rather than defer to the will of the American people on this issue, the federal government has increased its attack on medical marijuana. Recently there have been three raids carried out in California against medical marijuana providers and patients. The Department of Justice said the raids show the DOJ has "not lost our priorities in other areas since Sept. 11." Cutting off patient access to a medication approved by state law should not be a priority of our government in the first place.

It is morally wrong to harass, intimidate and threaten people who are fighting for their lives, simply because they resort to a treatment that they and their doctors find effective in treating their condition. It is truly frightening to think of the government of the people, by the people and for the people putting cancer and AIDS patients in handcuffs and dragging them off to prison simply because they want access to a medication that benefits them.

It is time for Congress to take the prosecution of seriously ill people who just want to feel better off the list of priorities, and to show the same compassion for the sick that every state electorate has shown when faced with a medical marijuana initiative. Please write your representatives in Congress to vote in favor of compassion by co-sponsoring H.R. 2592, the States' Rights to Medical Marijuana Act. This bill would change federal law so that seriously ill patients won't have to live in fear of prosecution and arrest any longer.

—Louis Silverstein/Department of Liberal Education

George Harrison's true legacy

I was just thinking about the death of George Harrison and how a lot of people are saying he was the quiet Beatle and how he was not as integral a part of the Beatles as John and Paul. I can see why some say this because John and Paul did write most of the songs. However, I disagree because George played a different role in the music of the Beatles.

Yes, he wrote great songs such as "Here Comes the Sun," "While My Guitar Gently Weeps," "Within you, Without You," "Taxman," "Savoy Truffle," and "Something," but George did more than this. He played lead guitar for the Beatles, giving them that quality sound.

Could you imagine songs such as "Let It Be," "Carry That Weight," "Revolution,"

"Back in the U.S.S.R." and "Good Morning, Good Morning" not having those guitar solos in the middle? Then there are songs such as "She Said, She Said," "Everybody's Got Something to Hide Except for Me and My Monkey" and "Revolution" where George's lead guitar is the melody of the song. Obviously there are other songs not mentioned here where the lead guitar's raunchy, edgy sound made the Beatles a rock 'n' roll phenomenon. The band that changed the face of music forever could not have done so without that distinctive sound.

George was also the spiritual side of the Beatles due to his experiments in Eastern philosophy and music. George introduced the sitar in Beatle's songs. "Norwegian Wood (This Bird Has Flown)" is a song where the sitar is the melody. It is a Beatles classic due in part to the simply, beautiful unique sound it provides. Other songs with the sitar are "Within You, Without You," "Tomorrow Never Knows" and "Strawberry Fields Forever."

George's spiritual side influenced John and Paul to write songs. It was George's idea to go see the Maharishi. From those experiences Paul wrote "Ob La Di Ob La Da," and John wrote "Across the Universe," two classic Beatles songs. John also wrote "Sexy Sadie," a song berating the Maharishi. This was John's subtle way of calling the Maharishi a fake. George believed the Maharishi was truly spiritual, unlike his Beatle counterparts.

The point is that even though George might not have written as many songs or been the ladies man, like John and Paul, he inspired songs and made songs classic instead of just good with his intriguing guitar and sitar-playing. George also gave the Beatles more diversity through his sitar and Eastern music. This helped make the Beatles great and to not acknowledge it is a travesty. George also wrote great songs.

Frank Sinatra even said that "Something" was the best Beatles love song and Frank didn't give too many complements. "Within You, Without You" is still one of my favorite Beatles songs and if you know anything about George's spirituality, that song defined the man and his sense of being one with others, nature and the universe. He will be missed but his music is timeless and his contributions to the Fab Four also made them timeless, not just a band of songwriters.

—Chris Youngblood

Correction

In last week's issue of the *Chronicle*, the editorial entitled "Registration plagued by incompetence" inaccurately stated that the Records Office did little in promoting early registration. In fact, the Records Office had indeed advertised in several ways, including running ads in past issues of the *Chronicle*.

The *Chronicle* regrets this error.

The Columbia Chronicle photo poll

Question: Have you found the new Student Financial Services office to be effective so far?



Nathan Barker/Junior
"It was so disorganized before, I don't think it makes a difference."



Tobias Lane/Junior
"Yes, They paid my tuition. I'm getting me a fat rebate."



Brea Murphy/Senior
"That's a good one. You have to wait in a line to wait in a line to talk to someone."




Melvin Eagleton/Freshman
"I found it to be effective, but not effective enough."



Anna Livermore/Junior
"No, I dropped off my financial aid application in October and they lost it so I had to do it again and I couldn't do early registraion."

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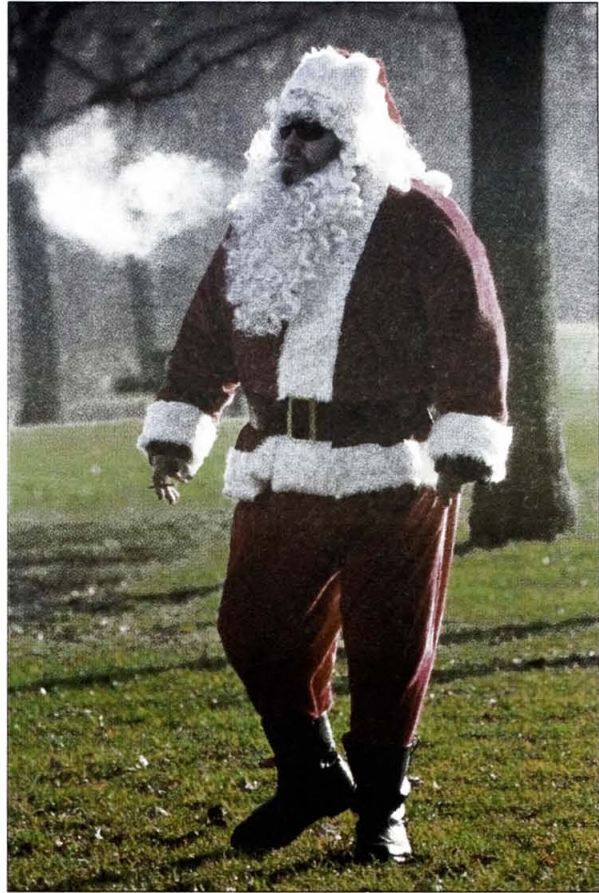
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200 TOYS FOR TOTS



On Sunday December 10, 2001, a group of motorcyclists departed from the Western Avenue and Belmont Reserve Center on Forest Street. The toys they collected traveled along with them on a 100-mile journey. The event is one of the highlights for Toys for Tots campaigns here every season. This Chicago parade of Toys for Tots parades collected will be delivered to homes, churches, schools, and daycares in the hopes of making the holidays a little less disadvantageous.



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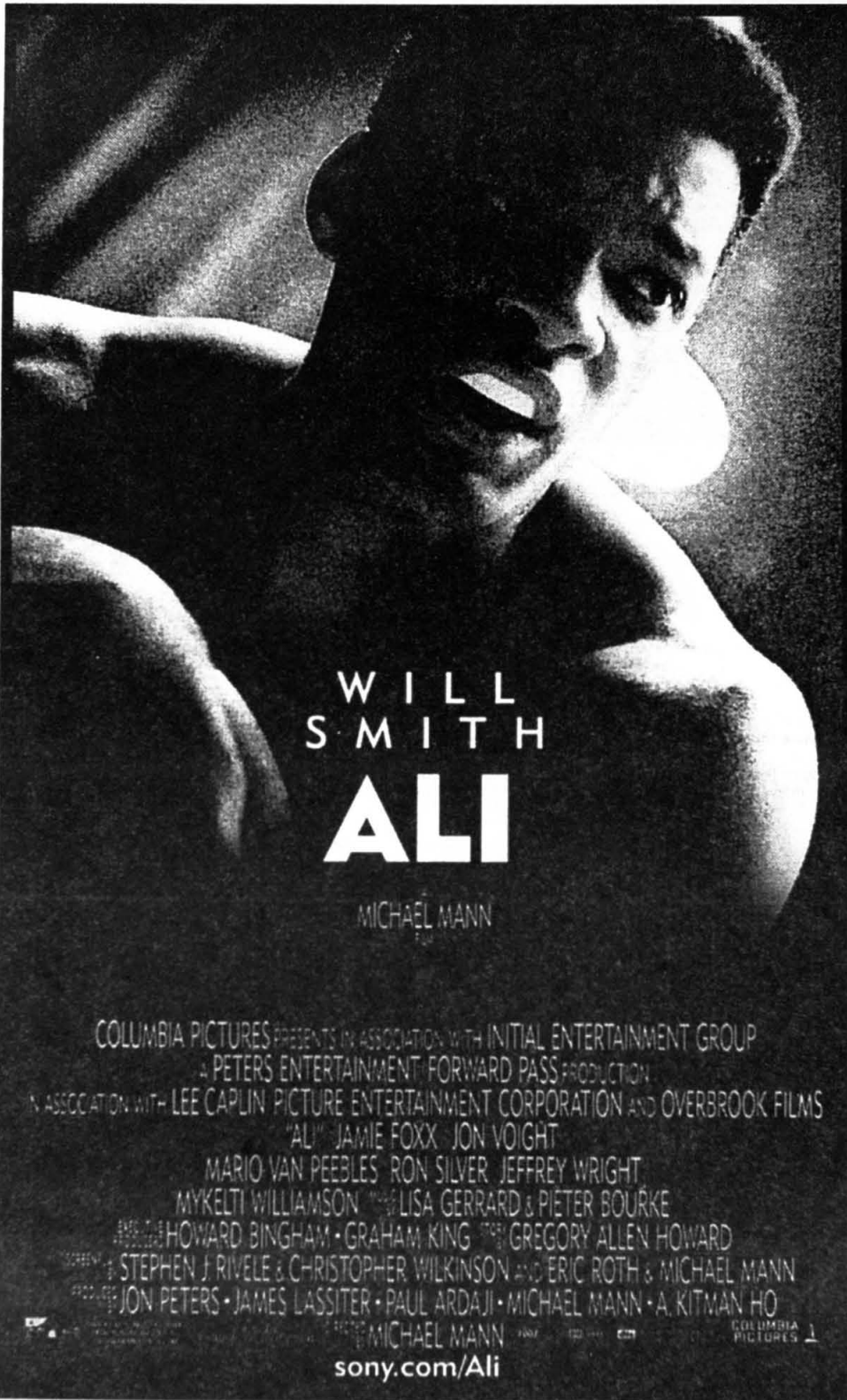
Photo Essay by Angela Ratkowski

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'Lord of the Rings: Part one of classic trilogy comes to the big screen

By Michael Hirtzer
A&E Assistant Editor

"The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" vividly portrays part one of J.R.R. Tolkien's classic fantasy trilogy on film. Tolkien newcomers will find out what all the fuss is about, while seasoned readers will see their beloved tale come to life.

