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> **Opinions:** Millennials are so not the laziest generation. See PG. 35





No. 1 Non-Daily College Newspaper in the Nation

MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2014

THE OFFICIAL NEWS SOURCE OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

VOLUME 49, ISSUE 28



Lawmakers push for Obama library

MARIA CASTELLUCCI

Metro Editor

WITH THE JUNE 16 submission deadline quickly approaching, state legislators are pulling out all the stops to boost Chicago's chance of being selected to house the Barack Obama Presidential Library-but not all lawmakers are on board with the effort.

House of Representatives Executive Committee approved a bill to allocate \$100 million in state funding to construct the Obama library, if it comes to Chicago, despite the absence of all four Republican committee members, said Committee Spokesman Rep. Ed Sullivan (R-Mundelein). The measure is expected to make Chicago an ap-

During an April 17 hearing, the pealing library location, but Republicans are outraged by the proposal to fund the library with state dollars in light of the state's large deficit. To satisfy the Republican members who demanded a say, the Executive Committee will vote on the measure again during an April 30 hearing, at which all nine commit-

> tee members will be present. "There [have] never been state funds used for a presidential library," Sullivan said. "Illinois is not in a good financial situation to put \$100 million into anything with pension disasters and \$6 billion in late bills."

> However, supportive Democrats argue that \$100 million is a small investment considering the revenue the presidential library is expected to generate, said Rep. Mary Flowers (D-Chicago), a sponsor of the bill.

> > » SEE LIBRARY, PG. 40



The Better Government Association published a report Feb. 19 that found the city has a shortage of advanced life support ambulances, which are equipped to provide medical treatment on the road.

City ambulances poorly stocked for emergencies

MEGAN BENNETT

Contributing Writer

AS VIOLENT CRIME rates continue to rise in Chicago, residents have complained that ambulances are ill-equipped to address medical emergencies, prompting two aldermen to request an investigation into the city's ambulance fleet.

Aldermen Bob Fioretti (2nd Ward) and Nick Sposato (36th

Ward) announced plans April 2 to investigate the Chicago Fire Department's supply of advanced life support ambulances, which are stocked with medical equipment that can be used to treat severe conditions on the road. If the City Council approves the proposal, all Chicago ambulances would have to be ALS-equipped.

» SEE AMBULANCE, PG. 40









Used books hiding in city nooks \bullet PG. 24



New gym space for students \bullet PG. 13

Editor's note by Lindsey Woods Editor-in-Chief

Columbia should shape up its gym game

to more gym space, a positive addition that will help accommodate the growing student athletics program. However, students who are uninterested in organized sports but keen on getting fit are still being ignored.

As reported on Page 13, Columbia students will have access to the gym at The Flats at East-West University, 819 S. Wabash Ave., for 21 hours per week. The deal follows a September 2013 contract with Roosevelt University that allows students to use the facilities at the Goodman Center, 501 S. Wabash Ave.

Both of these spaces are open court gyms, and although that's great for the Renegades' teams and related events, it doesn't help those of us who like to get our sweat on at a traditional gyms.

Currently, Columbia's only inhouse workout facility available to all students is the Fitness Center in the Residence Center, 731 S.

Plymouth Court. There are also gyms in some of the college's other Residence Life buildings, but they

are only accessible to residents, meaning us commuters, who make up 75 percent of the campus, are relegated to the Fitness Center.

According to numbers from the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, that means that the 8,022 Columbia students who don't live in a building with a gym have to share the one in Plymouth.

The space only has six treadmills and four ellipticals. The Fitness Center also has a handful of weight lifting machines, a rack of free weights and some other scattered equipment, but it's far from enough to accommodate all students who want to exercise regularly.

Plus, anyone who has ever been in the locker rooms will tell you they stink—literally.

I understand that Columbia is not necessarily a fitness-focused institution, but that's not an excuse for its small, shabby gym. Just because we're not a state school, it doesn't mean students don't want buns and thighs of steel.

The Fitness Center is funded through the student activity fee, which is \$200 per year for full-time

Just because sports aren't a centerpiece at Columbia

doesn't mean students don't want to stay fit

students, according to Student Financial Services. While that's not as much as a commercial gym membership, it's pricey enough that students should demand more from their fitness facilities.

I'm not advocating for a state of the art gymnasium the size of Texas, but Columbia can and should do better to encourage its students to work out regularly.

Most college students can't afford gym memberships on top of the \$200 activity fee, which should provide a better facility than the one in Plymouth.

Money is tight at the college too. A new gym might not be a top priority, but it should be a project the college considers in the future. Students deserve a place to stay fit, not just a smelly room with some equipment scattered around.

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COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

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New facial recognition software can predict student performance • PG. 15

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Hackers code website for South Side housing program • PG. 39









STAFF MASTHEAD

FEATURED PHOTOGRAPH MANAGE



Adrian Azevedo (center), junior theater major, directs the One Tribe: Me, Myself, and I event held April 23 in the 618 S. Michigan Ave. Building. The event focused on how to love and explored of love in society.

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Biggest Mouth performers 'Woo' Metro audience







Photos Carolina Sanchez THE CHRONICLE

Emily Nichols (left), lead vocalist of alternative jazz rock band Woo Park and Columbia alumna, Devay Myatt (top right), keyboardist of alternative R&B ensemble Khameelion and a sophomore cinema art + science major, and Sara Buzon (bottom left), solo electronic indie-pop artist known as Deer Emerson and junior business & entrepreneurship major, rocked the Metro, 3730 N. Clark St., during the Student Programming Board's 8th annual Biggest Mouth competition on April 24.

KATHERINE DAVIS

Assistant Campus Editor

THE 8TH ANNUAL Biggest Mouth competition saved the best for last this year as six-person smooth jazz and rock group Woo Park dazzled the

900 people in the audience at the Metro, 3730 N. Clark St., stealing the show and winning the competition.

Lead vocalist and Columbia alumna Emily Nichols sang smooth tunes with her deep, soulful voice and set the tone for the jazzy sound

of Woo Park's April 24 win over 11 other Biggest Mouth performances.

"I was so excited," Nichols said. "We've been working really hard the past couple of months just trying to get it together and everything, so it's really cool."

Woo Park, a jazzy alternative rock band, received the \$1,000 grand prize, eight hours of recording time at Classick Studios, a two-page spread in Highlight Magazine, a one-hour shoot with Ashley Osborn Photography, a feature on

Chicago artist blog Do312 and a Shure audio equipment package.

Sara Buzon, junior business & entrepreneurship major and the solo electronic indie-pop artist

» SEE **BIGGEST**, PG. 10





Photos Courtesy LAUREN KEELING

(Left) Lauren Keeling, junior art + design major, and Ameena Igram, junior communications major at DePaul University, donate food to displaced residents in Valparaiso, Chile. A forest fire spread through the hills, forcing thousands of residents to evacuate their homes.

Students aid fire-ravaged city in Chile

TATIANA WALK-MORRIS

Campus Editor

THICK SMOKE BLACKENED the sky as a wildfire spread through Valparaiso, Chile, forcing more than 10,000 residents to evacuate their homes. After firefighters extinguished the flames, Lauren Keeling, a junior art + design major at Columbia, and Ameena Igram, a junior communications major at DePaul University, took the initiative to help displaced locals rebuild their lives.

The April 12 wildfire in the hills of Valparaiso killed 15 Chileans, according to reports from BBC News. The blaze persisted until firefighters contained it early the

Keeling and Igram are taking courses at Pontifical Catholic University of Valparaiso through the International Studies Abroad program, which matches college students with international colleges and universities. When the fire spread, Igram said she had to gather her valuables and evacuate

"You could see the flames from my door ... [and] you could hear and see the houses exploding," Igram said. "The whole sky was black from smoke. There were people—it was one of the hardest things I've ever seen-running around with babies in their arms and masks on their faces because it was difficult

Igram set up a fundraiser called Through Fire and Flames: VIVA CHILE with YouCaring.com, a free online fundraising site that allows users to collect donations. The campaign raised \$5,000 in its first 10 days and a total of \$5,775 for displaced Chileans as of press time.

The money will go to two local elementary schools to provide students with school supplies, clothing and other necessities, Igram said.

» SEE CHILE, PG. 12

College adopts new genderinclusive policies

JENNIFER WOLAN

Assistant Campus Editor

AFTER A YEAR of outcry from LGBTQ students, administrators have finalized policies for gender-inclusive housing and preferred first name changes.

quest to change their first name on Oasis, which will officially change their first initial on their email and their first name on their student ID, Oasis and Moodle accounts. However, financial documents and tran-

scripts will still use students' legal names, according to Kari Sommers, assistant dean of Student Life for the Dean of Students Office.

"This has been a long time coming," Sommers said. "The college has been working on this for well over a year. It was a big complex project because it involved multiple data systems and data traveling from system to system and included everything from your email address to your campus card."

» SEE LGBTQ PG. 12



Grace Wiley THE CHRONICLE

Common Ground, Columbia's LGBTQ student group, advocated for preferred first name changes, which lets student change their first names on student IDs, email addresses and other college documents.

Students 'Ride the Battle' for hope

JENNIFER WOLAN

Assistant Campus Editor

AFTER DRIVING CROSS-COUNTRY in 2012 to inspire cancer patients, one Columbia student is at it again. But this time, instead of going in a car or van, he is traveling on two wheels.

In the summer of 2012, Evan Bartlett, senior cinema art + science major, and two of his friends drove their car from Chicago to Los Angeles and interviewed cancer survivors and patients for in a web series called "Discovering the Beating Path," as reported April 30, 2012 by The Chronicle.

This summer, Bartlett and Tim Jacks, senior cinema art + science major, and Zack Cieslak, cinema art + science alumnus, will film 15 cancer patients and survivors in a cross-country bike tour Chicago to Los Angeles.

Bartlett plans to turn the trip into another web series titled "Ride the Battle." To fund the project, he launched a Kickstarter April 18 to raise \$5,000. The campaign deadline is May 18, the day Bartlett and Jacks graduate as of 4 p.m. on April 25, he had raised \$860.

The trip is scheduled to last from June 1 until Sept. 15 and entails 5,000 miles of round-trip biking using mostly route 66. Bartlett and his teammates said they plan to ride for 10 hours a day, five days a week to achieve their goal of 60–80 miles a day.

Bartlett was diagnosed with leukemia at 14 weeks old but has been cancer-free for 21 years. However, the treatment he received as a baby stunted his growth and left him with a learning disability that landed him in special education classes until the eighth grade, when he argued his way out, he said.

"All these limitations kept building up until eighth grade, and it became so overwhelming and I just kept asking myself, 'Why me?" Bartlett said. "I decided I wanted to do something where if people are questioning their cancer, they can Google the cancer name and our videos will show up."

Bartlett said he wants to continue meeting cancer patients and survivors because it allows them to see the ups and down of cancer. Bartlett said he and his team will be taking their hosts on a "boundless" adventure ranging from hiking to skydiving while staying at the patients' and survivors' homes.

Jacks, the director of the web series, met Bartlett during a documentary class at Columbia. Jacks said he originally wanted to bike the trip, while Bartlett wanted to train hop. Jacks said both his mother and grandmother battled cancer, which made taking up Bartlett's offer and traveling across the country by bike more meaningful for him.



Courtesy EVAN BARTLETT

Evan Bartlett (right) senior cinema art + science major and president of Young at Heart Adventures will bike from Chicago to Los Angeles with Tim Jacks (middle) senior cinema art + science major and Zack Cieslak (left) cinema art + science alumnus.

"At the time, Bartlett didn't know both my mom and grandmother battled cancer," Jacks said. "I immediately agreed to do it. We often talk about it being destiny."

Jacks, a city bike messenger who bikes about 30 miles a day, recently underwent knee surgery but said he would be ready to ride by mid-May to direct the web series.

"Ride the Battle" has teamed up with sponsor BeWelcome.org, a website that finds places for travelers to stay. Couch surfing is not a new concept to Bartlett, who said he frequently stays with strangers on his trips.

"We are taking people on activities that they might not be comfortable with, and if we can't do it ourselves, what type of example are we setting?" Bartlett said.

The team has arranged to stay with cancer survivors and patients through BeWelcome, none of whom they have previously met. Emily-Kate Niskey, a cancer survivor who founded My Vigor Lifestyle, a committee that supports individuals with breast cancer in Las Vegas, said she let Bartlett stay at her home in 2012 and record an episode about her.

"He was very curious and very inspiring," Niskey said. "Although we didn't go on a boundless activity, I'm glad we met."

jwolan@chroniclemail.com

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

Music Department Events

Monday April 28

Jazz Guitar Ensemble 1 in Concert

Pop Rock Ensemble: Performance 7 in Concert

Chamber Music Ensemble in Concert at the Sherwood

7:00 pm

7:00 pm

Tuesday April 29

Pop Rock Ensemble: Performance 2 in Concert 7:00 pm

Wednesday April 30

Jazz Guitar Ensemble 2 in Concert

Wednesday Noon Concert Series at the Conaway*

R&B Ensemble: Performance in Concert

12:00 pm

7:00 pm

Thursday May 1

Latin Pop Ensemble in Concert
Pop Rock Ensemble: Performance 6 in Concert
Percussion Ensemble in Concert at the Sherwood

Friday May 2

Classical Guitar Ensemble at the Sherwood

Concert

Classical Guitar Ensemble at the Sherwood

12:00 pm 12:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm

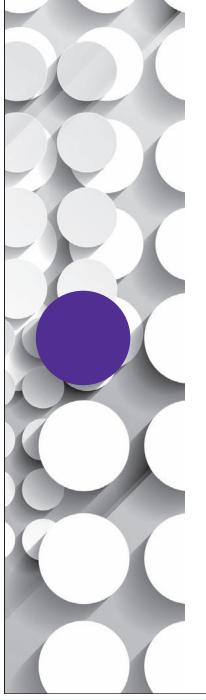
12:00 pm

7:00 pm 8:00 pm

* Events with an asterisk do not give recital attendance.

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MARCH 19, 2014 3:30 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL COLLABORATION 618 S. MICHIGAN, MULTI-PURPOSE STUDIO

APRIL 30, 2014 3:30 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

AFFORDABILITY & VALUE 916 S. WABASH, THE LOFT

Dr. Kwang-Wu Kim and the Student Government Association are excited to offer Coffee with the President, a conversation series between Columbia students and the President.



The Student Government Association (SGA) serves as a liaison between students and the faculty and administration in order to ensure the welfare of our unique and diverse art and communication community. For more information visit: www.colum.edu/sga

SOMEONE YOU

SHOULD KNOW

Columbia alumnus still making journalistic impact

CARLEIGH TURNER

Assistant Campus Editor

SEAN STILLMAKER, A 2010 journalism alumnus and Co-Editor-in-Chief of the London-based quarterly arts and culture magazine Majestic Disorder, experienced "ultimate satisfaction" when the first issue sold out in multiple stores on its first day available in Chicago.

