

1-23-2006

Columbia Chronicle (01/23/2006)

Columbia College Chicago

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Recommended Citation

Columbia College Chicago, "Columbia Chronicle (01/23/2006)" (January 23, 2006). *Columbia Chronicle*, College Publications, College Archives & Special Collections, Columbia College Chicago. http://digitalcommons.colum.edu/cadc_chronicle/661

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INSIDE
Canada's finest at Park West
... Pull-out page 8
South Loop retail development
booming ... Page 23

Wacky raid at midnight

Mystery man behind Wacky Warrick foiled by Columbia officials

By Jeff Danna
Editor-in-Chief

For months, the identity of the person or people behind Wacky Warrick, the satirical website that pokes fun at Columbia president Warrick L. Carter, had been a mystery.

But on Dec. 22, the college's Human Resources Department exposed former student and Columbia employee Mark Phillips as one of the brains behind the parody.

Phillips, who graduated from the Film and Video Department last spring, was fired from his part-time position in the Science Institute's Visualization and Communication Laboratory, or Vis Lab, following an investigation into the Wacky Warrick site. His termination has led members of the Science Institute to question whether the college's administration acted justly during its inquiry.

While college officials said they are prohibited by state law from discussing specifics of the case, Phillips and his supervisors in the Science Institute believe

that an employee's freedom of speech was violated. They are also enraged about the college's methods of obtaining the evidence used against Phillips—entering the Institute in the middle of the night and searching computers. On top of that, head of the Science Institute Zafra Lerman, Vis Lab director David Morton and Phillips all said they have yet to see the evidence gathered from the late night raid and wonder whether it is as condemning as officials claim.

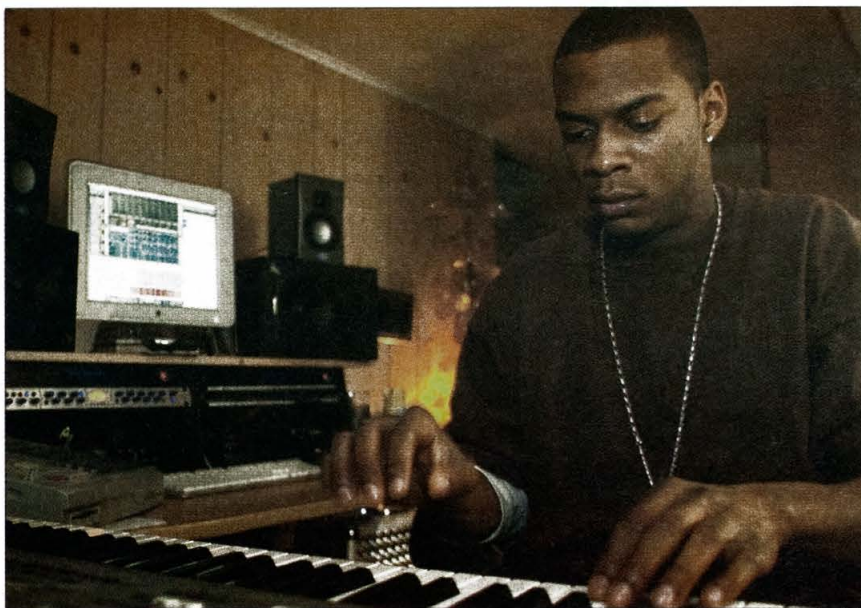
"I thought [the punishment] was way too harsh," Phillips said. "I thought a warning, maybe. Honestly, I don't think they had good reason to fire me."

According to Phillips, he was called into the Human Resources office, where he met with Human Resources director Patricia Olalde and a man who said he was an investigator on the Wacky Warrick case.

"I got a little suspicious," Phillips said.

On the table where the three sat were printouts of both Phillips' and the mock Warrick L. Carter's profiles from MySpace.com, an online meeting place. To promote the Wacky Warrick site, Phillips created a MySpace page for his

See **Wacky**, Page 8



Michael Jarecki/The Chronicle

Marcos Palacios, Columbia senior and music business major, re-mixes a song at his home studio in Broadview, Ill. Palacios and partner Tuo started their own production company, Da Internz.

Student by day, producer by night

By Hayley Graham
Campus News Editor

Columbia senior and music business major Marcos Palacios was attending Florida A&M University on a saxophone scholarship when he found out that his mother had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and was given one year to live. After hearing this he finished his sophomore year in Florida and decided to return home to Broadview, Ill.

Once home, Palacios did not

want to continue going to school because he was making money selling tracks to local artists. But his mother valued education, so she made him promise to her that he would finish school.

With that in mind, Palacios registered at Columbia just in time for the start of fall semester in 2004. After registering he read his schedule to his mom. It was the last day he saw her alive. Now Palacios is fulfilling his promise to graduate while working to get

his break in the music business industry.

The decision to stay in school has not only helped him learn the business side of the music industry—it has helped his multimedia company develop a professional plan.

"Education put a nice gloss of structure to me as a businessman," Palacios said.

Eight months ago Palacios and his partner Tou started Da Internz, See **Palacios**, Page 7



Josh Covarrubias/The Chronicle

As goes national trend, Carter's cash flow expands

By Jeff Danna
Editor-in-Chief
and
Hayley Graham
Campus News Editor

For the second year in a row, Columbia president Warrick L. Carter saw a significant increase in his base salary from the college, while his benefits fluctuated little.

Carter's increasing salary is in line with a national trend among private university presidents and also reflects the high cost of living in an urban area.

Out of 308 private school presidents nationwide, Carter ranks 30th in terms of total compensation, according to the Chronicle of Higher Education, an industry publication. His base salary and benefits total \$362,184, according to the latest federal 990 tax forms, for fiscal year 2003-2004.

In the same year, Carter's base salary jumped from \$258,176 to \$280,763, an increase of \$22,587, or 8.75 percent.

With this income, Carter ranks in the top 12 percent of presidents of private universities in the same classification as Columbia, according to an analysis of data published in the Chronicle of Higher Education. The publication lists Columbia as a Master's College, a school that offers comprehensive master's degree programs as well as baccalaureate programs.

Part of the reason Carter's pay is larger than that of other presidents is Columbia is bigger than they are, said Michael DeSalle, Columbia's vice president of finance and CFO.

"[Columbia] is a big institution compared to other schools," DeSalle said. Currently, Columbia's student population is

approximately 11,000, while other private schools in Columbia's class have populations as low as 2,000.

Where Columbia has an open admissions policy that has played a role in its rapid growth, other colleges often have fixed admission, keeping their student populations low, DeSalle said. Overseeing a larger institution, he explained, can translate to a larger salary for the president.

Columbia's urban location also plays a factor in Carter's salary, DeSalle said.

"You're talking Chicago prices," he said. "In rural areas, the costs of living in those places are considerably less." Many schools in Columbia's class are located in smaller towns.

At the same time, Carter's benefits, which include health care and a pension, only increased See **Salaries**, Page 10

Chicago sci-fi fans want 'World' in own backyard

By Hunter Claus
Assistant A&E Editor

2008 is already a busy year despite the fact that it's just now 2006. In 2008, Beijing will host the Olympics for the first time, the film adaptation of *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* is scheduled for release, and female candidates from both political parties could possibly campaign for the presidential election, which would be a first in U.S. history.

But while it is still undetermined exactly which politicians will be running for the White House in 2008, candidates for

another election are already putting up their bids—for one of the largest science fiction conventions in the world. Columbus, Ohio; Denver and Chicago are all campaigning to host the 2008 Worldcon, also known as the World Science Fiction Convention.

"The number one thing that distinguishes Worldcon from other conventions is its scope," said Dave McCarty, who is leading the Chicago bid for the 2008 Worldcon. "The Worldcon really does try to be a science fiction convention for the world community."

See **Sci-fi**, Pull-out page 12



Josh Covarrubias/The Chronicle



Wackygate

By Jeff Danna, Editor-in-Chief

Mark Phillips is creative. Mark Phillips has a knack for self-promotion. So why doesn't Columbia want Mark Phillips to ever set foot on its campus again?

This question nagged me as I reported on Phillips' recent termination from his part-time position in the Science Institute's Vis Lab.

What I learned after hearing all sides of the story is that the real issue is not one of wrongful termination, but one of a breakdown in communication between the college's administration and its concerned students and employees.

After a controversial investigation last month that involved a midnight search of the Science Institute's computers, college officials not only discovered that Phillips was one of the masterminds behind the notorious Wacky Warrick website, but they also alleged that he used company time to work on his pet project.

Officials used this misuse of time argument to justify their decision to fire Phillips and bar him from the campus, but it's hard not to be suspicious of this. After all, Phillips did play a part in parodying Columbia president Warrick L. Carter and questioning the college's spending practices on a website that was widely promoted within the student body.

Perhaps Columbia's administrators just wanted to make an example of Phillips—send a message saying, "This is what could happen if you poke fun at the college president." This, we may never know, since Columbia officials are prohibited by state law from discussing specifics of the case. Whatever the reason for Phillips' termination, the college missed the opportunity to engage in an open dialogue with students when Phillips' identity was exposed.

The bottom line is that the characteristics of the Wacky Warrick campaign that annoyed members of the Columbia community are the very characteristics that Columbia students should be encouraged to strive for in their own work.

My judgments about Phillips are based on my interview with him (which was the first time we had spoken face-to-face) and testimony from his supervisors, head of the Science Institute Zafra Lerman and Vis Lab director David Morton.

From what I gathered, he's intelligent, talented and witty. Based on his Wacky Warrick project alone, it is obvious that he has the ability to commit himself to his work. Not only did he help assemble a team to develop a memorable caricature, build a website, create short animated films and orchestrate a promotional campaign, but he did so while working a part-time job at Columbia and interning at the Second City during the fall.

Morton called Phillips "one of the best employees [the Vis Lab] had at that student level" and said "he's one of those guys you never had to tell to do something twice."

I stand by my initial disapproval of the Wacky Warrick campaign. Not only should those behind it have attempted to establish a healthy dialogue with administrators, but they should have been more focused with their criticism of Columbia rather than merely lampooning the president's demeanor.

The first short film, which was intended to alert students to what the filmmakers saw as the college's spendthrift ways, was more of a satire of Carter (and a geeky student journalist, who bears an uncanny resemblance to me) than a serious piece of research.

Though the Wacky Warrick cartoons can be in bad taste and their creators craven, the college com-

munity should be applauding Phillips and his still-anonymous colleagues. This is what students at Columbia are trained to do—take the skills they acquired in their courses and use them to do work that they believe is meaningful.

Phillips also tried to demonstrate with Wacky Warrick that he is a risk-taker willing to question authority and not sit idle while his superiors act in a manner that he sees as unscrupulous. Yes, his method might have been misguided and his message might have been misconstrued, but the fact that he used his talents to attempt to bring about a large scale change is noble.

Now that Phillips' identity is out in the open, it's time for the administration to open the lines of communication between itself and Phillips. Obviously, students are upset about the way Columbia operates given their responses to the Wacky Warrick site. The college needs to take the high road and demonstrate that it is ready to discuss such issues with students and employees.

At the same time, Phillips and his friends need to be willing to overtly express their concerns instead of continuing to hide behind Wacky Warrick. They must understand that problems can't be solved by anonymously taking jabs at the college president.

Here is an opportunity for communication barriers between students and Columbia officials to be broken. But that cannot happen if the officials push away those, like Phillips, who have concerns.

Phillips is a product of Columbia, a representation of both the good and bad aspects of the school's educational mission. Not only can the college learn from him by allowing him back on campus, but he can continue to learn from Columbia.

IN THIS ISSUE

1/10 Campus News

14/15 Commentary

Pullout The Word

18/24 City Beat

Announcements

New Orleans Showcase

The Glass Curtain Gallery, 1104 S. Wabash Ave., presents "Gifts of New Orleans Music and Culture" through Feb. 17. The exhibition will showcase New Orleans' musical roots, contemporary music and the city's musical connection to Chicago through jazz and blues. *For more information, call Mark Porter at (312) 344-6643.*

Chinese New Year's Party

A New Year's celebration featuring "Made In China," an exhibition focused on Chinese society, will be held in the Museum of Contemporary Photography, 600 S. Michigan Ave., from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Jan. 24. The party will feature music from DJ's Black Dog Sound. *For more information, call the MoCP at (312) 344-7104.*

The Beauty of Chinese Papercuts

An open reception will be held for a new exhibit featuring approximately 200 pieces of Chinese papercuts in celebration of the Chinese New Year. The event is free and will be held on Jan. 26 in the South Campus Building, 624 S. Michigan Ave., from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. *For more information, call Yuchia Chang at (312) 344-8213.*

FOCA Testing

Students who feel they are competent in computers will be able to test out of the mandatory Foundations of Computer Applications class by passing a proficiency exam. The exams will be held on Jan. 24 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and on Jan. 28 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave. There is a \$10 fee. *For more information, call the front desk at (312) 344-7526.*

IN YOUR OPINION

What do you think of the smoking ban?



"It fucking sucks. The \$250 fine is a load of crap. They should just give you a warning."

—Paul Caddick, freshman, film



"I think it's a good thing. I don't smoke."

—Kyle Lohr, freshman, musical theater



"I like it. Smoking is disgusting. Smoking is not fair to people who don't smoke and have to smell it."

—Monika Kieca, junior, journalism

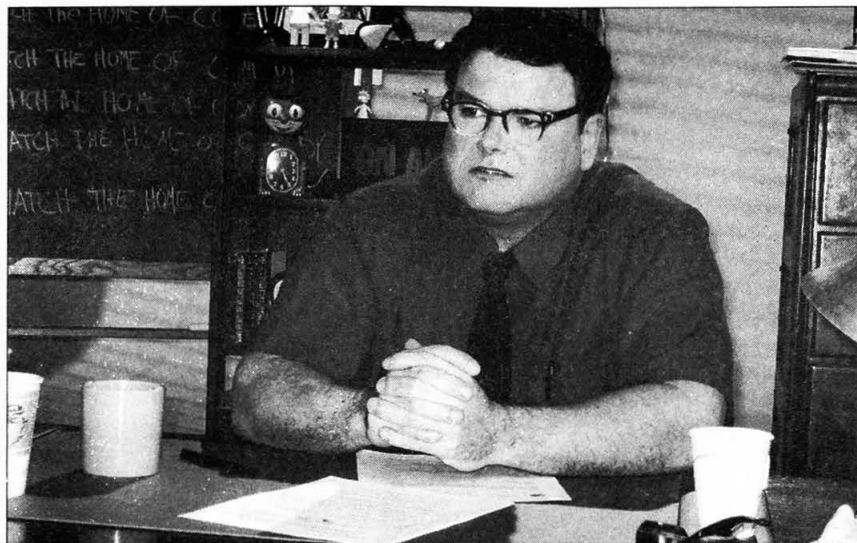


"It's a bunch of bullshit. It's a free fucking country."

—Jill Sandmire, senior, theater

THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

If you have an upcoming event or announcement, call The Chronicle's news desk at (312) 344-8964 or e-mail chronicle@colum.edu.



Courtesy Dan Dockter

Jim Zulevic, a former Columbia instructor and alumnus, was a comedian who made one of his many marks by performing commercials for FOX WFLD-32.

Zulevic contributed to Chicago comedy, Columbia classes

Jim Zulevic: 1965-2006

By Amanda Maurer
Assistant Campus News Editor

Chicago comedian Jim Zulevic, a Columbia alumnus and instructor, passed away Jan. 7 of an apparent heart attack.

Zulevic, 40, was taken to Weiss Memorial Hospital in Chicago that Saturday afternoon after sounding well on the phone earlier, said Ed Furman, Zulevic's friend and co-worker. Furman had planned to co-host WCKG-FM's "The Second City Improv All-Stars Variety Hour ... and 15 Minutes" with Zulevic that night.

Zulevic returned to Columbia last year and taught two courses in the Theater Department, Improvisational Techniques II and III. He was scheduled to return for

the Spring 2006 semester.

After graduating from Columbia in 1987 with a bachelor's degree in theater, Zulevic became a member of The Second City's touring company in 1992.

Zulevic later took classes at the comedy club, where he graduated in 1997.

Kelly Leonard, vice president of The Second City, met Zulevic in the late 1990s.

"He had such a zest for life and a zest for injustice and was always rallying against that," Leonard said. "It was hard not to be swept up in the world of Jim."

Zulevic acted, directed and taught during his time at The Second City.

"In a place that is filled with character, Jim was the biggest character of them all," Leonard said.

In 2000, Zulevic left Chicago to

try his luck in Los Angeles and busied himself by appearing on sitcoms, including "Seinfeld," "Curb Your Enthusiasm" and "The Drew Carey Show." He wrote for the television series "The Jamie Kennedy Experiment" and acted in several movies, including *Matchstick Men*.

Zulevic also starred in commercials for FOX's Chicago television station WFLD, as the instructor who warned watchers not to change the channel during the late afternoon line-up.

Although he was continuously working in Los Angeles, Zulevic always wanted to return to Chicago.

"Jim hated anything fake, and California [was] something that he couldn't deal with," Leonard said.

Zulevic occasionally came back to visit his family on the Southwest

See Zulevic, Page 7

Dorm deaths fuel questions of therapy, prevention methods

By Sam Libretti
Associate Editor

The fall semester was all but complete for Columbia music major Joshua Kanapackis when he died at a party on Dec. 11. His death was a tragedy, and it was not the only one that colleges in the South Loop have recently faced. In addition, DePaul University and Roosevelt University each lost a student last semester.

Following an event as traumatic as death, students and faculty alike are often faced with difficult questions. School officials are expected to be prepared to prevent future tragedies, and students may need support to deal with the loss. In that regard, Columbia offers students the option of private counseling.

"We have a full staff of licensed counselors," said Ashley Knight, assistant dean of Student Health and Support. "And they are always available to discuss these types of sensitive issues."

Knight said students are able to have up to 10 one-on-one sessions with a counselor per semester. In the event of a serious incident, such as a student's death, counselors are sent to residence halls.

"Our counselors become available to residents in the dorms for either single or group sessions," Knight said. "Rooms are set aside, and the meetings are as private as the student wants."

Kanapackis, 27, was attending a party at the 2 E. 8th St. building when he collapsed and died. He had been drinking, but the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office said that a full toxicology report was not yet available. He lived in an off-campus apartment, but in the days following his death, Columbia sent counselors to the 2 E. 8th St. building.

Jason Zarka, a 21-year-old DePaul transfer student, had not yet attended a class when he died in his dorm Sept. 6. The toxicology report is not available but police suspected heroin may have been a factor. Zarka was a resident of the University Center of Chicago, 525 S. State St., which Columbia shares with Roosevelt and DePaul.

Knight said that since Columbia students shared a dormitory building with Zarka, counselors from Columbia were available at the University Center if students needed to talk.

Lytleton Callender, a Columbia resident adviser at the University Center, said that he knew of several groups of students speaking with counselors after Zarka's death.

"The students just wanted to get their thoughts and feelings out," Callender said. "While some did not know [Zarka] too well, some people thought of their own family and loved ones. Death affects people differently."

Deborah Schmidt-Rogers, director of Residential Education at DePaul, said that the school responded rapidly.

"We had staff at the

University Center that night," she said. "Our Counseling Services Department has a full-time staff available, with at least one for 24 hours a day."

Schmidt-Rogers also noted that since DePaul is a Catholic university, ordained ministers are included in the school's counseling plan through a separate department.

At Roosevelt, 19-year-old Owen Odgie died in his dorm at 425 Wabash Ave. on Dec. 13, two days after Kanapackis. He had complained of feeling ill the day before and lived with asthma.

Following Odgie's death, Roosevelt set up workshops for students who sought help. Angela Ryan, Roosevelt's Residence Life director, said that those types of workshops would again be available to students this semester.

Knight said it was "difficult to gauge" how many Columbia students used the crisis counseling offered at the University Center and the 2 E. 8th St. building.

"Students tend to have better coping skills and often deal with tough situations in their own way," she said.

Schmidt-Rogers echoed that sentiment, saying that she was "surprised" that residents had not taken more advantage of the on-site counselors at the University Center but added that students now use their own resources and support circles to handle tragedy.

The circumstances surrounding Zarka's and Kanapackis' deaths beg the question about the alcohol and drug policies in the dorms.

According to statistics provided by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, 1,700 college students between the ages of 18 and 24 in the United States die each year due to alcohol-related causes. About 97,000 sexual assaults, 599,000 injuries and 696,000 other assaults are attributed to college drinking every year.

Columbia is a dry campus and alcohol is not allowed in any campus residence building, regardless of age.

See Deaths, Page 7

J-Session premier gets positive reviews from students, staff

By Jim Jaworski
Assistant Campus News Editor

Over the semester break, the new J-Session was given a test run, and administrators are satisfied with the results.

"It was very successful," said Steve Kapelke, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs. "I think it exceeded our expectations."

One-hundred and eighty-one students attended J-Session. Fifty-seven were graduate students; according to the Records Office. Administrators hope it will only grow in coming years based on the positive response.

"Students have been asking a lot about [J-Session]," said Bill Friedman, director of advising. "I think as they expand the program, more and more students will register."

J-Session is a compressed semester in which students can take specialized classes in order to earn credit to catch up if behind or to get a jump-start on the spring semester. The classes took place in the three-week

period after New Year's and before the spring semester started on Jan. 23.

Starting this academic year, Columbia adjusted the schedule to fit in with the timetable of most colleges. The change moved the start of the fall semester from the end of September to the beginning, to avoid fall finals landing amidst the holiday break.

J-Session is being considered a success, despite a rocky start. Classes were scheduled to begin on Jan. 2, when New Year's Day was observed. The scheduling error was corrected before the start of the session.

"J-Session and things akin to it are very common in higher education," Kapelke said. "As an institution we are able to use this three-week period after the holiday but before the spring session to offer some very special and specific educational opportunities for students."

Most classes weren't simply compressed versions of identical classes taught during other semesters, Kapelke said. Most were designed specifically for J-

Session.

Instructors didn't find it difficult to teach the subject over such a short period of time.

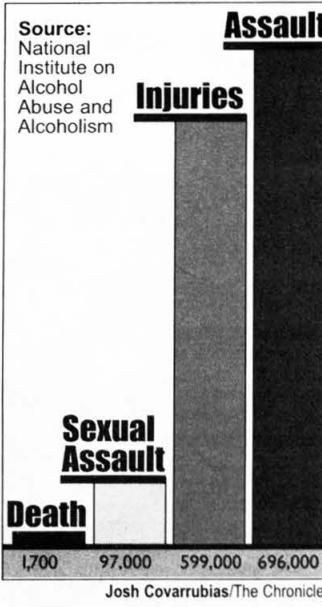
"It went well," said Dennis Keeling, post-production manager for the Film and Video Department. He taught The Machine Room, a two-day seminar covering post-production technology. Keeling has taught the class during standard semesters and said the class was still just as short.

"It wasn't like taking a 15-week class and trying to squeeze it into two weeks," he said.

Elizabeth Brossard, a junior journalism major, was one of the students who took a J-Session class.

Brossard took Covering Washington, a journalism class in which students traveled to the nation's capital for a week to meet various politicians and journalists and to get a closer look at the inner workings of the government.

"It was worth it. I had a great time," Brossard said. "But I don't think I would do it again."