The film begins with a brief history of Middle-earth, starting with the battle where the evil lord Sauron was defeated and continuing through Tolkien's first Middle-earth tale, "The Hobbit," where Bilbo Baggins discovers the "one ring to rule them all" in Gollum's cave deep in the Misty Mountains.

Thereafter, director Peter Jackson creates the vast countryside of the Shire for the celebration of Bilbo's 111th birthday, where Bilbo reluctantly gives his nephew Frodo (Elijah Wood) the ring of power, beginning an epic quest to destroy the ring and rid Middle-earth of evil.

Frodo and his faithful companion Samwise Gamgee (Sean Astin) set out on a journey where they narrowly escape the Nazgûl (the Black Riders), find a fearless leader in Aragorn, stay in celestial elven stronghold, battle hordes of orcs in the mines of Moria and stay in the trees in Lothlórien.

"The Fellowship of the Ring" recreates the intense suspense of the book successfully. An example is scenes in which a fearful Frodo is tempted by the ring's evil ways (it makes the bearer invisible), attracting the Black Riders, whose sole mission is to capture the ring and bring it to their master, Sauron.

The movie keeps you on the edge of your seat, as the Riders come like thieves in the night—dark, mysterious and, literally inhuman. When the rid-

ers catch up to Frodo and company, Frodo is nearly killed, but is rescued by the elf Arwen (Liv Tyler), who carries Frodo across the river to the house of Elrond in Rivendell.

There, the fellowship is forged. The leader is wizard Gandalf the Gray, with the dwarf Gimli, elf Legolas, men Boromir and Aragorn, and hobbits Frodo, Sam, Merry Brandybuck and Pippin Took heading out the pack.

The fellowship heads to torment and peril in their quest to Mount Doom in the land of Mordor. The worst of trouble comes when the once good wizard Saruman the White casts a spell causing an avalanche, forcing the fellowship to the treacherous mines of Moria, and the climax of part one.

Moria was once a prosperous mine where dwarves lived and worked until their numbers dwindled, leaving them vulnerable. Many years later, Moria is a deserted tomb and a dangerous one at that. Saruman anticipates the fellowship's decision and sends an onslaught of orcs and goblins to attack the fellowship.

After the orcs beat their battle drums, sending huge doom-dooms through the mines, one of the film's great battle scenes ensue—think "Braveheart" with orcs, goblins and other monsters. Gandalf (Ian McKellen) defends the group against a Balrog in the battle of Khazad-dûm, where he narrowly overpowers this ancient evil before "falling in to darkness."

Thanks to him, the fellowship escapes, regains their composure and continues their quest, up until the breaking of the fellowship and the end of part one.

The landscapes that Tolkien described in great detail in the book, come to life in incredible magnitude, especially those scenes in Moria and the scenes in Isengard, Saruman's base. In Isengard, for example, Jackson takes the camera over 100 feet in the air to the top of the tallest tower, where Gandalf is imprisoned and deep underground, where orcs forge axes, swords and other weapons, all in one motion.

Middle-earth is brought out of the books with such attention to detail that viewers are brought inside and swept away in the beauty of the Lothlórien, but it's hard to forget what waits around the corner, as thousands of orcs—shown in



Elijah Wood stars in 'The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring.'

dark, fiery dungeons—prepare for battle.

Although the movie, of course, is a separate entity from the books, small discrepancies should be noted.

To improve the flow and focus more heavily on action, Frodo leaves the Shire immediately after he discovers the true nature of the ring. Curiously omitted is one of the eldest characters in all of Middle-earth, Tom Bombadil, as well as his magical donkey, Fatty Lumpkin. Also left out is Giorfindel, who in the book is the one who takes Frodo to the house of Elrond. He was, no doubt, exchanged for Tyler's character, to add some sex appeal.

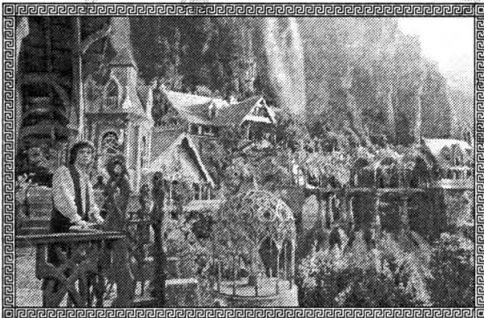
In another change from the book, Saruman wants to possess the ring himself, so he could be the all-powerful. However, in the movie, he hopes to aid Sauron in his evil ways.

All in all, the changes are minor and few. Most of the movie captures as much of the book as possible, and in more cases than not, the exact dialogue from the book is used.

"The Fellowship of the Ring" is as great adaptation as any Tolkien fan could dream of. The scenes are intense. Although pleasing fans who've mulled over the books for years, the casting of the characters is effective—whether tall, wise wizards, young beautiful elves, short stocky dwarves and hobbits, the selected actor fits the part.

The film's strongest aspects are the special effects—where wizards cast spells, orcs get decapitated or the world is transformed into a dreary, dark place when Frodo slips the rings on—and the set, where New Zealand was transformed to Middle-earth in its entirety.

This movie and trilogy (the two films will follow in the winters of 2002 and 2003, respectively) will, at the very least, compete for the "Tolkien" in all of us.



A walk in the 'Vanilla Sky'

By Jill Helmer
Assistant Editor

After the formality of the press conference at the Four Seasons' Hotel wore off, Tom Cruise, casually dressed in a maroon shirt and brown pants, abandoned his perch behind the table on stage, then strolled offstage to mingle with Chicago journalists and chat about his new movie and his visit to Chicago.

"We're not gonna talk about everything," Cruise joked with reporters about his visit to Chicago, alluding that he perhaps had a little too much fun. "No, I actually went to Giordano's Pizza last night. 'Cause you gotta go there," he said.

"I've had great times in this city," Cruise said.

Contrary to his praises of Giordano's, pizza was the last thing on Cruise's mind during his visit.

Cruise was in town Dec. 6 promoting his new movie, "Vanilla Sky," which opens nationwide Dec. 14.

For the first time since their 1996 Academy Award nominated blockbuster "Jerry Maguire," Cameron Crowe and Cruise have teamed up to produce "Vanilla Sky."

Because of the success they had in making "Jerry Maguire," Cruise and Crowe decided to join forces once again for this new project, with Crowe directing and Cruise producing as well as starring in the film.

"Ever since we finished 'Jerry Maguire,' I've been trying to get [Crowe]

to hire me for another movie," Cruise said with a laugh.

"Vanilla Sky" is the story of David Aames, Cruise's character, who on the surface seems to have it all—51 percent of his father's company, a spacious New York City apartment, friends—including his best friend, Brian (Jason Lee), who seems to stand by David no matter what he does, and even a "f-buddy," as his best friend calls his rela-



Director Cameron Crowe with actors Penelope Cruz, Tom Cruise and crew members gather around on the set of 'Vanilla Sky.'

See 'Vanilla Sky,' page 19

Ron Jeremy
—An interview with
the star

18
page

Arts around town
—What's happening

19
page

Chicago Finds
—Tuman's

21
page

Artist Profile
—Gary Stier

22
page

Uncle Fun offers vintage toys

By Tracey Fuller
Staff Writer

If you're in the mood, take a trip down memory lane—Uncle Fun is the place you want to be.

Owner and manager Ted Frankel wants people who walk into Uncle Fun, a memorabilia store, in the Lakeview neighborhood, to experience the euphoria of being a kid again.

"I want people to feel safe when they come into my store," Frankel said. "It's like a big Monopoly board."

Uncle Fun makes people have an instant flashback, finding anything from old Beatles postcards to "I Dream of Jeannie" and "Three Stooges" vintage metal lunchboxes shaped like old television sets. They have fighting nuns or rabbis, and even "Saturday Night Live" Church Lady dolls.

Frankel developed the cozy store in 1978 when he decided that being an art director wasn't all it was cracked up to be and realized that he enjoyed dealing with customers rather than art dealers.

"I gave up my job as an art director to be a junkman," Frankel said. "My store is my art."

However, Frankel doesn't consider Uncle Fun a junk store, he considers it more a store of memories, old and recent. And where Frankel finds all those memories—he won't tell. It's a secret which has kept the store a landmark on Chicago's North Side for over 20 years.



Photo by Angela Ratkowski/Chronicle
A view of the vintage items at Uncle Fun, at 1338 W. Belmont Ave.

"I can't tell you where I get all my stuff from because there would be other Uncle Funs out there," Frankel said.

That may be true, as the adults who walk in the store are get a kick out of the many things they see, such as the Magic 8 ball key chains, phony mustaches, and mechanical hamster dolls that sing "Kung Fu Fighting." People can also find stuff to wear for costume parties, like feather tiaras or Hawaiian leis. While Frankel says that most of his customers don't look for anything specific, they still have fun and are able to let the "kid in them" come out. Also, parents like to stroll down memory lane with their children.

When Frankel opened his store, it started out as 80 percent vintage, and today it's down to 35 percent. People who go in Uncle Fun could find anything from old thumb-sized Pee Wee harmonicas from

the 1940s, to *Back Street Boys* books.