Majestic Disorder premiered March 18 in London and launched in Chicago April 21 at Quimby's Bookstore, Water Tower Newsstand and Chicago Main in Evanston. The magazine has an estimated 5,000 readers and its website gets 10,000 hits monthly.

Hard copies of the magazine are available in 30 countries featuring cities such as Hong Kong, Dublin and Prague and are targeting its content toward 18- to 35-year-old creators and industrialists.

Stillmaker said Majestic Disorder focuses on culture, fashion and public issues, with feature stories that highlight artistic topics such as Japanese street artists, defining "the modern-day 'it girl'" and the lack of video rentals in London.

The magazine's first issue highlighted local Chicago artists including six Columbia graduates who contributed to the first issue of Majestic Disorder.

Before working full-time on the magazine, Stillmaker wrote for Journal & Topics Newspapers, a suburban news operation, and received his master's degree in journalism at the London College of Communication.

In June 2012, the Illinois Press Association awarded him third place for Best Web Project by for his multimedia coverage of the 2011 Buffalo Grove Days festival. He also received first place in Online In-Depth Reporting from the Association of Capitol Reporters and Editors.

Stillmaker currently resides in London, where he works full-time for Majestic Disorder with Kelley Mullarkey, Co-Editor-in-Chief of the magazine.

The Chronicle spoke with Stillmaker on the phone about majestic disorders, Africa and the future of journalism.

THE CHRONICLE: How did you get your start in journalism?

SEAN STILLMAKER: I had that kind of epiphany moment right around 2007 when I was at [Oakton Community College] trying to figure out what would be the best career path for me. As soon as I started at Columbia in January 2008, I never





COURTESY Kelley Mullarkey

Sean Stillmaker's (Left) London-based magazine, Majestic Disorder (Right), sold out during its first day available in Chicago, but can be found online and in select bookstores around the city,. Hard copies of the magazine can

looked back. I knew it was the career path for me.

Why did you choose Columbia?

I didn't want to go too far away and I didn't have to because Columbia College was ranked one of the best journalism schools in the country. I think what Columbia preaches is the best anybody can get [because] it's very hands on and it's not an exclusive program. They teach doing, getting out into the real world, getting those experiences and doing all the reporting and writing in a real-world atmosphere under real-world deadlines. [I received] excellent training and I was fortunate to pick a job straight out of graduating.

What is the journalism scene like in London?

Print is thriving [in London] and this continent as a whole because everyone wants to read their news—their art and their culture, [or] whatever editorial content they're consuming. They do not want to read it on a digital device. They want to get the ink on their hands, they want to see it, they want to hold it and they want to interact with it.

What is the most rewarding part of producing Majestic Disorder?

When you pick up Majestic Disorder, you're really going to find a truly eclectic mix of artists and creative professionals doing awesome things you've never really heard about. We're hoping we can put a spotlight on these people and elevate those careers. We have already done so at this point. We got designers that we featured back in 2012 that now have collections that are blossoming and selling across the world-little stories like that. Elevating careers is what we're really hoping to achieve because these people are doing great things that deserve the press, but mainstream coverage doesn't really have the space for this. That's where Majestic Disorder can kind of fill in the niche.

How did you start working for Majestic Disorder?

Kelley started [the magazine] around 2012 and I came aboard with her in June, adding a multimedia supplement because my background at the time was video. Then [we] just kind of continued collaborating from there, and soon enough we took the publication out of Chicago. Then we both came overseas to London and we started working at it full-time. It's always been a passion of ours to turn the publication into a full-fledged magazine.

Where did the name for your magazine come from?

Majestic Disorder comes from the idea that the most prolific artisans out there always have some sort of disorder. They're handicapped

in some sort of way, whether that be from schizophrenia, whether that be from split personality [or] they could be blind in what they're doing. There's always some sort of handicap or disability and the disability is truly something that makes them special and that disability is something to be celebrated. Majestic Disorder celebrates what's special in life, no matter how unusual that it is.

What do you like about being a Co-Editor-in-Chief?

For me, the most rewarding part is being able to pick and choose our editorial direction. We can personally determine what we are going to cover, what needs to be covered and what deserves to be covered. Having the ability to make those decisions and create that strategy is the most important to me and I truly value being in that position.

What is one crazy experience you've had working for the magazine?

Kelley and I traveled to Nigeria in December for our first issue. I did a story focusing on the film industry and Kelly did a story focusing on the fashion industry. [Traveling] to Africa and experiencing things first-hand and seeing Lagos on the ground instead of through a west-ernized perspective hundreds of countries away is truly remarkable. For us, Western media tends to portray African countries in a negative

light. You're always hearing about war and despair and that is not the case. When we went to Lagos and we saw everything first-hand, it is the exact opposite. There is just an incredible entrepreneurial spirit inside of that country. Everyone there is hustling and working toward economic prosperity and has this great positive enthusiasm that is absolutely contagious. We just loved being around that and that is something you're not really going to read, see or hear about anywhere else [in] the mainstream media. So that is, I would say the craziest experience we have had.

What was it like to hear that your magazine sold out in Chicago?

It's truly a testament to our readers and to how much they support what we're doing. That's the reason Kelley and I get up every single day and do what we do, working nonstop on five different time zones, setting up the foundation of this company and valuing our workers. To us, that is the ultimate satisfaction and that's all we need to do to keep carrying on this magazine to the next issue.

Any advice for aspiring journalists?

Do not believe the hype that journalism is dead. It's not. There is always going to be a market for it. It is a fantastic industry right now and there are ample opportunities for development and growth.

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Chicago students Bike2Campus

CARLEIGH TURNER

Assistant Campus Editor

COLLEGE STUDENTS ACROSS the Chicagoland area rolled out their bikes to celebrate the city's first Bike2Campus week.

From April 21-25, the Chicago Network of Sustainability in Higher Education offered incentives to local colleges and universities to encourage students to bike.

Institutions participating in the competition include Columbia, City Colleges of Chicago, the University of Chicago, the University of Illinois at Chicago, the Illinois Institute of Technology, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and Loyola, Roosevelt, Dominican and Northwestern universities.

Students logged how many bike trips they took on the Bike2Campus website, and the student with the most trips will win a four-year DIVVY membership. Students at Columbia, Loyola or Dominican could also win a Kent Shogun Stone Harbor Cruiser 26-inch bike courtesy of eFollet, which runs Columbia's book store.

The winners of the event will be announced April 28.

Free DIVVY day passes and free Chipotle burrito coupons were also handed out at the events.

In addition to riding their bikes

to campus, students participated in various events throughout the week, which culminated with the Critical Mass Bike Ride on April 25, a monthly community event in which thousands of cyclists take to the streets to promote eco-friendly transportation.

The Bike Group, a subgroup of CNSHE, planned the competition to push collegiate sustainability and student health, said John Wawrzaszek, Columbia's sustainability manager and member of the Bike Group.

"[Biking] is accessible anywhere in the city, and it's fun, so that totally ties into the sustainability mission in terms of looking toward reducing carbon emissions, being healthy and doing things that are environmentally friendly, but [also] helpful for yourself too," Wawrzaszek said.

According to a 2012 study conducted by Columbia's Office of Campus Environment, approximately 3 percent of Columbia students bike to campus. Wawrzaszek said he hopes that the Bike2Campus week will encourage college bikers and provide an incentive for other students who do not usually use their bikes.

Wawrzaszek said weather conditions may have prevented students from participating, but



The Chicago Network of Sustainability in Higher Education sponsored the first Bike2Campus Week April21-25. Students, including senior television major Emmett Lorenz, participated by biking to class.

he hopes Columbia can put up big numbers against competing colleges and universities.

Elena Maans, administrative assistant and sustainability coordinator at Dominican University and the university's CNSHE representative, said Dominican students embraced Bike2Campus week. Maans said the competition took six months to plan because of the planning involved to secure the sponsorships and prizes from Chipotle and DIVVY.

"It was great talking to someone who is excited about the event and wanted to participate in an event that you planned," Maans said. "[The turnout] was a shocker."

Bailey Wallace, a senior fiction writing major at Columbia, said she has been riding her bike to campus for three years and currently rides to the South Loop from Wicker

Park. She said she enjoys biking because it can be faster than the train.

"[Bike2Campus] week is a great opportunity and chance [for] cyclists to make the city aware that they're there."

Students used the hashtag #bike2campus to share images of their Chicago biking adventures on Instagram and Facebook.

cturner@chroniclemail.com

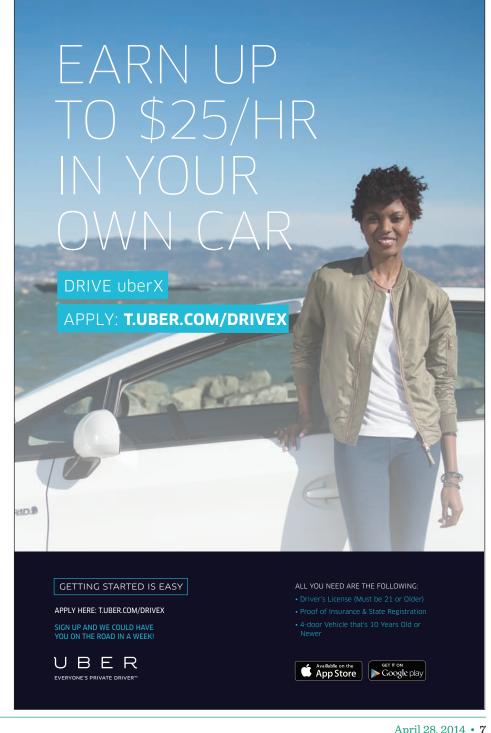
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Levi Sherman, an interdisciplinary book & paper arts graduate student, is currently creating a series of books about Colombian coffee after traveling to the country for research in December.

KATHERINE DAVIS

Assistant Campus Editor

LEVI SHERMAN, A graduate interdisciplinary book & paper arts student, is using his letterpress printing expertise to research, write and create a series of books about Colombian coffee culture.

In addition to receiving Columbia's Aiko Fellowship for his work, Sherman traveled to Colombia in December 2013 to examine the relationship between Latin American coffee farmers and coffee

consumers through photography, interviews and research.

In July 2013, the College Book Art Association, a national organization that promotes academic book art education, awarded Sherman a travel grant for the trip. He said he has completed five books so far, and is currently working on one about the effects of reading to coffee plants.

Sherman, who graduated from Arizona State University in 2012 with a bachelor's degree in graphic design, said he discovered his passion for book art in a class he took during his last semester at ASU.

Sherman held a teaching apprenticeship last summer at Wells College in Aurora, N.Y., at its Book Art Center Summer Institute, where he educated students about letterpress techniques while refining his own skills.

Sherman will receive his Master's in May 2015 and said he has a lot to look forward to in his time at Columbia. He plans to eventually take an active role in tending the Papermaker's Garden, Columbia's

green space located at the corner of Wabash Avenue and 8th Street that features a variety of plants used as papermaking fiber and art material.

The Chronicle spoke with Sherman about his passion for book art, trip to Colombia and future plans.

THE CHRONICLE: What exactly is book art?

LEVI SHERMAN: Book art, or artists' books, are a zone of intersection between a lot of different disciplines. It's kind of like a mixture between bookbinding, zines, graphic novels, photography, photo essays and poetry. Basically the idea is that the artist would control all of the aspects of the production of a single book or a single piece of art

Where does your passion for book art come from?

When I was looking at grad schools, I was mostly applying to graphic design programs. This was the one exception and I hadn't actually taken a book arts class until I had already applied and gotten accepted here, which kind of made my decision a lot easier. [During] my last semester of undergrad, I took book arts, and it was a really nice break from doing client-driven design work. A lot of the skills transferred, but I felt like using those skills for a more meaningful or stimulating purpose.

How is your Aiko Fellowship project going so far?

I've got a couple of projects done that I started before I took the trip. The research gave me a push to finish up some of what I started and [find] a different perspective. As far as the ultimate goal with the handmade paper and printing on that, I'm still working on making the images before I can finish that.

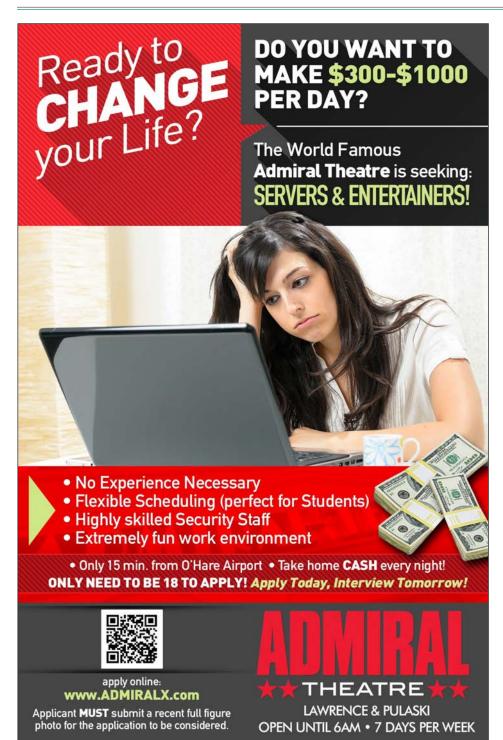
What was your trip to Colombia like?

It was definitely different than I expected. It was surprisingly hard to talk about some things that I thought people would be willing to talk about. I knew it was going to be difficult to poke around and talk about labor issues, wages and social justice, but some people were really ready to talk about things like that. I have some extended family there, so that definitely helped as a complete outsider. I really don't think I could have done it without getting a lot of help from family and other people.

Do you plan to pursue a career in book art after you graduate?

I'm definitely looking to have a career that enables me to do book art [and] I still really enjoy doing graphic design. I think there are fairly traditional design jobs that I'd be happy with as long as it still gave me time and left me with some energy to still keep making art on the side. Those jobs could give me skills I can continue using.

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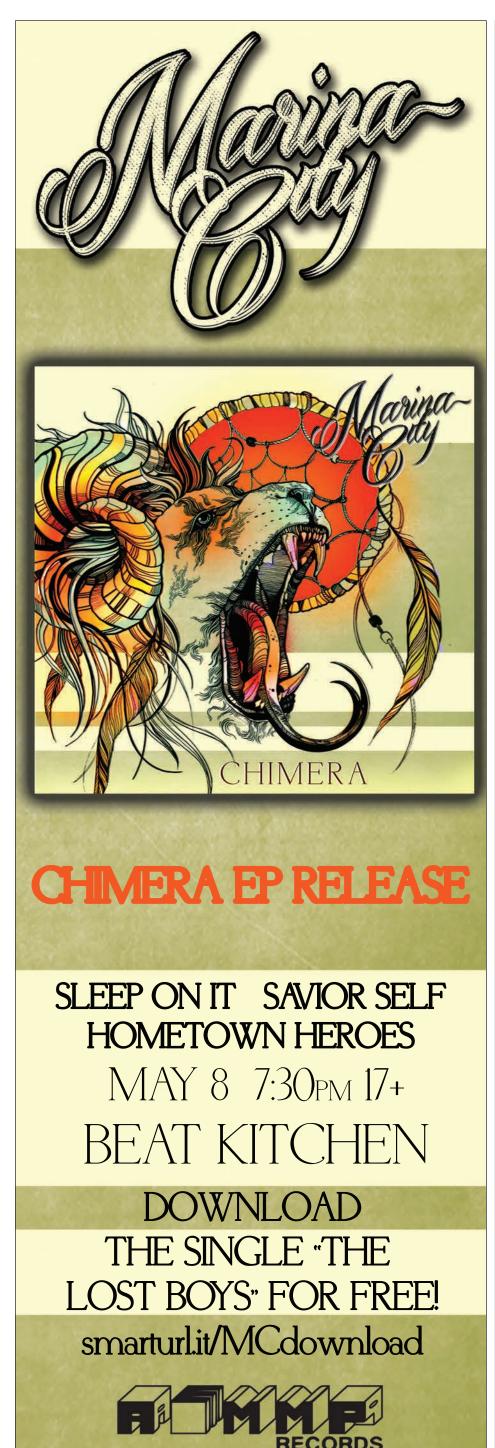
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» **BIGGEST**Continued from PG. 3

known as Deer Emerson, won second place, receiving \$750, a discounted session at Classick Studios and a Shure prize package.