Frequency

Television Department
Columbia COLLEGE CHICAGO

Program Guide for Student Lounges and the University Center on Channel 32

ENTERTAINMENT

Dude Turn That Up!
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MWFSu: 4:30p TRSa: 9:00a

Late Night Lounge
Just like every other late night talk show... only better.
Daily at 7:30p

Campus Update
Columbia's forum for campus news, announcements, events, weather info & more..
Daily: 9a, 12p, 3p, & 5p

COLLEGE COMMUNITY

Back Burner
First time cooking away from home with no help from mom? Learn how to throw together a quick healthy meal with Steve Siwinski.
MWFSa: 2:00p TRSu: 10:00a

Helping Hands
A community service program that encourages young people to volunteer in their community.
MWFSu: 8:00a

POLITICS

Fine Print
A political talk show hosted by Columbia students that approaches today's topics from a bipartisan point of view.
New Episode: Monday at 7p
MWFSu: 7:00p TRSu: 9:30a

Interested in volunteering for Frequency TV? Contact:
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Columbia College Television Dept.
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frequency@colum.edu

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MWFSu: 8:00p - 11:30p
www.nationallamoon.com

ZILO

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Cutting Edge

The Beauty of Chinese Papercuts

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Columbia College Library, 3rd Floor


*Artwork Courtesy of the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China

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January 26, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Information: 312.344.7870

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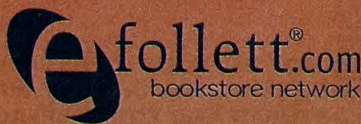
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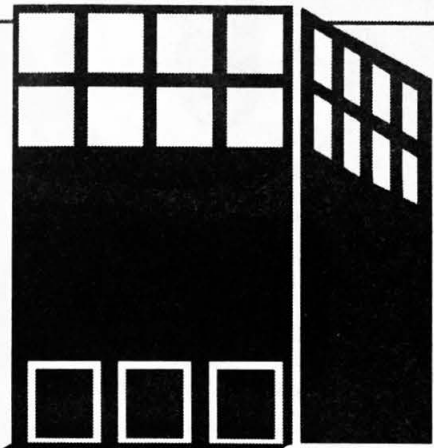
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U-Pass pick-up

NEW STUDENTS

During on-campus distribution, new students should go directly to 623 S. Wabash Avenue., Room 311 to acquire a new U-Pass. Bring your student ID and schedule to verify your full-time student status. You will have your photo taken and receive your U-Pass on-site.

RETURNING STUDENTS

Those who registered early and had U-Pass the prior semester, should have their pre-printed U-Pass available for pick-up during distribution. Check for your pre-printed U-Pass in the rear of the Hokin Annex on the first floor of the 623 S. Wabash Avenue building.

DISTRIBUTION DATES AND TIMES

1/23	10:30am to 6:30pm
1/24	10:30am to 6:30pm
1/25	10:30am to 6:30pm
1/26	10:30am to 6:30pm
1/30	10:00am to 6:00pm
1/31	10:00am to 6:00pm

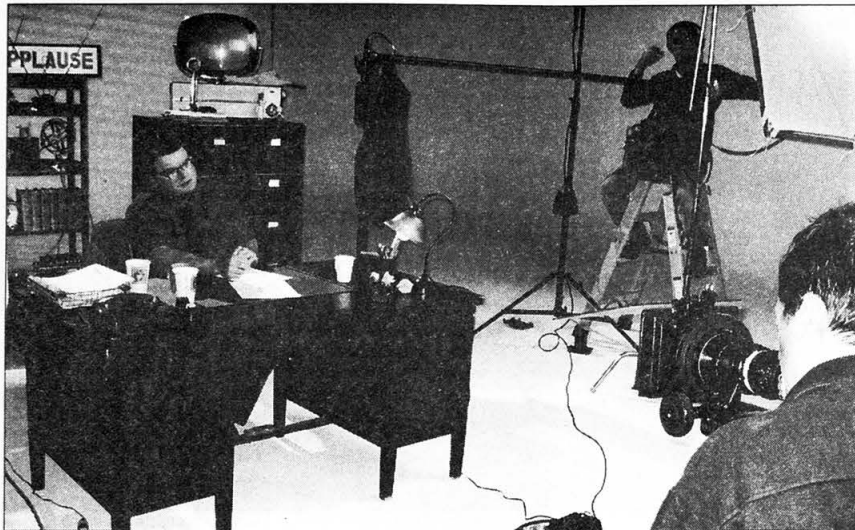
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The Student Activities Office
623 S. Wabash Avenue, Suite 313
Phone: 312.344.7459
Fax: 312.344.8406
E-mail: dwittberger@colum.edu





Courtesy of Dan Dockter

Although Zulevic worked in Los Angeles, friends said he always wanted to return to Chicago.

Zulevic: Projects kept comedian busy

Continued from Page 3

Side of Chicago, and remained close with his mother, brother and sister while away.

"This was a guy who was cynical about a lot of things, but he wasn't cynical about his family," Leonard said.

Brian Shaw, assistant chair of the Theater Department, attended Columbia with Zulevic, and the two continued their friendship by performing shows together at Columbia and elsewhere.

"He was really fascinating to spend a day with," Shaw said. "You saw where a lot of Jim's humor came from when you were down in his neighborhood just hanging around and meeting a lot of people

that he had gone to school with."

However, Zulevic's humor came from more places than Chicago's South Side. According to Leonard, Zulevic's knowledge of literature, pop culture, comic books and old radio shows added to his comedy.

"He was as comfortable quoting Dostoevsky as he was quoting Fred Flintstone, and actually kept them on the same level," Leonard said.

From 1999 to 2005 Zulevic, also worked with GayCo Productions, a sketch-comedy ensemble that performs shows with gay themes, although he was heterosexual.

"I think he was drawn to us by the very nature of being gay," said company member Jim Bennett. "We had already crossed the line so he didn't have to worry about going to far."

In June 2005, Zulevic began his most recent project, co-hosting the radio show with Furman.

Furman enjoyed spending time with Zulevic, whether they were

performing a show or simply hanging out, he said.

"When Jim was around I just knew that everything was going to be OK," Furman said.

According to Furman, the pair's different comedic styles created a team that worked well. Zulevic was constantly working on bits and concepts for the show, he said.

Zulevic was also writing a movie script about the 1979 Disco Demolition Night at Comiskey Park.

However, for those who worked with Zulevic, they will always remember him for the time he spent at The Second City.

"[The] material that he wrote was rich beyond rich, it was funny beyond funny and it was smart beyond smart," Leonard said. "This guy was front and center in some of the best work that this theater has ever done, and if I had to pick an all-star team to represent the legacy of The Second City, Jim would be playing first base."

Marcos: Student making mark with music

Continued from Front Page

which produces, manages, markets and promotes hip-hop and R&B artists. Palacios is the producer and Tou handles management, while both share the load of marketing and promotions.

During his Arts of Entrepreneurship class at Columbia, Palacios was able to create an official business plan for Da Internz, which gave the company a professional and polished look.

Da Internz was formed when Tou became the manager for the Chicago hip-hop artist Feva and collaborated with Palacios to handle the work load. Currently Palacios is producing an album for Feva, who is signed to the Blackground/Universal label, which also represents artists Toni Braxton and JoJo.

Palacios and his partner work to creatively put together a campaign for local artists, such as Renaissance, which entails getting their songs on radio shows, making their promotional artwork and producing their music.

As a producer, Palacios oversees the album and maintains the budget. Palacios, who plays the drums, saxophone and piano, spends hours each day in his basement studio producing while balancing school and responsibilities.

Palacios uses Columbia as an avenue to achieve his goals.

"I want to work with artists across the country," Palacios said. "[I want to] just do what I've been doing but on a higher scale."

He was one of the top six chosen students in Columbia's Music Business Department to spend a semester in Los Angeles and work along side legendary producer Andy Johns to learn the ins and outs of the music business. The students also produced a song for an original Lifetime movie. They wrote music and played all of the instruments for the song. While busy in Los Angeles, Palacios still found time to do business with Da Internz.

Palacios will be heading back to Los Angeles to work with the father of hip-hop, mogul Russel

Simmons, and his newest artist DRO, who signed with Def Jam Recordings. DRO's manager had Simmons listen to Palacios' beats and immediately wanted to work with him.

"Being out there and being able to be around people who are actually in the music industry ... to hear the knowledge coming from them as opposed to having it dictated to you from a teacher in a classroom setting was amazing," Palacios said.

Aside from taking a full load of classes and working as a producer, Palacios is also the president of the Chicago citywide chapter of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., which is one of the most popular African-American social fraternities in the country. The fraternity throws parties and does community service.

Palacios also is a musician at his church, J.W. James Memorial A.M.E. Church in west suburban Maywood, where he recently assistant produced an album that the church's choir recorded with jazz legend Ramsey Lewis.

Despite his hectic work schedule, Palacios said he manages to juggle the responsibilities without much stress.

"This is what I want to do," Palacios said. "I want to be the leader."

Sheila Baldwin, faculty member of the English Department, remembers Palacios as a focused and driven student. She said that he was very clear about what he wanted to accomplish.

"He was the kind of person who could find a way to do almost anything," Baldwin said. "He never accepted no for an answer."

Kimo Williams, coordinator of the music program in the Arts, Entertainment and Media Management Department, believes that Palacios' success can be attributed to knowing exactly what he wanted to do.

"He's very knowledgeable about what it is he wants to do," said Williams. "As a student he knows how to look at what he wants and then do anything and everything necessary to achieve it."

Palacios encourages other students to get practice in their fields while learning the technical knowledge in the classroom.

"If you think you want to be a manager, get an artist and start booking shows for them," Palacios said.

Deaths: Officials say alcohol plays role in deaths

Continued from Page 3

Callender said in his experience working at the University Center, alcohol-related violations are a part of the fabric of the dorm.

"I know that when I am doing my job, I will write students up more often than most," he said. "The policy sucks, but they are the rules that we all must follow."

DePaul has implemented a new measure that school officials hope will cut down on alcohol and drug-related violations in its residence life community. Beginning this term, DePaul will reserve the right to notify the parents of students who violate the school's alcohol and drug policies, if those violations fall under certain parameters. Some of those parameters include repeat offenses, police involvement and personal injury.

"I think that this generation of students is different from that of, say, 30 years ago," Schmidt-Rogers said. "Today, parents want to partner with colleges in maintaining the safety of their children while they are in college."

It would appear more than coincidental that the new policy went into effect a semester after Zarka's death, but Schmidt-Rogers said that she had actually begun drafting the

measure several years ago.

Mary Oakes, director of Residence Life at Columbia, couldn't guess whether the school would consider a similar practice, but said she believed that parent notification was becoming more of an option to deal with resident infractions.

"I think that the pendulum is swinging back in the direction of allowing parents to be aware of what their children are doing while at school," she said. "It was that way a number of years ago, and I can see that sort of practice making a comeback."

"When dealing with a student who is having problems with drugs or alcohol... we do our best to help them here before having to alert the student's family."

—Ashley Knight
assistant dean of Student Health and Support

Knight said that it was unlikely Columbia would consider adopting such a policy, but that in "extreme and very rare" situations, the school does make the decision to call parents about a student's problems.

"We think we have a good system of support on campus for students," she said. "So when dealing with a student who is having problems with drugs or alcohol—or anything else for that matter—we do our best to help them here

before having to alert the student's family."

Columbia's residence life office uses preventative measures to educate students of the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse. This includes discussions and the distribution of pamphlets, as well as introducing first-year students to activities within the school community that do not involve drinking.

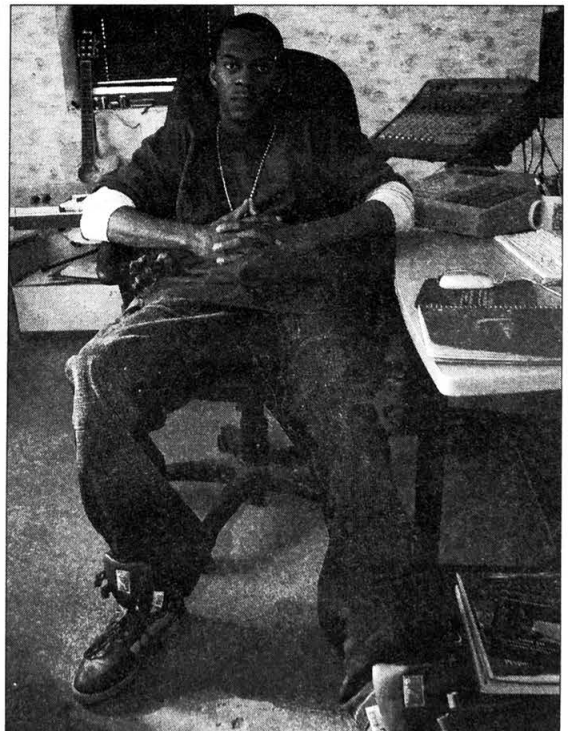
"We try to attack the false model of college that students are not able to have fun without abusing alcohol," Knight said.

Callender said that the success of those programs is hard to gauge.

"I'm not able to be with all of our residents, but I do know that a lot of them will get dressed up and go out someplace where there will be a lot of drinking going on," he said. "At the same time, I've seen a lot of students go to hookah bars or to the movies and don't partake in drinking. The RAs here do try to implement a variety of social and educational activities that give the resident body an alternative to the norm of college life, which are usually alcohol-flavored activities."

The challenges of providing the proper counseling services for residents at Columbia and regulating alcohol and drug abuse in the dorms are fairly new to a school that started out as largely commuter-based.

"Our population has certainly grown," Knight said, "and with that has come new challenges. But in response, we have added to our staff and have increased our efforts. And we will continue to do so."



Michael Jarecki/The Chronicle

Marcos Palacios is graduating in the spring with a head start in the music industry by producing local artists through his multimedia company, Da Internz.

Wacky: Satirical Carter exposed

Continued from Front Page

character, on which students have posted comments criticizing Carter and Columbia. Phillips' personal MySpace page is also linked to the Carter profile, and he said he believes Columbia officials had been monitoring both profiles. The printouts on the table contained information posted from both profiles in the previous 24 hours.

Olalde, who did not return repeated phone calls for this article, and the investigator asked Phillips what his involvement was with Wacky Warrick, but he lied and denied any involvement. However, Phillips said, when Olalde and the investigator pointed out a link on Phillips' profile to an early animation of the character, he recanted and said he had "some involvement with it." He also denied working on the project while on the clock in the Vis Lab.

Three days later, Phillips said he was called back into the Human Resources office, where Olalde said the investigation was complete and that several images of the Wacky Warrick character were found on a Vis Lab computer, indicating that Phillips had used company time to work on the project. It was because of this alleged misuse of time, he said, that Olalde fired him.

Phillips said he was told he was no longer allowed on Columbia's campus and that any of his possessions left in the Science Institute would be sent to his house. Sitting in a coffee shop for an interview several blocks from any school buildings, Phillips again denied that he spent time at his job working on Wacky Warrick.

"It's not just me working on this," Phillips said. "Me and everybody who worked on it—we're proud of the fact that we did it on our time."

Phillips said fewer than 10 other Columbia students and alumni, who are still anonymous, have been working on the site.

Left in the dark

Phillips' supervisors in the Science Institute were not aware of an investigation during the time between Phillips' first meeting with Olalde and the investigator and his termination, Morton and Lerman were out of the country at a conference, and Phillips was fired the day they returned.

Lerman said her assistant, Jeff Wade, received a call from Olalde on Dec. 22 letting him know Phillips would no longer be working in the Institute. Wade then passed the news along to Lerman. Shocked, she called Phillips, and when he recounted the incident over the phone, Lerman was furious at the college.

Part of her anger stemmed from her belief that by satirizing Carter, Phillips was simply exercising his right to free speech, and he should not have been the target of an investigation.

"These are the kinds of people we should bring up at Columbia—witty, talented, brave," she said.

However, Lerman said she was unaware that Phillips was behind Wacky Warrick prior to his termination. But when word of the website started spreading around Columbia, she warned her stu-

dents and employees that if they were involved in the project in any way, she would not tolerate them working on it on Science Institute computers.

"I said, 'If you want to take part in anything that is underground, you can't do it here,'" she said. "I don't believe in doing things underground and behind people's backs."

Like Phillips, Lerman was also angry about how the college went about investigating the case. She and Phillips gave similar accounts of what happened.

Around midnight on Dec. 22, an employee of Columbia's Information Technology Department entered the Science Institute to search the computers for any evidence that suggested Phillips had worked on his project on company time. On one computer, the IT employee allegedly found three Wacky Warrick image files in a folder labeled with Phillips' name.

Lerman and Morton both said that while they were informed that the files had been uncovered, no one from the IT Department or Human Resources showed them the actual files, printouts of the files or the location of the files when they were found.

Following the investigation, Lerman said, another inspection of the Institute's computers yielded no files that fit the description of the three found by the IT employee. Lerman also said that prior to the investigation, the Science Institute employees regularly performed sweeps of the computers and found no suspicious files.

"The evidence is terrible," Phillips said. "They found some images that are downloadable via the website. Basically the evidence that they cited [is] available on the MySpace profile or [the website]."

Bernadette McMahon, Columbia's associate vice president and chief information officer, declined to comment about any information the IT Department found in the Science Institute.

In addition to being skeptical about the evidence against Phillips, Lerman and Morton are also upset about the midnight entrance into the Science Institute. Lerman said the Institute is outfitted with three alarms to protect valuable equipment and information. Only Science Institute personnel and director of campus safety Martha Meegan know the password to deactivate the alarms, and Lerman said that Meegan is only authorized to turn off the alarm in an emergency situation when Lerman or anyone else in the Science Institute cannot be reached.

Lerman said that once she and her colleagues in the Science Institute learned of the entry, her assistant asked Meegan if she had deactivated the alarm to allow anyone into the lab. According to Lerman, Meegan said she had not allowed access to the Institute.

However, Lerman said that after she and others in the Institute looked into the matter, they found that Meegan had opened the lab. Meegan did not return repeated phone calls from The Chronicle for this article.



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

Mark Phillips, the man behind the infamous WackyWarrick.com, was recently fired by Columbia.

Security breach?

In a letter to vice president of Campus Environment Alicia Berg dated Jan. 11, Lerman wrote: "We were most distressed to understand that Martha Meegan opened the secured Science Visualization and Science Communication Lab to allow a break-in into our computers upon the direct orders, according to Martha, of 'The Powers That Be.'"

In the letter, Lerman also wrote that Meegan could not be trusted with the code and asked Berg to be responsible for opening the lab in an emergency.

The fact that the search took place after hours led Lerman to believe the investigators "had the mind to do something unethical," she said.

"Why do it in the middle of the night?" Lerman said. "Why was it so hard to ask to come look?"

Morton said he thought the entire investigation was too elaborate considering the charges against Phillips.

"To me, it's almost like [the investigators] put the school's entire mechanism in motion to find out who was satirizing the president," he said.

Columbia's vice president of Finance and CFO Michael DeSalle, who oversees Human

Resources, said he did not have all the details of Phillips' termination or the investigation, but the story he had heard was similar to the ones Lerman and Phillips relayed.

Although he said he was not at liberty to discuss specifics of the case, he did say he was "shocked and dismayed at what happened."

DeSalle could not say who ordered the investigation, the computer search or the deactivation of the Science Institute's alarms, and he was waiting for more college officials to return from the semester break to discuss the situation and the possibility of disciplinary action. However, he did not specify what this disciplinary action might be.

"We certainly don't, as a policy, tap telephones, read people's e-mails and generally don't break down doors," DeSalle said.

He also said that Human Resources does not have the capability to fire employees. Typically, Human Resources confers with the employee's supervisor before a firing. The supervisor discusses the matter with the worker, and if the problem continues, the supervisor writes a letter to the employee. If that fails, the employee is then fired.

But Annice Kelly's comments clashed with DeSalle's. Kelly, Columbia's vice president and general counsel, could not discuss this particular incident. But in general, she said, there is "no one answer" to who in an institution has the power to fire. That authority could lie with a direct supervisor or someone higher on the "supervisory chain," she said, and anyone in that chain of command can make recommendations as to whether a person should be fired.

Officials tight-lipped

Mark Lloyd, assistant vice president of Marketing and Communications, also said he could not discuss specifics of the case. However, he said that "the college retains the right to secure its property" and that the college's employees "have the obligation to protect individuals from harassment, annoyance and intimidation."

Kelly added that if an employer knows harassment is taking place and does not address the issue, the employer risks being sued by the person being harassed.

Leslie Ann Reis, director of the Center for Information Technology and Privacy Law and adjunct professor at the John

Marshall Law School in Chicago, said that this type of investigation is common in business environments. As long as the employee in question is made aware of the institution's guidelines for computer usage, the corporation can deal with the matter as it sees fit.

Plus, she added, because the computers are school property in this case and intended for business and academic purposes, the college can monitor them.

"In a corporate setting, corporations can set the guidelines," Reis said. "If it's the employer's tools, [the employer] can set the rules."

While a corporation can monitor employees' computer use, Kelly said, it usually doesn't do so without good reason.

"Employers rarely randomly search computers and databases," she said.

As to whether Phillips' right to express his opinions on his website was violated, Reis said it is unlikely that the school would place restrictions on free speech. However, he could be punished if the college determined the content of his site was "disparaging to his employers," she said.

Kelly explained that a corporation has the right to discipline an employee who is using its computers or other equipment to make harassing comments. In this case, the employee's right to free speech would not be violated, because the First Amendment only prohibits the government from abridging individuals' expressions. This rule does not apply to private citizens or corporations, Kelly said.

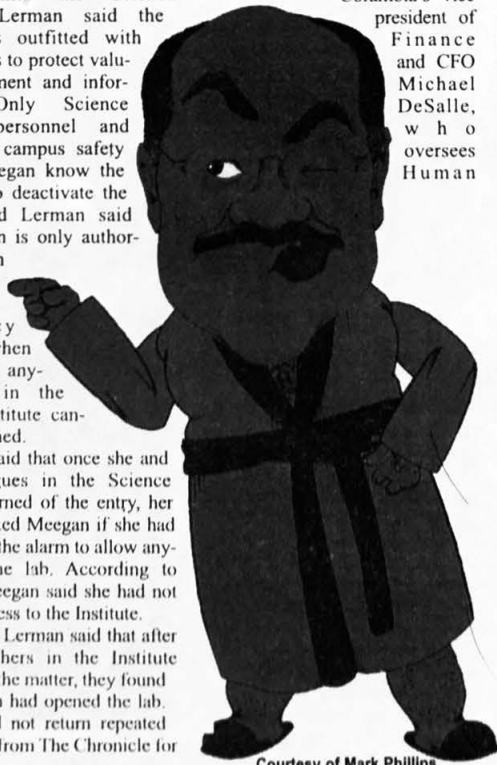
A case in which Columbia takes action against an employee making inflammatory remarks is not an issue of censorship, she said.

"To my knowledge, Columbia has never censored anyone on the content of their speech," she said.

Despite the controversy he has stirred up, Phillips said he plans to continue to update the Wacky Warrick site with his team of fewer than 10 Columbia students and alumni; the next short film about the college is scheduled to be released on the site the first day of the spring semester.

And, he said, he's not going to stand for being fired.

"I'm not necessarily going to let [the college] get away with it," he said. "I'm looking at my options right now."



Courtesy of Mark Phillips

Reporter, part-time faculty will be missed

Allan Johnson: 1959-2006

By Jim Jaworski
Assistant Campus News Editor

The Griffin Funeral Home was overflowing with friends and family. There weren't nearly enough seats to facilitate the hundreds of visitors, leaving many standing. As Chicago Tribune entertainment columnist Terry Armour spoke to the somber crowd, he had only one request: Laugh. Laugh for the man who spent so many years bringing smiles to so many faces through his writing, teaching and mere presence—Allan Johnson.

Johnson, a respected journalism instructor at Columbia and Chicago Tribune entertainment writer, died on Jan. 6 at the age of 46 due to complications from a brain hemorrhage.

"As a teacher and as a journalist, Allan Johnson was witty, sophisticated and worldly-wise," said Carolyn Hulse, former director of Columbia's news reporting and writing major in the Journalism Department. "He was a dedicated instructor, who challenged his students to think outside the box and come up with ideas readers could care about.

"Students were awed by Allan's amazing connections to the glamorous world of entertainment. But most of all, they respected his considerable skills

as a reporter and his decency as a human being. We will miss him very much."

Hulse hired Johnson, a former Columbia student, in the fall of 1998. He was part-time faculty and taught Reporting for Print and Broadcast. In the fall of 2005, he began to teach a new class focused on his area of expertise, Topics in Journalism: Reporting Entertainment News.

"He was a natural-born teacher," said Jeff Lyon, coordinator of Columbia's reporting on health, science and the environment major in the Journalism Department and deputy editor of Chicago Tribune Magazine. "Kids identified with him."