No matter what the customer is looking for, Frankel makes sure there's something for everybody at affordable prices.

"I run my business by my gut instinct," Frankel said.

Besides Uncle Fun, Frankel also owns two other businesses, Fly Boy and Paper Boy, which contain unusual, brightly-colored gifts, from stationery to funky pens. In addition to being a businessman by day, he attends a book printing class at Columbia's Book and Paper Arts building.

Though Uncle Fun has memorabilia that people just can't pass up, they also provide party bags for birthday parties.

Uncle Fun, 1338 W. Belmont Ave., holiday hours are Monday through Friday noon to 7 p.m., Saturday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Porn in the USA

Part 2: Q&A with adult movie legend Ron Jeremy

By Kevin B. O'Reilly
Copy Chief

All his life, 48-year-old adult movie performer Ron Jeremy has lusted for mainstream success. Little did he know that he might get it as the subject of a new documentary, the entertaining and, at times, insightful "Porn Star: The Legend of Ron Jeremy" (reviewed in last week's issue), which runs through Friday at Landmark Century Center Cinemas, 2828 N. Clark St.

The *Chronicle* had the opportunity to sit down with director Scott J. Gill and the legend himself at a posh but gaudy suite at the House of Blues Hotel, 333 N. Dearborn St. The *Chronicle* first spoke with Gill.

Chronicle: This documentary is unlike some of the other documentaries about porn stars, like "Sex: The Annabel Chong Story" or "Wadd: The Life and Times of John Holmes." It reminds me most of "American Movie." Was that an inspiration to you at all?

Gill: Yeah, nobody dies at the end or gets arrested for murder in my movie. I loved "American Movie." We were actually at the South by Southwest Film Festival and those two guys who were in that movie [Mark Borchardt and Mike Schank] came up to Ron and he had no idea who they were. I told him, "Ron, you should be praying that my movie is half as successful as theirs." "American Movie" and "Crumb" are my two favorite documentaries.

Chronicle: The movie is unrated and includes some full-frontal nudity, though it's not as explicit as some might imagine. Did you ever think about trying to get an R-rating?

Gill: Not really. I just wanted to make the film I wanted to make, and not have to looking over my shoulder worrying about that. All I have to say is, "Thank God for arthouses!" People might be expecting to see something hardcore, but this is pretty tame compared to what's in most porn movies.

Finally, the legend himself arrived. In between appearances on "Mancow's Morning Madhouse" (WKQX, 101.1 FM) and a stand-up gig at an Indianapolis, Ind. strip club, Jeremy looked exhausted. He arrived carrying a gray tote bag overflowing with his belongings and complained to his publicists about his hectic schedule.

Chronicle: You talk a lot in the documentary about trying to get into mainstream acting and how you gave up the off-Broadway, starving-actor lifestyle back in 1970s for porn. If you had to do it all over again, would you still go into adult movies?

Jeremy: Oh, yeah, sure. I mean if you talk to any actors, it's tough to make a

living or put food on your plate. And when I started doing porn, things were much different. We got these big, thick scripts with lots of dialogue. We'd have nine days of shooting just dialogue and maybe one day sex. I looked at it as basically acting with some sex thrown in. Now with all the amateur movies, the dialogue is, "Hey, baby, what's going on? You want something to eat?" and then they do it.

Chronicle: What made you more self-conscious:



Dwayne M. Thomas/Chronicle

An exhausted Ron Jeremy discusses his life and work at the House of Blues Hotel.

being filmed having sex for an adult movie or being filmed with your clothes on for this documentary?

Jeremy: Oh, that's good. Definitely, making the documentary. When I'm in a porn flick I'm acting, I'm not revealing myself. I'm having sex as part of a character—a funny guy, a good guy, a bad guy, whatever. But for this movie, I was just being myself talking about my life. That's why I told Scott I could do anything for this movie but sex. I didn't want that part of my life to be revealed.

Chronicle: You've said that men can relate to you because you're an average-looking guy bedding beautiful women, and they like that fantasy. How do you think women relate to your image on screen?

Jeremy: Oh, I think they like me just fine. You should see some of the lines I get. They're longer than the lines for Rocco or Mark Davis [younger, more conventionally handsome porn stars]. They like me because I'm funny—I show some personality. A guy who is obnoxious or says stupid things in the movies is more annoying to girls than the way he looks.

Anyway, this whole idea that they need better-looking guys for the "couple's market" is just b.s. Girls don't pay attention to the guys. You know what women talk about when they watch a porno? The girls! They'll critique the way the girls look and their performance. And girls are just fascinated by the sight of seeing a woman getting bonked by a guy with a big "schmazzeech," no matter what he looks like.

Visit www.ronjeremythemovie.com for more information about "Porn Star."

Sage/Vega represents elements of hip-hop

By Shadia Hernandez
Staff Writer

Sage/Vega, an independent record label, released a promotional sample of their CD *This Thing of Ours*, a hip-hop compilation of various Chicago MCs. The CD release event combined several elements of hip-hop culture, a graffiti art gallery and break dancers to compliment the contents of the CD.

The release party was put together to introduce the Sage/Vega label by getting the artists recognized before the final product was completed.

"We wanted to give people something to remember us by, not only by giving out the music and an opportunity to meet the artists but also giving them other aspects of hip-hop culture," said Benjamin Todd, one of the producers, also known as Phunk.

Grffiti art pieces, some of them for sale, featured Slang, Phunk, Zack, Denz, Traz, Flex, Casper and Ish, each adding their own styles with an underlying graffiti theme.

About 230 people attended, while 100 of them received a promotional sample of the CD. "With the exception of two songs, the CD contains all original productions, this is just an introduction to what we are trying to do, and how we are trying to go about it," Phunk said.

The song compilation, expected to have 16 to 18 tracks and be completed by February, will feature Juice, Papa Doc, Sage, Aztec Dinero, Safar, Flea Bag, Butch, Clash Titan, Angel13 with Lyriss, Kalif, Chaka, Lomia, Seal and Nympho.

In their Southwest Chicago bachelor pad, *This Thing of Ours* is in the process of production. Phunk, Sage and John Swift produce the

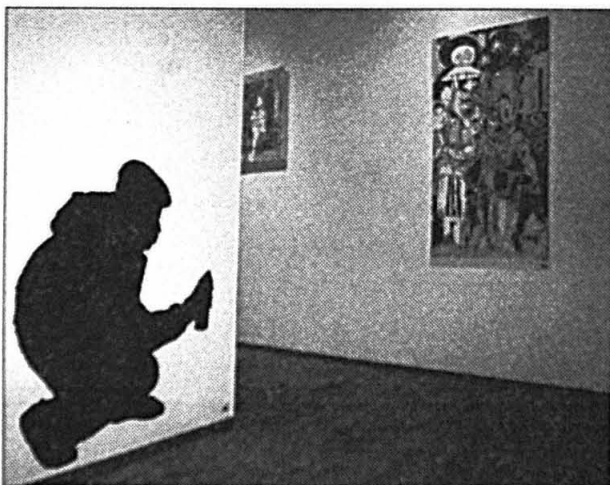


Photo by Angela Ratkowski/Chronicle
Works at the Century 900 gallery at 202 S. State St. The silhouette, titled "B.boy II," was painted by Casper-NFS; the painting on the right, titled "98-89," was painted by Ish-NFS.

beats in their living room and the rappers record their lyrics in a homemade recording space, resulting in a professional sounding compilation definitely worth checking out.

"Can I Lay," by Papa Doc, has received radio play on Columbia's WCRX and other Chicago radio stations. Phunk describes the song as a "radio friendly, club kind of song." "Chicago," by Aztec Dinero, contains great beats with a Chicago hip-hop interpretation. Songs range in content from sexual encounters, relationships, representations of what real hip-hop is about, to deeper songs about their lives and what matters to them.

"Every artist has things they want to get off their chest; things that they are happy about and things that they

are not," Phunk explained. Eight songs were included on the promotional CD; since then they have completed more of the compilations.

Overall, the artists have talent, experience in hip-hop culture and a lot to say. People under Sage/Vega label consider themselves veterans to the Hip-hop culture, "when hip-hop was underground and underground was a way of life," Phunk said.

While taking a break, Aztec Dinero, Sage, John Swift, Papa Doc and Phunk reminisced about how they met and how it all came together. Sage, the president of operations and also a producer described it as "a giant coincidence meant to be."

For upcoming Sage/Vega events, call Benjamin Todd at (312) 571-7334 or email lordsage@earthlink.net.

'Vanilla Sky'

Continued from Page 17

tionship, with no strings attached.

On the outside, David appears perfectly content with his fast-lane, glamorous lifestyle, but still battles dreams of fear and loneliness.

"It's interesting; you look at life, and sometimes people—outspoken people—feel like they're not connected to life, and almost living in a dream," Cruise said. "It's interesting how in a world where there's so many people and so many different ways to communicate, there's a way that people still feel isolated, lonely and disconnected."

Not until he meets Sophia Serrano, played by Penelope Cruz, does Cruise's character begin to realize that he is truly lonely.

David meets Sophia at his birthday party. He spends the evening flirting with her, all the while knowing Julie, his so-called "f--- buddy," played by Cameron Diaz, is at the party solely to be with him.

The movie then starts to turn in a different direction. After leaving Sophia's apartment, David is confronted by Julie, who professes her love for him. When Cruise's character doesn't reciprocate, it results in an event that literally changes his life instantly. From there, the film becomes a metaphor for the curious and perplexing dynamics of relationships.

Cruise, Crowe and Cruz all agreed that the character development was essential to "Vanilla Sky," and agreed that Crowe's direction played a big role in the character development.

"As an actor, it's a great pleasure being one of [Crowe's] characters. He loves characters and writes great characters. He celebrates the texture of and gets involved with his characters, and I just think he's a great storyteller," Cruise said.

Cruz, who played the same role in the original version of the movie, "Abre los Ojos" also agreed that Crowe was a strong director.