"I'm pretty stoked right now," Buzon said.
"The best part about performing was connecting with the audience. I've never played in front of a crowd that big in my entire life and it meant the entire world to me to have people just reacting and saying they liked it."

The seven-person contemporary alternative R&B ensemble Khameelion won the audience choice for third place and received \$500.

Drew Fridge, Khameelion's lead keyboardist and sophomore business & entrepreneurship major, said winning third place is gratifying and he was excited to see the band's work come to life.

"It was just a dope experience to play here at the Metro," Fridge said. "The best part about performing was the crowd. Everybody was really hype"

Other performers included R&B trio Ajani; Oby, a melange of clashing instruments and styles; Lucid Lives, an indie folk band; The Wild Family, an indie alternative rock ensemble; The 151s, a traditional rock group; folk-rock band Ethan Griggs; LJ III, a raw rap ensemble; fleeting rapper Nick Astro; and chunkadelic jam band Bullfights on Acid.

Allison Shuman, marketing manager of the Student Programming Board and senior business & entrepreneurship major, said the four judges who selected the first and second place winners were Chadd Kline, a Metro talent buyer; Sharod Smith, founder of Biggest Mouth; Na'el Shehade, founder of local production company Force One Seven; and Eric Muhlberger, performance organizer for Sofar Sounds. Shuman said the SPB chooses judges with a variety of backgrounds to expose performers to different industry professionals. She said talent buyers can provide students with future opportunities by promoting their work.

"A student band could play, and even if they don't win, one of these talent buyers might really like them and approach them after the show," Shuman said.

She said 12 performers were selected from approximately 100 bands that auditioned in February. Auditions were judged on musicality, audience appeal, originality and performance style. She said the SPB also chose a variety of genres to make the lineup engaging and refreshing.

Stephen Wilkes, sophomore theater major and a first-time Biggest Mouth attendee, said he came to support his friends in Khameelion, Bullfights on Acid, and Oby. He said he enjoyed the range of styles displayed at this year's competition.

"Biggest Mouth was spectacular," Wilkes said. "There were bands I didn't know that were great and there wasn't a terrible band out there."

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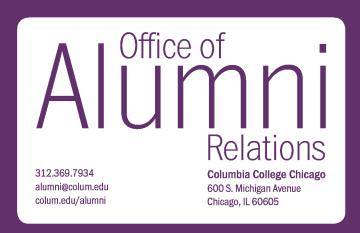
Carolina Sanchez THE CHRONICLE

Sara Buzon, solo electronic indiepop artist known as Deer Emerson and junior business & entrepreneurship major, won the second place prize of \$750 at the 8th Annual Biggest Mouth competition April 24.





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Courtesy Lauren Keelin

After a wildfire spread through the hills of Valparaiso, Chile, Lauren Keeling, a junior art + design major, volunteered to help residents recover from the devastation.

» CHILE Continued from PG. 3

Igram and Keeling are also looking into buying more expensive home supplies for residents, she added.

"If we have enough money, we'd like to construct a home in the [hills]," Igram said. "We talked about buying pots and pans and kitchen supplies for these people because they want to be able to cook for themselves and do everything."

With the city covered in soot, Keeling said she and Igram began donating necessities such as clothing, feminine products, toiletries and baby food.

Within a few days, the community was able to rebuild their homes with charred wood and other materials left behind by the fire and turn local schools into donation centers, Keeling said.

"You feel so helpless when your city is on fire and you don't know what to do," Keeling said. "I signed up to volunteer ... and it was still devastating to see people trying to contain and put out the fires at their plot of land where their house burned down."

Catrina DeBord, associate director of International Programs, said though the fire was unfortunate, she is glad to see students helping victims. She said it is an opportunity for them to learn about and experience another culture.

DeBord said the ISA keeps in close contact with the students in case of a crisis and Columbia has a 24-hour hotline for traveling students to call if they need help.

"[ISA has] been sending updates to us about the safety and well-being of all the students," DeBord said. "Unexpected things happen everywhere, not just abroad but in the U.S. too, so it's a great opportunity and a growing experience in how to respond in a situation like this."

Johanna Alvarado, site specialist for the ISA, said students' host families were contacted to ensure their safety. The on-site staff makes

sure all the staff and students are accounted for when crises occur.

After the fire, which was considered one of the worst in the city's history, Alvarado said Pontifica Catholic University canceled classes for the week.

"Our students have just been so amazing," Alvarado said. "It truly is phenomenal seeing them all come together."

In spite of the destroyed homes and lost lives, the community quickly worked together to reconstruct the area, Keeling said, adding that after completing their courses in Chile, she and Igram plan to study abroad in Peru and Ecuador.

"[Helping the community is] the most rewarding feeling in the world," Igram said. "I finally have a purpose for something. Since I've been here ... everything that happened was terrible, but [the experience] has helped me find [myself]."

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» LGBTQ Continued from PG. 3

J. M. Conway, coordinator for LGBTQ Culture & Community, said these changes were originally made for LGBTQ students but are now extended to all students.

"Students would have a way to identify themselves to the college with a name that they felt most comfortable with," Conway said.

More than 100 students have requested to change their first name, a process that takes a few days, Sommers said. Students change their name for a variety of reasons, she said, such as when transgender students change their given name or when international students want to be called by a nickname.

Sommers said the college does not allow students to change their name on financial documents or transcripts because it does not want to jeopardize their ability to receive financial aid.

Most systems have been changed, but some still need work, which will be done sometime this summer, Sommers said. The college has also updated its campus housing policies to allow students to choose the sex of their roommates.

Sommers said gender-inclusive housing was available for students in the spring 2014 semester, but no one applied. She said eight students have applied for gender-inclusive housing for the upcoming fall semester.

"There was impulse around this [initiative]," she said. "The feed-

back that we received around our LGBTQ student community was that this is something that was extremely important. We responded as quickly as we possibly could and made the necessary adjustments in Residence Life to make this available to all of our students."

Michelle Nance, junior fashion studies major and president of Common Ground, Columbia's LGBTQ student group, said although the college was skeptical about the preferred name change, Common Ground is excited for the change.

"We are so happy about the name change," Nance said. "A lot of times students have felt uncomfortable looking at their email and being called out during class."

Nance said it took a lot of students help to get the new option pushed through.

Now, Common Ground is trying to raise awareness for name changes and gender-inclusive housing, because the college is having trouble promoting it.

"When you come in as a freshman or re-sign up for housing, the application doesn't ask you if you want gender-inclusive housing," Nance said. "You have to go and ask yourself. We are trying to raise awareness for both the issues."

Although Sommers said she does not know which residence life hall will offer gender-inclusive dorms, Nance said they will be available at 777 S. State St.

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Columbia contracts for more gym space

KATHERINE DAVIS

Assistant Campus Editor

LESS THAN A year after Columbia negotiated gym space at Roosevelt University's Goodman Center, another neighbor is opening its courts to Columbia students.

The college signed a contract with East-West University in late March that will allow Columbia students to live on seven of the 10 floors at The Flats at East-West University, 819 S. Wabash Ave., and will open the facility's gym to all students. Columbia students were living in the building during the 2013-2014 academic year because it is a general student housing building, but it was not officially available as a residence option until April 2014, according to Mark Kelly, vice president of Student Affairs. Students will be able to access the building's gym for 21 hours per week, Kelly said.

"It's a great new building," Kelly said. "It's right on our campus [and] the students living in it have been satisfied with the [gym] facility."

Columbia students now have access to three fitness locations: East-West, the Fitness Studio at Columbia's Residence Center, 731 S. Plymouth Court, and Roosevelt's Goodman Center, 501 S. Wabash Ave. There are also gyms in several other Residence Life buildings, but they are for residents only.

Jovani Thompson, director of The Flats student housing, said East-West is happy to collaborate with Columbia because East-West is a smaller institution.

"Columbia has resources for large-scale events and activities such as intramural [teams], instructor-led fitness classes and tournaments," Thompson said.

Mark Brticevich, coordinator of Fitness and Recreation, said although the East-West gym access is a great resource to campus, it does have limitations, such as a lack of volleyball posts and seating options. He said the college plans to purchase portable volleyball nets, but most sporting events will still be held at the Goodman Center because it has a larger seating section



Angela Conners THE CHRONICLE

Columbia signed a contract with East-West University in March that will grant Columbia students access to the gym facility in The Flats residence hall, 819 S. Wabash Ave. Tim Gorski, vice president of the Renegades, a member of Columbia's baseball team and a senior marketing communication major, to ease scheduling conflicts at other fitness spaces.

for fans, faculty and students to congregate. Despite its shortcomings, Brticevich said the new gym space will aid the ongoing struggles to find practice spaces for Columbia's sports teams.

"We're always at the mercy of the weather," Brticevich said. "But now, between the fitness studio, the Goodman Center and East-West, we should be able to accommodate more of our teams, especially in off-season conditions."

Brticevich said he is in charge of the 21-hour East-West gym schedule and is currently organizing times for open gym hours, athletic practices and fitness classes.

According to Timothy Gorski, vice president of the Renegades,

a member of Columbia's baseball team and a senior marketing communication major, about 100 students are on a Renegades sports team, approximately 1 percent of the student body. Low participation is evidence that Columbia's student body is generally uninterested in

» SEE GYM, PG. 17

Scientists closer to understanding sense of touch

ELIZABETH EARL & MAX GREEN

Opinions Editor & Contributing Writer

THE PHYSICAL WORLD is made of shapes and solid objects that can be measured, distinguished and evaluated by the curious hand, but the way the human brain interprets them is a mystery that has always fascinated neurologists.

A study published April 16 in the journal Nature made a breakthrough in understanding touch by finding that Merkel cells, one of the four kinds of cells in the surface of the skin, allow humans to sense textures. These cells send signals to the brain that help humans determine the texture, density and shape of objects, according to Dr. Ellen Lumpkin, lead researcher on the study.

"[Sensing textures] is how these particular touch receptors provide the information to our brains about features or the shapes of the objects in the world around us," Lumpkin said. "So if we want to type on a keyboard, if we want to write with a pen ... this would all require the ability to detect object features."

The scientific community grasps how sight, sound, smell and hearing work, but many of the mechanics relating to touch have eluded them until recent years, according to Steven Hsaio, a professor of neuroscience at Johns Hopkins University's Mind/Brain Institute, who has been investigating the finer details of the senses for 25 years.

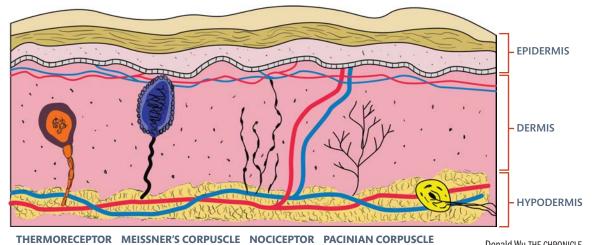
"If you hold a cup in your hand, how is the cup represented in the brain?" Hsaio said. "To recognize a cup, you have to know not only the spatial patterning on your skin, but also recognize where your hand is in space. You have to know what's going on at both ends. So that's [what] I'm working on—trying to understand the idea of how a shape is represented."

Lumpkin said touch has been difficult to study unlike the other four senses, there is no distinctive sensory organ devoted to touch. Instead, the entire surface of the skin is a trigger area for the sense. To hone in on Merkel cells, Lumpkin used a fluorescent jellyfish protein to light up individual Merkel cells and pluck them out like Christmas lights.

"They both [respond to stimuli and connect with the brain], so that's another thing that's quite curious about these little touch receptors," Lumpkin said. "They really seem to be doing both jobs. They send information to the brain about object features or object shapes, but they also report steady pressure."

Lumpkin said the ratio of the Merkel cells to other epidermal cells fascinated her because they are so vastly outnumbered. The presence of Merkel cells links humans to the branch of the evolutionary

SENSORY RECEPTORS IN SKIN



THERMORECEPTOR senses heat or cold

ssner's corpus senses touch senses pain

senses pressure

Ure Information from EXPLORINGNATURE.ORG

» SEE **TOUCH**, PG. 17

MONDAY, APRIL 28

Chicago Cubs vs. Cincinnati Reds

Time: 6:10 p.m.
Place: Great American B

Place : Great American Ball Park Where to watch : WCIU

TUESDAY, APRIL 29

Chicago White Sox vs. Detroit Tigers

Time: 7:10 p.m.

Place: U.S. Cellular Field

Where to watch: WCIU

SPORTS

THURSDAY, MAY 1

Chicago Wolves vs. Rochester Americans

Time: 7 p.m.
Place: Allstate Arena
Where to watch: The U-Too

SATURDAY, MAY 3

Chicago Fire vs. Real Salt Lake

Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Toyota Park
Where to watch: TWCSC



All in for Aldridge

THE 2006 NBA draft still haunts me, and the nightmares have been recently revived because of Portland Trail Blazers power forward LaMarcus Aldridge's outstanding play during the first two games of the Western Conference playoffs.

Aldridge the player who the Bulls traded immediately after drafting, and the Trail Blazers have been overlooked for far too long. On April 25 the team members headed back to their home court with a 2–0 series lead over the Houston Rockets. Aldridge has averaged 44.5 points per game during the playoffs as of press time, and all I can think about is what would have happened if the Bulls didn't give the prolific athlete away for next to nothing in return.

No one can truly be sure, but with the Bulls down 0-2 in their own series against the Washington Wizards, fans can only wonder how the Bulls found themselves in this predicament.

The Bulls traded Aldridge, the No. 2 overall pick, to the Trail Blazers for power forward Tyrus Thomas, the No. 4 overall pick of the 2006 draft, and forward Viktor Khryapa. Khryapa's NBA career ended after playing 41 games during two seasons for the Bulls, while Tyrus Thomas failed to live up to expectations.