"Al was really somebody who didn't forget where he came from. He really appreciated the struggle to get where he was."

—Terry Armour,
Chicago Tribune
entertainment columnist

Hulse agreed, pointing out the consistent and overwhelmingly positive student comments on Johnson's faculty reviews.

Dani Eller, a sophomore journalism major and former student of Johnson's, echoed the views of many students and faculty, praising her former teacher.

"He was so passionate about his work and his students," Eller said. "He always tried to make our class work fun. He was very

dedicated."

Eller said Johnson was able to teach well while keeping students' attention with interesting assignments, such as mock-newscasts. Johnson would also take students to the Chicago Tribune offices, showing them the world of journalism beyond college.

Johnson started working for the Chicago Tribune in 1979 as a copy clerk. Armour, a good friend of Johnson's, met him in a Columbia writing class. Armour also started as a copy clerk around the same time.

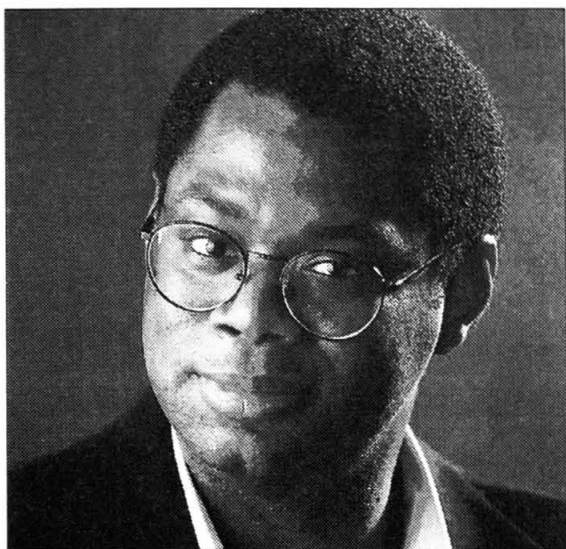
"He was well liked by everyone, even as a copy clerk," Armour said. "There were a lot of people who wanted to see him succeed."

Johnson moved up the ladder to his eventual post as an entertainment writer, covering everything from stand-up comedians to television. Armour said Johnson's ability to stay grounded was one of the attributes that set him apart.

"Al really was somebody who didn't forget where he came from," Armour said. He commended Johnson's success in such a difficult field, especially because he didn't have a college degree. "He really appreciated the struggle to get where he was."

Armour said that Johnson was just starting to reach his stride as a writer.

"He was looser and freer," Armour said. "He kept working at it. He wanted to get better and stay on the top of his game."



Courtesy of the Chicago Tribune

Allan Johnson, a former Columbia student and instructor, was a well-known entertainment writer for the Chicago Tribune. He taught Reporting for Print and Broadcast and Topics in Journalism: Reporting Entertainment News in the fall semester.

Johnson's love of comedy and deep sense of humor is what colleagues at the Tribune will remember most.

"The thing I'm going to miss most about him is his laugh," said Rob Elder, a feature writer for the Tribune and part-time faculty member in the Journalism Department. "Allan had this great, deep, booming and at times, cynical laugh. He just sounded like a true newspa-

perman."

Near the end of his funeral, a farewell letter written by Johnson was read to the crowd. He wrote it to his wife, Evelyn, while in the hospital, telling her not to worry, that they will meet again someday.

The man most well-known for his ability to make people laugh had done the opposite. With his final piece of writing, he brought the room to tears.

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Salaries: Salary increase in line with city- wide colleges

Continued from Front Page

\$185, or nearly a quarter of a percent, from \$81,236 to \$81,421. This is still a larger benefits package, though, than those received by 94 percent of comparable college presidents nationwide.

"What's driving that number more than anything is the pension plan," DeSalle said.

Carter's defined contribution plan, DeSalle said, is more extensive than the typical pension plans offered to college presidents.

Carter's increasing salary is part of a national trend among private colleges. Roger W. Bowen, general secretary of the American Association of University Professors, attributes the climbing salaries of college presidents to three main factors.

Keeping up with the market is one of these factors. Bowen said that when a college's board of trustees is deciding on a salary it identifies presidential salaries at other colleges in its class and offers competitive pay.

"It is keeping up with the Joneses, essentially," Bowen said.

Search firms that assist colleges in finding a new president have an invested interest in keeping the salaries of college presidents high, because they receive a percentage of the presidents' first-year salaries, according to Bowen.

Columbia used a search firm to find a new president prior to hir-

ing Carter in 2000, Lloyd said. However, he added, Carter does not recall the firm's name.

Colleges usually have a few CEOs sitting on their board of trustees who see the colleges' presidents as equals.

"[Trustees] see the president of Columbia as a fellow CEO to be paid a fairly high salary because they are," Bowen said.

While salaries of top college officials continue to climb, determining a standard for acceptable expenses should be fairly obvious, according to Bowen.

"[Colleges] are pretty darn sure what the unacceptable expenses are," Bowen said. "Using limos and jets are seen as excesses."

College presidents usually have a large discretionary fund, because they have to do some entertaining in order to raise donor money, which is the reason Bowen said that the cliché "it takes money to make money" is true in this case.

Carter received \$190,000 in expenses during 2003-2004 fiscal year. This accounts for 5 percent of the value of Carter's Gold Coast town home, purchased by the college in 2000, according to DeSalle. In past years, the house did not appear on the 990 tax form as a tax-free expense—rather that 5 percent of its value was considered taxable income, because Columbia did not use it as a venue for a significant number of college events. Now, Carter regularly holds gatherings at his home,

including donor cultivation dinners.

In addition to providing information about Carter's salary, Columbia's 990 tax forms also list the other highest paid employees at the school. The latest list reflects the college's addition of new vice presidents between the 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 fiscal years.

The list includes perennial highly paid employees like head of the Science Institute Zafra Lerman, who was received a base salary of \$223,670, and provost Steven Kapelke, who was paid \$191,293.

But for the first time, it also includes former vice president of Institutional Advancement Sam Ross, who resigned in December and earned \$174,439; vice president of Campus Environment Alicia Berg, who was hired in 2003 and earned \$134,933; vice president and general counsel Annice

Kelly, who now holds a position as a director and earned \$151,500; and dean of Media Arts Doreen Bartoni, who earned \$149,392.

DeSalle said that in 2002-2003, Kelly was still general counsel, but she was not considered a vice president until the following year. This excluded her from the list of highest-paid directors until 2003-2004 even though her base salary was roughly the same, DeSalle said.

Berg fills a space on the list left by former executive vice president Bert Gall, who was the fourth highest-paid employee and third highest-paid director at Columbia in 2002-2003, earning a base salary of \$177,663.

During the 2003-2004 fiscal year, Columbia officials were paid salaries competitive with the highest paid officers at other universities in Chicago, according to federal 990 tax forms. The University of

Chicago leads the colleges with the highest paid president, Don M. Randel, making a salary of \$504,714. During the same fiscal year the president of Roosevelt University, Charles R. Middleton, was paid a salary of \$284,720.

DePaul University's highest paid officials are David O. Justice, vice president for Lifelong Learning and Suburban Campuses, and James R. Doyle, vice president for Student Affairs. Justice's salary for fiscal year 2003-2004 was \$183,300, and Doyle made \$174,000.

The top two highest paid officers at Loyola University of Chicago during the same year were Johnathan R. Heintzelman, vice president for advancement, and Provost Peter A. Facione. Heintzelman's salary was \$215,977 and Facione's was \$205,600.

Columbia's Top Five Highest Paid Employees	2003-2004			2002-2003		
	Salary	Benefits	Total	Salary	Benefits	Total
Warrick L. Carter, President	\$280,763	\$81,421	\$362,184	\$258,176	\$81,236	\$339,412
	Carter also had \$190,000 in expenses			Carter also had \$199,725 in expenses		
Zafra Lerman, Head of Science Institute	\$223,670	\$61,564	\$285,234	\$211,136	\$57,929	\$269,065
Steven Kapelke, Provost	\$191,293	\$55,475	\$246,768	\$182,482	\$52,920	\$235,402
Michael DeSalle, Vice President of Finance	\$179,166	\$51,958	\$231,124	\$177,663	\$57,522	\$228,836
Sam Ross, Vice President of Student Affairs	\$174,439	\$50,587	\$225,026	\$177,392	\$51,444	\$213,314

Source: Federal 990 tax forms

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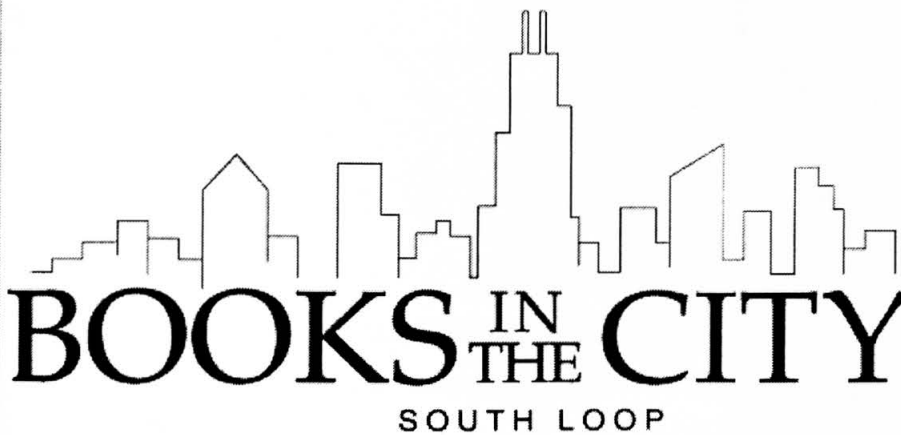
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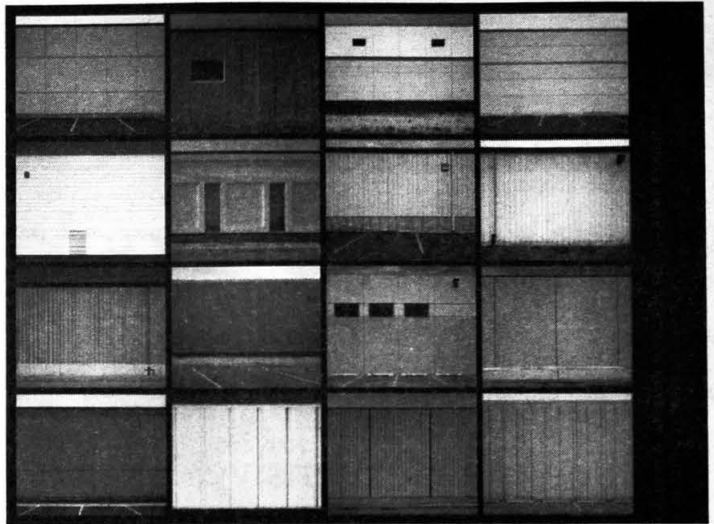
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Columbia College Chicago and the Glass Curtain Gallery are proud to present Gifts of New Orleans: Music and Culture, the first major exhibition of the Library and Archives at the Center for Black Music Research. This seminal exhibition focuses on New Orleans' musical roots of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, contemporary Louisiana popular music styles, and the musical connections between New Orleans and Chicago, particularly in early jazz and blues. Curated by librarians/archivists Suzanne Flandreau and Andrew Leach, the exhibition will feature photographs, recordings (including audio examples), posters, album covers, printed music and archival materials. The exhibit will run in conjunction with Columbia College Chicago's African American Heritage Celebration.



For more information visit: <http://www.colum.edu/student-affairs/africanamericanaffairs/>

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VISUALOGUE

December 8, 2005–January 27, 2006

Reception: December 8, 2005, 5-8 pm

An annual exhibition of installation works created by beginning MFA in Book & Paper Arts students in the Interdisciplinary Arts Department's Visual Environments class. Taught by Melissa Jay Craig.

Participating artists:

Erin Cramer, Kirstin Demer, Stephen DeSantis, Loni Diep, Brandon Graham, Joseph Lappie, Drew Luan Matott, Hyejin Oh, Karol Shewmaker, Tinameri Turner, and Liz Wolf.



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THE WORD



FEIST'S ASCENT

Page 6

On Point.

by Todd Burbo

New and improved

Well, winter is officially in full swing, and by the time you're reading this, so is Columbia. The new, extended break seemed a bit long for my taste, but I'm sure I stand alone on that one.

Anyway, with the new semester comes a (slightly) new edition of *The Word*. As you can see, we've tweaked pages two and three for your pleasure, bringing back the long lost "Jackass of the Week." We've also got a few new treats, such as the editors' top five weekly

and crossword. The page will collect the finest releases in music, film, television, print and whatever else our fickle minds choose to enjoy. We'll also be using this space to put a weekly spotlight on local artists—who we are ashamed to admit, may have been neglected in the past.

You may also notice slight content changes throughout the issue, as *The Word* attempts to expand its girth and dominate the landscape. Starting next issue, you'll begin

lists of, well, anything that we happened to notice this week. We've also provided a space to let our photographers run wild, although it'll probably end up filled with endless pictures of other photographers taking pictures. There's a history there.

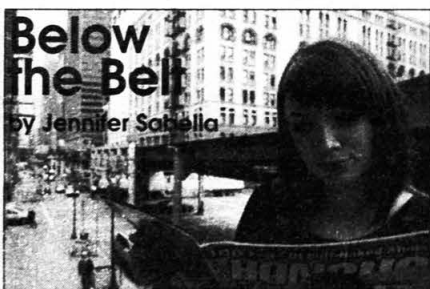
Another addition that we're particularly excited about is our newly dedicated reviews page, found near the back of the section, just before the cartoons

finding random sports coverage, although I'm predicting an emphasis on hockey (and English soccer, if I can slip it past management).

Despite all the exciting new nonsense, we're still about A&E at the core. This week, we've got interviews with two very different artists who are taking time-outs from their successful groups to strike it solo. Canada's Feist, formerly of Broken Social Scene, stops by Park West this week to support her latest solo album, *Let it Die*. For the MTV crowd, Linkin Park's Mike Chinoda is making an appearance as Fort Minor, his solo incarnation, at the House of Blues. Both are aware that *The Chronicle* can make or break careers and graciously agreed to chat with us.

If you're interested in saving the soul of our country's President, we've got you covered there as well, thanks to our profile on the Presidential Prayer Team, a group dedicated to the divine assistance of W.

To coincide with our revamped section, *The Chronicle* is proud to present a gorgeous new website. So be sure to check out www.columbiachronicle.com. Some say it looks like Facebook, but we can only hope students will find it half as addictive.



Going with the flow

Ah, the spring semester. Although I always look forward to sunny weather and a looming summer vacation, this year is a bit more dramatic for me. I am graduating. No more Columbia. And after a year, no more Chicago. I'm off to New York to do something wild and fabulous—or wait tables. We will have to see about the last part.

Direction is a funny thing, something that has consumed my mind lately. One decision can change the outcome of your entire life. I've always considered myself a girl with some idea about where she is headed, career-wise at least. But I recently realized that when it comes to relationships, not even a compass is going to give any of us any lasting guidance.

Whoever told me that my 20s

would be a transitional period in my life was very right. With every breakup, makeup or new beginning I find myself with an entirely different outlook on each situation. I'm 22 years old and single once again, and while I have always maintained that, no matter what, I would never change my goals or future plans for a relationship, I wonder if it's easier said than done.

Two weeks ago, I was swearing up and down to all my friends, roommates and co-workers that—no matter what—I would not date again until graduation.

"I am unstable and have too much to worry about," I proclaimed. "I have no time to deal with men."

Just like every other ridiculous goal I set for myself ("I am NOT going to eat any fried food for a month"), I found myself immediately retracting my statement while thinking, "Maybe I'll meet someone I simply can't pass up. I can't close myself off, and besides, regular sex is pretty sweet."

Every businessperson and home decorator on HGTV will tell you that planning is important, but sometimes making plans too far in advance can backfire.

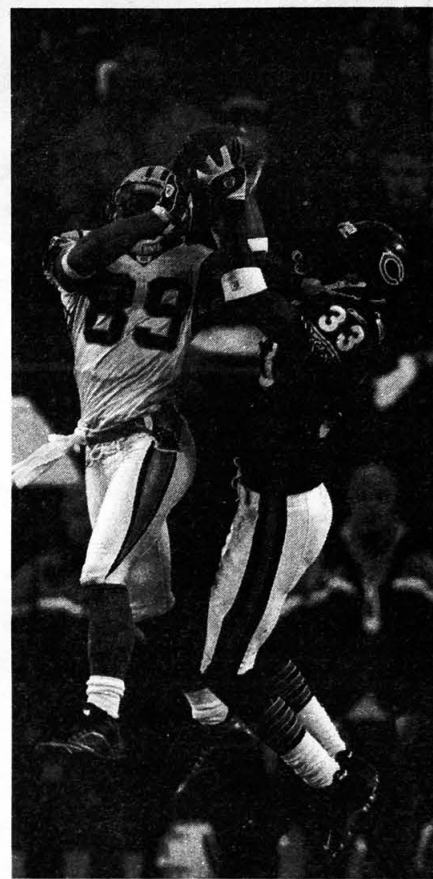
For as long as I can remember, my friend Jackie has been saying she would escape the south-suburban town that she has hated since fourth grade and move, well, anywhere else. Then she met Don. She not only hasn't left, but she aggressively defends her decision to stay as economical, as opposed to confessing the reality of the situation: I'm here because my boyfriend is.

But who am I to judge? I recently had an airplane tattooed on my wrist to make sure that I'll never get stuck. Stuck in a relationship, stuck in a job, stuck in a town—it seems so logical, yet it's so easy to fall into a rhythm and avoid doing what really makes you happy because you're afraid to exit the comfort zone.

My friend Alison recently decided to move to Mexico for a few months when offered an amazing job opportunity. "But, Alison, how are you and Jay going to make it through that?" I asked her. The long-distance thing is tough. Fortunately for her, she made the right choice. A week before she left, Jay ended things. And now she can cope with the breakup on a beach while sipping margaritas.

Maybe the Gods of Logic would tell me to cool it with the boys this semester and focus on my schoolwork, and maybe they're right. But I've never been a big fan of logic anyway. And besides, nothing inspires me to work more than the ups and downs that come with dating.

Jackass of the week



Everyone needs a scapegoat, and Da Bears are no exception in their loss against the Carolina Panthers on Jan. 15. No, we won't blame Rex Grossman, but instead the Bears' "stellar" defense which all of a sudden forgot how to play football in our first chance to win a playoff game for the first time in five years.

The Bears' defense made a great name for themselves this season as they helped carry the team all the way to their Division championship title after rookie Kyle Orton took over for injury-prone Grossman.

That reputation was not upheld in the playoff game, however, as they let the Panthers' wide receiver and powerhouse Steve Smith score two touchdowns and make 12 catches for a career high of 218 receiving yards, also ranking as the fourth highest in a playoff game. Smith had the defense chasing him all over the field like a pothead chasing a Cheetos truck.

Some particular jackasses to point out are Charles Tillman, who in his clumsy ways allowed the shorter and faster Smith to score a touchdown less than a minute into the game and out-jump him to catch a pass. Another jackass to spotlight would be cornerback Chris Thompson, after tripping over his own two feet while chasing Smith, allowing another touchdown in the third quarter.

Once again we bought all the hype on the Bears as we coddled their egos and said that this was their year. But in the end all the defense brought to the table was a failed attempt to make the Bears a team we could be proud of. Maybe next year, guys, but for now, the only title you hold in our hearts is Jackass of the Week. —T.Breyne



Love us or hate us...

We'd love to hear from you. How to contact The Word:

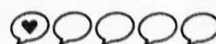


Todd Burbo - tburbo@chroniclemail.com - (312) 344-8969

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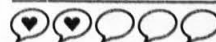
Tiffany Breyne - tbreyne@chroniclemail.com - (312) 344-8971

Ratings Guide



Complete Crap

So, is that movie worth watching? That CD worth buying? Count the hearts in each review and use this handy chart to find out.



Download it



Pretty Entertaining



Very Good



Word Up.



Todd Burbo



Tiffany Breyne



Hunter Clauss

top five

Wu-Tang Reunion Tour: Rza has made it official. The entire clan (R.I.P. Ol' Dirty Bastard) will be onstage together this spring. A Chicago date has yet to be announced, but I'll travel for this one.

Giant Robot is Bimonthly: The art and design magazine that I just won't shut up about will be released six times a year starting with the next issue, as opposed to the sparse four issues a year they've released in the past.

Sultan's Market: This Middle Eastern restaurant has been a Wicker Park/Bucktown staple for some time, but I'm new to the neighborhood, so it's new to me. Three dollar falafel owns.

Intel Macs!: The PowerBook replacement is the MacBook Pro and is supposedly four times faster than my G4. Plus, a new student loan check is looming...

Munich: Spielberg finally brought back his A-game, which I thought was dead after seeing *War of the Worlds*.

Hayley Graham: My friend, my hairstylist, my secret crush. I don't know what I would do if I hadn't met this broad during freshman orientation. Much love HayG.

Return of "Grey's Anatomy": Sexy interns, office affairs and gut-wrenching stories that fill my heart with love and my eyes with tears. I live vicariously through every one of the characters. Seriously one of the best shows I've ever seen.

Red Bull and Slimfast bars: The breakfast of champions that will get me through this semester, hopefully, in one piece.

Golden Globes theme song: Reworking the words from the Pussycat Dolls' "Don't Cha" to include lyrics like, "Don't Cha think George Clooney looks hot tonight" or something utterly ridiculous like that. I'm still perplexed.

William Shatner: Any man who can sell his kidney stone for \$25,000 is on my list of awesome. That and the fact that he's probably secretly producing little Trekkie children to combat the world in a new and improved Starship Enterprise.

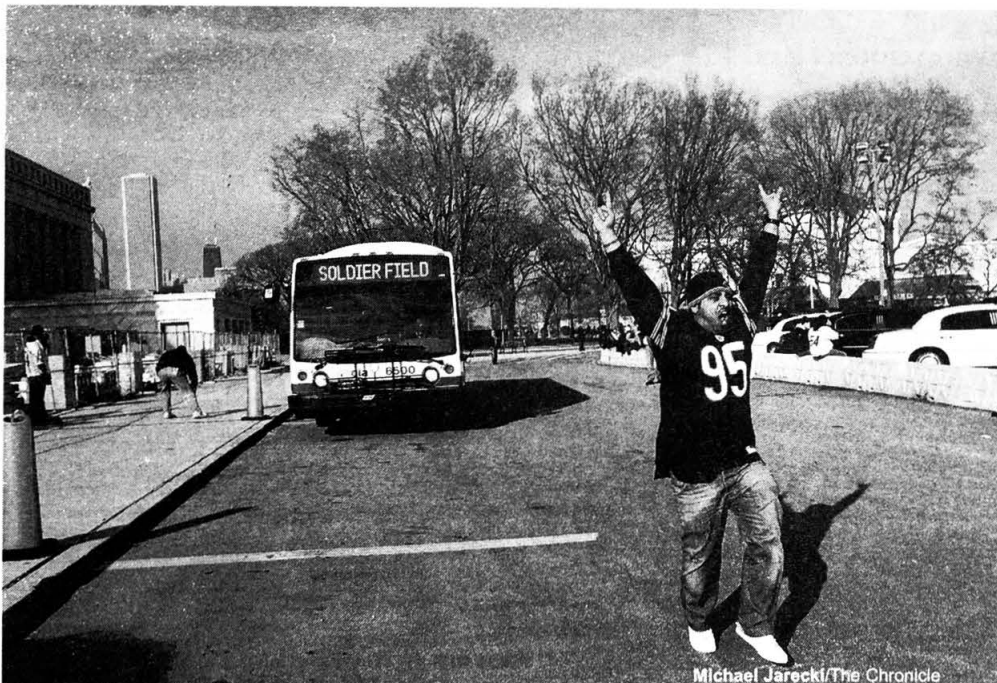
"Project Runway": Daniel V. from "Project Runway" season two is well worth the hour-long commitment to brainless reality TV.

People watching: Comic book stores on Wednesdays are the perfect places for people watching. New comics are released on Wednesdays and comic book dorks crawl out of their parents' basement to get their greasy hands on them.