"I never felt like I was the same character because I was in [Crowe's] hands," Cruz said. She said that although the characters were not the same person, they were related. "I felt that my characters could understand each other and be very good friends, but were not the same person."

Cruise, unlike his character, said that he understands why Diaz's character wanted more than casual sex.

"If you look at casual sex, what is casual sex? Is it really casual? Is there such a thing as casual sex? What are the responsibilities? I think that there's nothing casual about it, and there are responsibilities to friends," he said.

When the question of who was more charming—Cruise or his character David—was asked of Crowe, Cruise turned to Crowe with an amused look and promptly began to whistle the theme



Cruise gets action from co-star Cameron Diaz.

from "Jeopardy." As Cruise watched him intently, Crowe answered that he thought Cruise was more charming.

"I think David Aames has your ability to make people feel comfortable," Crowe told Cruise. "David is more of a guy who everyone is trying to get something from. You have more family around you and are more understanding of people than David. He's lonely, but surrounded by these people all the time. And none of them are family, and none of them truly know him well enough to love him."

"Touchdown!" yelled Cruise, throwing his hands up in the air in celebration of his victory over his character.

Heavily themed in the movie are these consequences of reckless actions. Throughout "Vanilla Sky," David takes an emotional journey in dealing with how his actions have affected the people in his life.

"I think that in some ways, people don't always take the time to recognize the things they do in their lives and the ripple effect that it has on others," Cruise said.

"The sweet, without the sour, isn't as sweet," echoes throughout the movie as a powerful theme. Cruise's character goes from living in a world where he feels alone to a perfect world where he is enveloped in a blissful love with the woman of his dreams.

But with time, the sweets become less sweet and fade into sour. Perfect can only be perfect so long without the bad to balance it.

The themes that reappear throughout "Vanilla Sky" eventually begin to pull David's perfect world apart at the seams. He begins to see the consequences of his past actions, which haunt him and begin to ruin his relationship with Sophia.

Ultimately, David must decide whether he wants to go on living in an imaginary, perfect world, or live a real life, filled with pain but also joys.

"What kills me is what happens with [David and Sophia] when they say goodbye—when he realizes he has to say goodbye to someone he's already said goodbye to. That's when I would have to take the leap. It's wrenching, but it's the point you really learn something," said Crowe. "He has to give up something to hopefully gain everything."

ound town

arts a

"High Lonesome: The Story of Bluegrass Music"
Thursday, Dec. 13 at 8:30 p.m.
Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State St. (312) 846-2800

Festival of New French Cinema
Through Thursday, Dec. 13
Facets Multimedia Center, 1517 W. Fullerton Ave.
(773) 281-4114, \$7

"Office Space" and "Waiting for Guffman"
Monday, Dec. 10. 9 p.m.
Bone Daddy, 551 N. Ogden Ave. (312) 226-6666

Shackleton's Antarctic Adventure
Through Thursday, Dec. 13.
Navy Pier, 600 E. Grand Ave. (312) 595-0090

Sebastian Junger, author of *Fire*, talks about his experiences in Afghanistan
Wednesday, Dec. 12 at 6 p.m.
Harold Washington Library Center Winter Garden, 400 E. State St.
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"Never Swim Alone"
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Various locations along Michigan Ave.

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MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
Dec. 10 NO SHOW	Dec. 11 8pm	Dec. 12 8pm	Dec. 13 8pm	Dec. 14 7+10pm	Dec. 15 4,7+10pm	Dec. 16 1,4+7pm
Dec. 17 NO SHOW	Dec. 18 8pm	Dec. 19 5+8pm	Dec. 20 2,5+8pm	Dec. 21 4,7+10pm	Dec. 22 4,7+10pm	Dec. 23 1,4+7pm
Dec. 24 2+5pm	Dec. 25 NO SHOW	Dec. 26 2,5+8pm	Dec. 27 2,5+8pm	Dec. 28 4,7+10pm	Dec. 29 4,7+10pm	Dec. 30 1,4+7pm
Dec. 31 4,7+10pm	Jan. 1 2,5+8pm	Jan. 2 5+8pm	Jan. 3 5+8pm	Jan. 4 4,7+10pm	Jan. 5 4,7+10pm	Jan. 6 1,4+7pm

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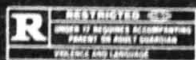
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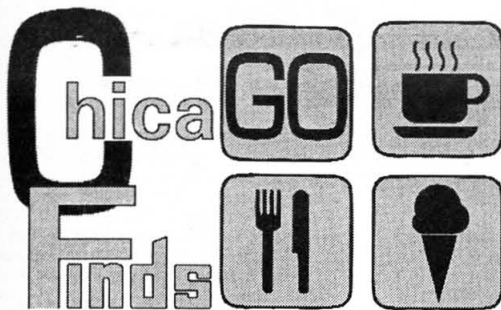
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IN THEATERS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21st!



By Stacie Boudros
Contributing Writer

Seeking the perfect restaurants, bars, clubs and cafes is no exception to the plight for better Chicago living. While Columbia's hands-on mission extends boundlessly throughout the arts and media worlds, it is equally important for students to exercise their own hands-on mission—to indulge and enjoy themselves. Few locations in our city have better living potential. But few come close to the atmosphere and palate desires of the perpetually searching student. Read the Chronicle's "Chicago Finds" each week as a guide in your continuing quest for pleasure.

This week I offer a portal to 1991, though the sucking tunnel into the era isn't more than a bus ride west—way west—on Chicago Avenue, to a small grunge bar called Tuman's Alcohol Abuse Center.

When you've reached a sign on a dusty window that states, "Alcohol Abuse Center," you should know that your journey back to grunge has only begun. The only two ways to sum up the joint is retro cheap and retro

dirty. Clearly, Tuman's is straight out of a "High Fidelity" flashback, or maybe even a scene in the movie "Singles."

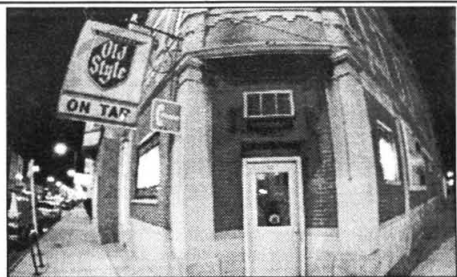
But regardless of what the place is like today, only one thing is undoubtedly apparent: Tuman's has been grunge since the days of grunge. The beauty is that this place hasn't remained grunge because it is trendy, or because it's waiting for a successful Pearl Jam comeback. The reason is rather because it's affordable and because the concept already works.

Let's not underestimate the power of cheap alcohol. Two draft beers go for about \$5, and mixed drinks go for around \$3 each. And there is no visible sign of one of those nasty measuring tools (the reason why \$20 only buys a slight buzz in most establishments). When at Tuman's take advantage of the bus route. Because after you've seen where \$20 can get you, going anywhere in the car is probably not the best of options.

Night after night, even on weekdays, the place is packed with a crowd that looks like paid drunken extras from an early 1990s 20-something movie. And come midnight, these extras keep steamrolling their way into Tuman's, one crowd after another.

As if the customers aren't creating enough timeless atmosphere, the décor is straight out of 1990 and hasn't been re-done since.

A CD-playing jukebox, with twirling discs inside the rounded glass cover takes care of the musical entertainment, which is dominated by the Velvet Underground. And as for gaming wizards, Tuman's has a version of the



Michael Schmidt/Chronicle
Tuman's, at 2159 West Chicago Ave., has an external view that tells it all. Bottom: You can recognize Tuman's by the 'Alcohol Abuse Center' sign outside of the bar.

arcade golfing game, "Golden Tee." But unlike fad revival attempts by sports bars of today, Tuman's features a measly '97 version that is just as agreeable to the crowd.

Leather couches line the walls with a decorative stuffing method into the oversized windowsills about a foot above the ground. Ancient silver radiators are your stepping stools to getting up there, and act as a foot rest if your legs so desire. Cat-scratched and cigarette-burned, the couches are by far the best seats in the house.

If the barstools weren't also cracked with age, they might not match the décor. The same goes for the wooden Old Style half-keg lamp, decorated with cheap Christmas tinsel on top. This and the dusty wooden squirrels over the entranceway are the only signs that this bar existed before SoundGarden, long hair and combat boots.

With the "Old Style On Tap" sign hanging outside, Tuman's probably has a history, which extends far past 1990. It's worth a visit. Tuman's is located at 2159 W. Chicago Ave.

'Mest' makes mess of second album

By Anthony Heintzelman
Staff Writer

Hailing from Chicago's South Side (according to their press release), pop-punk band Mest has recently released their second album, **Destination Unknown**. The band, made up of cousins Tony Lovato, vocals and guitar, bassist Matt Lovato, along with guitarist Jeremiah Rangel and drummer Nick Gigler, started playing together over six years ago.

They were signed to a record deal by Madonna's Maverick label in 1999 and released their major-label debut, **Wasting Time**. While Mest received some airplay for that album—particularly the song "What's the Dillio?"—they never achieved the fame they so obviously desire. With their follow-up album maybe they should hold off the down payments on the Benzes and palatial estates.

Interestingly, the band's press release refers to Mest as punk-pop, while a quote from Tony Lovato describes them as pop-punk. While this may seem like a trivial matter of semantics, it is somewhat telling. Mest's sound falls in line with other pop-punk bands like Green Day, Blink-182 and Sum 41. In other words, there is nothing punk about them. They are basically playing run-of-the-mill pop-rock songs, but they have tattoos, piercings and like to drink and use drugs, so the punk tag gets thrown on.

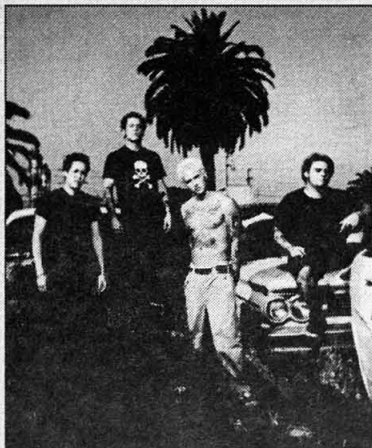
But unlike the Clash or X, their songs have no deeper meanings. There are no political ideas behind what Mest is doing. They probably have no stance on any major issues, outside of the timeless "Tastes great, less filling" debate.