Thomas spent his first four seasons with the Bulls before the organization finally traded him to the Charlotte Bobcats in the middle of the 2009–2010 season.

Aldridge, on the other hand, has flourished. Following his rookie year, he averaged more than 17 points a season and has continued to progress. His points and rebounds have increased and this season's 23 points and 11 rebounds per game are a career best.

He isn't the best player at his position, but he shouldn't be ignored. Aldridge will threaten elite power forwards around the league for top-dawg and no one should be surprised when he surpasses his peers. He may not lead the Trail Blazers to an NBA title during this post-season run, but he will grab everyone's attention, especially during the rest of the Western Conference playoffs.



NADER IHMOUD

Media Relations Editor

The Trail Blazers are a team that can do damage to a title contender's hopes and dreams. So far, they're doing just that to the Houston Rockets.

Since the Bulls' horrific trade in 2006, the organization has bounced back somewhat but still lacks a dependable scorer. Aldridge may have been Chicago's missing piece to the puzzle, but instead, he's Portland's best card in the deck.

Listen to Nader Ihmoud as he hosts The Benchwarmers Show every Monday from 7–9 p.m. on WCRX 88.1 FM.

nihmoud@chroniclemail.com

FEATURED ATHLETE

TOBY PECHNER

Sport: Baseball Team/School: Renegades



SARAH SCHLIEDER

Sports & Health Editor

TOBY PECHNER, SECOND basemen and sophomore marketing communication major on the Renegades baseball team, started playing baseball when he was 5 years old. Despite his love for the sport, Pechner put his baseball dreams on hold in high school to pursue his other passion: music. After coming to Columbia, the San Rafael, Calif., native found a way to balance both of his interests.

Pechner said he cannot wait for the weather to improve so he and his teammates can play more. He said so far the cold has limited the amount of practices and games the Renegades have had. The team's last four games of the spring season were held April 26 and 27.

In addition to playing second base, Pechner has played shortstop and outfield. However, he said he prefers to play second because of how difficult it is to switch back and forth between positions.

Pechner said he wants more Renegade pride on campus, despite the team's home location, Bedford Park, being 15 miles away from campus without a solid form of transportation to and from games.

The Chronicle spoke with Pechner about his baseball career, artistic endeavors and pursuit to expand athletics at Columbia.

THE CHRONICLE: Why did you stop playing baseball in high school?

TOBY PECHNER: [I attended] Novato High School and Marin School of the Arts [and] I had to choose between playing baseball and doing music lessons and dance. I love baseball and I love music, but I was kind of smaller as a kid and it was getting a lot harder because the fields grew and it just became too much for my little body.

Why did you come to Columbia?

I originally came to Columbia for the music program. After my first semester, I just wasn't really happy doing it. I always wanted music to be something I loved to do, so I switched majors. My roommate was in the marketing program so I went there and entered marketing and advertising. I really like what I learned in marketing and now I'm pursuing it.

What are you looking forward to in the upcoming season?

Playing some baseball. It's cold outside and we can't play. We got to play last weekend and the weekend before. I just love being outside and playing ball and hopefully winning some more games.

How can the Renegades garner more student support?

One of the biggest things is putting the thought out there that the Renegades aren't just the sports at the school. It's like we're all Renegades. There's no real reason that people shouldn't want to be Renegades, not necessarily in sports, but add something to it that can help you identify with your school. It gives you a sense of pride in your school and I feel like a lot of people at Columbia don't really have [that]. I think that would give people that sense of community.

What do you think deters students from joining the Renegades?

I think people have this thought here that sports are bad and they're so big at other places. I think it comes down to the school not really recognizing it the way that it should be. As soon as people hear we don't have football teams, their mind goes to, "Oh, we don't have sports." That's not true. I think it's just the way [the school is] delivering information because we're basically told from the first day at Columbia that we don't have sports, which I think is the reason that no one knows about it. There's some miscommunication.

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FEATUREDPHOTOGRAPH



Anthony Soave THE CHRONICLE Torigina

Henry Voellmecke, a sophomore art + design major, bumps a pass to his teammates during an April 23 4-on-4 volleyball tournament hosted by the Renegades at the Goodman Center, 501 S. Wabash Ave. The bi-annual staff vs. student volleyball game preceded the tournament and the staff won in two sets.

TECH TALK

Students face education improvements

SARAH SCHLIEDER

Sports & Health Editor

AS FINAL EXAMS and school projects begin to consume students' lives, researchers are developing new software that can discern how engaged they are in the classroom.

A study published April 10 in the journal IEEE Xplore introduced a new facial detection software that can measure students' engagement levels. Researchers from Emotient, a facial recognition technology development company, collaborated with researchers from Virginia State University and the University of California, San Diego to create the software.

"[The inspiration] was a combination of the opportunity to pursue automatic facial expression recognition research and applying it to education," said Jacob Whitehill, co-founder and research scientist at Emotient.

The software can predict a student's attention levels with 70 percent accuracy, Whitehill said, adding that the software can also predict students' test scores more accurately than their previous grades suggest. The software is modeled after machine learning technology, which uses statistics-based algorithms to compare images and videos to find distinctions—in this case, images of the students' facial expressions, Whitehill said.

To test the software, students were recorded while using online

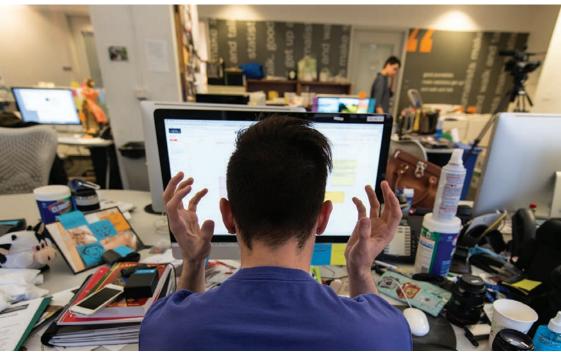


Photo Illustration Angela Conners THE CHRONICLE

learning software on their iPads and laptops, Whitehill said. The team then selected moments in which participants looked engaged and or distracted and added the facial responses to a catalogue that processed the images to determine a student's engagement level, Whitehill said.

Jeff Cohn, professor of psychology at the University of Pittsburgh, said he thinks educators need to be able to accurately measure their students' engagement levels to address any learning concerns students may have, such as grades and understanding of the material.

"While we're teaching, we're [constantly] trying to evaluate our

students' responses to what we're saying," Cohn said.

Whitehill said educators have shown increased interest in this technology in the last five years as universities have begun implementing more online resources. He said facial recognition software research can improve online lecture content and offer students a way to provide more honest feedback.

"What we can do instead [of regular evaluations] is get an automatic and massively wide-scale sense of how our students respond to what they're learning from," White-hill said. "By using this technology, you can identify parts that need to be improved."

According to Javier Movellan, a researcher at the Machine Perception Laboratory at UC San Diego and lead researcher at Emotient, the company has developed several cameras that detect facial expressions associated with primary emotions, which can be universally understood by any culture, and cognitive states, such as feelings of

The cameras used in the engagement study record muscle movements, Movellan said. When the camera detects which facial muscles moved in a particular area, it can then determine the subject's emotion.

confusion or frustration.

Inadditiontouseforstudentfeedback, Movellan said the software could be implemented into a retail setting to analyze customer experiences. He said the technology could also be applied in the medical field, as doctors could monitor the effects of a new drug by tracking their patients' facial expressions daily to monitor their emotional reactions to the medicine.

"Basically the technology is ready to be used in real-life environments," Movellan said. "[We are] very close."

Whitehill said the facial detection software is similar to human observation because neither is entirely accurate. However, the software is consistent, he said, whereas two human observers judging a subject's engagement level are likely to disagree about the subject's specific emotion. People are generally better able to determine a person's emotions because they can account for the context of the situation, Cohn said.

For example, smiles of embarrassment and enjoyment both use the Duchenne marker, the contraction of the sphincter muscle that surrounds the eyes and controls their movement, Cohn said, adding that the person's behaviors within a given context are important when inferring emotion.

"Software does not recognize emotion," Cohn said. "It may be recognizing expressions due to emotion labels, but to know what someone is feeling, that requires inference."

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GADGET LAB



ARPEGGIONOME IS A new app that allows musicians to create music on their phones.

The app functions as an instrument designed to play arpeggios, a musical technique where notes in a chord are played sequentially rather than simultaneously. Users can create their own arpeggio pat-

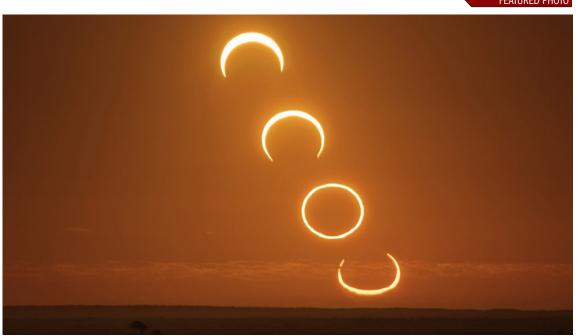
terns with the app's various knobs and buttons by altering speed and pitch. Tilting the device controls the volume, while shaking it produces a vibrato.

The Arpeggionome app is compatible with all iOS devices and is available in the App Store for \$1.99.

-S. Schlieder

FEATURED PHOTO

FEATURED APP



Courtesy JIA HAO

The sun will look like a ring of fire in some remote parts of the world April 29 during 2014's first solar eclipse. The eclipse will occur when the moon is at its farthest distance from Earth, making it too small to completely cover the sun.

O A SUBSTILI

Phonejoy console

THUMB CRAMPS MAY be a thing of the past thanks to Phonejoy, a Bluetooth game controller for Android and iCade that lets users play their favorite games on their phones, tablets and PCs with physical controls.

Phonejoy is thinner than the average wallet and can fit easily into a pocket or bag. The spring-loaded slider expansion allows gamers to secure their phones in a portrait or landscape display.

The hand-centered balance feature allows users to play comfortably for long hours with minimal discomfort and puts all the controls at the center of the action. Phonejoy also has a free Android and iOS app that gives gamers access to hundreds of games from any location.

The standard Phonejoy console can be purchased for \$69.90 on Phonejoy.com. **-S. Schlieder**

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Mind has messy relationship with space

MAX GREEN

Contributing Writer

IT IS SOMETHING nearly everyone has experienced: Time flies on the way home—much faster than it did on the way there. Though most chalk this feeling up to changes in scenery or a trick of the mind, new research suggests the phenomenon has to do with human perception of distance, which may be more complex than previously thought.

The study, which was organized by Sam Maglio, an assistant professor of marketing at the University of Toronto Scarborough and the Rotman School of Management, and published online April 10 by the journal Psychological Science, found that the human mind's perception of physical distances gets tangled up with psychological bias.

"It's really four different factors crashing in on themselves: time, space, social distance and probability," Maglio said.

During the study, participants on a subway platform were asked to estimate how far a designated train stop was based on their direction of travel, Maglio said. Regardless of actual distance, responses showed the travelers felt closer to destinations they were headed toward rather than those they were headed away from. Participants also felt more socially connected to someone, even strangers, based solely on the person moving toward them rather than away, Maglio said.

"We experience times when distance is confused based on what is happening in the brain," said Evan Polman, an assistant professor of marketing at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and co-author of the study.

Maglio said the qualities people associate with certain places help inform their perception of distance. For example, if a barista at a coffee shop had previously made a customer's drink incorrectly, not only does that event tend to feel like it happened more recently based on the physical distance to the coffee shop, but the shop also feels closer because of the event associated with it, Maglio said.

Polman said this phenomenon can make an hour-long trip across town seem to go by faster because the surroundings and route are familiar. A large part of the study's results likely stem from associated learning, a process human brains are constantly undergoing, said Satoru Suzuki, a professor of psychology at Northwestern University. For instance, when humans see a cat and hear it meow, the visual and auditory neurons in the brain process the image and sound of the cat simultaneously, Suzuki said. When these sensory neurons are repeatedly stimulated at the same time, the brain associates the images with their accompanying sound and vice versa.

According to Suzuki, the brain could function in the same way when people move from one place to another, associating how near or far they are from a place with the feelings they have about it.

Maglio said the brain can more easily associate pairings of distance in time with pairings of distance in space and that emotional factors such as something feeling far away or unattainable also play a role in distance perception.

According to Polman, principles similar to those relayed in the study were used to reconstruct parts of the George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston after travelers complained about long wait times at baggage claim. Without shortening wait times, the airport simply made the walk from the plane to baggage claim longer, essentially shifting the customers' focus from the wait to the walk, Polman said.

"It's a solution that's not terribly obvious," Polman said. "Time spent en route is occupied time. People were less likely to notice a longer walk to the carousel than a longer wait once they arrived."

Although the study does not speculate about the evolutionary cause for this particular psychological tendency, it is possible that it could have served early humans well to associate certain feelings or impressions with different routes as a primitive form of communication, Polman said.

"If it worked the opposite way, if moving closer to something felt like getting farther away [then] it does seem that as a species, we would be doomed," Polman said.

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Photo Illustration Grace Wiley THE CHRONICLE

» GYM

Continued from PG. 13

its sports culture, Brticevich said. However, he said he hopes the new gym space will encourage students to attend sporting events, join the Renegades and focus on fitness.

"Columbia is not the most fit campus in the world," Brticevich said. "It's always hard trying to get kids out of their dorm room and get them more active and more engaged."

Gorski said he wishes students would be more involved in Columbia athletics and that this new space is a good way to encourage student participation.

"Everyone needs to be healthy," Gorski said. "It's healthy to go to the gym and get out and be active, but it's not just about being competitive and being athletic."

Gorski said access to the gym will afford the Renegades more practice spaces and reduce scheduling conflicts at the Goodman Center and Fitness Studio, which could be used for more open gym times.

Although Columbia has managed to find athletic spaces at nearby colleges for its sports teams, there's still a demand for the college to build its own official athletic facility, Gorski said, acknowledging that building a new facility is unlikely because of the cost.

"It would be extremely difficult to do because this school [places] a ... stigma against athletics," Gorski said. "[The Renegades do] our best to market the heck out of it. People are not interested in what we have to offer as much as we'd like."

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Courtesy EAST-WEST UNIVERSITY

East-West University will grant Columbia students access to its gym, 819 S. Wabash Ave., beginning April 28.

» TOUCH

Continued from PG. 13

tree that spurred the development of an internal spine rather than an exoskeleton. Insects and other invertebrates that possess exoskeletons do not have Merkel cells, she said. All vertebrate animals have Merkel cells and they are in virtually the same ratio among all vertebrates, Lumpkin said, which signaled to her that they must be important for animals' sensing and shaping the environment.

However, the touch sensitivity Lumpkin connects with Merkel cells is only present in primates, according to Robert Martin, curator emeritus of biological anthropology at the Field Museum. He said the sensitivity of the fingertips is likely a trait that evolved from climbing trees about 18 million years ago.