Stalkers: Love letters from creepy stalkers make wonderful coffee table material. I found a couple from this overweight older woman who thought I should be a Playgirl model because my name is Hunter.

Mel Gibson: The teaser for Mel Gibson's new movie, *Apocalypto*, is strange on so many levels. Gibson is actually in it himself. Freeze-framing a certain portion of the teaser reveals Gibson smiling crazily in what looks like his imitation of Saddam Hussein.

"Pete and Pete" on DVD: Blondie's Debbie Harry and the B-52's Kate Pierson make guest appearances on the first season of Nickelodeon's "The Adventures of Pete and Pete." Season two is also out, and both seasons are worth checking out.



Michael Jarecki/The Chronicle

Exposure

Die-hard Bears fan Mano Boghossian gets fired up outside of Soldier Field prior to the Bears' division playoff game against the Carolina Panthers on Jan. 15. A Bears fan since he was 8 years old, Boghossian flew out from his native Los Angeles to witness what would eventually be a disappointing 29-21 loss to the Panthers, more than likely making it a long flight home. Ironically, Boghossian's last trip to a Bears game was earlier this season when he attended the Bears' victory over the Panthers on Nov. 20.

Calendar of Events

Monday

Dave Eggers and James Newsome read from *Surviving Justice: America's Wrongfully Convicted and Exonerated* at Quimby's, 1854 W. North Ave., at 12 p.m.

The Rolling Stones play at the United Center, 1901 W. Madison St. \$450. Show starts at 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday

Devil in a Woodpile plays at the Hideout, 1354 W. Wabansia Ave. Show starts at 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Jeff Tweedy plays at the Abbey Pub, 3420 W. Grace St. \$30. Show starts at 9 p.m.

Pelican plays at the Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave. \$10. Show begins at 9:30 p.m.

Thursday

Vandermark 5 jazzes it up at the Hideout, 1354 W. Wabansia Ave. \$10. Show starts at 9:30 p.m.

Chitown Sirens Roller Derby Leauge presents "Winter Thunderland" at D'Vine, 1950 W. North Ave. \$3. Festivities begin 9 p.m.

Friday

Blood in Blood Out, the Killer, Left Hand Path, In Dying Dreams and Dead play at the Metro, 3130 N. Clark St. All ages. \$8. Show starts at 9 p.m.

Low plays at the Logan Square Auditorium, 2539 N. Kedzie Ave. \$15. All ages. Show starts at 8:30 p.m.

Saturday

Mud Queens of Chicago host another mud-wrestling match at the Belmont-Central Building, 5600 W. Belmont Ave. \$5. Wrestling starts at 9 p.m. BYOB.

800 Winters, a showcase of music performance and art, will be held at the Subterranean, 2011 W. North Ave. \$8. Event begins at 8:30 p.m.

Sunday

Chinese New Year Parade makes its way along Wentworth Ave. from 24th Street to 22nd Street. The parade is free and starts at 12:30 p.m.

Jeff Hanson plays at the Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave. \$8. Show starts at 9:30 p.m.

Falsetto for the masses

Jeff Hanson sings a different tune than most, but he's OK with that

By Tiffany Breyne/Assistant A&E Editor

Men strumming lovely songs on their guitars are nothing new, but men who sing like women are. Jeff Hanson, a solo musician hailing out of St. Paul, Minn., is often praised for his quiet essence and falsetto voice that could easily be mistaken for a woman's.

"I'm glad I sound the way I do," Hanson said. "I'm comfortable with it. I think I definitely knew that people were probably

gonna focus on that. And I think that's fine 'cause there's a lot of people playing guitar and singing, so if I can have something that's a little different, I'll take it."

With a sound as pure and innocent as any lullaby could ever be, Hanson is an acoustic spirit to be reckoned with. He will prove it when he comes to town Jan. 29 to perform tracks from his 2003 solo debut album, *Son*, and his

latest self-titled album at the Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave.

Aside from his voice, reviewers also herald Hanson as the next Elliott Smith—formerly on Hanson's label, Kill Rock Stars—or as a reincarnation of Simon and Garfunkel's good ol' days. Hanson just sees it as a way for journalists to cast him into a category and put him in a box with his "contemporaries,"

though he thinks no other musician sounds quite like him.

Hanson is right in that sense, but once listeners get past the angelic voice, they'll see he's a talented songwriter with an ear of gold naturally tuned for making solid music. Hanson said he's not one of the musicians who randomly thinks up lyrics while eating dinner or carries a notepad everywhere he goes; it's more of an art that he works at. People are starting to notice.

"I don't know—lyrics have always just happened," Hanson said. "The more that I do, the harder the lyrics get because I start thinking, 'Oh, maybe someone's actually looking at what I'm doing now.' There's always that freedom of 'no one gives a crap', and then people start asking about my lyrics and it's like, 'Wait, you're actually reading this?'"

Hanson himself is starting to pay more attention to lyrics, saying that he grew up listening to his parents' 1960s records and bands like the Beatles, who focused on melody and harmony. Nowadays, he finds himself on a solo Paul Simon kick and focusing on Bob Dylan, who Hanson said was on the other end of the spectrum with his storytelling and poetic style.

Picking up Hanson's self-titled album would be a good first step in preparing for his upcoming show. The album is almost a full hour of crooning and full of songs that should be played at epic, life-defining moments in time. It starts off with a nearly eight minute ballad that sounds so isolated you want to give the man a hug and tell him to never stop singing. Though this reaction wouldn't be completely unwelcome for Hanson, he does have an idea of his dream audience.

"Well I'm still pretty new," Hanson said. "I'm hoping to just get a decent amount of people to come out, and if it's at all possible, to stop speaking for, like, 15 minutes. I like drinking shows and playing 21-and-up shows and all ages, but an attentive crowd would be perfect. I think it gets better when you actually have people coming to see you and not stumbling in off the street like, 'Who's this guy? Who's this girl-man?'"

Jeff Hanson is playing at the Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave., at 9:30 p.m. on Jan. 29. For more information or to hear his music, visit www.jeffhanson.net.



Photo Courtesy of Fanatic Promotion

Jeff Hanson relaxes before starting his tour, which rolls into town Jan. 29 at the Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave.

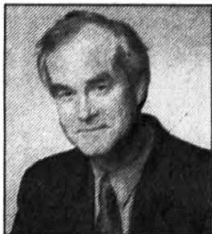
Jan. 31

Meet Sun-Times' John Cruickshank at... NEWS, NEIGHBORHOODS & WHAT'S NEXT

a conversation presented by the
Community Media Workshop,
Columbia College's Society of Professional Journalists chapter
and the Columbia Chronicle

- What is the future of reporting local news in Chicago?
- How is the Internet and new technology affecting the dailies and weeklies?
- What are the stories behind the City Hall hiring scandals the Sun-Times broke?

Community and non-profit leaders, journalists, student and the public are invited to ask their questions during this lively discussion with the Chicago Sun-Times chief.



John Cruickshank rose through the ranks to be one of the most influential publishers in this country: from reporter to editor in Canada to publisher of the Chicago Sun-Times and COO of the Sun-Times News Group, whose publications include the Post-Tribune, the Daily Southtown, as well as 74 other community newspapers in the Pioneer Press, Star and Suburban Chicago newspaper chains.

For more about Community Media Workshop, see www.newstips.org
For more about the Columbia Chronicle, see www.cochronicle.com
For more about Columbia's SPJ chapter, see spj.ccblogspot.com

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5-7 p.m.

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Cost: Free

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Cash Bar, but free drinks for
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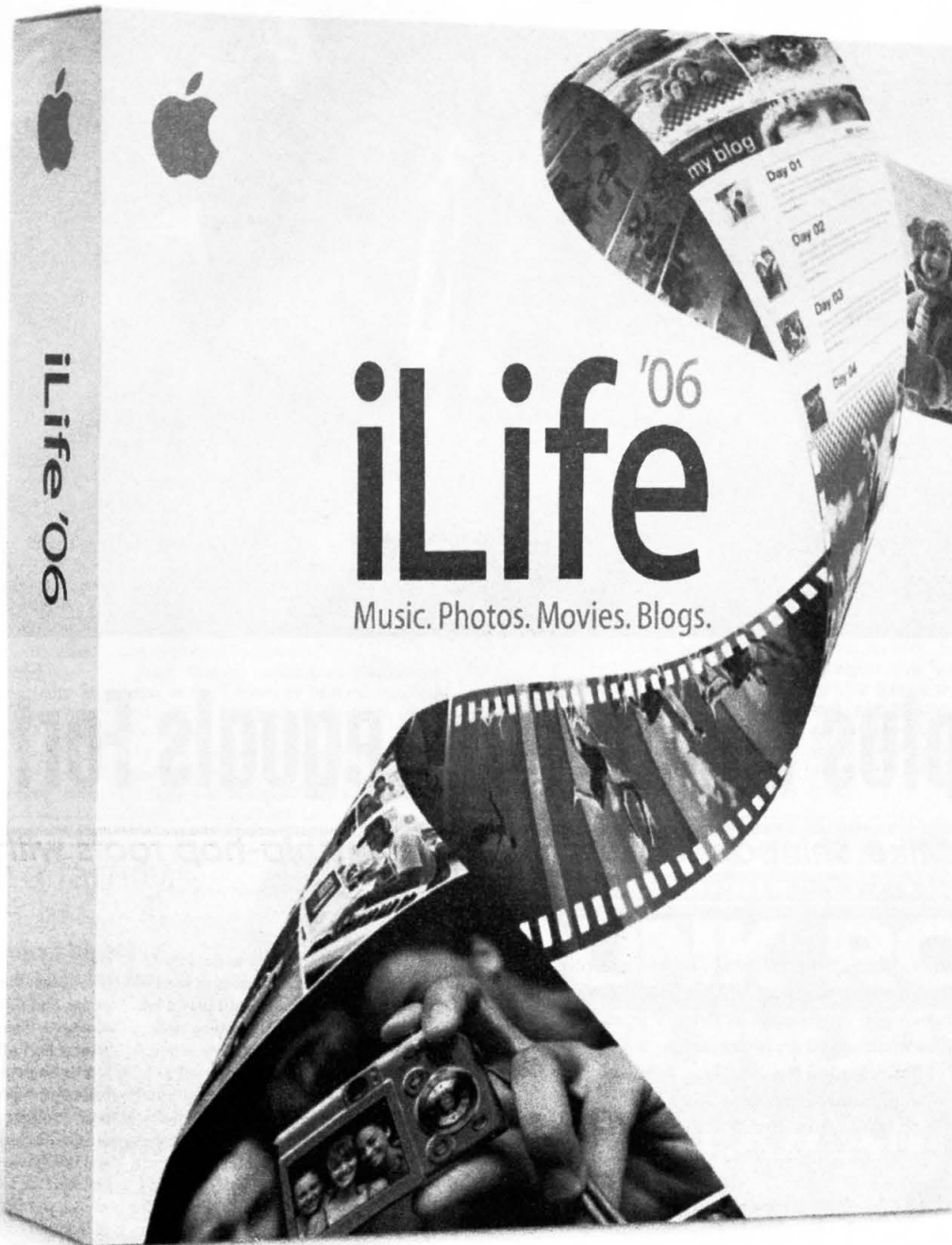
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Courtesy Greg Watermann

Jay-Z plus Linkin Park equals Fort Minor

'TRL' staple Mike Shinoda looks to highlight his hip-hop roots with solo debut

By Todd Burbo/A&E Editor

When Linkin Park's debut album *'Hybrid Theory'* was released in 2000, it quickly became a staple of MTV's "Total Request Live," sandwiched between pop artists such as Britney Spears and The Backstreet Boys. They earned their share of screaming teenage fans, and then, to the confusion of underground hip-hop fans, followed up with a series of high profile collaborations. They've worked with the likes of Jay-Z, The X-cutioners and Handsome Boy Modeling School, and now LP member Mike Shinoda wants to prove that he was worthy of such company. Under the moniker Fort Minor, Shinoda has enlisted even more top talent—including Chicago's own Common—in an effort to silence any remaining doubts about his hip-hop credibility.

Chronicle: Linkin Park was pretty dominant in the "TRL" pop scene, but you also worked with underground icons like Lord Finesse and Handsome Boy Modeling School. How did you maintain that balance?

Mike Shinoda: Well, I'm friends with who I'm friends with. You know? They know where my heart's at and that I'm a normal guy. I think what it comes down to is: Can you still just be yourself even though we get the attention that we do?

Would you call Fort Minor an attempt to distance yourself from Linkin Park?

I don't mind the association so much as I want to just get back to those roots and show everybody what I do on my own. Although I am versatile and do different kinds of music, given the opportunity to do an album on my own, this is what I came up with.

The album is co-executive produced by Jay-Z.

I actually produced the record and mixed the record myself. I did every track. I played every note. I wrote every note. Actually, I think there's one song that has a loop in it from a sound library, and a couple of kids online have been picking that out, like "Does that mean that other stuff was taken from libraries?" No. Other than that, I wrote all the stuff on the record. Jay's role as executive producer—he basically helped me decide which tracks are going to go on the album. Some tracks needed a little work, and some were ready as they were. So he helped me by making those decisions.

The album features a lot of live instrumentation. Would you say it sounds more like a hip-hop record or a rock record?

Well, one of my goals with the record was to use a lot of live instrumentation and a lot of live playing to maintain that big sound that hip-hop records have. It's obviously a hip-hop record, but at the same

time, I do what I know how to do. I try to play to my strengths, and that is to say I know how to write music, and I play a lot of different instruments. In keeping with the idea of trying to make that big sound, I did incorporate some live strings and a live choir on the record, which obviously I didn't play or sing those parts, but I did write them. I think the general rule on the album is I did all the music, and if you hear any rapping, then whoever is rapping wrote it. But if you hear any singing, then I wrote it.

Are you enjoying getting back to slightly more intimate venues on tour?

Actually, I enjoy the arenas, but I am really excited to see the fans face-to-face and get the opportunity to actually spend some time with people. It's been some time since we did that. I had joked with the guys [in Linkin Park] that I was going to write an album that I could go around and do some small shows with. I was going to write a bunch of pop-punk songs, and we were going to play in a joke band and put masks over our heads and play only 100- to 200-foot rooms. They thought the idea was funny, but obviously no one really went through with it.

The artistic design for Fort Minor is fairly similar to Linkin Park's, and I've heard that you're responsible for that.

I personally don't think it's similar, but I guess my style is my style. I did a series of paintings for the album. Because it's my project, I really wanted to be as hands on as I could be on it. I did a good deal of the graphics on the record. As I said, I did 10 paintings, and those are basically the

backbone of the artwork. One thing to note is that there aren't really any photos of me, and if there are, my face is kind of obscured. One reason why I named the project Fort Minor instead of going by "Mike Shinoda of Linkin Park," and I put paintings instead of photos, is that I want people to focus on the music. I mean, people are finding out that this is my project, and the reason that I put these roadblocks between the two things is because I don't want it to be out there as this mainstream success off of the name Linkin Park. I want to build it up as its own entity.

Will your show feature a live band?

Are you familiar with how Nine Inch Nails works? The similarities with Fort Minor and Nine Inch Nails is that in the studio, Trent Reznor is Nine Inch Nails and he leads the project. And then on stage, he leads the band. That's pretty much how Fort Minor works. On stage, it's me and three of the four guys from Styles of Beyond, a drummer named Beat Down and then three strings players and three backup vocalists.

Excellent. Anything else you'd like to say about the project?

If you're curious about the group, you have to see fortminor.com. I'm on there all the time; the Styles of Beyond guys and I post regularly.

Fort Minor will be performing with Little Brother at The House of Blues, 329 N. Dearborn St., on Jan. 29. Tickets are \$21 and available at www.ticketmaster.com.

MySpace becoming publicity powerhouse

By Nancy Pettito/Daily Nebraskan

Anyone who has ever logged in to MySpace.com knows about the publicity possibilities it offers local bands. More often than not, the message "New Friend Requests" means that a band wants you to hear them. The website allows these bands to reach thousands of potential fans from the comfort of their own homes and is quickly becoming the publicity tool of choice for independent acts.

For one band in particular, MySpace is the reason they exist today. The Summer Obsession is on the recently released MySpace Records compilation CD. The founding members of the group put a couple of self-recorded tracks on its MySpace site, hoping to draw in listeners.

"The first thing we did when we started the band was to make a MySpace account," said Lucien Walker, vocalist and bass player for The Summer Obsession. "We knew that MySpace would be big and wanted to become a part of that."

But in the beginning, Walker had no idea how big it would become. After starting the band's account, Walker noticed Tom automatically popped up as a friend. Tom is the founder and "go-to guy" for any questions regarding MySpace. Walker really wanted to meet with Tom, thinking it could help out the band.

"We heard about a MySpace party in Miami, about six hours away from where we are, and we immediately wanted to go and talk to him," he said. "We were basically stalking Tom."

Once the band made it to the party, they

met Tom and hit it off. They gave him a CD and from there, The Summer Obsession's success took off. The band later signed to Virgin Records and MySpace has continued helping them along the way.

"MySpace really helped us gain a fan base without virtually any touring," Walker said. "It basically launched our career."

MySpace not only helps bands get heard, but also gives listeners access to what they need. Andy Fairbairn, entertainment director of Duffy's Tavern in Nebraska, has used MySpace to find bands when booking shows.

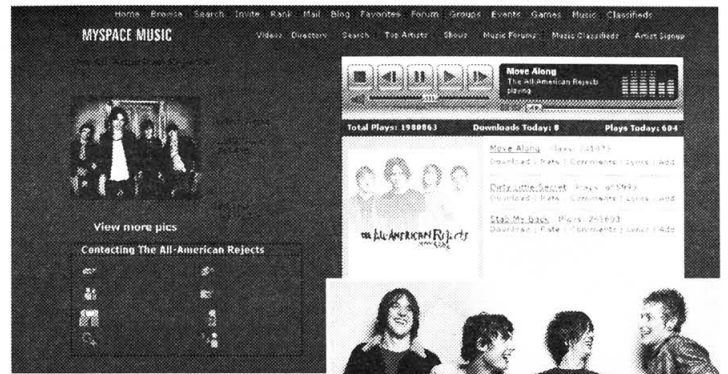
"It's a great way to quickly check out bands," Fairbairn said. "MySpace is all a band needs to have for a website now."

Jason Wilmot, senior elementary education major at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a local singer/songwriter, started his MySpace music account last summer to network his music. Although Wilmot isn't signed to a label, his EP is on MySpace. For him, MySpace has been amazing, he said.

"I can line up shows with other bands in other states," Wilmot said. "It's been really cool to meet bands from other places and even here in Lincoln."

Matt Jordan, sophomore journalism major at the University of Kentucky, got involved in MySpace to find out about new bands.

"I was looking for alternatives to the lame bands who were getting airplay at the time and MySpace definitely helped



Bands such as All American Rejects (inset) use MySpace profiles to attract new fans.



me out," Jordan said.

Jordan uses the site to keep tabs on his favorite bands and to discover new ones. Once you are friends with a band, you can receive bulletins and updates from the group. Jordan currently has a blog called You Ain't No Picasso that he updates on a regular basis with new bands he has discovered.

"Lots of times, a band looking to be featured on my blog will e-mail me with a little information, but instead of attaching an MP3 they'll just link me to their MySpace account," he said. "But with any website, sometimes you have to do a

little digging through MySpace to find really good bands."

MySpace enables users to search by genre, location, band member, influences or sound. This helps members find exactly what they're looking for. "Part of what makes MySpace so influential is the community aspect of it," Jordan said. "Fans really feel like they're close to the band and I think that helps build a strong fan base."

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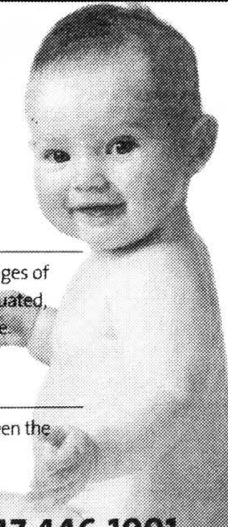
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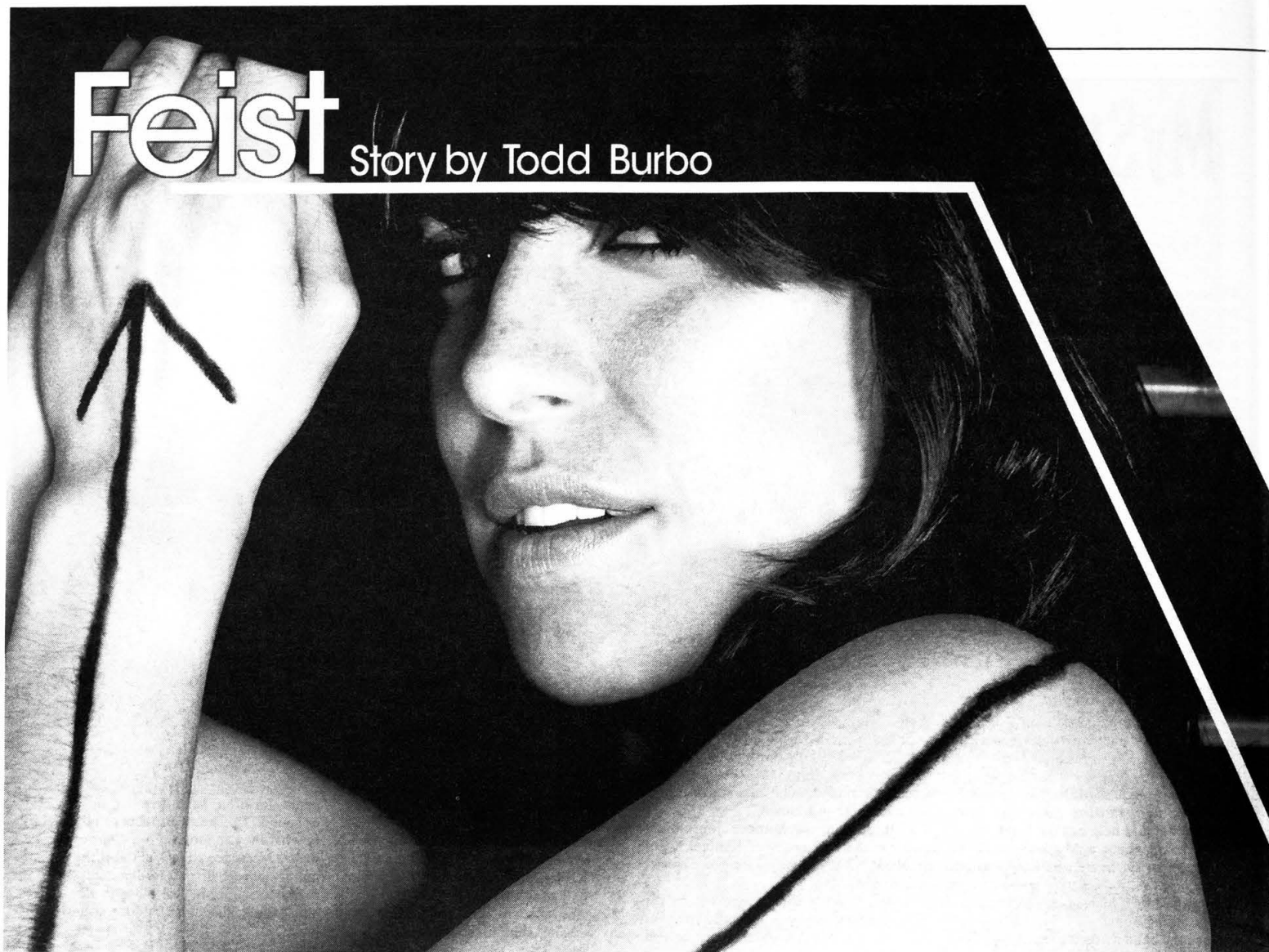
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Feist

Story by Todd Burbo



If it's possible for a city to be described as rural, then Calgary, Alberta is certainly among the most worthy. Native songstress Leslie Feist, who is headlining Chicago's Park West on Jan. 27, describes her hometown as a blend of countryside and city, calling it a "great place to live and enjoy the Canadian stuff."