But enough about the band's lack of substance. Really, it is all about the music. And musically, Mest is not good. The band lists Sublime and Bob Marley as some of their musical influences. The only connection to Marley the band shows is their affinity for pot. The Sublime influence is more apparent, especially on "Reason," which sounds a lot like Sublime. "A lot," as in, nearly plagiarism.

On "Cadillac," the first single from **Destination Unknown**, the band uses some scratching to give the song a nu-metal feel that the suits at Maverick were probably thrilled with. But since the whole rock-song-with-a-DJ trend has been completely beaten to death, resurrected, then beaten back to death again—all within the last few years—the song sounds stale and just comes across as an attempt to cash in on the success of other bands using the same formula.

An interesting note, though, on "Cadillac," "Reason" and "Mother's Prayer." The liner notes credit Marvin Young with additional production. For those of you for whom the name does not ring a bell, that would be one hit hip-hop wonder Young MC, for the three or four people wondering what happened to him.

The biggest problem with **Destination Unknown** is just how forgettable the whole thing is. Outside of "Cadillac," really the only unique-sounding song on the whole CD, everything has a feeling of sameness. All the songs follow the same pop-punk patterns. Musically, just about everything sounds the same. Lyrically, everything is the same. Mest breaks no ground whatsoever. Not that it should come as a big surprise, but maybe writing something halfway decent that sticks in your head for more than five seconds would be a good starting place.



Members of 'Mest.'

2001 Christmas toys: What is Santa bringing you?

By Tracey Fuller
Staff Writer

With Tickle-Me-Elmos and Furbys part of Christmases past, technology has taken over this holiday season, and the must-have gifts will make anyone excited about Christmas morning.

Sony's PlayStation 2, which came out this earlier this year, is sure to be a hit this holiday season with kids young and old. The system offers a range of computer entertainment options combining games, videos and music in a CD and DVD format. Owners of the old PlayStation can use their old software on the new system, and can even watch their DVD movies on it. PS2 has enhanced graphics, Dolby digital, and AC-3 and DTS capabilities, which allow you to experience extraordinary sound effects to make your game-playing more emotionally stimulating. PS2 is available for \$300.

Microsoft's new Xbox guarantees eye-popping special effects, along with a built-in hard drive to provide great entertainment value. The makers of Xbox claim that it is more powerful than Nintendo's Game Cube, which provides a high level of fun at a reasonable price, about \$100 less than the Xbox.

Apple has introduced its new iPod, the first mp3 player that can download 1,000 songs into a tiny 6.5-ounce package. You can build your own digital library by just plugging the mp3 player into your Mac, and all the iTunes songs and play lists can automatically be downloaded into the iPod in seconds. No more worrying about cracking your CDs in your backpack.

DVD players and DVDs are sure to be on everyone's wish list this season. The DVD player has become the fastest-growing consumer electronic product of all time, and is now affordable, at less than \$200. The Sony DVP-NS400D is one of the top five on consumers' lists, and has component digital coding that keeps colors brighter and more vivid.

Of course, to no one's surprise, Harry Potter gifts are hot items for kids young and old this Christmas—the movie couldn't have come out at a more perfect time. Besides the books attracting kids 8-years-old and up, there are many games that are sure to fly off the shelves.

Turning away from technology, the Harry Potter trading-card game lets Potter fans act like a student attending Harry's school, the Hogwarts School of

Witchcraft and Wizardry. Each card contains a spell, potion or creature. "The Harry Potter Book of Spells," by Tiger, provides an electronic encyclopedia of anything you ever wanted to know about Harry, with a trivia game and built-in daily organizer, for only \$25.

Robots are also big this year, and Tiger came up with their own Battlebots like the ones you see on the Comedy Central show. You can control up to eight Battlebots at once, and battle it out with your friends. They run from \$25 to \$45 depending on the style.

For other "big kids," try the Tony Hawk skateboard. You use a remote to control the movements of both the skateboard and Tony (who's on top of it).

Street Flyers are also expected to be a hot seller this season. They are made for those sick of just walking to class—sneakers with retractable wheels that can become in-line skates. They run about \$80.

Here are some gift ideas for the girls or anyone who just happens to like pink. The color pink is big this year, on anything from watches to underwear. For a pink watch under \$100, Swatch came out with a new "sundown pink" leather watch, for only \$60. Gap's scent "So Pink" is also a good pick—their gift sets range from \$12 to \$30. And guys, when all else fails, I have two words for you—Victoria's Secret. You just can't go wrong.

Also, newest in women's fashion are corsets, which were a pain to wear even 100 years ago. But in order to look good, you have to suffer.

Fur is also a choice for winter wear. Mohair sweaters are a nice gift, and give you the soft, furry look. Anything lacy or silky is also a holiday trend.

Jewelry this holiday season is not all about diamonds and pearls, but cameos. On anything from necklaces to rings, cameos are sure to be on any girl's wish list.

Because of the recent patriotic feeling which arose after the terrorist attacks, the colors red, white and blue are among this holiday season's favorites. Anything that has an American flag or "I Love NY" on it is sure to be a big seller.

Funky pillows are also a good gift for someone to decorate their home with; also consider colorful glassware.

Although technology is moving full-speed ahead this Christmas, there are many other options for holiday gift-giving.

Fresh Tracks Music CD aids victims of Sept. 11

By Anthony Heintzman
Staff Writer

Following the Sept. 11 attacks, it seems like almost every artist, actor or celebrity imaginable has done something to help in whatever way possible. As with most all-star benefits, the results have been mostly unspectacular.

Now, Fresh Tracks Music has released **Bands for America**, a CD featuring artists slightly out of the mainstream. Unfortunately, while it is slightly different from everything else it put out over the last two months, it is not much better.

The CD, proceeds from which will go to the United Way and the September 11th Fund, contains 17 tracks, only four of which were not previously recorded. The artists on the album playing tracks already available are Jack Johnson, the String Cheese Incident, O.A.R., Dispatch, Virginia Coalition, Domestic Problems, Strangefolk, King Konga, Lucky Town, Pepper's Ghost, Smartbomb, the Booda Velvets and Slightly Stoopid.



Fresh Tracks Music is on 2240 N. Lincoln Ave. and on the Web at www.freshtracksmusic.com

The lack of new material is the biggest strike against the disc. You would think that something as terrible as the deaths of thousands of innocent people in the biggest terrorist act ever committed against this country would inspire even the most marginally patriotic musicians to write new songs, or at least dig up something that has not been released yet. Apparently, some people cannot be bothered.

Not that all of the tracks by these bands are bad. Some, like the String Cheese Incident's "Outside and Inside"

and Strangefolk's "Go to a Show," both definitely falling on the jam-band side, are rather good. Most of the rest sound like they are hoping to find success by playing run-of-the-mill, radio-friendly rock, like King Konga's beer commercial-ready "Something Good." Others are going more the modern-rock radio route, like Lucky Town's "Dirty Shoes," which sounds like it would fit perfectly over the credits of any number of teen dramas.

Proceeds from the CD will go to the United Way and the September 11th Fund

This leaves the four songs appearing for the first time. Sonia Dada, the only Chicago artist featured on the CD, contributes "Ain't Life for the Living." Like the rest of Dada's work, trying to pin down the sound to one genre is difficult. The easiest way to describe it is as a mix of blues and soul. It is easily the best of the new tracks on the CD.

"I Believe in America," by Cary Pierce and Friends, is the opposite of Dada. It sounds like the kind of schmaltzy patriotism usually served up by Garth Brooks. If Brooks covered this song tomorrow, he would have his biggest hit in years. Not because of its quality, but because it is bland enough for Nashville's standards and just catchy enough in a rather non-descript way for country radio.

Graham Colton's "Save Me" also lacks any type of stunning originality, but doesn't approach the depths Pierce does. Mostly, the song is just there. It does not stand out in a good or bad way.

The final new track on the CD, "On 9/11/01" by Garrett Dutton of G Love and Special Sauce, is also the disc's closer. With lyrics like "Planes exploding in the sky / No one knows the reason why / Make me want to cry,"

Dutton will not have to worry about being named poet laureate anytime soon. At the same time, Dutton's song stands out from virtually everything else already sung about Sept. 11 or dedicated to those who died: It has genuine emotion. Hopefully, some other artists will follow his lead.

Opportunity knocks for singer/songwriter

By Matthew Shaw
Contributing Writer

"What the hell did I know about right? I've been wrong all my life." Songwriter Gary Stier has led a tortured life, which he reveals in "Miss America and I" and other songs in his upcoming debut album, **The Albatross**.

On the album, guitarist and vocalist Stier and five others play what he calls "American rock music with a country flavor." Scheduled for a January release, the album often reflects the dead ends and self-loathing of Stier's own struggles.

Stier's talents as a singer and a songwriter were evident at an early age. At 15, he was playing paid venues in Cleveland, and at 18, he opened for R.E.M. But his life was turned upside down a few years later when his father died. So he ran away.

"I kind of decided to disappear for awhile," Stier said. He spent time in Europe, Japan and other places.

Traveling didn't cure his inner struggles, and nothing went right for him. "When your father passes away, you become the next rung on the ladder. In doing so, I tended, as is my nature, to wander down the wrong path just about everywhere I went," Stier said.

After spending time in a London jail, Stier realized the life he was running from wasn't as bad as the life he was living. So he headed back home to Atlanta, Ga., to sort things out. "I needed to get in touch with the ghosts I was running from." Going home was a turning point in his life. "I met my wife within the first two weeks and things just started going uphill instead of downhill."