Although it is still a developing field, touch has been the subject of scientific studies since the 1960s when scientists discovered and named touch receptors called the Meissner's corpuscles. They play a role in developing the ridges on a fingertip, which allow fingers to grip surfaces more easily and a unique form of identification. Martin wrote in his 1990 book "Primate Origins" that the ridges are likely an evolutionary trait that allowed for primates' unique sensitivity.

"It's rather like the ridges on a tire," Martin said. "When you're grasping something, those ridges on the skin [of the fingertip] are an anti-slip mechanism."



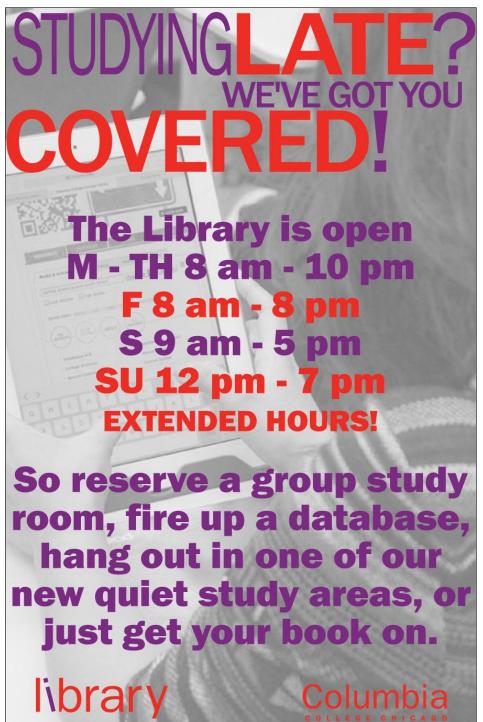
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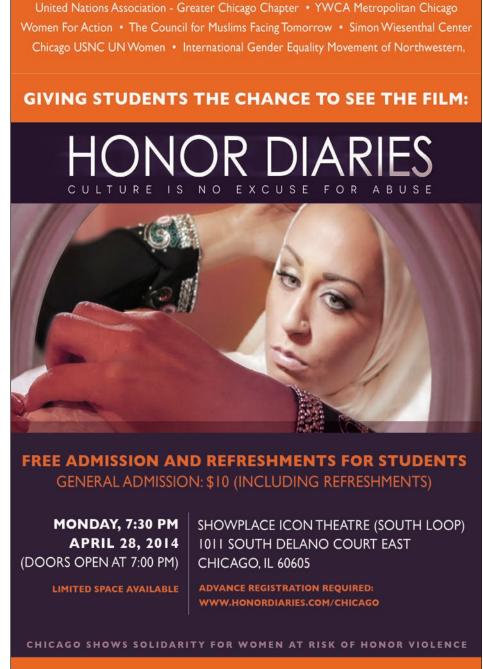
The recent developments in the understanding of touch detailed in Lumpkin's study could be used to develop medicine for conditions involving touch hypersensitivity, such as tactile allodynia and chronic itch. Chronic itch is the most prevalent skin disorder in the U.S. and can be extremely damaging to a person's ability to function, according to an October 2011 study from the National Institutes of Health. Itch is poorly understood and is naturally the next step for sensory research, Lumpkin said.

"I think our goal is to bring relief to human suffering," Lumpkin said. "By identifying these basic genes and cells that are involved in touch sensation, we hope to be able to inform the development of new therapies to relieve chronic suffering." Hsiao said although the study is a significant leap forward, touch research is far from complete because of its complexity. Lumpkin said the primary use of his findings for his own research will be to interpret how the Merkel cells communicate with the brain and how the brain then interprets those signals, sorts them and sends a transmission back to the nerve-endings in a person's fingertips.

"We are missing this one piece," Hsaio said. "We don't know the specific neurotransmitter that is conveying [the signal]. There have been several unsuccessful attempts to identify it in the past but [Lumpkin and her team] will do it. [They will] get it there."

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Key lime cupcakes

INGREDIENTS

- 1 box Betty Crocker lemon cake mix
- 3/4 cup water
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- 3 eggs
- 1 box lime gelatin
- 1/3 cup Key lime juice
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1 16-ounce container vanilla frosting (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees
- 2. Prepare cake batter according to box instructions
- **3.** Add gelatin mix and two tablespoons of Key lime juice to batter
- 4. Line cupcake pan with baking cups or cooking oil and fill each cup about two-thirds full
- 5. Bake 19-24 minutes
- **6.** Let cool and pierce several times with a toothpick
- 7. Combine powdered sugar and remaining Key lime juice until smooth and thin. Drizzle over cupcakes
- 8. Frost as desired

FAVORITE recipes



SARAH SCHLIEDER

Sports & Health Editor

DURING THE AWKWARD transitional period from winter to spring, I often do things to reassure myself that winter may finally be melting away. This includes eating foods that are associated with warm summer weather such as pineapples, tomatoes and citrusy sweets from local farmers markets.

A few years ago, I stumbled upon a recipe for Key lime cupcakes while paging through one of my grandma's cookbooks. The recipe seemed pretty elaborate for my cooking level at the time, but I created my own sunny island paradise in no time.

Begin by preheating the oven to 350 degrees and placing paper baking cups into each section of a medium-sized cupcake pan. If you do not have paper cups, apply a generous amount of cooking oil to the pan to make sure the cupcakes do not stick. Beat the cupcake mix, water and eggs in a large mixing bowl and gradually add in the lime-flavored gelatin powder and two tablespoons of Key lime juice. Divide the batter evenly among the cups, filling each about two-thirds full.

Bake the cupcakes for 19-24 minutes or until an inserted toothpick comes out clean. Allow to cool in the pan for 10 minutes.

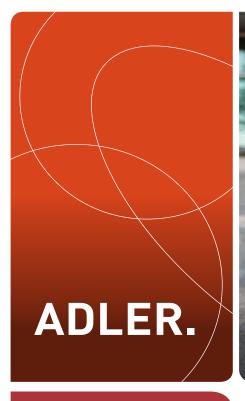
While the cupcakes cool, prepare the Key lime glaze by mixing one

cup powdered sugar and two tablespoons of lime juice in a small bowl. Continue to add juice until the glaze is smooth enough to drizzle.

Pierce the cupcakes several times with a toothpick. Pour and spread the glaze on top of the cupcakes, allowing it to drip down into the holes. Let the cupcakes cool for an additional 30 minutes.

The cupcakes are usually sweet enough with just the Key lime glaze, but vanilla frosting can be added for a little more sweetness. Finish by topping the cupcakes with a miniature umbrella and pair with a cold glass of iced tea and your favorite Hawaiian shirt.

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Dance studio launches new programs for students with disabilities

MATT MCCALL

Arts & Culture Editor

A CHICAGO DANCE studio is pioneering new techniques to give children with disabilities a new outlet for expression.

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, 1147 W. Jackson Blvd., announced April 16 the addition of two adaptive dance programs-The Autism Project, for children with autism spectrum disorder in grades 1-6, and Physically Integrated Dance, a program for neurotypical youth ages 8-16 who have certain physical disabilities.

Five weekly hour-long pilot classes for the program will begin in June 2014 and integrate Hubbard Street's long-running Parkinson's Project into its new Adaptive Dance program. Full sessions are scheduled to begin in the fall.

Kathryn Humphreys, director of Education, Youth and Community Programs at Hubbard Street, said the new programs come after more than a year of discussions between members of an advisory committee at the studio. She said the need for the curricula became apparent through Hubbard Street's work in Chicago Public Schools as part of its Movement As Partnership and Focus Schools Initiative programs.

"We were inspired [by] what we see in the classrooms in the schools and the need for it," Humphreys said. "We have students coming through our program [who] could

use such classes [as well as] staff members who have children with these issues who are looking for classes all the time."

The MAP and FSI programs pair dance instructors with children with and without special needs. The lessons combine dance with academic subjects such as English and science, according to Columbia graduate student and Hubbard Street Teaching Artist Cheryl Olendzki. She said her path to becoming a dance therapist was the result of her seven years of teaching at Hubbard Street and in integrated classrooms.

"I had a student who was a selective mute," Olendzki said. "She had trauma in her past and stopped talking. To see how she came out of her shell and how movement provided her a different way to communicate was really meaningful to me and was one of the driving forces in getting my master's."

Humphreys said the programs are designed for students with autism to address their needs.

"Students with autism and physical disabilities spend a lot of their time in therapy or feeling that they can't participate," Humphreys said. "To know that they are welcome and that this will be made comfortable for them and for their parents ... creates a level of comfort and a feeling of normalcy-just signing up for a class like kids do."

Changes to Hubbard Street's

tured visual schedule that is easily understood by students and a higher teacher to student ratio of three adults for every eight students.

"We're going to have a very structured class [that] will fit the needs of autistic children, starting with Brain Dance, which is based on developmental movement patterns [that] help to reorganize the body and create connections in the central nervous system," Olendzki said. "While they're gaining new movement skills, they're hopefully feeling that joy of dancing, of moving, that many of us experience in a dance class."

Although Hubbard Street's program is purely meant for student growth, some professionals have found that movement and dance can be an effective therapy for individuals with autism.

Joanne Lara, president of nonprofit Autism Movement Therapy based in Van Nuys, Calif., said she has been using dance to provide children with autism an avenue for self-expression since starting her organization in 2007.

A former professional dancer, Lara taught children with special needs in the Los Angeles Unified School District for 10 years before she developed the Autism Movement Therapy Program. Lara teaches AMT workshops throughout the U.S., including her very first at Hubbard Street in 2010, she said.

» SEE DANCE, PG. 28



Courtesy ZACHARY WHITTENBURG

The Hubbard Street Dance Center in Chicago has been conducting adaptive dance classes since 2007 with the Parkinson's Project, which was designed to ease symptoms of the disease and provide an opportunity for students with disabilities to dance. Above, Parkinson's Project founder Sarah Cullen Fuller instructs a class of elderly students.



Courtesy WENDY ZAMARIPA

The artists featured in DePaul's Art Museum exhibit "From Heart to Hand" exhibit are African-American women working in Gee's Bend, Ala. The quilts, including Mary Maxiton's "Everybody Quilt" (pictured above) celebrate a

Stitching together artistic past, present

SARAH MADERA

Contributing Writer

AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN made quilts to keep their families warm long before the Civil War, but now the quilts demonstrate a cultural artistry unique to the South.

To honor the historical significance of quilting, the DePaul Art Museum, 935 W. Fullerton Ave., is showcasing an exhibit titled "From Heart to Hand" from April 10-June 22 that features quilts hand-crafted by African-American women from Gee's Bend, Ala., and neighboring areas throughout the last 70 years.

Just like any other gallery artwork, Louise Lincoln, director of the museum at DePaul University's Lincoln Park Campus, said the quilts showcase the inventive craftwork of the artists.

"We're hoping people will broaden their idea of what artwork is," Lincoln said. "Just because it's made of cloth doesn't mean that it's not a product of an artists' expression."

There are 23 intricate, kaleidoscopic quilts designed by various female artists mounted on white walls in three rooms of the exhibit. The show was originally organized by the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts in 2004 and is currently on tour across the United States.

"Quilts are a practical project to keep people warm, but there is also a history attached to them," Lincoln said. "The quilts were not made by machines- it is important to know

African-American quilting styles were born in the South prior to the Civil War, but each quilt artist has their own style, said Georgette Sinkler, an associate professor of philosophy at the University of Illinois at Chicago who studies the history of quilting. The style emphasizes strong, repetitious patterns in explosively warm coloration, which is reminiscent of the folk art in sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, the quilts have a charming, tangibly homemade quality about them, which is undoubtedly linked to their southern origins.

Although the quilts are all from the same area, their structures are free-formed and unique, composed of a wide array of colors and shapes and the stitching of small pieces of fabric to make a complex combination of textiles.

"This improvisation, or freedom in individual expression, would certainly be valued by people oppressed in various ways," Sinkler said in an emailed statement.

Some of the quilts in the museum were anonymous donations, but the artists featured include Nora Ezell, Mary Lee Bendolph, Mary Maxtion, Plummer T. Pettway and notable quilter Yvonne Wells.

Wells, who is from Tuscaloosa, Ala., said she did not start making her renowned story quilts until 1985. Her quilts depict notable, historical events and figures such as Rosa Parks and Helen Keller. Strips

» SEE **QUILT**, PG. 28

FOR THE RECORD by Emily Ornberg Managing Editor

'It's like climbing up a f--kin' mountain if you got on slippers'

A PENIS MAY not be the only thing the Wu-Tang clan has recently lost.

After clan-affiliated emcee Andre Johnson lost his pee-pee to PCP and a kitchen knife, the crew announced that the long-awaited 20th anniversary album *A Better Tomorrow*, which was slated to come out in July, may not be released.

Well, not in so many words.
When the Wu released "Keep
Watch," the first single off their upcoming album, clan member Raekwon's absence hinted at an even
more detrimental split from the
group than Johnson's johnson—
he's been M.I.A. from the entire recording process and probably isn't

coming back. In his April 17 Rolling Stone interview, Raekwon was asked to rank the chances of him appearing on A Better Tomorrow on a scale of 1-10.

"We at a two right now," he said. "It's like climbing up a f--kin' mountain if you got on slippers."

Wu-Tang member RZA rebuttal-ed in a April 23 Sports Illustrated interview and gave an official deadline for the emcee to end his Wu strike: "If we don't come to terms [with Raekwon] within the next 30 days, then this will either be an album without Raekwon or an album that never sees the light of day. That's a strong potential. I would



not want to put out a Wu-Tang album without every live member available We need him there. I want him there."

The Wu-Tang fam might need more than 30 days to repair this severed member.

"RZA's the type of dude where, in the '90s, he ruled," Raekwon said. "Now it's a new day. You're not attached no more. It's like being a coach and you won rings back in the day, but now your team is in ninth place. It's time for a new f-king game plan."

Apparently this debacle isn't going to affect the one-copy release of their 31-track album *Once Upon a Time in Shaolin*. If nothing else, Wu fans can just pool their resources and bid on the uber rare, hella expensive album—which is now going for more than \$5 million.

eornberg@chroniclemail.com



Monday, April 28

THE PAINS OF BEING PURE AT HEART

The Empty Bottle 1035 N. Western Ave. 8:30 p.m. \$12

Tuesday, April 29

DIANA ROSS

The Chicago Theater 175 N. State St. 8 p.m. \$46+

Tuesday, April 29

PETER WOLF

City Winery 1200 W. Randolf St. 8 p.m. \$40+

Wednesday, April 30 BOMBAY BICYCLE CLUB

House of Blues 329 N. Dearborn St. 7:30 p.m. \$25

Thursday, May 1

THE BLIND STAGGERS

Beat Kitchen 2100 W. Belmont Ave. 8:30 p.m. \$8

Friday, May 2

JIMBO DELTA

Reggies Chicago 2105 S. State St. 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 3

CHANCES DANCES

The Hideout 1354 W. Wasbania Ave. 12 a.m. \$5

Saturday, May 3

CLOUD NOTHINGS

Lincoln Hall 2424 N. Lincoln Ave. 10 p.m. \$15

Sunday, May 4

PSALM ONE

The Hideout 2011 W. North Ave. 10 p.m. \$10







KRYSTEL CASTILLO sophomore fashion studies major

WHAT STRANGE SUPERPOWER DO YOU WISH YOU HAD? "Probably cloning myself, so I can get s--t done"





ANDREW SENA sophomore fashion studies major

WHAT STRANGE SUPERPOWER DO YOU WISH YOU HAD? "Snapping my fingers and being dressed in the morning."