The term "Canadian stuff," doesn't exactly conjure images of a thriving punk scene, but it was a local show by The Ramones that marked the beginning of Feist's career. Then fronting a high school band called Placebo (not to be confused with the UK band), Feist earned a slot opening for the punk legends, but she downplays any punk credibility this may lend her.

"For lack of any more accurate descriptive term, we say punk—but we weren't," she said. "It was the early '90s in Calgary, just before the grunge scene reached our neck of the world. What may be a more accurate term would be just 'loud.' We were loud, we were teenagers and we were completely enveloped in our

own angst."

The Ramones gig was Placebo's first, but they soon became veterans of the road, traveling repeatedly across the country—a tour that would lead directly to the band's demise. The strain of singing for such a loud band proved more than Feist's vocal chords could handle; she was told by doctors that she would never sing again.

Instead of giving up and settling down with a day job, Feist promptly picked up a guitar and joined another band, By Divine Right, within a year of learning to play.

"That was a totally vertical learning curve. I was playing with this guy Jose Contreras and basically watching his fingers for three years."

By this time Feist had moved from Calgary to Toronto, where she fell in with a group of musicians that she refers to as "the Canadian Jackass crew." Her new scene came complete with a new roommate, a fellow musician who would turn out to be the electro/rap/punk vixen known as Peaches.

Peaches, whose classic track "Fuck the Pain Away" accompanied the memorable strip club scene from *Lost in Translation*, hadn't yet established the ster-

ling reputation that her live shows have since earned her, but according to Feist, she was well on her way.

"She had just bought her MC-505 [drum machine/sequencer] when she moved in with me; it was still in the box," Feist said. "So she moved into her bedroom, and she had her bong, her espresso maker, and her 505. I'd be in my room four tracking, and she'd be in her room learning to make beats."

Peaches fans might be surprised to hear that she has a wholesome side, but they shouldn't be—she is Canadian, after all.

"At that point, [Peaches] was teaching little kids music, art and drama. She would go to their homes and have a group of like 20 kids at eight in the morning. The moms would all be upstairs drinking coffee, and she'd be in the basement clapping and playing dancing games with these little children, then coming home and smoking her bong and writing beats. She was an inspiring friend but wasn't hay-wire latex at that point."

With the help of the Canadian government, which provides grants for developing artists, Feist's early recording sessions blossomed into a full-length album, although she says she wasn't quite

ready for a solo career. She couldn't pass up the opportunity to record on the government's tab. Yet she calls the album "a bit premature," and describes her early songwriting as "earnestness unchecked."

Although she has reservations about her first album, Feist believes Canada's grant program was instrumental in jump-starting her career. Struggling musicians in the United States can only dream of government funding for albums, music videos, websites, press kits and tours, but Feist said Canada footed the bill for all of these things, and in fact still helps with the budget for her tours. With the release of 2004's *Let it Die*, Feist proved that she won't always need to rely on a charitable government to succeed. The album is a gorgeous collection of tracks reminiscent of Björk and Cat Power; but has a jazzy influence that combines with a slight rasp in her voice to recall Billie Holiday.

To write her yet-to-be-titled follow up, Feist moved her operation to France, Johnny-Depp style. Although Toronto and France are certainly two

different worlds, she doesn't think her new environment will have much impact on the record.

"I think that most of the writing happens in a closed room, in a place where I feel completely alone and shut off, and that can be anywhere in the world," she said. "In fact, most of the writing I've done lately, because I've been on tour so much, has been done in random hotel rooms, and I couldn't even tell you [in] what country."

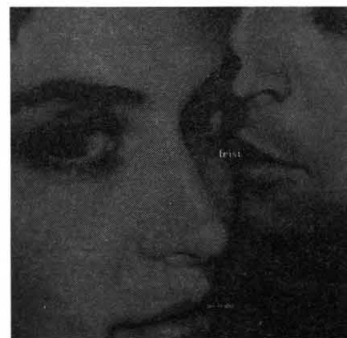
When not flying solo, Feist is part of Broken Social Scene, an ever-growing collective of Canadian musicians with a current roster of 18 members, all of whom consider each other friends.

"Broken is a chaotic family reunion picnic every single time there's a gig," Feist says. "It's just so many people, so much history. It's really an exciting band to be in. We all say if it all imploded tomorrow or half the members decided to [leave], we would all still be barbecuing together and doing the picnic part of the chaos until we're old and gray."

When Feist stops in Chicago this week, she'll be accompanied by BSS

member Jason Collett, who is also touring to promote his latest solo work, *Idols of Exile* (See review, page 15).

Given the history between Feist and Collett, it's not surprising that they plan to collaborate on stage for the tour. What might surprise fans of Feist's vocally driven solo work is exactly how she'll contribute to Collett's show. "He's so kind to let me live my rock fantasy by playing drums with him for a song," she said. "We cross-pollinate as much as we can."



Broken Social Scene
Opposite: Feist
Above: 2004 release *Let it Die*

Prayers for the prez—Lord knows he needs them

Nonprofit group promotes praying for president

By Hunter Clauss/Assistant A&E Editor

While President Bush's approval ratings sink to historic lows, his office and administration are the subject of prayers across the country, thanks in part to the Presidential Prayer Team. The nonprofit organization continuously promotes prayer for the president no matter where he or she may fall on the political spectrum.

"We feel that we have a biblical mandate to pray for those in authority," said John Lind, president and CEO of the Presidential Prayer Team.

According to Lind, the idea for the nonprofit organization was conceived by Sunday school teacher William Hunter after the 2000 presidential elections.

Hunter was skilled in bronze sculpting and, according to the Presidential Prayer Team's website, he "created a prayer reminder coin using the image of our first president, George Washington, as he knelt in prayer at Valley Forge." The coin was a big hit among churchgoers, and the Presidential Prayer Team was formed shortly after.

Although the organization started out in Hunter's adult Sunday school group, the Presidential Prayer Team now mainly operates through its website, which was launched the day after 9/11.

"The timing couldn't have

been more perfect as far as coinciding the tragedy of 9/11 and the birth and launch of the Presidential Prayer Team on the website," Lind said.

Lind contends that the Presidential Prayer Team is not driven by political ideology and that the organization will pray for anyone who occupies the White House regardless of his or her religious or political background.

"We're not the George W. Bush Prayer Team," Lind said. "We're the Presidential Prayer Team."

Lind estimates 3 million people pray for the president every week through many of the programs the Presidential Prayer Team offers such as Presidential Prayer Sunday, a prayer extravaganza scheduled to take place the Sunday prior to President's Day. The purpose of this event is to achieve a 24-hour praying marathon by allowing people to sign up for time blocks to pray for the president. Potential prayer-givers can sign up for this rally through the organization's website, where they can also download a prayer guide to assist them.

The Presidential Prayer Team, which also launched a Presidential Prayer Team for Kids, also promotes praying for other political offices such as the vice president and various members of the president's adminis-



President Bush attends a memorial service for Hurricane Katrina victims on Sept. 15, 2005, with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and First Lady Laura Bush.

tration. This organization also encouraged people to pray for the Samuel Alito confirmation hearings, Hurricane Katrina victims and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

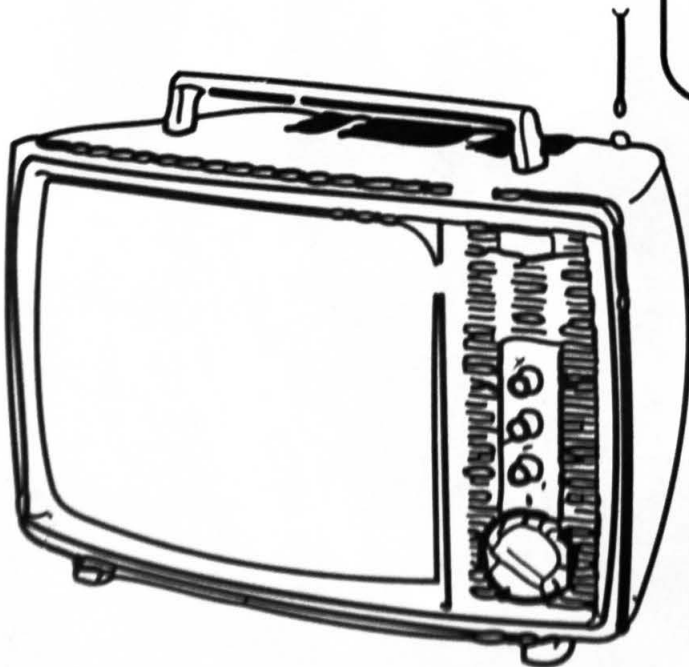
Although the Presidential Prayer Team is mostly composed of Judeo-Christian members, Lind maintains that followers of other religions are welcome to take part in praying for the president.

One group that is not interested in praying for the president—or even praying at all—is the American Atheists, a watchdog group that promotes the civil rights of atheists by advocating the separation of church and state.

"What is really telling is that this website was born out of the terrorism attacks of 9/11," said Ellen Johnson, president of American Atheists. "So the ques-

tion remains, where was God on 9/11? God doesn't care because there is no God. I mean, God was not there to save anybody. God just let those buildings come down. As a rational person—I like to think of myself as a rational person—I think this is just a total waste of time."

Johnson said she believes *Continued On Next Page*



read the chronicle!

Continued From
Page 10

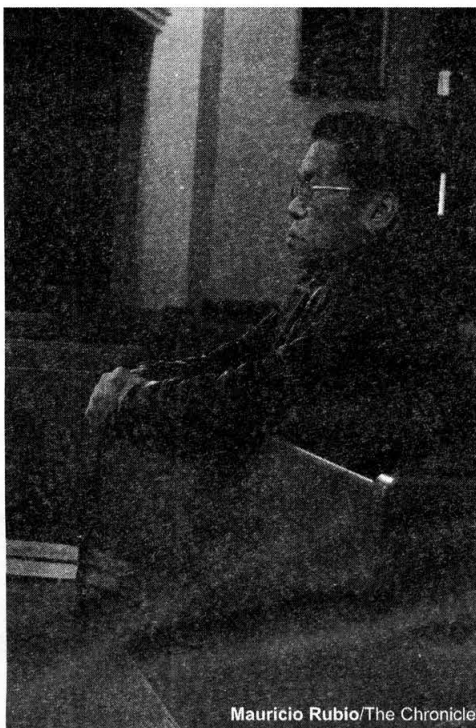
praying for sick children in hospitals is a better cause than praying for the president, who she believes is one of the worst in the nation's history.

Associate professor John McCarthy of Loyola University Chicago's Theology Department sees a different cause for alarm.

"People seem to feel compelled in civil religious ceremonies to identify God and the country, and that can be a very dangerous identification," McCarthy said. "The association of neoconservative politics with various forms of Christian evangelicalism, as well as various forms of Jewish Zionism, has created the potential for a blurring the lines between religion and politics."

McCarthy believes that when religion and political structures become too close to one another, the separation of church and state begins to deteriorate. McCarthy illustrates this point by referring to the comments TV evangelist Pat Robertson made toward Ariel Sharon in early January. Robertson said he believed Sharon's stroke was caused by the hand of God rather than Sharon's poor health.

Although McCarthy does not think that Robertson's comments are anything new, he does believe that



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

Above: The Presidential Prayer Team claims that three million people pray for the president like this man at St. Leonard's Chrush, 2605 Clarence Ave., Berwyn, Ill.

the media attention surrounding Robertson and the Presidential Prayer Team is something that has not happened before.

"It's not so much that anything has changed, but the media has been able to publicize what an individual's comments will be, and thus the length between religion and

media can make what 30 years ago would have been exactly the same comment—they can make it much more volatile today, much more effective today," McCarthy said. "I think that if I would say anything in the change of Christianity, it's that it's very media aware."

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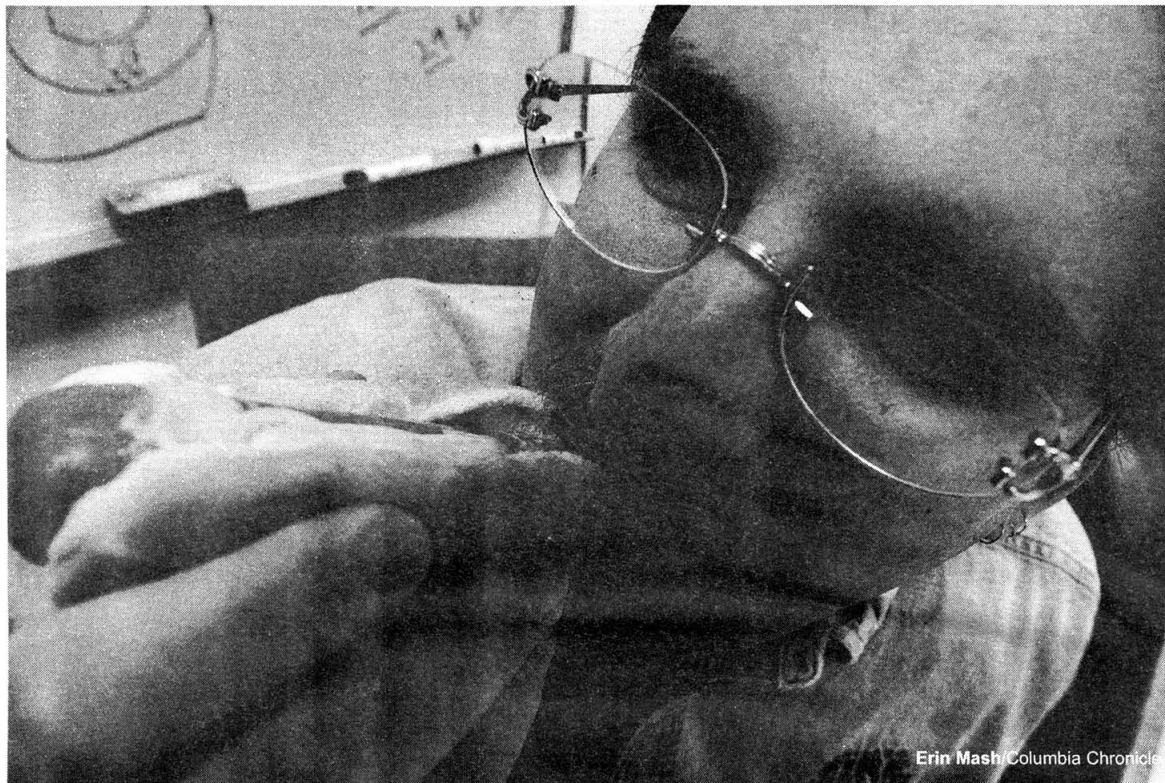
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Erin Mash/Columbia Chronicle

Dave McCarty would like to see one of the largest science fiction conventions in the world return to Chicago and hopes that voters will find his offer just as enticing as a Chicago hot dog.

Sci-fi: Chicago bidding for sci-fi convention

Continued From Front Page

McCarty said the campaigning process for the Worldcon involves a lot of time and money. The bidding season for future Worldcons begins two years before the event, which is the time for bidders to pitch their platform for hosting the large-scale convention to voters.

Many candidates set up bid parties at other conventions around the world in hopes of gaining support from voters, who are members of the World Science Fiction Society.

"The bid party portion of the whole process has turned out to be very important," said Chaz

Boston Baden, who is the head webmaster for the 2006 Worldcon in Los Angeles and organizes daily newsletters for such events. "If you can't handle getting half a dozen people together to host a party, [then] why should we trust you with something that's a lot harder to run?"

These bid parties can also have themes. The theme for the Chicago bid parties is "To Serve Fan," which was inspired by the "Twilight Zone" episode "To Serve Man." This "Twilight Zone" episode was written by Rod Serling and was based on a short story by Damon Knight. This ironic tale was about large-headed humanoid aliens, known as Kanamits, who wanted to take human beings back to their planet in order to give them many of the advanced technologies they had discovered. The Kanamits, for some reason or another, leave a large book in the possession of the U.S. government. The title of

the book is decoded as reading "To Serve Man," a cookbook on preparing human beings as entrees. Unfortunately, the discovery was made after the Kanamits began shipping humans back to their planet.

"'To Serve Fan' seemed like a nice little play on words," McCarty said. "It's nice to have a theme for the bid because it gives you something to unify around rather than just 'Hey, we'd like to bring the Worldcon to a particular city.'"

Members of the current Worldcon are also members of the World Science Fiction Society, which is an unincorporated literary society that aims at promoting science fiction through Worldcon as well as the Hugo Awards, which is an award bestowed to the best-written work of science fiction or fantasy to come out in the previous year.

"That's one of the major points of the event," McCarty said. "Every year we give out the

Hugos and they're basically the science fiction equivalent of the Academy Awards."

Past Hugo winners include such novels as Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*, Philip K. Dick's *Man in the High Castle* and J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*. Hugo Awards are also given to short stories, novellas, "dramatic presentations"—which includes movies and television shows—and fanzines.

"The Hugos have an incredible history of being right about what's been really good," McCarty said. "Things that they were picking as the best story 40 or 50 years ago are things that people still read."

In addition to the announcement of the Hugo Awards, the winner of the 2008 bid will be announced during the 64th Worldcon in Los Angeles, which takes place during Aug. 23 to 27.

McCarty feels confident about the Chicago bid and sees many good reasons for bringing the Worldcon to Chicago for the seventh time.

"We've had a lot of brilliant writers from Chicago [and] folks that have had their careers come through Chicago," McCarty said. "Knowing that we've got authors here like Fredrick Pole or Mike Resnick, these are big names in the field of guys who are still alive and still writing. That brings folks around."

Although Chicago's history with science fiction may entice many voters, Ben Yalow thinks it is far too early to tell who will be awarded the 2008 Worldcon. Yalow is a part of a committee that oversees the proper usage of the terms "Worldcon" and "World Science Fiction Convention."

"I'm not prepared to handicap the race just yet," Yalow said. "Certainly Chicago has done a very credible job of making themselves a very viable presence considering [the city] has held the Worldcon six times, which is more than any city."



Courtesy Dave McCarty

'To Serve Fan': The Chicago bid parties, themed after the 'Twilight Zone' episode 'To Serve Man,' are thrown at other conventions around the world to raise support from voters.

Sci-Fi Cons a-go-go

Conventions in the Chicagoland area

Aside from Worldcon, there are a plethora of conventions in the Midwest to attend. Here is a short list.

Capricorn

This science fiction convention is a part of the University of Fandom and takes place Feb. 9 to 12 at the Sheraton Chicago Northwest, 3400 W. Euclid Ave., in Arlington Heights. For more information, call (847) 394-2000.

Anime Central

The Midwest Anime and Manga Convention takes place May 5 to 7 and will be held at Hyatt Regency O'Hare and the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 5555 N. River Road, in Rosemont, Ill. For more information, call (847) 696-1234.

Duckcon

This convention, which cleverly combines the words "duck" and "con," will be held June 9 to 11 at the Naperville Holiday Inn, 1801 N. Naper Blvd., and convention goers can take part in the Sunday Champagne Brunch for only \$15.95. For more information, e-mail the Duckcon at info@duckcon.org.

Wizard World ComicCon

The comic book-oriented magazine known as Wizard will host this three day convention starting Aug. 3 at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 5555 N. River Road. For more information, e-mail Wizard at conventions@wizarduniverse.com.

WindyCon

This two-day science fiction convention starts on Nov. 10 at the Wyndham O'Hare Hotel, 6810 N. Mannheim Road, in Rosemont, Ill. For more information, call (847) 310-0725.

The Chronicles of C.S. Lewis

Professors debate the meaning behind the creator of 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'

By Jenny Davis/The Daily Universe



Aslan the lion and Edmund Pevensie, played by Skandar Keynes, are two of the main characters in Andrew Adamson's film adaptation of C.S. Lewis' 'The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.'

A lion offering his own life on a stone altar and then coming to life again to help save a kingdom is part of the story line in the C.S. Lewis book, *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*. While it may sound like a Christian allegory, that may not be the case.

Paul Kerry, a Brigham Young University history professor, said the story was not written as Christian symbolism, but rather was motivated by images of Lewis' imagination and experiences of the author's own life.

"C.S. Lewis knew the technical term allegory," Kerry said. "If he wanted the story to be an allegory he would have included it in the title. The story started from images in his head, such as a fawn with an umbrella, a witch and a lion."

Lewis explained how he was motivated to write the story in his book, *Letters to Children*. In

response to his motives of the story he wrote:

"Some people seem to think that I began by asking myself how I could say something about Christianity to children, then fixed on the fairy tale as an instrument ... then drew up a list of basic Christian truths and hammered out 'allegories' to embody them. This is all pure moonshine."

Kerry said that to say the book is simply a Christian fable takes away much of the beauty of the story. He said that if people look at the book as having only a Christian theme, other important parts of the story are lost.

Kerry also said that experiences of Lewis' own life influenced the story. For example, Lewis himself was a professor who lived in the countryside and took in evacuee children during the bombings in England. Also, as a student and professor at the

universities of Oxford and Cambridge, he was deeply inspired by the beauty of the gardens and architecture of the buildings.

"Lewis lived much of his life in Oxford as a student and taught there for many years, then at Cambridge for many years," Kerry said. "He would eat his meals there; he even had worship services there. It was like a complete world, and these places are so magnificent that when you are there, it feels like it is a different world—like Narnia."

Kerry said that Lewis would have developed a close bond to his colleagues at Oxford and Cambridge, including colleague

J.R.R. Tolkien. The universities separated the professors into their respective colleges, so the professors felt they were on a mission together to find knowledge and wisdom, much like the characters in Lewis' stories. Kerry said that Lewis' life experiences, his intellect and also his strong convictions as a Christian come together in his writing.

Another Brigham Young University professor, Bruce Young, who teaches a class on Lewis, said he agrees that although the book has Christian themes, it is not just an illustration of Christian principles. KRT "Lewis calls it a 'supposal,'" Young said. "However, after

having talked about this for years with my students I can see that it really is a mix. It is symbolic, but at the same time it is also an imaginative supposal. It's a pretty complex thing, but at least it would be fair to say that it is not a simple allegory. It's not just a one-on-one correspondence when everything is referring to something else."

Carl Sederholm, a humanities professor at BYU, said Lewis thought with and through Christianity, which is why his work has Christian themes.

"I'm always reluctant to paint a straight allegory," he said. "But Christianity is there."