Stier started looking for people to listen to his music

and he met up with longtime James Taylor producer Danny Kortchmar, who liked what he heard. Kortchmar latched onto Stier's portrayal of himself in his songs of depression and defeat, but he felt the song lineup wasn't quite complete.

"Danny said, 'Go back and find that guy [in the songs] again.' And I said, 'That isn't something I really want to do—that's the guy I was running away from,'" Stier said.

"Then Danny said, 'That's the guy that wrote those other songs and I need that guy to come back and write two more songs.'" That night, Stier went back to his New York City hotel room and wrote "Miss America and I" and "Stayed," two of the album's better songs.

Since moving to Chicago in October with his wife and 7-year-old daughter, Stier has met up with other musicians. He has "a little outfit" that features an upright bass, a peddle-steel drum, and an assortment of percussive instruments, but mostly he plays his songs as they were meant to be played: just him and an acoustic guitar.

Stier is straightforward and confident about his goals.

Fast Eddie: King of the Bees



Fast Eddie: King of the Bees

by Robert Arellano

Akashic Books
2001, paperback,
235 pages

By Penelope Memoll
Contributing Writer

Robert Arellano, author of *Sunshine 69* (sonicnet 1996), the Internet's first interactive novel, which he keyed under the alias Bobby Rabyd—debuts in print with *Fast Eddie*.

Harkening back to Akashic's indie tradition (Akashic Books was founded by Johnny Temple, bassist of Girls Against Boys), *Fast Eddie* is an Oedipal story with a twist that reads like a three-chord punk-rock anthem. The story is that of a street-hustling, floppy-footed orphan who wants to find out who his real parents are. Eddie does tricks on the street and picks pockets to earn his keep in an abandoned building for other such orphans called the Nec (pronounced 'ness').

The story takes place in and around Boston, in a far-off future where CDs garner the same nostalgia as vinyl, Converse sneakers are a sought-after rarity, and the drug of choice is cybertropics, "a digital pharmacopoeia administered transdermally for an electro-synaptic high. The stuff was so hot it had to be taken off the net."

After having wondered his entire life about his parents, Eddie decides to contact a professional. The next day he's handed over to Dad—mayor of the rich New Jersey suburb, Ho-Ho-Kus—and his overly-affectionate, large-breasted wife. Eddie gets

freaked out by all the face-in-boobs hugs and gifts like nice new underwear, fake converse sneakers and a wallet complete with a never-ending supply of \$10,000 bills. So he leaves town and becomes a bus driver. Then, after an event which will not be revealed to avoid spoiling the book, our friend Eddie becomes the mayor of an underworld known as Dig City. Accompanying him on his adventures is his trusty "one cent," a lucky penny from bygone times he can't seem to get rid of.

Eddie's ride from childhood to his late 20s is fast and far-fetched. We are dropped into situations with no motivation to believe that they could happen. But one must remember that this is surrealist fiction, a bit Kafkaesque, where this kind of stuff happens all the time. With little description beyond some fast-paced, alliterative quickies, readers may also find themselves formulating their own settings based on the urban-grit feel of the book, likewise through Marek Bennett's illustrations, which give us glimpses of what Eddie's world is like.

As for the language, it's cool and quick. A favorite line: "All sniffed over their sniflers, sobbed into their bottles and gugged into their mugs. There wasn't a dry martini in the house." Almost all of the book sounds this cool, except the really boring parts—mostly at the end—where even Arellano seems to have gotten tired of the story. Likewise, a note of caution: if you bring this book on the bus, you should also pack a pocket dictionary; even though Arellano is a big-word user, the manner in which big words are used in context implies their meanings.

The Oedipal references are as cheesy as they are numerous, like when Eddie emerges from the underground world after learning about his mother and father to his own blindness without his glasses. Bee themes surface ubiquitously as the origin of Eddie's name and the title of the book unfold throughout the story.

In short, *Fast Eddie* is not a book to be lingered over: take it on a bus trip and read the whole thing at once.



Gary Stier performing songs off his new album, *The Albatross* (33rd Street Records), Nov. 29 at Tower Records' corporate office.

He's not after money or fame, he just wants to keep flying "that cosmic American music flag" flown by legends like Gram Parsons of the Flying Burrito Brothers. "I like to think that whatever I'm doing, I'm doing something to keep rock music alive in America—rock 'n' roll—because it's dying," he said.

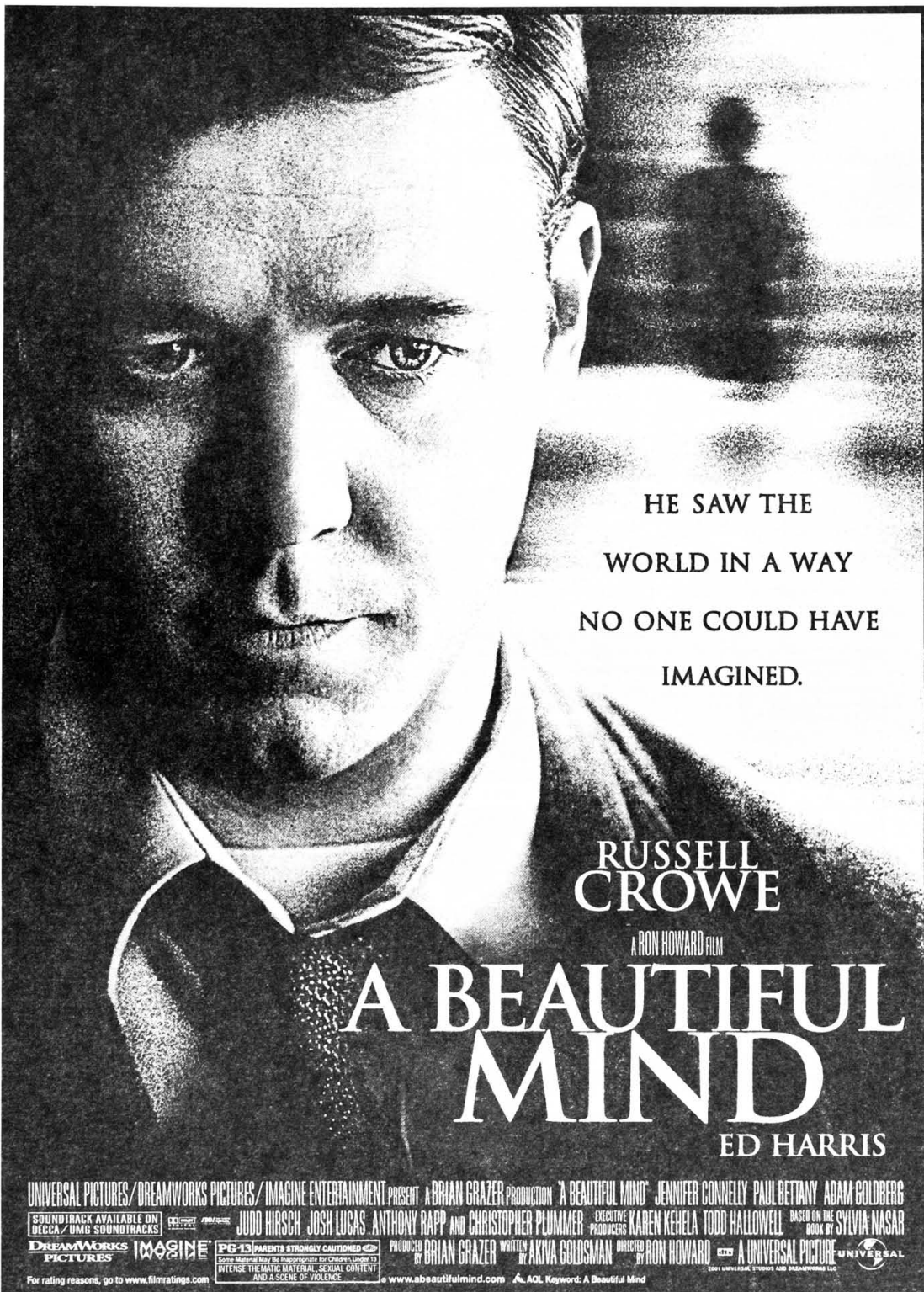
What Stier does is simple. "I do what I do," he said. "I couldn't think of what to do after that thing on Sept. 11—I thought, 'I'll write a song!' then I thought, 'That's bulls---!' Everyone's thinking they'll write a song. Then I thought, 'You know what, I'll just do what I do.' Just like a bricklayer lays bricks because that's what he does and a mechanic fixes cars because that's what he does. So I went out and played a show."

Stier will play the *Double Door* on Dec. 22.