ZIA SARETTE SCOTT junior business & entrepreneurship major

WHAT STRANGE SUPERPOWER DO YOU WISH YOU HAD? "Making things appear. If I wanted a burger, I could have it."





ABE ZIELENIEC senior art + design major

WHAT STRANGE SUPERPOWER DO YOU WISH YOU HAD?

"Frving bacon with my eyes."





'Transcendence' artificially unintelligible

JOSH WEITZEL

Film Critic

WHILE THE CURRENT state of artificial intelligence has brought us Roomba, Siri and TurboTax, scientists in the movies are much more productive. Beginning with Frankenstein, there's a long history of droids, robots, humanoids and machines that are capable of thinking and reasoning like humans and ready to make their way in the world. Films such as "Her" (Spike Jonze) and "Blade Runner" (Ridley Scott) have attempted to answer the ethical questions regarding the sentience of a manufactured intelligence. Now "Transcendence," directed by famed cinematographer Wally Pfister ("Inception," "The Dark Knight"), attempts to have the last word on the subject by transforming a man into a machine.

Dr. Will Caster (Johnny Depp), a researcher known for his work in developing artificial intelligence, attempts to grant the human brain eternal life by uploading it into a computer, thus transforming the brain's organic physicality into digitized consciousness. After giving a speech on "transcendence," Caster is shot in the stomach with a radiated bullet by anti-technology terrorist organization RIFT, or Revolutionary Independence from Technology. Destined to die of radiation poisoning, Will enlists the help of his wife Evelyn (Rebecca

Hall), and colleague Max Waters (Paul Bettany) to successfully upload his brain to a computer before he dies. Max has second thoughts about what they've done and leaves Will's lab only to be captured by RIFT, which needs his help to erase Will's consciousness.

The computerized Will and his wife flee to a small desert town, where they construct an underground lab for him to conduct experiments in nanotechnology. His work is groundbreaking and quickly gains notoriety. This tech has a wide array of uses, from healing debilitating health issues to purifying the planet's water supply, but comes at a price. People healed by the Nano machines are synced with Caster's consciousness, giving him the power to control them. Soon, the FBI gets wind of the situation and goes to investigate, eventually teaming up with RIFT and Evelyn to shut Will down.

Although the premise is superficially clever, "Transcendence" suffers from a lack of focus, posing the typical philosophical human questions about sentient artificial intelligence, such as, "What separates man from machine?" and "Can a machine have empathy?" Most artificial intelligence films begin with a computer striving to become human, but "Transcendence" works in reverse, making it thematically confusing. For example, Waters explains to Evelyn that her husband



can no longer reason or think like a human, but minutes later, Caster explains that because he has unselfishly used his technology to better mankind, he is human.

RIFT's ultimate goal is to shut down Caster, but the only way to do that is to infect Will with a computer virus, which will paralyze the machine that houses him. However, infecting him would shut down every piece of technology across the globe. RIFT's operatives (led by Kate Mara of "House of Cards") never consider that by completing their goal, they would put the planet in worse shape than when Will was in control. Having the FBI assist them makes even less sense, not just because it means the federal government is teaming up with terrorists, but also because the feds are helping to shut down all technology on the planet.

The audience is left wondering whom they should root for. At the beginning of the film, it is assumed that RIFT is the enemy, because members make an attempt on Caster's life, but as the story progresses and Will's power increases, it becomes clear that he might create something dangerous, therefore making Caster seem more like a

menace than a hero. Will's dynamic motives change the audience's perspective of RIFT, creating a sense of sympathy for the organization despite their dubious actions.

Yet, at the end of the film, both parties are equally responsible for the outcome. This sleight of hand ought to be bold and meaningful but comes off as indecisive. "Transcendence" wants viewers to believe in the possibility of super intelligence, but sends mixed signals, causing the film to manifest very little of

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CONNECTING COLUMBIA'S URBAN CAMPUS

Story by Katherine Davis, Assistant Campus Editor Design and Illustration by Donald Wu, Graphic Designer

LAST FRIDAY EVENING on campus, students could have watched independent films by Master's candidates in the Cinema Arts & Science Department, gone to a play about Mary Stuart, Queen of Scotts, attended a reception at the Glass Curtain Gallery, participated in a culture night sponsored by the Latino Alliance or watched musical performances by graduating seniors. That is, if they stayed on campus. But odds are most students didn't make the trip and stayed home in their respective neighborhoods.

They are probably in the same boat as Annie Gaskell, a sophomore art + design major who commutes from Pilsen to campus on the Pink Line every day and says she no longer feels as connected to Columbia as she did in her first year.

"Columbia is not your traditional school, but that's what the appeal and disadvantage of Columbia is," Gaskell said.

She said she noticed a big difference in how connected she felt to campus after she moved out of the dorms. Last year, she relished her five-minute stroll from the University Center, 525 S. State St., to her classes. This year, she combines a 15-minute walk with a 30-minute train ride five days a week before arriving in the South Loop, which makes coming to campus a time-consuming chore.

Gaskell is one of 6,764 Columbia students who commute to campus every day for class. When classes end and buildings close, only about 26 percent of the student body returns to college residence halls, while the rest depart to places as far away as Indiana and

Wisconsin via El cars, rattling Metra trains or clogged traffic roadways.

Enjoying what Columbia has to offer is a challenge for these students either because they don't have time to participate or the inclination or perhaps even a knowledge of what they might be missing.

Gaskell said she's very aware of her distance from campus. Commuting makes it difficult to find and attend Columbia's staple events, such as Biggest Mouth and college forums, she said.

"A lot of my friends go to state schools," Gaskell said. "I feel like there is a lot more of a community and it's a lot easier to meet people through the college, but at the same time, you don't have access to the city."

Many other students express similar feelings about the lack of a conventional campus with affordable adjacent housing causing them to treat school as a job rather than as a more involved college experience that includes attending lectures, performances and other after-hours activities.

Often, there are economic divides, too, between students who can afford to live on or near campus and those who cannot because the cost of living on campus is high. Living off campus can offer a significant advantage in minimizing expenses.

The rates for on-campus housing range from \$7,870 to \$16,248 for the academic year, according to Columbia's residence life website. The cheaper options are located in the 777 S. State residence building, whereas the most expensive rates are found in The Dwight and the University Center.

> Living in a two-bedroom apartment with four occupants in the Residence Center, 731 S. Plymouth Court, costs approximately \$1,000 per month. Moving into an apartment in a neighborhood outside of downtown can be significantly less Lakeview or Wicker Park which is of

are required] to live on campus, but we would never consider that because of the nature of our student body and the fact that we are in Chicago."

Thomas Thomasino, a junior business & entrepreneurship major, endures a nearly two-hour commute to get to campus from La Porte, Ind., via the South Shore Metra train. Thomasino said he had class four times a week in previous semesters but reduced his course load this semester because his commute was insufferable.

"I don't really have the means to live in Chicago at the moment," Thomasino said. "I'm definitely actively pursuing [a way] to be able to live in Chicago. I just haven't been able to yet."

Thomasino said it is more difficult for him to engage in Columbia's social environment because he goes to class and then commutes back to Indiana, where he lives with his parents, leaving him little time to connect and interact with other students.

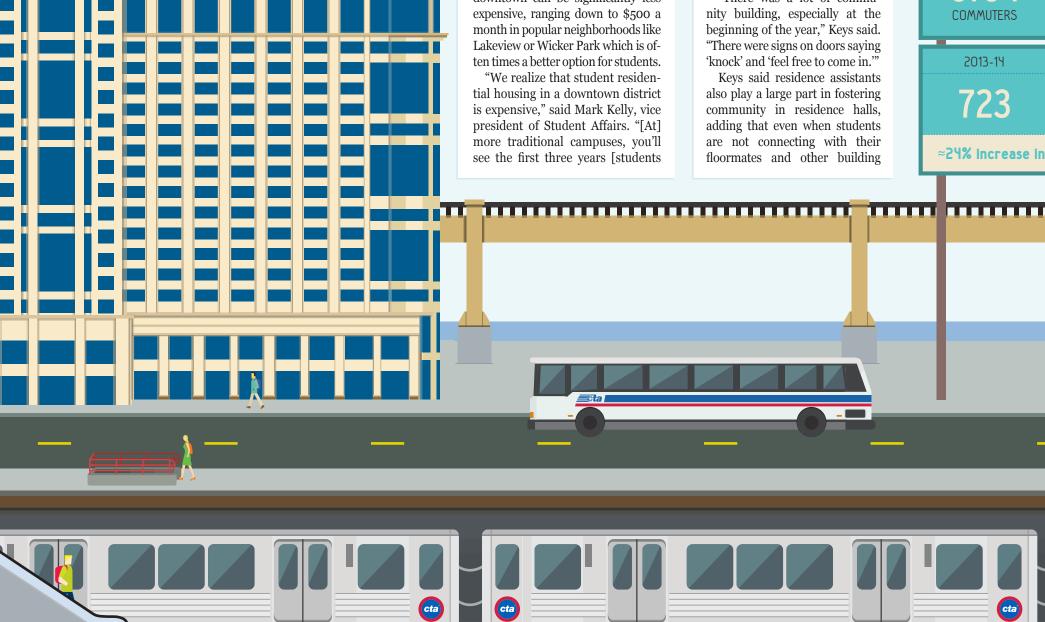
"I didn't really get any good friends until my second year here," Thomasino said. "Now, I have several great friends. It eventually worked out. It just took a more time."

The residence halls definitely make it easier to meet people. In part, that's because of the efforts of the Residence Hall Association, a student organization that works to create social and cultural opportunities for students living on campus, such as "Little Mouth" on April 13, an open-mic musical performance event.

David Keys, staff advisor for the RHA and coordinator of the Office of Residence Life in Community Development, said residence halls are where students most

often intermingle in Columbia's social culture, by finding friends and exploring the role they have on campus.

"There was a lot of commu-



residents, the RAs will assist them in meeting people through floor meetings and building events.

While the experience of dorm living helps acclimate incoming students to Columbia and assemble a circle of friends, it's rare a student will stay there beyond the first year.

Zachary Reyna, a junior music major, said he lived in The Dwight, 642 S. Clark St., his freshman year but moved off campus for financial reasons and to acquire his own space. Reyna said living in The Dwight as a freshman allowed him to adapt to the campus, immerse himself in the culture and make friends.

Reyna said now that he lives in Logan Square, he feels less a part of the campus than he did while living in a residence hall. Yet sometimes he enjoys the privacy it allows him.

"It can be lonely but it's perfectly fine," Reyna said. "While being off campus physically removes you from being close to all those students at all times, whether or not I'm still down there and connecting with other students is still my own choice."

Kelly said Columbia requires students to live on campus their freshman year unless they reside in the metro area, but because many Columbia students are native to the city or opt to live in an off-campus apartment, it is easy to avoid living in residence halls.

Approximately 75 percent of this year's freshman class lived on campus, a record high, Kelly noted, adding the other 25 percent are at risk of relinquish-

to do homework and eat, but most importantly, socialize with a significant portion of the student population.

As reported by The Chronicle April 14, President Kwang-Wu Kim said in his April 8 State of the College address that he is considering repurposing the Johnson Building into a fully functional student center where students can spend downtime in a common space. However, Kim said the project will be extremely expensive, adding, "Don't hold me to it."

"We do have the challenge that we don't have that hub—that common core, that common space that allows a good number of students to come together all the time," Kelly said. "But I think we've done a great job with the challenges of our urban high-rise campus to create homes and places for students."

Despite not having these more traditional methods of socialization, Columbia tries to compensate by having several student organizations that constantly invite students to join while regularly holding campus events.

Abby Cress, the Student Government Association's student representative to the board of trustees and a senior fashion studies major, said each department

offers students countless opportunities to engage in their major and meet other students who have similar interests, but that most students, especially commuters, do not take advantage of them.

attended and the Renegades, Co-

"High school was the same situation. It just wasn't my cup of tea. I'm mostly here to be a filmmaker."

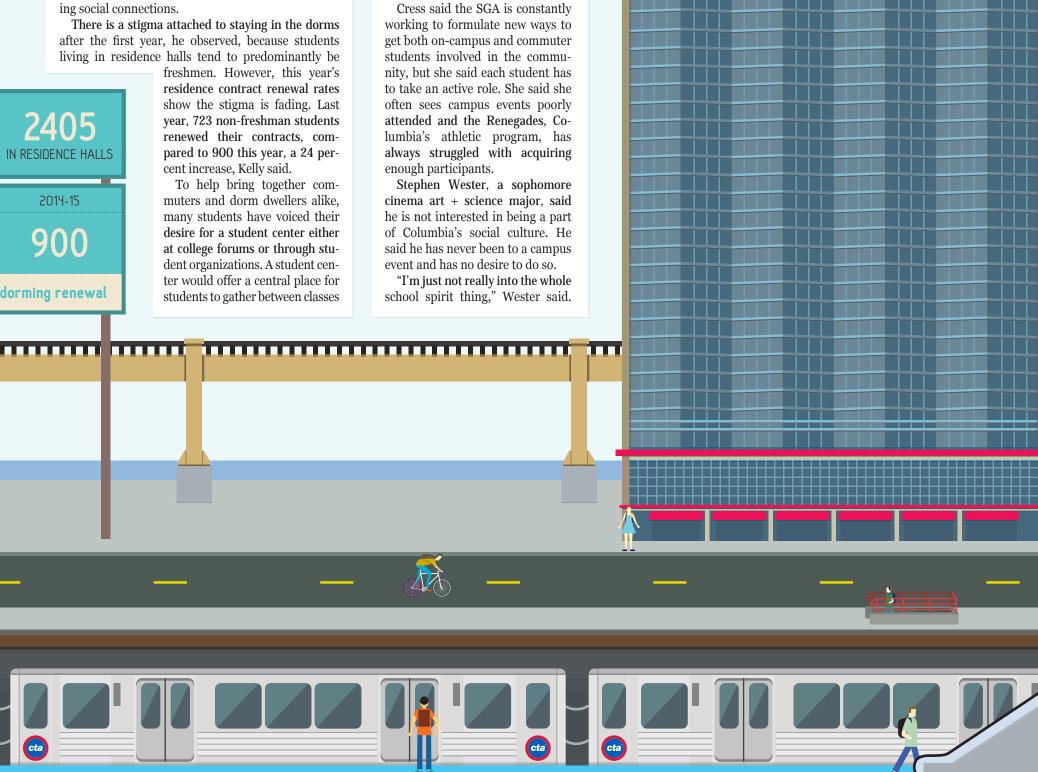
Stuart Nachbar, an expert on social campus dynamics and president of Educated Quest, an online guide that details college atmospheres, said though there are stark differences between Columbia's urban campus and more traditional ones, there is not a clear answer as to which is better for students.