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AND CULTURE
Glass Pavilion Gallery, 1104 S. Wabash, 1st Floor, 6:00 - 8:00
PM

1/30

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REENACTMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS MARCH OF 1963
WITH LECTURE AND DISCUSSION BY THE COLUMBIA
COLLEGE CHICAGO GOSPEL CHOIR
Columbia College Chicago Music Center,
1014 S. Michigan, 1st floor, 12:00 - 1:20 PM

1/31

LECTURE: HOW AND WHY NEW ORLEANS JAZZ

CAME TO CHICAGO: DR. LAWRENCE GIBBY, PIONEER
OF THE JAZZ AND R&B MUSIC AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN
Columbia College Chicago Music Center, 1014 S. Michigan, 1st floor, 12:00
PM



2/2

EYES ON THE PRIZE PART ONE OF A THREE PART
SERIES AND PANEL DISCUSSION
623 S. Wabash, Room 405, 7:00 PM

2/6

PANEL DISCUSSION: AFTER THE STORM

Don Lerner, *Survivor: Katrina*, WMAQ/WRDQ and Dr. Carl Bell, local
organizer for *Disaster Allies* at Hurricane Katrina on Gulf Coast
disasters
1014 S. Wabash, 1st floor, 2:30-3:30 PM

2/7

ITANAFIXION'S BEES BAND

Columbia College Chicago Music Center, 1014 S. Michigan, 1st floor,
7:00 - 11:00 PM

2/9

BAPTIZED IN DIRTY WATER: RAP ARTIST DAVID BANNER SPEAKS
Ferguson Theatre, 609 S. Michigan, 1st floor, 8:00 PM



2/9

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Canary Center, 1101 S. 36th Wabash, 1st floor,
7:00 PM

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advance, 623 S. Wabash, 1st floor, Office A

2/13

LECTURE: BLACK CREOLE COMPOSERS OF NINETEENTH-
CENTURY NEW ORLEANS
LINDA SULLIVAN, ACTIVIST FOR XAVIER UNIVERSITY
Harkin Hall, 623 S. Wabash, 1st floor, 7:00 - 8:00 PM

2/13

EYES ON THE PRIZE PART TWO
Ferguson Theatre, 609 S. Michigan, 1st floor, 7:00 PM

2/14

THE UNFOLD STORY OF EMMETT LOUIS
TILL, WITH DIRECTOR KETH BEALCHAMP
Film Box Gallery, 1104 S. Wabash,
2:00 - 8:00 PM



2/15

AIDS ACTIVIST RAE LEWIS THORNTON SPEAKS
Residence Hall, 731 S. Plymouth Ct., 8:00 PM

2/16

CONVERSATIONS IN THE ARTS:
UP CLOSE WITH JAMES EARL JONES
The Dance Center of Columbia College,
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available at www.litnetweb.com or call 866.408.1801



2/21 & 2/22

CERQUA RIVERA: TRIBUTE TO LOUIS ARMSTRONG
Columbia College Chicago Music Center, 1014 S. Michigan,
1st floor, 12:30 - 1:30 PM

2/21

EYES ON THE PRIZE PART THREE
623 S. Wabash, Room 405, 7:00 PM



2/23

MARDI GRAS MASQUERADE BALL

Canary Center, 1101 S. Wabash, 1st floor, 7:00 PM

2/24 & 2/25

CERQUA RIVERA: THE SHADOW OF THE BLUES
Columbia College Chicago Music Center, 1014 S. Michigan, Feb. 24
is at 8:00 PM and Feb. 25 is at 7:30 PM. Tickets are \$18 - \$22

2/27

KATRINA FROM AFAR: ORAL HISTORIES OF THE
CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN, AND FRIENDS OF
THE SOUTH

Harkin Gallery, 623 S. Wabash, 1st floor, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM



2/28

BOOK READING: LERONE BENNETT, JR.
COLUMBIA COLLEGE TRUSTEE AND EXECUTIVE EDITOR EMERITUS
EBONY MAGAZINE
Columbia College Chicago Boardroom, 624 S. Michigan Ave., 1st floor,
2:00 PM

2/28

FAT TUESDAY: A TASTE OF NEW ORLEANS

Harkin Annex, 623 S. Wabash, 1st floor, 5:00 - 9:00 PM

3/15

THE NEW BLACK MUSIC REPERTORY ENSEMBLE

Harkin Theater for Music and Dance, 8:00 PM, tickets \$15

All events are free and open to the public, unless specified otherwise. For more info,
visit www.colu.edu or contact the department or host event.

Reviews

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥
Jason Collett
Idols in Exile

Jason Collett stepped away from Broken Social Scene to create a safe but pleasant acoustic pop album in *Idols in Exile*. It may be nothing new, but it makes for relaxing background music. Currently on tour with fellow BSS member Feist, Collett will be at Park West on 1/27.
— T. Burbo



♥ ♥
Mark Bilyeu
First One Free

First One Free is Mark Bilyeu's debut album as a soloist away from his hillbilly band Big Smith. It's filled with music that would most likely be found at a modern day honky-tonk. This album is good in small doses when one feels the need for modest, deep country crooning.
— T. Breyne



♥ ♥ ♥
Queens of the Stone Age
Over the Years...

Although it might disappoint fans to hear that *Songs for the Deaf* drummer Dave Grohl is left out of this recording, *Over the Years* and *Through the Woods* is nevertheless a worthy purchase for any fan. The album is well mixed for a live recording, and captures the intensity of a QOTSA show perfectly.
— T. Burbo



♥ ♥
Mister Miracle #3
Grant Morrison

Grant Morrison's take on Jack Kirby's Mister Miracle seems a bit underwhelming compared with Morrison's take on other Kirby characters like Klarion the Witch Boy and the Guardian, which is sad considering Mister Miracle is an escape artist who can free himself from anything. Such a character surely deserves better treatment.
— H. Claus



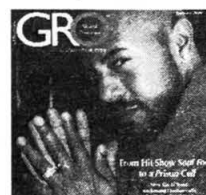
♥ ♥
Vanity Fair
February Issue

Vanity Fair gained hype with its article exposing Lindsay Lohan's kindred collapse, drug abuse and bulimia—as well as her freckled physique. Celebrity exploitation aside, the issue offers a scrutinizing look at Air Marshals' fight against airborne terrorism, a profile of U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald and an article about an auto magnate's cocaine overdose while partying with transsexual prostitutes.
— M. Finkler



♥ ♥ ♥
Grand Overview
February Issue

If you're craving a magazine similar to *Echo*, GRO is the way to go with its simplistic design and minimal advertising to flip through. GRO is new to the area and features stories about local issues and events that give new perspective to the love-city we call home.
— T. Breyne



♥ ♥ ♥ ♥
Scrubs
NBC's, Tuesday, 8 p.m.

The staff of Sacred Heart Hospital looks like it will continue to deliver this season. Season Five of "Scrubs" kicked off Jan. 17 in an inexplicable midseason return and sated fan cravings with hilarious back-to-back episodes. The show's trademark offbeat—and sometimes ridiculous—sense of humor is still going strong.
— J. Fischer



♥ ♥ ♥ ♥
Radiohead: The Astoria
London Live

Filed in 1994 at London's famed Astoria Theatre, just before the release of the band's second album, *The Bends*, this DVD is well worth it for anyone interested in an hour and eight minutes of pre-Kid A Radiohead. Bleach-blond hair parted down the middle never seemed so original.
— J. Ewert



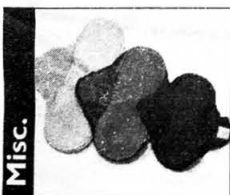
♥ ♥ ♥ ♥
Broken Flowers

In an excellent drama from writer/director Jim Jarmusch, suave bachelor Don Johnston (Bill Murray) receives an anonymous letter informing him that he has a 19-year-old son he has never met. The mystery causes Johnston to embark on a cross-country trip to track down old girlfriends and find the mother of his son.
— J. Jaworski



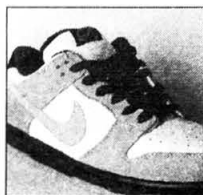
♥ ♥
Lunapads
Lunapads

OK, not gonna lie, no one at *The Chronicle* has used these (at least who has admitted it). Praised by die-hard Earth loving females out there, Lunapads are washable menstrual cloths that keep garbage out of your landfills and comfort in your crotch during that infuriating time of the month.
— T. Breyne



♥ ♥ ♥ ♥
Don't Tread Dunk
Nike

To help promote their "Don't Tread on Me" U.S. soccer campaign, Nike has released the "Don't Tread" Dunk, available exclusively online. Although the shoes' colors are customizable, the standard red and black snake-skin-textured leather is blazing hot.
— T. Burbo



♥ ♥ ♥ ♥
Star Wars Battlefront II
Lucas Arts

Star Wars games usually sound incredibly dorky, but *Star Wars Battlefront II* is well worth it. In addition to ground missions, players can also duke it out in space with an assortment of vehicles from the films. Throughout the game, players can choose to play on any side of the battles: rebel, empire—even as the lame prequel droid army.
— H. Claus



Premium Blend

Taking a closer look at Chicago's local bands

Marriage and children tend to put a damper on a hopping social life, but *The Countdown* doesn't let that stop them from doing what they love. Steve Denekas and Tamar Berk, a.k.a. Stiff and Roxie Starr, performed their first show as *The Countdown* in 2003, got married, had a child and still manage to pump out their individual style of new wave rock with a brush of '80s glamour.

Chronicle: How did you guys come up with your sound, and how would you describe it to people?

Roxie: Ten years ago I was writing music for a sci-fi rock opera, so I wrote all these songs—really weird and psycho—and I told [Stiff], you should hear this stuff; it's really fucked up. He liked it, so we rerecorded it and that was the beginning.

Stiff: I say, take Big Black and mix it with Gary Numan and the Tubeway Army. That's the best way to describe it.

You guys have a drum machine. Have you ever thought about getting an actual drummer?

R: We're not completely anti-drummer; it's just *The Countdown* sounds the way it is because of the drum machine. Plus we rarely practice together. It just makes sense for us, and we definitely try to top each other at shows—who's gonna be weirder, more fucked up. Plus if we fight, it would be awkward for that third person.

You guys have a baby and other jobs. Why do *The Countdown* too?

R: Our first year playing we had quite a bit of shows,

then not a lot when we recorded. And then I was pregnant and we didn't play at all. We played our first show five months after the baby, and I was like, "I miss this—we can't stop playing." We both have day jobs, but if some major label came around and gave us money we'd do *The Countdown* totally. We're trying to figure it out. It's a great band. We get to hang out. It's just us; it fits into our car.

How would you describe your performance as *The Countdown*?

R: For me, I always say I'm gonna top myself from the last show. We're for outcasts, for degenerates, people who feel fucked over. There's an anti-corporate vibe, a vibe going on where you feel like that too. It's not hateful music; it's about frustration. It's pent up angst and anxiety and aggression.

S: We play once a month and save up all that energy and let it go for 30 minutes. It's the only way to let go, and it's awesome to put that out. I'm from Sioux City, [Iowa], where 300 kids were freaking out for every band that came there. Here, people just look at you. It made me develop an over-the-top stage thing—just freak out if people just stare. You have to entertain.

The Countdown has one album titled "Scratch and Sniff" and are hoping to record a new full-length album soon. To hear and learn more, go to www.thecountdown.net.

— T. Breyne

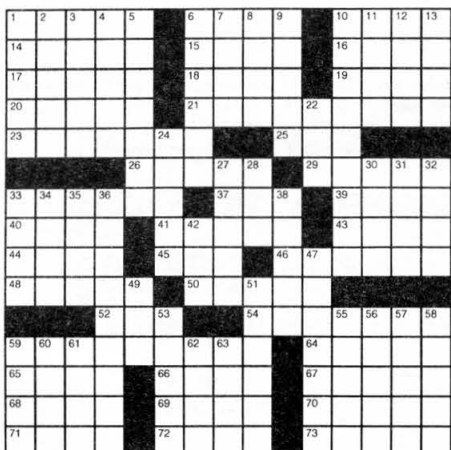
The Countdown



Courtesy *The Countdown*

Crossword

- ACROSS
 1 Deep gorge
 6 Con's knife
 10 Mine car
 14 "Giant" ranch
 15 Final passage
 16 Tortoise rival
 17 Remove sail supports
 18 Voiced
 19 As soon as
 20 Derision
 21 Offensive barrage
 23 Most on edge
 25 Tax agcy.
 26 Iron Mike
 29 Bivouacs
 33 Associate familiarly
 37 Team cheer
 39 Genesis man
 40 Opera song
 41 Architect Jones
 43 Comic Carvey
 44 Cicatrix
 45 Lofting tennis shot
 46 SSS word
 48 Angel hair or zit
 50 Small songbird
 52 Pioneer TV-movie channel
 54 Sickly pallor
 59 Good dishes, perhaps
 64 Gold measure
 65 Holm oak
 66 Bard's river
 67 Madonna movie
 68 Trunk spare
 69 Tear apart
 70 Happen again
 71 Son of Seth
 72 Under sail
 73 Palm blows
- DOWN
 1 Pizza part
 2 Consequently
 3 Copland or Burr
 4 Begins moving
 5 Ignition-system element
 6 Skeddaddles
 7 Rhino weapon
 8 McKinley and Lupino



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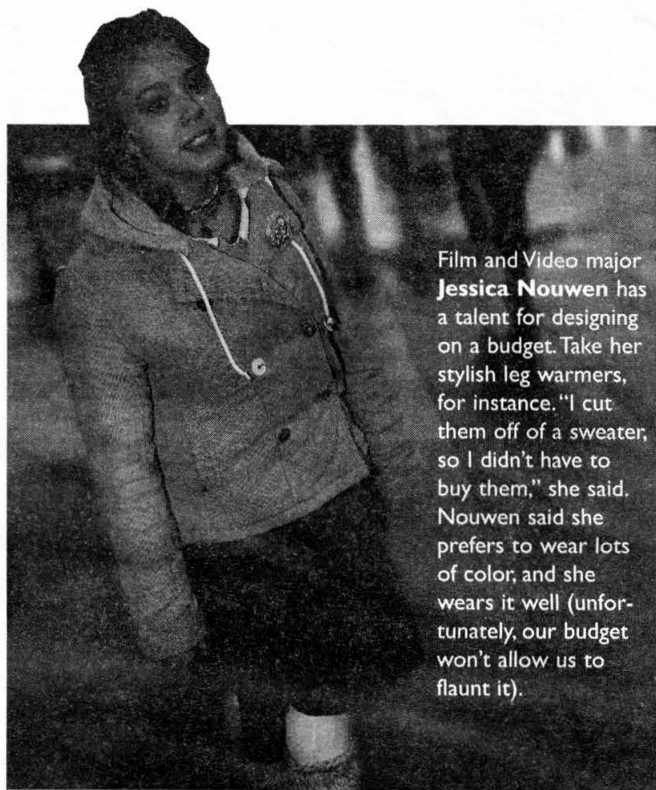
- 9 Frankie of The Four Seasons
 10 Cast of —
 11 Pealed
 12 St. Louis landmark
 13 Track gathering
 22 Trajectory
 24 Actress Thorndike
 27 Pygmy antelope
 28 Sould persistently
 30 Ring around a castle
 31 Glazier's item
 32 Deception
 33 Necklace fastener
 34 Black-and-white whale
 35 Partisanship
 51 Kigali's country
 53 "Lovey Childs" author
 55 Type of orange
 56 Writer Jong
 57 Stopped slouching
 63 Nary a one

Solutions



to the nines

fashion@columbia



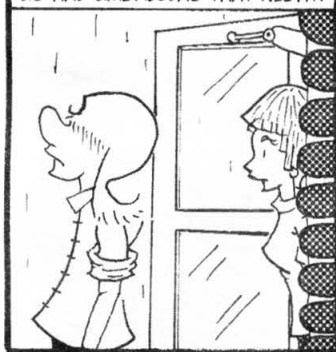
Film and Video major **Jessica Nouwen** has a talent for designing on a budget. Take her stylish leg warmers, for instance. "I cut them off of a sweater, so I didn't have to buy them," she said. Nouwen said she prefers to wear lots of color, and she wears it well (unfortunately, our budget won't allow us to flaunt it).

Michael Jarecki/The Chronicle

Out of My Head

by **Scotty Carlson**

WE WERE LEAVING THE RESTAURANT TO WALK HOME WHEN IT STARTED TO RAIN. NEITHER OF US HAD UMBRELLAS THAT NIGHT.



I WAS ABOUT TO HAIL A CAB WHEN MY DATE POINTED OUT HOW BEAUTIFUL THE EVENING WAS, AND HOW NICE IT MIGHT BE TO WALK HOME IN THE RAIN.



© scott carlson, 2006.

Buy the official book at www.cafepress.com/theoof

IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL NIGHT, ONE OF GREAT DISTRACTION. EVEN WITH THE RAIN, IT WAS THE KIND OF NIGHT I KNEW WOULDN'T COME ALONG OFTEN.



THAT'S PROBABLY WHY I CHOSE THAT EVENING TO TELL HER THE RELATIONSHIP JUST WASN'T WORKING.



horoscopes

by Alicia Dorr



Aries (March 21 – April 20): When you see a roach crawling across the floor at the Shedd Aquarium this week, you will crush it on instinct. Little did you know, the "Bugs of the Amazon" exhibit is missing their prized endangered roach.



Taurus (April 21 – May 21): You're a bean!



Gemini (May 22 – June 21): A new job will knock you off your feet. It will be especially embarrassing because you're babysitting, and the kid is four.



Cancer (June 22 – July 23): Your unending fascination with old buildings will lead you into a strange alley this week, where you will run into a soothsayer who will say something astonishing about your future. But I can't tell you what she said.



Leo (July 24 – Aug. 23): A small rock from the sky will hit you on the head while you're walking to class this week, and you will go into a deep coma, forever known as "The dude/chick who went into a coma after being hit by a meteorite."



Virgo (Aug. 24 – Sept. 23): Treat yourself to some new shoes this week instead of more rare Star Wars figurines. You and I both know George Lucas is insane, so stop paying the mortgage for Skywalker Ranch.



Libra (Sept. 24 – Oct. 23): People sometimes avoid you in public, and you don't know why. I have a theory: Maybe it's the constant "WOOOO"ing everywhere you go.



Scorpio (Oct. 24 – Nov. 22): You will forget to smile while getting Botox this week and forever look completely pissed off.



Sagittarius (Nov. 23 – Dec. 21): No one knows where the hobo goes when it snows. Except you, and you will be interviewed in several magazines this week because of it.



Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 20): Your future as a narc looks bleak. Why are you going to Columbia for that anyway?



Aquarius (Jan. 21 – Feb. 19): You are so smart it hurts my feelings.



Pisces (Feb. 20 – Mar. 20): You will fail this week at keeping your New Year's resolution to go to class, preventing you from reading this horoscope, which otherwise may have prevented the aforementioned failure.

New Year. New Opportunities.

MANIFEST 06 PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHER

Under the supervision of the [C]Spaces Director and the Visual Communication Coordinator, the Manifest 06 Project Photographer will shoot a series of images during the month of February to be used as the basis of the overall marketing campaign for Manifest 2006.

MANIFEST 06 MUSIC MANAGEMENT INTERN

Intern Position for AEMM Student Under the supervision of the [C]Spaces Director, the Technical Director, and the Manifest Coordinator, the Manifest Music Intern will focus on all duties related to marketing the student and professional bands playing at the festival, as well as helping to organize the performing stages at the festival.

MANIFEST 06 GALLERY ASSISTANT INTERN

Intern Position for AEMM Student Under the supervision of the [C]Spaces Director, the Gallery Coordinators, and the Manifest Coordinator, the Manifest Gallery Assistant Intern will play a vital role in the installation of exhibitions, staffing special events, and performing various tasks in the service of the festival.

MANIFEST 06 TECHNOLOGY INTERN

Under the supervision of the [C]Spaces Director and the Visual Communication Coordinator, the Manifest 06 Technology Intern will assist in web marketing and the coordination of digital assets and workflow integral to the planning and promotion of Manifest.

MANIFEST 06 MARKETING INTERN

Intern Position for AEMM Student Under the supervision of the [C]Spaces Director, Assistant to the Director and the Manifest Coordinator, the Manifest 05 Marketing Intern will concentrate on marketing and promoting end-of-year events to the Columbia College and South Loop communities, and will play a vital role in organizing the festival.

For Complete job descriptions, visit:
<http://cspaces.colum.edu/getinvolved.php>

Please send all internship resumes and cover letters to:
 CarolAnn Brown, Director
 [C]Spaces/Glass Curtain Gallery
 1104 S. Wabash, 1st Floor
 Chicago, IL 60605

COMING SOON!

CALL FOR MANIFEST STUDENT BANDS, TICTOC PERFORMERS, SPECTACLE WORKSHOPS, STUDENT ARTWORK, AND MORE!

WANT TO CURATE A SHOW AT HOKIN GALLERY, C33 OR GLASS CURTAIN GALLERY?



PROPOSAL DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 15!

The [C]Spaces Curatorial Review Board will soon be reviewing proposals for the 2006-2007 exhibition calendar.

WHO SHOULD SUBMIT A PROPOSAL?

Students, faculty and staff, or outside organizations and individuals who have a compelling curatorial idea and the energy to see it through.

QUESTIONS?

Neysa Page-Lieberman
 312.344.7696
cspaces@colum.edu

TO PROPOSE A SHOW, PLEASE VISIT:

<http://cspaces.colum.edu/getinvolved>

DEADLINE FEBRUARY 15
DROP OFF MATERIALS AT THE HOKIN GALLERY

Deadline February 15, 2006!

manifest

URBAN ARTS FESTIVAL 2006

Mark your calendars...Manifest is May 12, 2006!

Sense and Sensibility

The late novelist Charles Bukowski, no stranger to alcohol abuse, once said, "We are here to laugh at the odds and live our lives so well that Death will tremble to take us." While this may be inspirational to some, for most, when dealing with death, grief is the natural response. And that emotion can be instantly exposed when it occurs within our college community in the South Loop.

The untimely deaths last semester of Joshua Kanapackis, 27, Jason Zarka, 21, and Owen Odgie, 19, posed new questions about the fragility of life and how the college community should deal with such events. Additionally, since two of the deaths were allegedly substance related and in school housing facilities, questions of student responsibility have been raised.

Columbia student Kanapackis died at a party last year at the 2 E. 8th St. apartment complex. He had been drinking, but toxicology reports have not yet confirmed alcohol poisoning as the cause of death. Zarka, a DePaul University student, died in his dorm room at the University Center of Chicago from an apparent heroin overdose, and Odgie, a Roosevelt University student, also died in his dorm room, in the Herman Crown Center, 425 S. Wabash Ave., from causes still unknown.

DePaul, Roosevelt, and Columbia all share this grief

just as the University Center was created with the three schools sharing in the college experience. And students need to be aware of all the options available to them, should they require help dealing with issues such as death, depression or simply the need for somebody to talk to.

One such outlet available to students that Columbia offers are its Counseling Services in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave. Licensed professionals in the fields of psychology, social work and counseling provide a forum to discuss sensitive issues that troubled students might be going through.

While therapy can be an effective, beneficial solution for some students, discussing personal issues is not as attractive an option for everyone.

Columbia has prided itself on stressing its commitment to the arts, and many students find personal solace in expressing their opinions and emotions through their preferred media.

Additionally, the numerous galleries on campus provide opportunities to gain inspiration and spend time with friends.

Columbia also has numerous student organizations that allow us to meet new people and make new friends during time outside the classroom.

These options are all free from alcohol or other illegal substances. Still, we should not deny that to many stu-

dents, an essential part of the college experience involves situations with exposure to those vices. And an essential part of maturity comes in knowing how to properly handle those situations.

Three deaths within one semester causes concern, but should not lead to any panic that all students are incapable of partaking in social occasions in a responsible fashion.

Roosevelt, DePaul and Columbia can certainly raise awareness about the risks of all forms of substance abuse. But alcohol consumption is considered a rite of passage for some students having recently left home, and the transition and newfound freedom in their trek through college can still be fun without being dangerous.

Columbia is officially a dry campus, and all students are prohibited from drinking alcohol in the dorms or on school property. This restriction is both understandable and unrealistic. In a community that is home to three different schools, students of all ages will make friends of all ages.

It isn't entirely possible to prevent the devil-may-care attitudes of some students, or even eliminate the rebellious nature that is often associated with college youth. Students will make mistakes, but most will learn from them. While this is human nature and part of growing up, we can further make use of some of the options Columbia makes available to help us live our lives so well.

Chicago starts to breathe it all in

The city of Chicago took its first step toward joining the nation's smoke-free communities last week, and while the ban did not impose a total snuff-out, it was a significant accomplishment all the same.

Chicago's anti-smoking ordinance had been the subject of intense debate between public health advocates and members of the hospitality industry throughout most of 2005. The ban's initial variety of public places includes such areas as building lobbies, sports arenas and restaurants without bar areas.

But the city deserves credit for allowing owners of bars and taverns a little time before being forced to comply as well. Nobody would portray establishments that accommodate smokers as being particularly healthy areas to spend time, but many of us should appreciate the rights of free enterprise

and business owners' decisions to serve the needs of their clientele.

There are still questions about how vigorously the city will enforce some of the new rules smokers will have to follow—namely prohibiting smokers from lighting up within 15 feet of a building's entrance. It would seem that under the new rule, the ashtrays shouldn't be located within 15 feet either.

But we realize that the ban is new for all of us, and most of the bugs will be worked out of the system as we adjust to a smoke-free city. Prohibiting smoking in public places has been a dicey issue for all communities that have decided to enforce a ban, but the result has generally been well-received in major metropolitan areas like New York City and entire states like California. Even entire European countries, such as Italy and Ireland, have adopted similar

measures. And just one day after Chicago's ordinance went into effect, the city council in Illinois' capital, Springfield, enacted its own ban as well.