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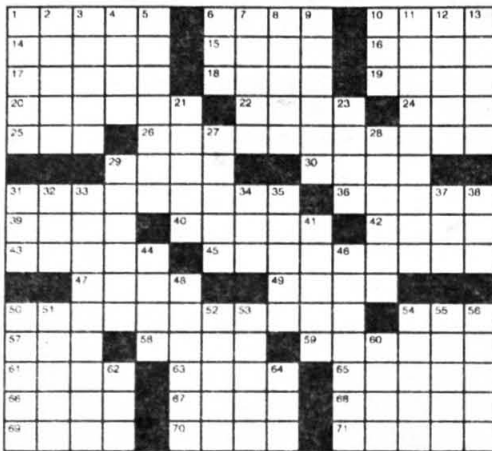
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OPENS IN CHICAGO ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

CROSSWORD

Crossword

- ACROSS**
 1 Of the Arctic
 6 Custard ingredient
 10 Wound reminder
 14 Pygmy antelope
 15 Thaw
 16 Hamburg river
 17 Like most windows
 18 Consumer
 19 Longest period
 20 Assets
 22 Winter forecast
 24 Fruit drink
 25 Buffoon
 26 Stowe's villain
 29 For certain
 30 Actress Flynn Boyle
 31 Retreat
 36 Fuzzy fruits
 39 Pin case
 40 Operatic prima donnas
 42 Poet Teasdale
 43 Ties out
 45 Devastating disaster
 47 Braxton or Tennille
 49 Long or Newton
 50 Classroom presentation
 54 School of whales
 57 Smidgen
 58 Happiness
 59 Unsparing
 61 Work group
 63 Land measure
 65 Attack
 66 Ark builder
 67 Caution
 68 Contaminate
 69 Mah-jongg piece
 70 Iditarod ride
 71 Counterfeiters



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- DOWN**
 1 Daddy
 2 Some exams
 3 "Peanuts" regular
 4 Lincoln and Burrows
 5 Bunches at the waist
 6 Ostrich's kin
 7 Painter's base
 8 Astronaut turned senator
 9 Walk
 10 ___ of Cortez
 11 Remove
 12 Residence
 13 Taylor of "The Nanny"
 21 Begot
 23 Fra'l
 27 Battlefield doc
 28 Gruesome
 29 T-bar
 31 Risked sum
 32 Supped
 33 Guardian
 34 Arle's Gardner
 35 Shaping machine
 37 Taxing agcy
 38 U.S. uncle
 41 Bellow and Kripke
 44 Hidden obstacle
 46 Bell-like instrument
 48 Holiday guests, perhaps
 50 Daring feat
 51 Vietnam's capital
 52 Transfer image
 53 Haute, IN
 54 Little, in Lille
 55 Maine campus site
 56 Pockmarks
 60 Calf meat
 62 Definite article
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Weekly Comic



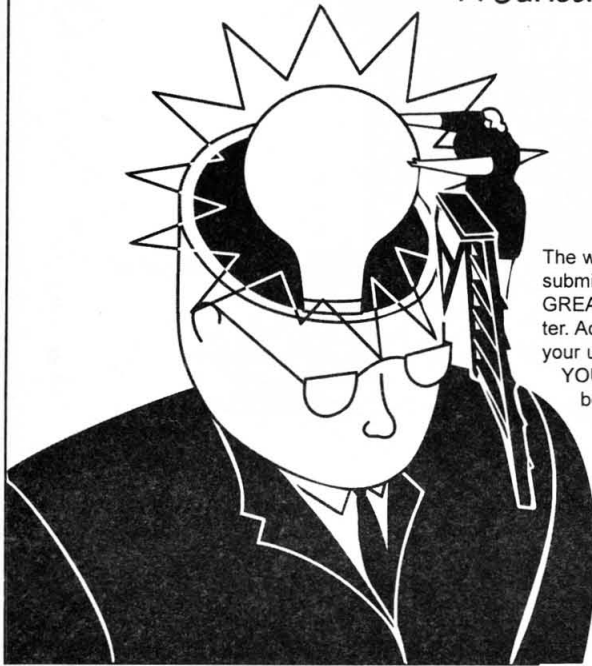
ATTENTION PHOTOGRAPHY STUDENTS

-CALL FOR ENTRIES-

“Artificial Light”

A Juried Student Exhibition at The Glass Curtain Gallery

Opening Reception January 17 5-8pm
 Exhibition Dates: January 17-February 22
 Drop-off Dates For Work December 10-12
 (11th St. Photo Studio/6th Floor)



The work can be studio or location subject matter as long as it deals with artificial light. Please submit at least five photographs or a mini portfolio of your work. PLEASE DO NOT SEND YOUR GREATEST HITS!!! The photographs must relate to each other in terms of style and subject matter. Acceptance is based on quality of prints, cohesion, content, mastery of your lighting skills and your use of artificial light.

YOU DO NOT NEED TO SUBMIT YOUR WORK MATTED. If you choose to mat them, they must be standard sizes ie: 8x10, 11x14, 16x20, etc. If your work is selected you will have Christmas break to cut the mats. Please wrap your prints in brown paper or something similar, write you name and phone number on the back of each piece in pencil, and drop them off at the Main photo studio 11th street/6th floor December 10-12. A list will then be posted on Monday Dec. 17th on the door of the Photography dept. office on the 12th floor/600 building with the names of the students whose work was selected. You will need to pick up your work from the studio before the Christmas break. Work must be ready for installation by January 12. Black and white or color photography work is accepted. Unfortunately we cannot display transparencies. Digital prints are accepted BUT only if they are of the highest quality.

Contact Elizabeth Ernst for more information: 312-344-7505 or elizernst@earthlink.net

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Underground Cafe

Basement of the Main Building

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SPORTS

Boardin' with Bill

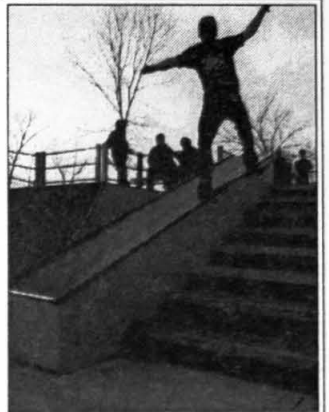


Words and photos
William Gorski
 Commentary Editor

New public skate park in north suburb

Round Lake, a northern suburb near Gurnee, has opened its first public skate park. The park is pretty typical: pyramid, launch box, quarter pipes and two mini-ramps. In terms of size, however, Round Lake Skatepark is one of the largest public parks I have seen.

The park has only been open for a couple of weeks so the little-kids-on-rollerblades-soccer-moms-everywhere-and-teenagers-who-live-walking-distance-from-the-park-but-don't-skate-just-smoke-cigarettes-and-get-in-your-way, factor is very high. If you want to make the trek from the city, go north on 94, exit on 120 west, take a right (north) on 83, go past Rollins Road and take the next left on Hook Drive, less than a mile down Hook Drive you will see the park on your right across from the Big Kmart. The best part about Round Lake is that it has taken the popularity away from the nearby Grayslake public park, which was built by the same people who built Round Lake's park and is just as good.



(Right) Mark "Marfa" Capadonna tail-slide to fakie.
 (Top Left) Unknown ripper with a big kickflip over the corner of the pyramid.
 (Left) Marfa ollies the pyramid.
 (Bottom) Panoramic of Round Lake park.



Next week!

The Girl team was at RQ Boardshop for signings and there was a demo at 3R Skatepark in Mundelein this last weekend. Coverage of the Girl demo will be in the *Chronicle's* Jan. 7 "Boardin' with Bill."



Blackhawks Student Discount

Students who present their current college or high school photo ID at the United Center Box Office within three hours of game time will receive one \$15 seat for \$8. Offer good for all regular-season home games, based upon \$15 ticket availability.



ROARING BACK
 chicagoblackhawks.com

United Center Box Office open Monday-Saturday 11-6

Single-game Tickets 312.559.1212
 Group Sales: 312.943.7000

Jersey

Continued from Page 28

see the jerseys in stores, which has been the goal ever since we started. All I want is to see everyone wearing the jerseys."

According to Craig, Matt's goal may come true sooner rather than later. He expects the Torn Apparel jerseys to be available commercially in the near future.

"It should happen by spring," Craig said. "I've had buyers from the Sports Authority to JCPenny calling me in the past months asking me when they can get them in their stores."

No matter how much money Matt's company makes in the upcoming months, he is still planning on going to college, although he is undecided as to where.

"I plan on being a teacher or a dean or hopefully run my own business. I want to be an investor."

As Nelly might say, right now Matt is No. 1.

To place an order for a half-and-half jersey or for any other questions,

contact Torn Apparel at:

(630) 289-7556

1135 Robin

Carol Stream, Ill, 60188

Email: matt@tornapparel.com



The diary of Michael Oberholtzer

Editor's note: Michael Oberholtzer plays in the Columbia/Roosevelt intramural league and has agreed to do a weekly diary telling Columbia readers about his experiences and fevered



imaginations. As told to Sports Editor Scott Venci:

It was tournament time last week. The team we played had a lot of raw talent, but we played our best game of the year. While it's true that we still lost, we kept the margin down to about 15 points throughout the game. We had to play a lot of the second half with only four players because one of our guys fouled out.

I was real pleased with my teammates throughout the entire game. Miguel Saigado worked really hard grabbing rebounds all night. He really stepped up and was so effective inside the paint. My man Edgar Rosales was a real leader out on the court. He

even dropped a couple of dimes for us. Brian Rowe is a new guy on the team, and he fit in real well. He has a great shot, and I think he was a big reason why we were in the game for so long.

Fernando Flores has got some raw skills, man. He did some wonderful things for the ballclub. And my boy Mike Balts was there all year giving the team the all around play that we needed. Overall, we all contributed what we needed to. The outcome of the game doesn't really reflect how well we played. I think everyone was surprised at how well it came out.

Emotionally, there was a lot of hurting inside. But we wanted to keep our cool. We were representing our school, and we really wanted to advance. But the height factor caught up to us. I'm about 6-foot-3, and I'm the tallest guy on the team. So they really hurt us on the boards.

I talked to an executive from NBC who said that they were pulling for us to win, because our team is really marketable. They were really happy with the performance of the entire league, so I don't think ratings

are going to slip because our team is out of the playoffs. The league is really booming, and in future years this thing is really going to take off.

I'm not really sure where this superstar status I have came from. After we played this week, I felt I was more of a role player than a superstar. But if that makes me a star, then I accept that. But there are so many wonderful players, so to be considered a superstar is kind of weird. My shot hasn't really fallen all year (18 for 256) but I guess people just like to watch me play.

I don't agree with the people who think I get better treatment from the refs than lesser-known players. I'm an aggressive and emotional player, and I think that the attitude I bring out on the court would hurt me more than help me.

I also want to make clear that I have no plans to hold out next year. In fact, I am probably going to take a pay cut so that we can use that money to further endorse our league. We want more press and publicity. The more money the league makes, the more money players like me will take in.

I know a lot of people want me to comment on the lawsuit brought against me this week by one of my lady friends alleging that I fathered her child. I'm not financially secure right now, and so I'm going to get a blood test done. I'm probably going to have to go on Oprah or something with this girl so that she can reveal the results to us. But I'm not going to act emotional no matter what the test says. No way I'm going to let Dr. Phil give me all this advice while touching my shoulder and telling me everything is going to be all good. Don't print any of this by the way.