"It depends on what you're looking for," Nachbar said. "The nice thing about a lot of urban campuses is that they are more diverse [but] there's just fewer people."

In the end, personal involvement is a matter of choice. Whether that means actually attending campus events, stepping out of comfort zones and finding that "creative crew," students can contribute to the campus culture if they choose.

"To build a student community, it's a two-way street," Kelly said. "We're not going to be a traditional campus, but our students are going to feel a sense of belongingness [and] in the end, it's on our terms."

kdavis@chroniclemail.com



SED BOOKSTORES

University Village: 1218 S. Halsted St. 9 a.m. – 9 p.m. Lakeview: 2850 Lincoln Ave. 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. Hyde Park: 1501 E. 57th St. 9 a.m. – 11 p.m.

Powell's Chicago, which has three locations in the city, has been open for more than 40 years, said Ryan Jackson, store manager at the Hyde Park store. All three locations host events that help enrich the live literature scene in Chicago by offering a space for writers to give readings and showcase their work. Its reading series Bad Grammar Theater takes place from 6–9 p.m. at the University Village location on the third Friday of every month. The Lakeview location hosts the Do Not Submit storytelling open mic night at 7 p.m. on the last Monday of every month to foster a more intimate environment.

(773) 955-7780 PowellsChicago.com

213 W. Institute Place Mon. – Sat.: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. and Sun.: 12 – 6 p.m.

Open Books, Ltd. is not only a nonprofit bookstore, it also doubles as a nonprofit literacy organization.

"We do literacy programs with students all over the city," said Manager Kevin Elliott. "The bookstore is here primarily to fund those programs. Most of our books are donated to us and most of the people who work in the store are volunteers."

Some of its programs include ReadThen-Write, a book club and writing workshop for high school students, and Book Worm Angels, which donates books to organizations that request them. Soon the shop will have an online writing portal called Story-Port, where high school students can showcase their work, Elliott said. Open Books also hosts events such as Storytime for young children at 10 a.m. on Thursdays and an annual Sidewalk Sale on May 3 and 4.

(312) 475-1355 Open-Books.org An e-book may be convenient, but most literary enthusiasts would agree that there is something special about turning the pages and inhaling the fresh, dusty smell of a tangible paper book. Unfortunately, the market for print books is declining, as evidenced by shuttering of the beloved Borders book franchise. Services that offer e-book devices such as Amazon's Kindle are becoming increasingly popular, but quirky used bookstores in Chicago are serving as places to rejuvenate literary culture through their used collections and various community events.

The Chronicle compiled a list of five of the most fascinating used bookstores in the city.

> 3444 N. Clark St. Mon. – Thurs. 11 a.m. – 9 p.m. Fri. - Sat. 11 a.m. – 10 p.m. Sun. 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Bookworks greets customers with the sound of alternative music playing on vinyl. The eclectic store buys and sells used books, CDs and records and was established in 1984 on Sheffield Ave.; it moved to its current Clark Street location three years later, according to employee Brandon Zamora. The store's focus is on out-of-print books, vintage music items and affordability, offering a deliberately varied assortment of old and new finds.

(773) 871-5318 TheBookWorks.com 23 E. Illinois St. Mon. – Thurs.: 10:30 a.m. – 10 p.m. Fri.: 10:30 a. m. – 11 p.m. Sat.: 10 a.m. – 11 p.m. Sun.: 12 – 7 p.m.

After-Words Bookstore is one of the only used bookstores in downtown Chicago, according to the store's website. Compared to some literary nooks in the city, After-Words provides a large, comfortable environment where Chi-town's most voracious readers are free to browse. The store occupies 8,000 square feet and holds 55,000 new and used books, according to manager Angie Walters. It also buys and sells art of all kinds from local and national artists. The store occasionally hosts readings and lets other organizations rent the space as a venue for various events, Walters said.

(312) 464-1110 After-WordsChicago.com

2005 W. Montrose Ave. Everyday 12 – 6 p.m.

Ravenswood Used Books is the perfect gathering place for fans of Edgar Allen Poe and Emily Dickinson because of the store's focus on classic literature. The store moved from its 4626 N. Lincoln Ave. location to 2005 W. Montrose Ave. in March because it needed a bigger space to host events, according to Manager Jim Mall. Unlike used bookstores that offer a non-specialized hodge podge of books, Ravenswood is very specific. Ravenswood Used Books offers a variety of literature but specializes in literary classics such as "A Tale of Two Cities" and "To Kill a Mocking Bird." The store also runs an active blog detailing all things literature including book reviews and event postings.

(773) 593-9166 ChiBooks.blogspot.com

WRITTEN BY NICOLE MONTALVO
DESIGN BY ALY DODDS

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//////AUDIOFILE \\\\\\\\\

Equator Club shaking up underground scene

NICOLE MONTALVO

Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

THE SON OF a nightclub owner, Emmanuel Egwu, aka Equator Club, has been immersed in the world of electronic music all his life. Using European influences and drum beats derived from his knowledge of music theory, Egwu creates music reminiscent of disco coupled with a strong R&B feel that transports the listener to a state of zen-like, rhythmic relaxation.

Egwu began producing music at age 12. His father, originally from Nigeria, owned a nightclub in Uptown named "Equator Club," which is where Egwu's musical moniker came from. He had the passion to establish his own

party planning and promotions business, Them Flavors, and now works with international artists and music companies. He also teaches a workshop in Wicker Park through Columbia's Community Arts Assistance Project.

To date, Equator Club has self-released three EPs, including Get A Hit, which was produced through Them Flavors in September 2013.

Egwu attended Columbia during the 2009-2010 academic year before moving to California "to find himself." When he returned to the Windy City for job opportunities, Egwu chased his vision to promote and create music.

Every Thursday night, Them Flavors plays a DJ set at Primary Night Club, 5 W. Division St., featuring a rotating marquee of EDM producers every week, including artists such as Kill Frenzy and Autograf. Equator Club is scheduled to play a concert April 30 at The Chop Shop, 2033 W. North Ave.

Egwu recently returned to Chicago after playing multiple shows in Miami and said he hopes to tour more when he has the time to do work outside of Them Flavors. Until then, he said, he'll stick to DJing.

The Chronicle spoke to Egwu on the phone about the popularity of house music overseas, Them Flavors and his personal struggle as an independent artist.

THE CHRONICLE: When did you first get into music and start doing it professionally?

I was younger, he owned a nightclub. I started producing when I was like twelve; I was pretty young. I was just messing around, not doing anything special, but I learned from that. When I was seven, I took piano [lessons] for a while and all throughout high school I took music classes. And then I went to Columbia for music business. I stopped producing at that point

EMMANUEL EGWU: My dad, when

because I really wanted to get into the business side of music. Then I moved to California for about a year and I realized that I really wanted to just make music and not deal so much with the business side, so when I came back from California,

I started Equator Club and I started

How would you describe your music?

It's mostly vibey/ house/ bass, but I do produce a lot of different kinds of music. I would say that I like worldly influences in most things. House music has definitely made the most impact on my production. I took [a] music theory [class], so a lot of my music [has] very lavish chord progressions and changes within the songs.

What is your performance style like?

I used to do a lot more live performance, but I do DJ now just because it became a hassle lugging around the laptop.

» SEE **EQUATOR CLUB**, PG. 31



Equator Club is the musical alias of local DJ and producer Emmanuel Egwu, who also co-owns party planning arts promotion company Them Flavors. A former Columbia student, Egwu's music and business focus on the underground house music scene in Chicago and overseas

/////staff playlist ////// Nostalgia



Stephanie Goldberg, Assistant Faculty Advisor

SWEET JANE The Velvet Underground **PIRATES** Rickie Lee Jones **HEROES** David Bowie **ROYALS** Lorde THIS IS HOW IT GOES Aimee Mann



Lindsey Woods, Editor-in-Chief CUTE WITHOUT THE 'E' Taking Back Sunday SEVENTY TIMES 7 Brand New I WRITE SINS NOT TRAGEDIES Panic! At The Disco **EVERYTHING IS ALRIGHT** Motion City Soundtrack FRANCO UN-AMERICAN NOFX



Nicole Montalvo, Assistant Arts & Culture

DANCE, DANCE Fall Out Boy THE RUMOURS ARE FLYING A Kidnap In Color MMMBOP Hanson **GORGEOUS** Rediscover CAROLINA HEAT You, Me, and Everyone We Know



Kyra Senese, Copy Chief YOUR EYES Bombay Bicycle Club CLOSE TO YOUR HEART Morning Parade

THE BEERS The Front Bottoms COSMIC LOVE Florence + The Machine VIDEO GAMES Lana Del Rey

George Lucas considers Chicago for museum



MCT Newswir

A wax figure X-Wing pilot is posed by the signature fighter that first made its debut in George Lucas' groundbreaking space opera "Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope."

MELISSA HARRIS

MCT Newswire

ABOUT 100 CITIZENS interested in luring George Lucas' collection of art and movie memorabilia to Chicago spoke at an April 23 public hearing held by a task force trying to find a local site for the museum.

But the Galactic Empire seemed to be otherwise engaged, as no one arrived in costume for the hearing, which was held under the world's largest Tiffany stained glass dome in an ornate, marble-walled hall at the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St.

"It would be interesting to have this type of museum because, to me, it would be hard to find anything to rival it," said Michael Howe, a graphic designer and art school graduate who was among the first to arrive for the public hearing. "[Chicago is] not an entertainment city compared with New York, Los Angeles and Toronto."

The 12-member task force has until mid-May to recommend a site for the Lucas Cultural Arts Museum to Mayor Rahm Emanuel. The site selected by Emanuel will then compete against at least one known site in San Francisco, where the Star Wars and Indiana Jones creator launched his career and spent most of his life, as well as with sites in any other cities interested in landing the museum.

A museum spokesman has declined to reveal the other interested cities, but Chicago's edge might be that Lucas lives here part time with his wife, Chicago native and Ariel Investments President Mellody Hobson.

The hearing had the air of a professional business meeting with most speakers articulating very specific and developed ideas. Among the sites recommended: the Museum Campus alongside the Adler Planetarium, Shedd Aquarium and The Field Museum; the dilapidated Uptown Theatre, which has not hosted a public event since the early 1980s; the Pullman neighborhood, where efforts are underway to create a national park; the South Shore neighborhood, including the old vacant U.S. Steel South Works site adja-

cent to Soldier Field; the Old Chicago Main Post Office, now vacant and privately owned, which straddles the Eisenhower Expressway; and the former Essanay film studios, now owned by St. Augustine College, where thousands of silent films where made in the Uptown neighborhood.

"We need to knock the socks off George Lucas," said Chicagoan Allan Mellis.

Mellis proposed eight prominent sites, including Block 37 in the Loop and the older part of McCormick Place, known as the Lakeside Center.

"It has to have a grandiose view," said Chicagoan Joe Serblin, who pointed out that the site Lucas originally wanted for the museum in San Francisco had a spectacular view.

The museum would be on "the same physical scale as a lot of the cultural icons in our city," said task force Co-Chair Gillian Darlow, CEO of the Polk Bros. Foundation.

Task force Co-Chair Kurt Summers said Lucas is expecting Chicago to put "our best foot forward to show a location and a set of enhancements and connections to the city and its assets that can be a great base and canvas for his vision. We wouldn't include the architectural design."

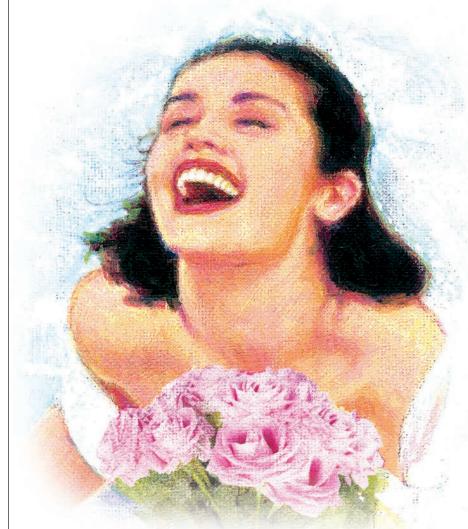
The museum, which would house more than 500,000 pieces of movie memorabilia, has been planned for construction in San Francisco for four years. But in February, a San Francisco national park board called The Presidio Trust rejected Lucas' bayside location and offered him a less desirable site. Meanwhile, Emanuel has been pushing Lucas to consider Chicago.

Hobson and Lucas have already committed at least \$50 million to Chicago education charities. City and museum officials have pledged the facility would be built without taxpayer support. Eleven city museums operate on Chicago Park District land and receive taxpayer money that subsidizes a portion of their operations. However, whether the city would transfer land to the museum or lease land to it for an amount remains unknown.

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» DANCE

Continued from PG. 19

Her program coaches dance instructors on how to work with students with autism.

Lara said she has seen her students with autism improve their cognitive processes through dance.

"Language is a big plus when you're working with movement and music because you're working with audio processing, motor visuals and imitation," Lara said. "That requires the entire brain to step up to the plate. What we see is speech and language on the left side of the brain begin to kick in—it's activated."

According to Lara, dance can also improve social and behavioral issues. Even for

children higher on the autism spectrum, she has noticed her program has made major differences.

Humphreys said Hubbard Street's programs are not necessarily meant to be therapeutic but are intended to provide an outlet for anyone interested in dancing.

"It's a very exciting and needed opportunity for a lot of children and families in Chicago and an opportunity for a lot of professionals in Chicago to collaborate and make this well-informed so that we can best serve students," Olendzki said. "I'm very excited to be a part of it and have been looking for something like this to happen for years."

mmccall@chroniclemail.com



Courtesy ZACHARY WHITTENBURG

Students in Hubbard Street Dance Chicago's Parkinson's Project use specialized techniques to ease symptoms and artistically express themselves as part of Hubbard Street's new Adaptive Dance department. Two new adaptive dance programs were developed after more than a year of discussions and consultations with experts on autism.

» QUILTS

Continued from PG. 19

of fabric take the shape of people, objects and places and are embroidered and decorated with buttons and string to tell the full story.

"I think [the exhibit] is one of the greatest things that could've happened," Wells said. "Quilt makers eventually became quilt artists. I would like to let people look at the difference of the types of artwork that is coming from each group of artists."

Sheila Baldwin, English and African-American Studies professor at Columbia, said quilting was the art form of choice for many African-Americans in the South during the

days of slavery. Today, quilting is not as widespread, but many women still maintain the tradition

Similar to the way a family recipe is passed down from generation to generation, Baldwin said quilt making is important in tracing the sinuous threads of her family history and cultural heritage.

"Visitors should marvel at what an amazing craft these quilts are," Baldwin said. "Their vision begins with a single image and it involves a lot of detailed work. The stitches they made by hand are just as a tight as a sewing machine."

chronicle@colum.edu



Courtesy WENDY ZAMARIPA

"Rosa Parks I" (pictured above) by Yvonne Wells was made out of plastic, cotton, buttons and polyester and is featured in DePaul's "From Heart to Hand" exhibit running from April 10–June 22.