Smokers admittedly get a raw deal nowadays, sent out to the streets with a habit that is already burdened with taxes. But beyond the complaints of eye irritation or the smell of smoke still lingering in hair and clothes, the bottom line is that smoking is a longer form of suicide. And worse yet, the effects of "passive," or second hand, smoke is harmful to those around smokers.

Chicago's new smoking ban didn't entirely wipe it out of every public place, but the places it did make smoke-free for now make them healthier environments for all of us. We'll have to wait to see how certain businesses in the city are affected, but so far the results look (and smell) good.

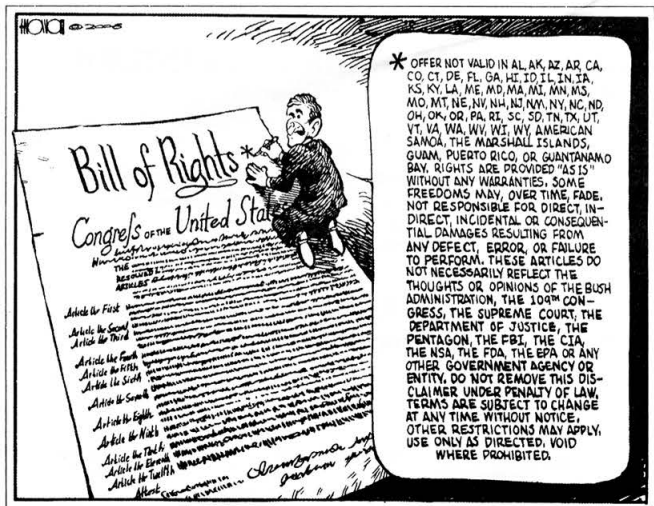
BACK FROM THE DRAWING BOARDS



Nate Beeler/KRT



Dan Carino/KRT



Terrence Nowicki/KRT

Have an opinion about something you read on these pages? Did you catch a mistake, think we could have covered a story better or believe strongly about an issue that faces all of us here at Columbia?

Why not write a Letter to the Editor? At the bottom of Page 15 you'll find a set of guidelines on how to do this. Let us hear from you.

—The Columbia Chronicle Editorial Board

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Alito's qualified and confirmed—deal with it

By Derek Strum
Commentary Editor

Let's just call it what it is: the world's longest, most boring job interview. Supreme Court hearings nowadays are a far cry from the line of questioning Clarence Thomas went through, fielding questions from senators about whether he had mentioned public hair in Coke or a porn star named Long Dong Silver in conversations with a law professor from the University of Oklahoma.

Sure, there were questions about Samuel Alito's views on executive power and his involvement in the Concerned Alumni of Princeton, a group with some rather racist and sexist views. But when Alito's wife, Martha-Ann Bomgardner, fled the hearings in tears, the moment felt as scripted as the entire process.

Just to clear things up, Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) apologized to the nominee for the supposedly tough questioning and then asked Alito if he was a bigot. "I'm not any kind of bigot," Alito replied. And that was that.

Surprises really shouldn't be expected from President Bush's nominees. When he introduced Alito on Halloween, it was well-known that the Third Circuit judge was not just dressed up as a conservative. No, unlike the previous nominee who was propped up to absorb immediate venom, Harriet Miers, Alito is the real deal.

Naturally, there was instant skepticism about whether a guy nicknamed "Scalito" would be the best type of judge to replace the more moderate Sandra Day O'Connor. There's been repeated reference to O'Connor's role as the crucial "swing" vote on the

nine-member high court, but most of the debate about Alito's judicial philosophy outside the hearings consistently seemed to revolve heavily around one topic: abortion. You'd almost think the Supreme Court decides on nothing else.

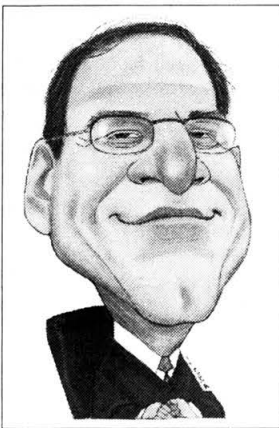
But last Wednesday, O'Connor wrote the decision that sent a New Hampshire parent-notification law back to a lower court, unanimously supported by the other eight justices. Nobody seems to be itching to talk about abortion.

Except, of course, for activist groups referring to themselves as "pro-choice." When the topic of Roe v. Wade came up not just with Alito, but at the hearings for Chief Justice John Roberts as well, I wished I was able to work up similar frustration. It's far from uncommon for even the most ardent pro-choice advocate to admit that the landmark 1973 decision was a bit of a reach for the Court's powers. But in addition to the shaky ground the abortion debate has been on ever since, the outrage of the Supreme Court moving even more to the right was a great thing to talk about, say, back in November 2004.

Even back in 2000, when Al Gore was running against Bush, there was some issue of which candidate would be responsible for nominating Supreme Court justices. But when Bush's first term ended without a vacancy, the health concerns of the court's sitting members raised the stakes. Going into the 2004 presidential election, Chief Justice William Rehnquist had been diagnosed with thyroid cancer. O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg were both cancer survivors. Thomas was the only justice who was not a senior citizen. The talk was that

the man who won the election could possibly appoint as many as four new justices, and thus affect the law for decades.

You would think that if abortion was as important a right to women as it's often said to be, that would have been better represented in the voting booth. But according to the U.S. Census, 20 million unmarried, eligible women voters decided not to cast a ballot in the last presidential election. Worse, if unmarried women had voted at the same rate as married women, there would have been 6 million additional votes. There could have been a different result, too.



KRT

But the Supreme Court wasn't as sexy of an issue as, say, gay marriage or "moral issues." So the sudden outcry from members of both the far-right and far-left about the significance of replacing O'Connor strikes me as arriving far too late. Not to mention being a bit melodramatic.

Since his second term began, Bush has had to appoint two new justices. It is neither surprising

nor illogical for the president to pick nominees who will represent his legacy. Bush's party controls both houses of Congress, and he'd be an idiot not to try and cram through the ideologue we fully expected him to offer.

But Roberts replacing Rehnquist was hardly a change; a conservative for a conservative. And while O'Connor is seen as a moderate, that's just a nicer way of saying she wasn't as far to the right as the rest of the conservative wing of the court. Even assuming a more conservative court overturned Roe v. Wade, the decision wouldn't make abortion illegal, it would just return that decision to the states, where the shades of red or blue would grow even darker. The moment that the court would really change is when Bush would appoint a justice to replace an aging, liberal member, like 85-year-old Chicago native John Paul Stevens.

Should that day come, I hope the Democrats would remember to keep their questions short and pointed to produce lengthier answers and not vice-versa. The party has no chance of getting a nominee they'll be thrilled about, but there are also not many places the Democrats can point a finger of blame at except themselves. As Time Magazine's Joe Klein said about the Alito nomination back in November, during an appearance on ABC's "This Week": "He is a very well-respected and highly qualified conservative and if Democrats don't like judges like this, they should start winning elections."

And in a mid-term election year, if the critics denying Alito's eventual confirmation don't like judges like him, maybe they should start participating in them.

Roamin' Numerals

25 years

Number of years Joyce Urch had been blind before the 74-year-old woman suffered a heart attack. Urch awoke on Jan. 19 in Walgrave Hospital in Coventry, England, able to see again 16 months after the heart attack.

2,000

Pounds of human waste spilled onto Interstate 5 in Washington state on Jan. 17. A truck driver had to brake suddenly and much of the waste splashed over the cab, which was only covered by a cloth top.

\$100

Amount offered by a conservative alumni group at the University of California at Los Angeles to students who record lectures of professors considered to be the most left-wing of the faculty. The Bruin Alumni Association maintains a list of what it refers to as the "Dirty Thirty."

Look who shouldn't be talking

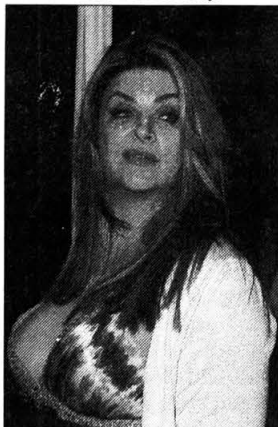
By Jennifer Sabella
Managing Editor

Some of us may remember her from classic films such as *Look Who's Talking*, *Look Who's Talking Too* and *Look Who's Talking Now*, but most of us remember her as the overstressed Rebecca Howe in the bar where everybody knows your name. In recent years, Kirstie Alley has gotten loads of press about her weight gain, weight loss and body in general, but this time it has gone too far.

Weight loss commercials and advertisements as a whole are ridiculous. It's either a super-buff, greased-up woman who has been living in a tanning bed for 10 years talking about how some pill gave her "these amazing results" or it's a fat, depressed woman who found her life again after discovering Trimspa. While I usually roll my eyes and realize that these ad campaigns are short on budget and concept, a recent Jenny Craig commercial made me livid.

Our favorite "fat actress" Alley prances across the screen, shouting about how she lost 50 pounds and—get this—now it's raining men. The

'80s hit "It's Raining Men" by the Weather Girls becomes the soundtrack as Alley is surrounded by hunky men in tuxedos fawning over her now more slender body.



KRT

Not only is it unreasonable to say that a woman must lose 50 pounds in order to find a man, but where are the men? In all of these commercials, it's always a woman feeling alienated because of her weight. Obesity affects men, women and

children—not just middle-aged women with withering self-esteem. While the commercial is cheesy, I can't help but think that somewhere women are affected by this. Some woman thinks that she is single because she could stand to lose a few pounds; some woman wants more than anything to be just a little thinner in order to "score" some beefcake.

While fat men walk arm in arm with their gorgeous girlfriends and wives, why are women left to beat themselves up over that doughnut they ate earlier? While obesity is something this country needs to get a grip on as a serious medical epidemic, why are advertisers playing mind games?

When I look around, I see heavier men who really don't care too much about being heavy. Sure, they're bothered by their weight, but it usually doesn't consume them. They are more likely to be confident and have a "take me as I am" aura about them. And that, not their size 40 pants, is what makes them attractive.

A woman can be beautiful, smart, funny and a size 14, and society sees her as a charity case. Not only

is it sexist, it's bullshit.

And while I'm strangely impressed with the whole Weight Watchers point system thing (a diet plan that actually makes a little bit of sense), its commercials are just as bad by making women feel inadequate. Cher's "This is a Song for the Lonely" is the soundtrack for one of the latest Weight Watchers ad campaigns.

All commercials are exaggerated versions of reality—this is common knowledge. The nature of advertising is making people feel bad about themselves in order to sell a product, as messed up as that is.

But obesity and heart disease affect all people, all races and all genders. Capitalizing on the way our society treats heavy women is not only wrong—it's inaccurately representing a problem that should be addressed by all people.

Maybe instead of having Alley dance around with a bunch of uber-fit men, there should be a dead body in a coffin with some text running across the bottom saying "Take care of yourself or this is where you're headed."

Dramatic? Perhaps. But that's advertising, right?

Choice Cuts



"We want people to love these cars but not in that way."

Jason Vines, vice president of communications for the Chrysler Group, commenting on the woman who posed nude atop the Dodge Challenger Concept at the Detroit auto show. Show officials are trying to determine how the individual(s) broke into the Cobo Center's show floor around 2:30 a.m. on Jan. 16.



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Press releases
Chronicle@colum.edu

Advertisements
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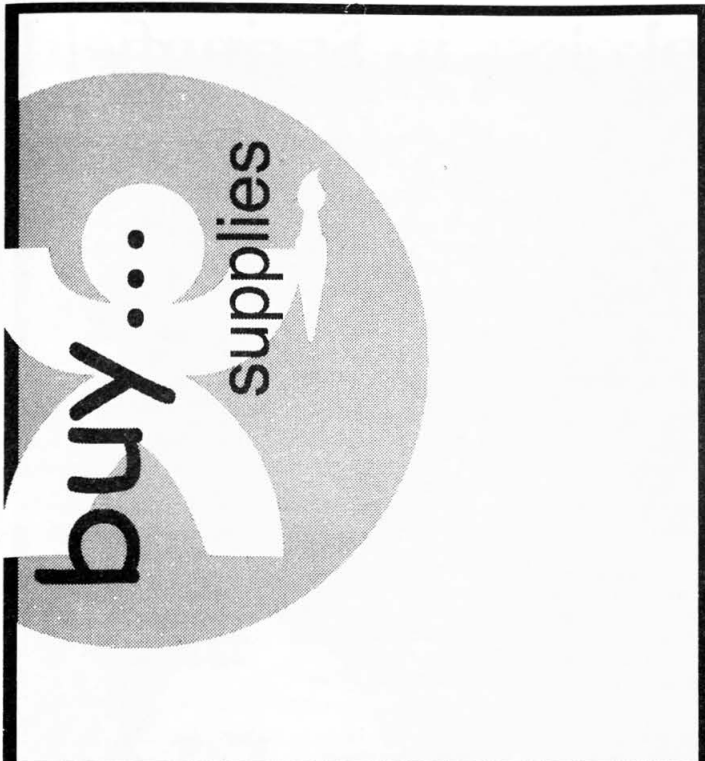
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Smokeless in Springfield

AP

Springfield is joining Chicago and going smoke-free in public places, including restaurants, bars and bowling alleys.

The Springfield City Council voted 6-4 on Jan. 17 to approve an ordinance prohibiting smoking in public places, one day after Chicago's public smoking ban took effect and the same night that an overflow crowd weighed in on a similar ban before the Normal City Council.

Springfield's taverns and restaurants with bars have until Sept. 17 to phase in the ordinance proposed by Mayor Tim Davlin.

"Clearly this has been a long campaign for all of us," said Alderman Bruce Strom, who voted for the smoking ban and proposed a similar ordinance last year. "This ordinance

protects the workers and patrons and families from secondhand smoke."

Davlin, whose brother owns two bars, originally opposed smoking restrictions, but a series of public hearings convinced him that the community wanted the ban.

"I'd ask that we vote yes on this and let us get this behind us," Davlin said to the aldermen before the vote.

Steve Riedl, executive director of the Illinois Licensed Beverage Association, said he was disappointed with the ban, but he declined to say whether the group would sue.

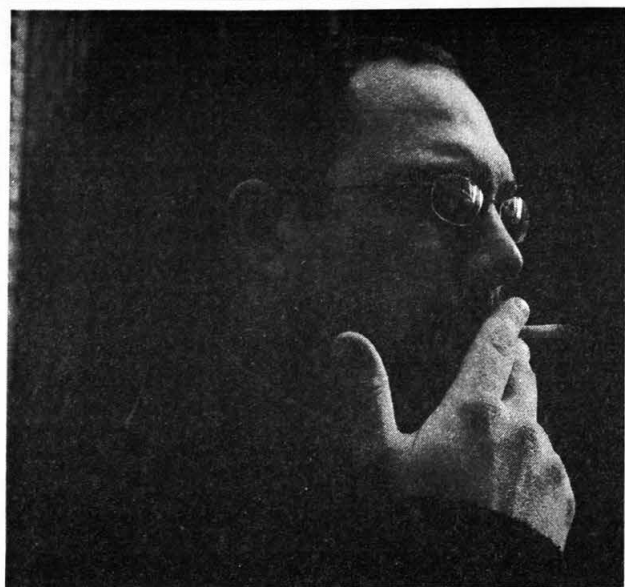
Meanwhile, in Normal, scores of people waited outside the city council's chamber on the night of the vote for a chance to speak about a smoking ban there. Speakers included bar owners, smokers

and members of the Smoke-Free Bloomington-Normal Coalition.

Springfield's ban includes indoor workplaces, like restaurants, bars, bowling alleys and private clubs. Exemptions include retail tobacco stores, some nursing home rooms, stage productions, hotel rooms and private homes not used for child or adult day care.

Smokers violating the ban face fines ranging from \$50 to \$300. Noncompliant businesses could be fined \$50 to \$500, depending on the number of violations. The city can also suspend businesses' operating licenses for five days.

A new state law went into effect Jan. 1 that allows Illinois towns to enact local smoking ordinances stricter than statewide restrictions.



AP

Chris Beukema, 29, from Oak Lawn, Ill., takes a smoke break outside his downtown Chicago office Jan. 16, the first day of the city's new smoking ban. Springfield approved a similar ban on Jan. 17, and the city has nine months to comply with the new ordinance.

Health: City to step up exercise initiatives

Continued from Back Page

Hadac said that an editor at Men's Fitness acknowledged that the survey wasn't very scientific. Hadac also said that Dr. Terry Mason, the recently appointed commissioner of the Chicago Department of Public Health, is going to increase the city's exercise and activities

programs.

"He's going to be rolling a lot of those plans in the weeks to come," Hadac said.

Houston, which held first place last year for fattest city, embarked on a program called Get Moving Houston. Herb Lipsman, who was appointed chairman of the Mayor's Wellness Council by Mayor Bill White, said that the listed cities, both fittest and fattest, do have a certain degree of weight problems.

"I believe that all 25 cities in

the list are guilty in the aspect [of unhealthiness]," Lipsman said.

Lipsman also said that Men's Fitness' city survey was not very scientific because the magazine tended to include all fast food restaurants, regardless of healthiness, like Subway, in its per capita ratios.

Lipsman said that the city's mission was to bring awareness and services to Houston. He also noted that this just wasn't a publicity stunt in response to the magazine's 2005 listing.

"In our first year we were very successful in calling the problem to the public's attention," Lipsman said. "We want to [now] develop and institutionalize wellness in the city of Houston."

For Irma Carmona, a 35-year-old receptionist in the Loop, the "fattest city" title is more about making money and pushing people into gyms than it is about exercise.

"I think what it really comes down to it is people [are] just trying to make money off of

other people," Carmona said. She does agree that people need to exercise, but said that it's difficult for many who have families.

Men's Fitness selected the 50 largest cities by population for its survey. The magazine conducted its survey from August 2005 to October 2005 measuring 17 categories including junk food outlets, alcohol consumption and recreation facilities.

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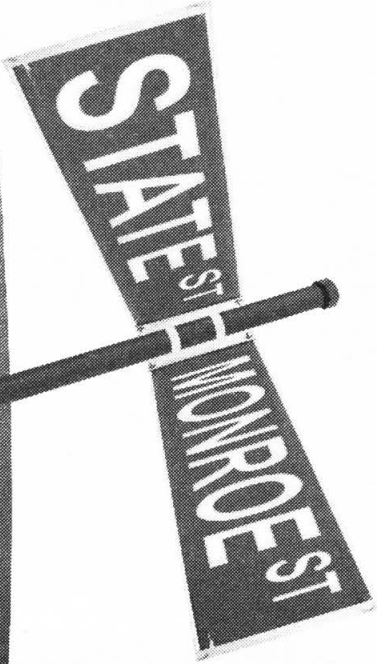
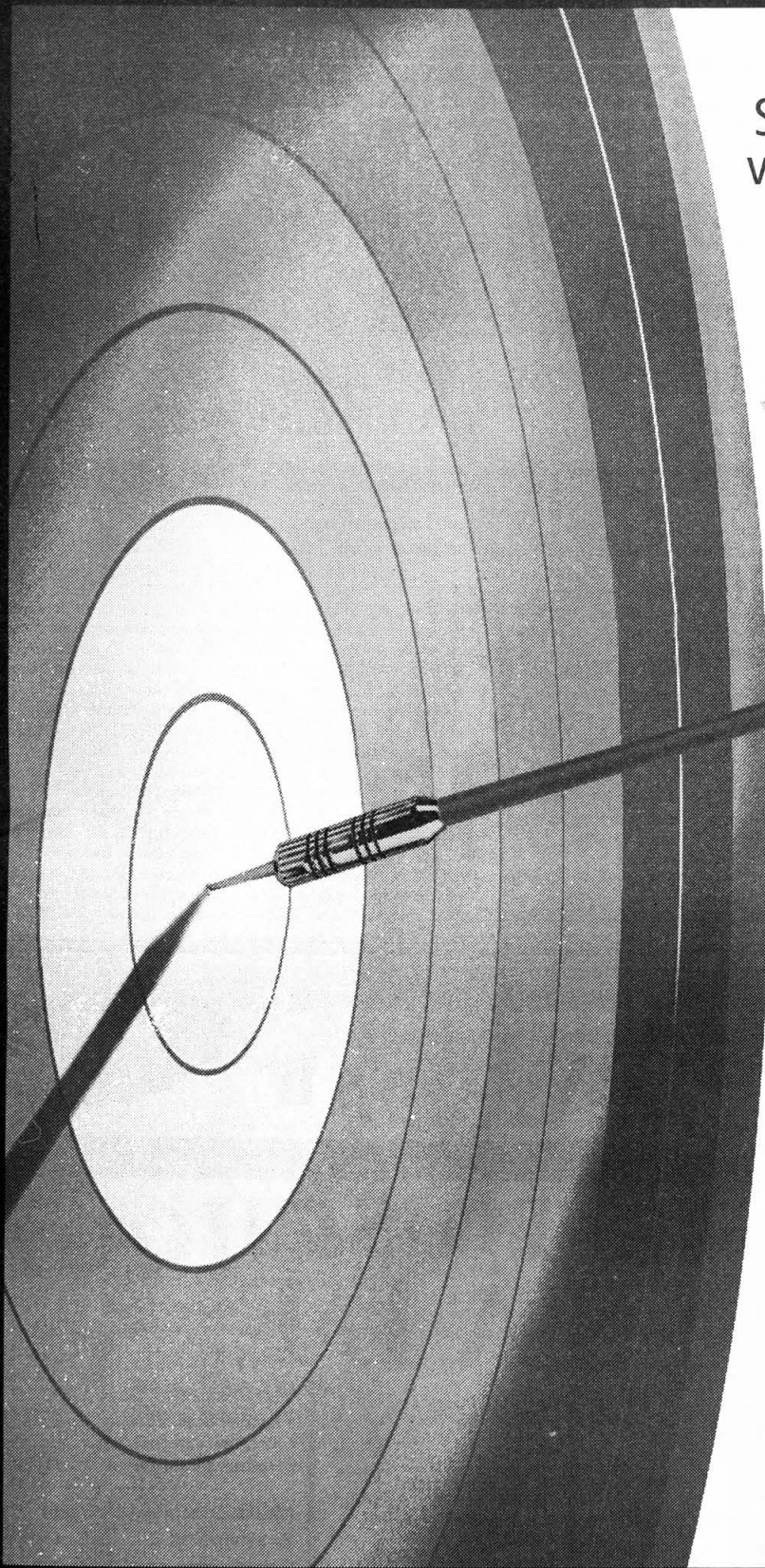
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On unstable ground

Finding a suitable home turned out to be a mission

By Alicia Dorr
Managing Editor

When plans for moving the Pacific Garden Mission from its home at 646 S. State St. to a place deeper in the South Loop were uncovered, plenty of people were happy. The facility would be brand-new and there are job opportunities in the area, which many people see as a plus-but not everyone.

A few blocks away from the new site, across the Dan Ryan Expressway, lies Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood. Nearly a year ago, when last November's groundbreaking was still just a goal, a group of Pilsen residents united against the mission's impending move close to their community and homes. They wanted the city to reconsider its decision to relocate the mission, and they had 500 signatures to prove they were not alone.

"We felt very strongly that the city had not done its research or homework with respect to such a large institution," said Martha Velez, chairwoman for The Concerned Citizens of the Pacific Garden Mission Relocation.

Surrounded by exponentially growing schools and real estate developments, the mission to many seemed like an anachronism in the place where it has been for about 80 years. But for more than a year,

Velez and many people in the Pilsen community have been reiterating what residents in the South Loop north of Roosevelt Road have been saying for years: We don't want the mission near our homes and children.

The city and mission officials came to their own agreement without Pilsen being involved, Velez said, and now, in a turn Velez calls "unfortunate" for taxpayers in Pilsen like her group, they are finally getting around to listening. Mary Vega, another core member of the Pilsen group, said that the main issue they have seen is a large number of people who might need mental or physical help being thrown into an area with no access to public transportation or adequate facilities.