I was disappointed to see that one of the girls from our dance team was fired because she had a relationship with me. The league has looked down on that sort of thing, and I'm not sure why. But to be honest, I don't really want to get into too much sexual stuff here. There are people that I work with who read this, and I don't want them to think less of me. But I will say that I thought that the dance team girl was a nice person who treated me great. She was beautiful—inside and out. She knew she

was going out with a star, but she didn't treat me any differently. She still charged me money even though I usually get those things for free. Again, though, I don't want my parents to be reading about this stuff, so I'm not going to comment on the situation—except to say that I will miss her and I hope that she is successful in whatever she decides to do now that she no longer is on the dance team.

As for endorsements, Wheaties is doing some good things. They are trying to get some local guys like me to appear on their box, and I commend them for that. However, as of right now I have not had any negotiations with them. My agent has been talking to some companies, and so we are trying to get some deals hammered out.

In closing, I would just like to thank the fan or fans that took the time to read my diary this season. It was a privilege to be able to share my thoughts with you. Have a great holiday, and even though you may not be a known superstar like me, you're a superstar to your family. And in the end, that's all that counts. Peace.

The Chronicle's weekly guide to fantasy football

By Jacob Delahaut

Correspondent

Throughout the entire National Football League season the *Columbia Chronicle* has provided readers with invaluable information, and the fantasy playoffs are the ultimate goal of all these teams. These playoffs for almost every fantasy football league will be under way this weekend. Good luck in your games and enjoy our final fantasy column of the year.

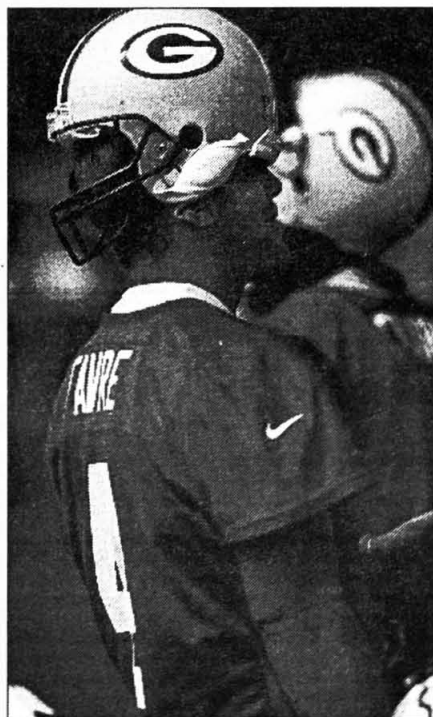
Last week, Scott Venci wrote an article recounting the disturbing story of a young gambler. This week, we will take the same approach:

How do you know when your fantasy football "habit" has become a problem? Here are 17 signs:

1. You are out Christmas shopping and pretend to be looking for ideas in the electronics section just so you can go catch some scores on one of the televisions.
2. You are a Bears fan and your girlfriend questions your rooting for the Packers because Brett Favre is your quarterback.
3. When you're really angry that a kicker gets an extra point blocked in a 27-0 game.
4. Regardless of where you are in the house, (except the bathroom, hopefully?) you run to the television when you hear the scores update music which means they're flashing the statistics.
5. You know that Jerome Bettis is averaging 10 yards a game less than he was during the first half of the season but you don't know the Steeler's win-loss record.
6. You cheer a player scoring who is playing against your favorite NFL team because he's on your fantasy football team, or vice-versa.
7. You have a poster in your bedroom of the special teams punt returner who won you the championship last year by one point.

8. If a friend calls to ask if you will be back in class tomorrow, you tell him or her that it's a gametime decision.
9. When you ask your girlfriend, "Honey, is there anything you would like to talk about before football season starts?"
10. You throw a red flag at the television when a dubious call costs you a game.
11. When a player is laid out on the playing field after a vicious hit and all you can think about is how it will affect any of your games, or who is his backup—and is he available?
12. You know the name, school, and statistics of the No. 3 tight end on the Colts, but don't know the name of the "new guy" at work that happens to be celebrating his one year anniversary there.
13. You don't go to the bathroom or leave the house or do anything useful at halftime, because you have to watch the stats on the crawl during the halftime show to see how many of your players appear on the "Today's Leaders" lists.
14. You watch games which neither feature your favorite team nor have any effect on their standings in their conference or playoff races because one or more of your players are playing in that game and you want to see how they do.
15. You love to watch football, but the game seems way too long if you are winning by a small margin and your opponent has players going. Or the opposite, the game is way too fast if you are behind and need points. (Especially on Monday night!)
16. The fantasy football playoff schedule is more important than your semester finals schedule.
17. When you watch football on a computer.

Professional football is never the same once you play fantasy football. Remember: Do not be ashamed, because you are not alone. Happy Holidays, everyone!



If you cheer for Brett Favre and you're a Bear fan, you have a fantasy problem.

The 50/50 fan

○ A chance meeting with hip-hopper Nelly helps 17-year-old Matt Steichen launch his own jersey business



AP Photo/Amy E. Conn

Nelly, (Center) performing with Britney Spears and Lance Bass, wore the football jersey that Matt Steichen gave to him during the Super Bowl XXXV halftime show.

By Scott Venci
Sports Editor

Imagine for a second that you're a 17-year-old kid in high school. You go to school during the day, and run your business at night. That's right, business.

For most high school seniors, the big worries of the day revolve around whether they will get an outbreak of acne or what girl to ask to the school dance. But for Carol Stream's Matt Steichen, his worries have more to do with whether the company he started with his father can continue to have the success it's achieved since its opening less than two years ago.

Steichen is the creator of Torn Apparel, a business that sells a type of basketball and football jersey never seen before. Torn Apparel takes two separate jerseys of a player, one home and one away, and puts them together to form one. How the company came to fruition is a fairy tale in itself.

During the Super Bowl in Atlanta two years ago Matt, an avid Buffalo Bills fan, didn't know who he wanted to cheer for—the St. Louis Rams or the Tennessee Titans. So he decided to cheer for both. He and his friend each had a jersey bearing the likeness of both teams. They tucked the jerseys inside of each other and safety pinned them.

After getting off their plane in Atlanta, fans and media alike were immediately asking where the jerseys came from. For the whole weekend, the same questions were being asked. Fans wanted to know where to get them, and reporters interviewed the Steichens on their creation.

During that weekend, an attorney in Atlanta told Matt and his father, Craig, that they should take a picture of the jersey as a way to patent the product.

Because the response to the jersey was so great, Matt and his father spent the next six months calling the manufacturers of NFL jerseys, pitching their idea of the half-and-half jersey.

"There was some interest," Craig said. "But nobody really wanted to take that next step."

That's when the fun started. The two put together 10 prototype football jerseys and brought them along to last year's Super Bowl in Tampa Bay. Matt was wearing one of his jerseys while walking with a friend around a local mall when they came across hip-hop star Nelly. He had been there looking for something to wear for his performance at halftime of the game, and Matt's jersey caught his eye.

Matt and his father gave Nelly a New York Giants/Baltimore Ravens jersey, and the rapper told them that he would wear it during the halftime show that would feature, among others, Britney Spears and Aerosmith.

"I didn't really think he was going to do it," Craig said. "I let Matt get excited, but I just didn't think there was any way in hell he was going to wear it."

Nelly wore it. And millions of people saw it.

"It was the most incredible feeling my son or I have ever had when we saw him with the jersey on," Craig said. "We were both just freaking."

About a week went by after the game, and the companies that were lukewarm about the jersey concept a year earlier were now very interested. The situation was made easier when Reebok took over making all the jerseys for each NFL team. Before that, a number of companies had separate agreements with certain teams to produce their jerseys.

"It saved us a huge problem," Craig

said. "It was a big issue. We weren't sure how we were going to be able to have one side of a jersey made by Nike and the other by Adidas."

Nelly wasn't through giving the Steichens more free advertising either. Matt had sent him a St. Louis Cardinals jersey as a thank-you for the Super Bowl highlight, and Nelly wore it on the "Late Show with David Letterman" that week.

The publicity from the Super Bowl and Letterman appearances has helped the company get noticed extremely fast.

"Since last January, we have not gone 10 days without at least one story in a magazine, newspaper or on television," Craig said.

The fairy tale only gets better. Matt and Craig were able to strike a deal with the NBA last June to make jerseys of the Philadelphia 76ers and Los Angeles Lakers for the NBA Finals. During that time, other stars from the entertainment world started sporting the Torn Apparel jerseys. Sean "P. Diddy" Combs was seen wearing a Cub/White Sox one, and "N Sync wore the 76er jerseys that were sent to them by Matt and Craig during a concert in Philadelphia.

To top it off, Cubs broadcasters Chip Carey and Joe Carter wore a Cubs jersey while broadcasting a game from the bleachers during the summer.

"We usually call ahead of time and

offer to give these people a jersey," Craig said. "We can't spend \$20,000 on advertising, so giving out our jerseys is our way of advertising. Fortunately, it has panned out."

Due to all the success, Craig left his job at Office Depot to help run the expanding business.

"Basically my son is the president and I'm the vice president," Craig said. "So I work for him. We joke about that all the time."

The two may share a laugh about their working relationship, but Matt gives his dad the credit for getting the business off the ground.

"I owe a lot to my dad because without him the business wouldn't have even been a business," Matt said. "He helped out and did what needed to be done."

Craig helps keep Torn Apparel going by doing all the legwork. He wants Matt to still enjoy being a kid, so he assumes a lot of the responsibilities.

There aren't too many teenagers who can boast about owning their own business, but Matt keeps things in perspective by trying to keep his life as normal as possible.

"I'm just an ordinary kid that does what kids do," Matt said. "I have a wonderful girlfriend and the best friends in the world. And the best family too. I just take things as they come."

And while Matt is interested in making money, he stresses that his business isn't just about the bottom line.

"I would be happy just knowing that I started something big," Matt said. "My goal for the business is to



See Jersey, page 27