To Alderman Madeline Haithcock, who has worked to keep the mission in her 2nd Ward, opponents in Pilsen's 25th Ward are upset for no reason.

"They think the homeless will go over there, but if anything they'll go where they know—the South Loop," Haithcock said. "They're people, just like everybody else."

Pilsen residents like Velez counter that they have already seen people "set up sleeping quarters underneath the expressway" for years.

"Madeline Haithcock could care less what impact it has on our community," Velez said. "She doesn't live it. She doesn't deal with it. She doesn't see it."

Caught in the middle are the mission residents. The mission is the only home some people have, it

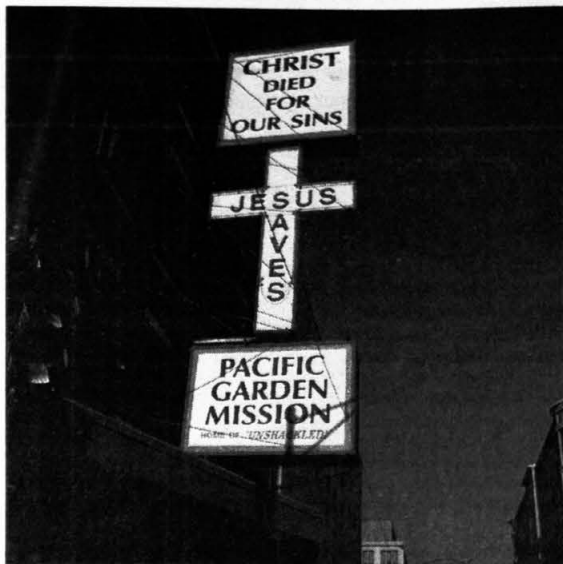
provided 803,000 free meals, or 2,200 per day, last year to those in need and sheltered an average of 624 per day between two facilities in Chicago, including the 955 W. Grand Ave. location for women and children.

And many of the residents are happy for the prospects the move will bring. The nearly empty plot where the mission will be built is flanked on all sides by a mostly industrial neighborhood, with UPS facility, a Metra station and a Dominick's food store to the north, all providing new employment possibilities for residents. Some believe it's simply a matter of misinformation that breeds fear of the mission in gentrifying neighborhoods.

But it is not just a misunderstanding of homeless people for the Pilsen group. Velez said while no one knows what will happen when the mission is actually up and running, for sure. However, the group found that the instances of crime by mission residents near its current location is high, and Velez said they do not want to see history repeat itself.

"We hope we're absolutely wrong," Velez said. "But if not, we need to make them aware and the community aware that we put these issues on the table. Because what's going to happen when that one child gets abused? What's going to happen when that one woman gets abused? One is too many, and it's going to be too late."

Vega said that the city chose the location because there are no mil-



Eric Davis/The Chronicle

Controversy is surrounding the move of the Pacific Garden Mission, 646 S. State St., from its current location to one near Pilsen. The shelter provides more than 2,000 meals a day for homeless people throughout Chicago.

lion dollar homes—or "million dollar opinions"—to run up against. The Pilsen neighborhood and University Village nearby are both changing and, like it or not, the mission is a threat, Vega said.

The state-of-the-art design with expanded programs and resources will be squeezed between one neighborhood that outgrew it and another that doesn't want to try, and Haithcock said that in her 12-year tenure in the ward, relocation has been a constant struggle. Vega said the group offered solutions like moving the mission to the West Side's medical district, where those in need would be closer to

transportation and facilities that could provide assistance.

The only consolation the group has been given from the city is an "alliance." According to the women, it will be an important liaison between the mission, the community and the city.

"At [this] point ... let us tell you what our issues are, [what] our concerns are, what we expect as taxpayers," Velez said. "If something happens in our community, [know] that we came knocking at your door. And if something does happen, then you can expect us to come back knocking."

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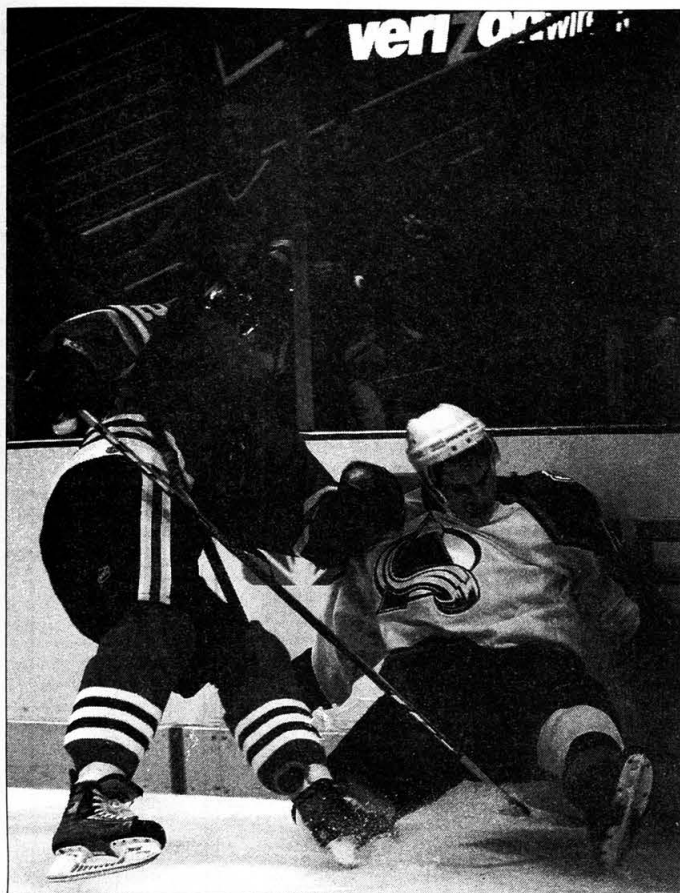
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Yakubov gives Richardson a seat



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

Chicago Blackhawks center Mikhail Yakubov shows Colorado Avalanche center Brad Richardson some Chicago hospitality during the second period of a Jan. 19 game at the United Center. The Blackhawks beat the Avalanche 4-2.

Carp: Asian carp found in Illinois River

Continued from Back Page

According to Kristin TePas, an invasive species specialist for the river, the current barrier keeps the fish out by using electrodes placed at the bottom of the canal that agitate them. The barrier doesn't affect humans.

"[The fish] will be inclined to turn around, [but it's] not designed to kill them," TePas said.

Though only one fish has been recorded passing through the barrier, TePas said their movement would make them hard to stop. The fish can reach the river via the ballasts of large ships or through fishermen who dump extra bait into the water.

"You can try to minimize their spread but they can actually go pretty far," TePas said. "Within a day in 2005 some went as far as three kilometers, but within a year they went as far as sixty-five kilometers."

TePas points out that when they are younger there may be some natural species that could act as predators, but as they grow they would quickly be out of range of those animals. The fish are also extremely suited to the environment and temperature of the Great Lakes basin, which is at relatively the same latitude as their natural habitat.

The carp were originally brought from Asia to control conditions in catfish ponds, according to Environmental Protection Agency reports. They eat plankton, which TePas said could definitely displace native species like sport fish that survive on plankton as well.

Kurt Hettiger, a senior aquarist at the Shedd, caught the Asian carp in the Illinois River, where he says that the fish are already at least "90 percent of the biomass in certain [places]." A video in the exhibit shows the carp jumping out of the water

and sometimes hitting fishermen as they pass, something he explained could be a result of agitating the fish-even at the aquarium. Carp jumped out of the water as he collected them, which he said was an astonishing sight.

"It was the craziest thing I've ever seen in my life, and I've been around water since I was young," Hettiger said.

Asian carp may be the most remarkable invasive species to threaten the Great Lakes in some time, but the exhibit shows many others that thrive in them now. Aquarium docent David Cox was surprised to learn the regular carp he used to go fishing for is also an invasive species, like the Purple Loosetrife plants other volunteers are constantly digging up at the Illinois State Park.

"It's a really interesting exhibit," Cox said. "It's a good learning device."

Other species on display, like the round goby, provide that same kind of learning experience, Napoleon said.

"I have to admit [the round goby] are awfully cute, but they eat other fish's eggs and gang up on other fish," Napoleon said.

She said the exhibit is an opportunity to identify the animals by sight and learn what an average person can do to help. For example, the exhibit educates people about the possible irreversible damage that can be caused by simply letting a pet go in the wild. While these species may be an aggressive one, they might have also once been cute enough to be sold in a pet store or even as bait to fishermen. According to Hettiger, some say they taste good, and there are people looking into farming them commercially.

"It's important to remember these animals and plants aren't inherently bad," Napoleon said. "They're just in the wrong place."

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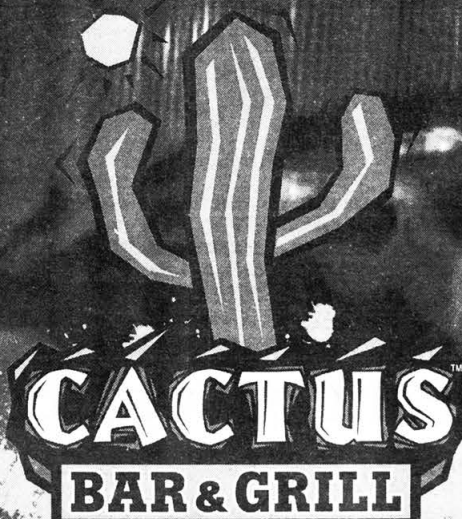


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include faculty from various
departments, a student and a
professional cartoonist. Submit-
ted cartoons must be drawn or
printed in black ink on 8.5" x 11"
white paper. Include name,
address, phone and student ID
number on back of entry.



Area development rush continues

New theater and retail in plans for new project

By Eric Kasang
Assistant City Beat Editor

South Loop residents met with developers on Jan. 11 at Grace Place on Printers Row to discuss proposals to transform a garbage-strewn lot just northwest of the Roosevelt Road Target store into a multilevel residential and retail plaza.

The project site, which lies between Polk, Clark and Wells streets at Roosevelt Road, includes plans for a 16-screen multiplex cinema, tri-level parking and a multilevel residential and retail complex. One of the developers, Centrum Properties Inc., which is working on the property west of the railroad tracks at Wells Street, laid out plans for a bi-level retail storefront with five floors of residential units above.

Centrum Properties architect Howard Hirsch, of Hirsch Associates LLC, explained his idea behind the design, which is known as the Roosevelt Collection. He said that he had a very traditional plan for the space that contained cafes, restaurants and a layout where the retail stores would be accessible by foot to a couple recreational parks. Cascading staircases would link the retail plaza to the parks.

"It's a very pedestrian-friendly urban landscape," Hirsch said, adding that people will be able to walk from a park to the retail stores and plaza area.

Although the developers are

still seeking approval from the city of Chicago, Hirsh noted that groundbreaking could begin as early as this year. However, the Roosevelt Collection project is still in the early stages of development; building and unit prices have not been determined yet.

AMLI Residential, another Chicago-based developer, plans on building a 23-story residential complex just east of the Centrum Properties project called the 900 South Clark Association, according to Stephen Ross, the executive vice president of development.

Ross said that it will contain 440 luxury rental units with a parking garage on top of it. Seven townhouses will be built near the parking lot so it will not be visible to people. The garage will have a green roof to cover the concrete.

According to Ross, 75 percent of the spaces will be either studio or one-bedroom units ranging from \$1,000 to \$1,100 per month to rent. Ross expects to attract young professionals and recent

"I think it's going to be a great development. People will continue to come to the neighborhood because of all the commodities."

—Bonnie Sanchez-Carlson,
executive director of the Near South Planning Board

college graduates to this new complex.

"There is a demand for rental apartments, especially first-time renters, because there have been more condo unit conversions," Ross said. He also explained that

people want to initially rent because it's cheaper, and if they like the area, then they'll probably buy later.

The Walsh Group, a Chicago-based contracting and construction company, which owns the land, started parceling out pieces when Target opened in 2004. Gregory A. Ciabrone, the vice president of strategic investments for the group, said that Target helped push this project forward.

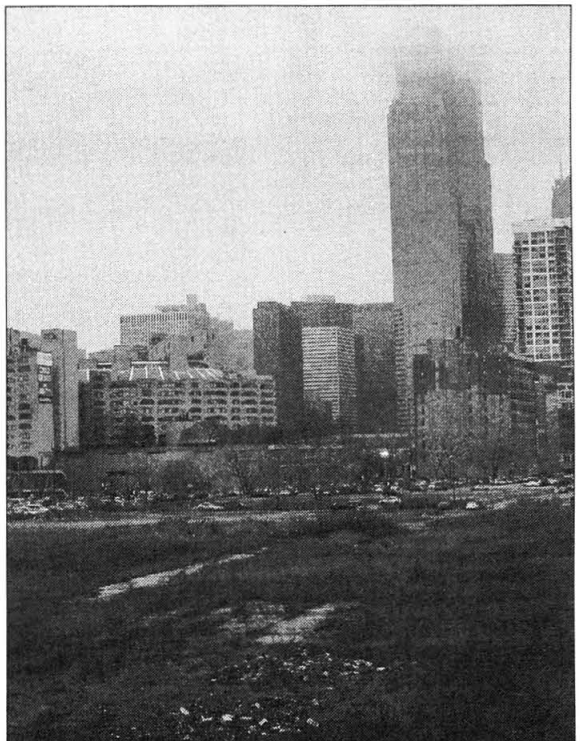
"The catalyst of all this was the development of the Target store," Ciabrone said, explaining the momentum of other developers getting involved in building on the various plots.

For Dennis McClendon, the development chairman for South Loop Neighbors, a nonprofit community organization, said each new project, along with Target, is one of the many pieces that will complete this construction project.

Although South Loop residents raised some questions during an informal meeting on Jan. 11 about issues ranging from pedestrian accessibility to roadway construction costs to the installation of traffic controls, the developers said final details on construction projects are still being worked out.

For Jovanny Duran, 21, who resides on Chicago's far South Side but works in the South Loop, the new developments seemed to be good for the neighborhood and not an example of gentrification. He said it would have been bad if other buildings were destroyed for the project.

"I don't think it's a bad thing," Duran said. "It doesn't harm any neighborhoods," he said, regard-



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

Just south of the Loop lies the future site of several proposed multilevel retail buildings. One plan includes building a 16-screen multiplex cinema.

ing the project being contained to the vacant lot and not crossing over into other developed areas.

Duran, who has shopped at the Target on Roosevelt Road, thinks that people will visit the plaza and retail stores.

"A lot of people come downtown to buy things—even working-class people," Duran said.

Bonnie Sanchez-Carlson, the executive director of the Near South Planning Board, said that she hasn't heard any grievances

about the project. She added that this project is going to provide a link for pedestrians from Canal Street to Printers Row. As for people moving from other areas of Chicago to the South Loop, Sanchez-Carlson said that this project will definitely be a draw.

"I think it's going to be a great development," Sanchez-Carlson said. "People will continue to come to the neighborhood because of all the commodities."

Police: Organizing within the community

Continued from Back Page

gies.

"The CAPS program works by basically putting together all city services inside of one office so that residents with any type of problem can come to us," McNamara said. "They come here with their prob-

lem and if there is a city service that takes care of it, we fill out a request form and make sure it happens."

Faye Patterson, a community organizer for CAPS who is employed by the city, said she has seen an increase in community participation since she first began working with the program upon its inception 12 years ago.

"The new and old residents are

getting involved," Patterson said. "The first thing I notice now is that anyone moving into a community here is calling the police department trying to get involved with CAPS..."

"The first thing I notice now is that anyone moving into a community here is calling the police department trying to get involved with CAPS..."

—Faye Patterson, CAPS community organizer

here is calling the police department trying to get involved with the CAPS meetings and trying to make sure that their community is safe."

The beat meetings, which Patterson and McNamara said the program relies on, typically start with

introductions from both the officers and residents, followed by a discussion of topics from the last meeting.

"We always discuss old business at the meetings to make sure the police officers, CAPS organizers and community members have come back with some type of solution to the problems last discussed," Patterson said.

After that, Patterson said residents are given a packet of crime statistics and data from the past month so that they can see for themselves where the crime is happening. Lastly, Patterson said the meetings are opened up for new business.

"At the end of the meetings is where the public input is key," Patterson said. "[It's] where com-

munity members get to tell the police what is going on in their neighborhood."

Initially implemented as a pilot program to combat gangs in several Chicago police districts, CAPS has now grown into a widely acclaimed program that is still developing.

"We're like the go-to people," McNamara said. "We've got a system that works and we continually improve it. It's much like a corporation."

Chicago police have not yet gone to London to observe and shadow police, but Orr-Richardson said there are plans to do so in the future.



Man really wants the door open

A 55-year-old CTA supervisor called police on Jan. 8 after a 40-year-old male approached a Red Line el car and demanded that he open the door at the Roosevelt CTA station, 1167 S. State St. The offender displayed a knife and said, "Bitch, open up the door or I'll kick your ass." Police arrested the offender and issued him a court date.

Thief gets goosed

Security guards witnessed a 38-year-old man take two bottles of Grey Goose Vodka off the shelf at Jewel, 1224 S. Wabash Ave., on Jan. 14 and proceeded to the exit without paying. The guards detained the man until police arrived and transported him for processing. The vodka was valued more than \$133.

Keep on knocking but you can't come in

A 54-year-old man was seen by security officers at the Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Ave., roaming the premises on Jan. 13. Security determined he was not a guest and asked him numerous times to leave the property. Security had to detain the man for not following orders and waited for police to arrive. The man was taken into custody upon their arrival.

Compiled by Chronicle staff through information provided by the Chicago Police Department.

Chicago's 'CAPS' off to London

Bobbies shadow Chicago police to learn homegrown policing strategy

By James Ewert
Assistant City Beat Editor

Even though communities in both Chicago and London appear to be a world apart, the cities' policing strategies however, are not so different. Recently, members from London's Metropolitan Police Department came to Chicago to learn about the Chicago's Alternative Policing Strategy, what the police department calls CAPS.

In June 2004 and December 2005, about 10 "bobbies" came to Chicago to shadow police officers as they implemented the CAPS program around the city, according to CAPS spokeswoman Yvonne Orr-Richardson. The trips were an attempt to determine how well the CAPS program works in Chicago's many communities, Orr-Richardson said.

"They went to talk to some partner organizations like faith-based organizations [and] community leaders to see how they organize and work with the police department and CAPS to get residents around their communities more

involved," Orr-Richardson said.

CAPS separates Chicago into five areas and each area into five districts, making a total of 25 beats. One of the most essential parts of the program, Chicago police officer Thomas McNamara said, is the beat meetings with residents and officers of that particular area.

"That's where things start," McNamara said. "The community is your eyes and ears. People out walking their dogs are going to see things that a police officer driving by in a squad car won't just because they have time to hang out

"They come here with their problem and if there is a city service that takes care of it, we fill out a request form and make sure it happens."

—Thomas McNamara,
Chicago police officer

and wait for their dog to do its business."

London's version of CAPS, the Safer Neighbourhoods Scheme, which began in June 2004, is going well, according to Scotland Yard spokesman Andrew Spencer.

"The [Metropolitan Police Department] has not adopted the CAPS model wholesale but incor-

porated some of it in the Safer Neighbourhoods Scheme," Spencer said. "Our officers are very pleased with the program and are happy it's proving its success. I'm sure they're grateful to Chicago for their expertise that was drawn upon."

London's "Chicago-style policing" strategy uses many of the CAPS community policing techniques designed to regain public trust in the police force. The Safer Neighbourhoods Scheme uses tactics like public roll calls and foot patrols of the different beats. Spencer said the purpose of the "block-by-block" approach is to deter criminals with a larger police presence.

Since the induction of the CAPS program in 1993, Chicago has seen a gradual decline in the city's total crime index, according to a report Chicago police issued in 2004. In addition, CAPS is also drawing praise from the international policing community with Chicago Police Superintendent Phil Cline scheduled to address a global policing conference on Feb. 8 and 9 in London. The conference is titled Global Thinking, Local Policing and is meant to examine and review alternative policing strate-

See **Police**, Page 23



Eric Davis/The Chronicle

Asian carp swim in a tank designed to simulate the effects they could have on the Great Lakes region should they be allowed to invade Lake Michigan. This display is part of the 'Invasive Species' exhibit at the Shedd Aquarium, 1200 S. Lake Shore Drive.

Strange Invaders

New exhibit to 'Shedd' light on invasive species threat

By Alicia Dorr
Managing Editor

The fish in the Shedd Aquarium's new exhibit are strong and large, some of them on their way to being as much as 100 pounds. They're active, too: One already has a white notch between its eyes from jumping out of the water and hitting the grate above the cage. While all of this makes for an interesting find at the Shedd, it is what makes the fish a tremendous threat in the wild.

For the past few years, two species of Asian carp have made the journey from the Mississippi River into the Illinois River, out-eating and overrunning the native species as they go. Now the only defense between the voracious fish and the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, which feeds directly into the Great Lakes system, is an electric barrier near Romeoville, Ill. The new exhibit at the aquarium, which will be permanent, aims to raise awareness among a much

larger crowd than might otherwise know about the situation.

"Invasive species in the Great Lakes are a major threat in the region and we saw a chance to really draw public attention to the problem," said Melanie Napoleon, the manager of the Great Lakes Awareness Campaign at the Shedd.

Two bighead carp and 12 silver carp represent the new threat in the exhibit, joining a slew of other invasive species that are already ravaging the Great Lakes ecosystem, such as the round goby and zebra mussels. The exhibit explains how each animal or plant reached the area as well as their effects. Asian carp invasion is only predicted in theory, with one tank showing the current natural environment in the lakes and the next completely barren of native flora, with the intruders as the only species.

Though no one knows exactly what would happen, experts say the way the exhibit is set up is not so far-fetched. Carp were tagged by the Illinois Natural History Survey in order to track movements of the fish near the temporary electric barrier.

See **Carp**, Page 21



Erin Mash/The Chronicle

Last December, the Chicago Police Department hosted officers from London's Metropolitan Police Department while they learned about Chicago's Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS). London has adopted a program similar to CAPS, incorporating many of the same characteristics.

Too fat to communicate?

Event honoring fattest city in America canceled at last minute

By Eric Kasang
Assistant City Beat Editor

Chicago may be a lost cause—at least to Men's Fitness magazine. First, the fitness monthly ranked Chicago the "fattest city" in its 2006 Top 25 list. Then, the "Getting America Fit Tour," which was scheduled to stop in Chicago on Jan. 19 at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, was suddenly called off.

Getting America Fit is a 10-city tour promoting exercise and

healthy lifestyles.

In an e-mail, Stephanie Bonk, who handles public relations for the tour, wrote, "Men's Fitness was not given an official reason by the Mercantile Exchange for the cancellation of the event."

Bonk wrote that Men's Fitness was notified on Jan. 18 of the cancellation; however, the magazine was planning to reschedule two other Chicago dates. Chicago's cancellation should not affect any of the other tour dates, Bonk added.

However, according to Allen Schoenberg, the associate director for corporate communications for the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, it didn't cancel the event.

"Getting America Fit was never

scheduled with us," Schoenberg said. "We lease the building [from Equity Office]."

Schoenberg said that he received a call from Men's Fitness inquiring about the cancellation from the building owner. He said that he called the magazine but never received a call back.

Despite the confusion, the city of Chicago plans on boosting its campaign toward exercise and physical activities, according to Tim Hadac, the director of public information for the Chicago Department of Public Health. Hadac also said the city is enacting programs to help increase diabetes, cancer and asthma detection.

In response to Men's Fitness'

Men's Fitness Magazine Top Fittest and Fattest

Top 5 Fittest	Top 5 Fattest
1. Baltimore	1. Chicago
2. Honolulu	2. Las Vegas
3. Virginia Beach	3. Los Angeles
4. Tucson	4. Dallas
5. Milwaukee	5. Houston

Josh Covarrubias/The Chronicle

ranking system, Hadac said that the magazine's weight designation does not necessarily hold solid scientific credence.

"I think every city in the survey

suffers an inaccurate description," Hadac said. "It's infotainment posing as science."

See **Health**, Page 18