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» **EQUATOR CLUB**Continued from PG. 26

What inspired Them Flavors?

The first idea we had was to bring in artists that would otherwise never have a chance to play Chicago. We really wanted to bring in underground artists. We're now more focused on creating an underground music community in Chicago. There are so many people who are craving that type of music in Chicago or a different scene than The Mid or Spybar to hear electronic music.

Do you wish house music had a bigger following in the U.S.?

There are arguments, but for the record, Chicago and Detroit are the birth places of house. In America, EDM is [played at] all the big festivals, but across the globe for the most part, it's mostly house music. Unfortunately, in the U.S., it's not as big of a culture. It's slowly growing. I mean, Deep House and Disclosure and all that stuff has definitely changed what house can be seen as. Disclosure is playing a bunch of big festivals and they definitely have the old school house sound. I don't really wish or hope that it would be that big because I feel like anything that gets that big is ruined in some aspect. I'm really about the underground scene. They're doing something different than trying to be Diplo or Skrillex.

Describe your song writing process.

When I start a song, it's with the drum pattern or the beat. A lot of inspiration I get for that is going out to clubs. I'll be grooving and I'll be like, "This is really tight" then I try and replicate it when I get back home.

What are you working on right now?

I was finishing up a remix for a singer from the U.K. The song is called "The Knife." I have a few individual solo tracks I'm working on. I will be releasing an EP in mid-August and with another company I work with in the U.K. called "Dare Fresh." They have a complication that they do.

What has been your biggest struggle as an artist?

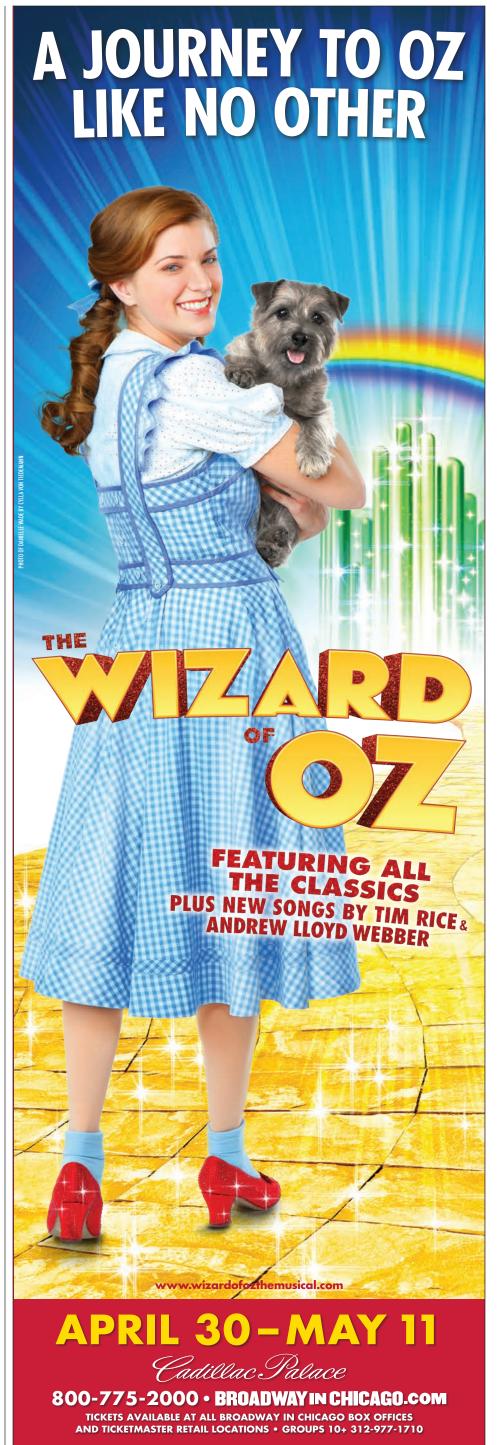
It was always hard to find the right people. There [are] a lot of people in this industry, especially in Chicago—promoters or other artists who want you to succeed—but only to a certain point. A promoter would say, "Yeah, we want you to play this show, but we can't pay you and you have to bring 20 people," and I didn't want to play that show anymore. I met the right people who really were motivated instead of pushing me forward just so they could excel.

nmontalvo@chroniclemail.com



Anthony Soave THE CHRONICLE

Emmanuel Egwu started a party planning and music promotion company called Them Flavors to realize his vision of creating a community of underground musicians in Chicago.



TOP 5





NOT SAFE FOR WORK

YOUR ONLINE TIME WASTERS OF THE WEEK



BLOG: What Should We Call Me

There are GIFs and internet memes for every moment in life, and

the Tumblr blog What Should We Call Me is one of the few blogs that provides an ample supply to illustrate some of life's greatest struggles. Updated six times a day, illustrations from television, YouTube videos and photos from the darkest corners of the Web can be found for almost any occasion. It is easy to get lost in the dozens of pages of posts and laugh for hours on end.

Check it out at WhatShouldWeCallMe.Tumblr.com



VIDEO: Twilight III: A Bad Lip Reading of The Twilight Saga

Bad Lip Reading is famous for taking the worst movies and dubbing

them to reflect what could have been said based on the subject's lip movements. Its latest upload pokes fun at the third installment in The Twilight Saga, the film series based on Stephenie Meyer's teen-vampire-love-whatever series. The commentary, horrible acting and cinematic quality create a hilarious parody. It's definitely worth checking out, especially because they are likely to tackle "Breaking Dawn" next.

Check it out at Youtube.com/BadLipReading

Natalie Craig Assistant Metro Editor

WAYS TO USE A SPOON FOR BEAUTY

Wing it!: You can have perfect winged eyeliner with no mess, witchcraft or fancy tools. Hold the handle of the spoon against the outer corner of your eye and draw a line away from your eye. Flip the spoon so it cups your eyelid and angle the handle upward. Use the round edge to create a winged tip and connect to the previous line you made.

Perfect lashes: Using a spoon to guard your eye lids is the only way to apply mascara to your top and lower lashes with smudge-free results. Place a spoon below your eye with the bottom of the spoon curved out when you apply mascara to your lower lashes. The mascara residue should land on the spoon rather than your cheek.

Dream eyebrows: Society's obsession with the perfect brow is far from over. Having the perfect arch when lining your eyebrows is crucial. Place a spoon on your eye lid just under your eyebrows and lightly trace around it with a brow pencil. Fill in the rest of your brows with light strokes.

To-die-for cheek bones: We can't all have a makeup artist follow our every move, but we all have a makeup artist: a spoon. Press the spoon against the apple of your cheek and then dust blush or bronzer along the bottom curve.

Fresh nails: Painting your nails is all fun and games until you screw it up and paint your whole finger instead of your actual nail. Place the tip of a spoon just under the top of your nail to prevent polish from splashing on the skin on the tip of your fingers.

Maria Castellucci Metro Editor

REASONS I LOVE THE SPRING

The weather brightens my mood: In the winter, I am a scary creature. The weather is atrocious and my mood matches, but the breezy, sunny days that spring welcomes are like reuniting with an old friend. I basically skip to work and take as many outside breaks as possible.

Flowers: At home, my mother and I tend an impressive garden in the spring and summer and the green buds of emerging plants makes everything better. All the lifeless plants of winter are reemerging to a lovely green in the spring, brightening the outdoors and complementing my improved mood.

The semester is over: Although I the love the creative energy of my peers and enthusiasm of my awesome professors, college is exhausting and I'm usually counting the weeks until summer as soon as the spring semester begins.

The outfits are cute: Nothing feels better than walking to classes on a lovely spring day rocking a cute dress. Not only are my legs free after months of servitude in jeans, but skirts and dresses are just more flattering. I can't help but feel like a million bucks.

I lose weight: I know I'll be showing a lot more skin in the summer, and to prepare, I begin to eat healthier in spring. Vegetables and fruits are a bigger part of my daily calorie intake and the splurges at Dairy Queen become less frequent. I begin to look and feel a lot better, making for a great confidence boost.

Elizabeth Earl Opinions Editor

UNUSUAL THINGS CHICAGOANS SHOULD DO

Go to nonfiction readings: Chicago has a surprisingly active nonfiction and poetry reading scene, and rather than being like an awkward high school recital, these are hilarious and touching. "That's All She Wrote" is a great one that meets in West Town, and the slam poetry meetings at the Green Mill in Uptown are always full of talent.

Bike at 2 a.m.: It's probably the most serene thing I've done. Obviously, don't do it in dangerous areas, but if you do it with lights and a helmet and watch out for sketchy people, it's a rush. When I can't sleep and it's not below freezing, that's the best way to find some peace.

Join the share economy: For a poor person like me sharing legitimately is caring. I have been known to leap buildings and perform feats of strength for free stuff, and Chicago has a very active shareconomy, including couches to crash on via websites such as Freecycle, Craigslist, Swapdom and Freebie. It's a sense of community on top just the free stuff

The Maxwell Street Market: If you live downtown or in the West Loop, there's no reason not to go to this flea market. Yes, it's cheap, but it's also exciting because of the ridiculous and quirky things you'll find. Also, the pervasive smell of tacos is intoxicating.

Make conversation with strangers: This one is not unique to Chicago, but it is much easier here than in other cities. Some of my greatest memories are conversations with other Chicagoans in awkward situations.

FEATUREDPHOTOGRAPH



Grace Wiley THE CHRONICLE

New York-based indie pop singer/songwriter Ingrid Michaelson performs passionately April 24 at The Riviera Theatre, 4746 N. Racine Ave. Michaelson is famous for songs such as the upbeat "Be OK" and "Everybody," which have been featured on TV shows such as "Grey's Anatomy" and "One Tree Hill."

SCREEN



"Salem" season premiere

Fans of "Charmed" and "Sabrina The Teenage Witch" will find few similarities in this WGN show set during the infamous Salem Witch Trials. "Salem" delivers rich characters, an original twist on witchcraft and makes the 1600s sexy—despite the atrocious fashion. -T. Eagle











'Parks and Recreation" season 6

As much as I used to love the show, I don't enjoy it now that Rob Lowe and Rashida Jones have left the cast. Months later, it still feels like there is a comedic void that needs to be filled. This show needs to pull a "The Office" and end on a high note. -M. Castellucci











"Devious Maids" season 2 premiere

It's mind-boggling that Lifetime's show about the escapades of Beverly Hills maids wasn't scrubbed during its first season, and the season 2 premiere only reinforces that belief. Tasteless and slightly offensive, the show is more disastrous than devious. -T. Eagle











I don't understand why "American Idol" is still on the air. I mostly watch it for the hunky Ryan Seacrest, but, like the last five seasons, this one has been such a drag. The judges are too kind and the talent is so boring. This show has turned into a joke. -M. Castellucci











PRINT _



"Segregation Now" by ProPublica

This investigation tells the story of three generations of a black family in Alabama who watch while their community schools slowly lose their forced integration. Gripping and shocking, this story was yet another slap to the face of American equality. -E. Earl











"Thrive" by Arianna Huffington

Huffington discusses the importance of happiness over financial success. But if you're not a millionaire, ignore that advice. I'm going to go on a limb and say Arianna doesn't have students loan payments from a fancy art college due anytime soon. -T. Eagle













by E. Jean on Elle.com The question was whether women can hate one night stands and still be feminists. The article assures women that they can value meaningful sex and be feminists. In an era where feminism is taboo, it's nice to read different perspectives on the issue. -K. Davis











"Afterparty" by Daryl Gregory

Stuffed with crisp dialogue, "Afterparty" explores the future of a world brimming with "smart" drugs. Readers see the characters as if through a drug-induced haze, poignantly real and leaving them aching for just a little more of who they might be. -E. Earl









MUSIC _



"West Coast" by Lana Del Rey

The songstress croons about leaving her lover behind in what feels very much like a surfrock throwback. The song is soothing, perfect for the upcoming summer months and a much-needed departure from last summer's hit "Summertime Sadness." -K. Senese











Range of Light by S. Carey

Carey's glassy tenor fits his choice of folky guitar styles matched up with subtle melodies that would blend in as easily on a road trip as they would in a film soundtrack. It leaves me feeling like I've had a dream where I can't remember anything but feeling content. -E. Earl











"Sheezus" by Lily Allen

Allen's latest single delivers a tune that sounds similar to her previous releases, but the pop anthem has drawn criticism for mentioning menstruation and being overly sarcastic. However it is a good listen and the period references are not offensive. -K. Senese











Other Rivers by Matthew and the Atlas

I love the jaunty vocals and almost haphazard attitude of Matthew and the Atlas' previous work, but this album is overdone and the broken, fuzzy parts that I loved about them have now made them generic and similar to other overexposed artists. -E. Earl









RANDOM



Dollar beer nights at Bar Louie

My Chronicle friends resent Bar Louie every Thursday morning while they scrounge to turn stories in on time after an evening of drinking. It's hard to beat the system when everyone you know at Columbia goes there to forget about Monday through Wednesday. -J. Wolan













Children on Amtrak trains

If society really wanted to combat teen pregnancy, it would force all hormone-driven teenagers to embark on a four-hour train ride with small children as co-passengers. Nothing is more irritating than the laughter of snot-nosed gremlins. -T. Eagle











Kettle-cooked potato chips at Panera Bread

I go to Panera several times a week and I can honestly say it absorbs a lot of my income. I mostly go to indulge in a free item: those potato chips. They are so crunchy and tasty; I always come back for more. My belly is always happy, just not my wallet. -M. Castellucci









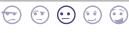


Insomniac shopping

Even after a long day, I am still unable to sleep at night, which leads to me spending hours clicking through online stores like a zombie. Trust me, anything you think you need to buy at 4 a.m. will look different in the harsh light of day-and when you get the bill. -T. Eagle















Uhmmm, WTF?



It's whatever.



I can dig it.





CITY FDITORIAL

College credit system needs revision

Extend Large Lots across Chicago

THE CITY IS littered with more than 15,000 vacant lots, predominantly located on the South and West sides, which are often hotbeds for crime and gang activity. To address the issue in Englewood, the city launched a program allowing residents to repurpose the abandoned areas—a plan that is flawed in several ways but could be a model for reducing empty lots across the city.

From March 20 until April 21, the city piloted the Large Lot Program, which put more than 5,000 empty lots up for sale in Englewood and the surrounding areas for \$1 to encourage locals to turn the blighted areas into community resources. To be eligible to purchase the land, applicants must already own property on the same block and be current on their property taxes. Buyers can't open businesses on the plots because they are residentially zoned, according to the city's description of the initiative, meaning they are intended for nonprofit community efforts. While the program would help restore a blighted neighborhood, the requirements are too narrow and hinder an otherwise hopeful initiative.

Englewood is one of the city's poorest neighborhoods: The median annual household income is \$19,623, which is less than half of Chicago's median income of \$47,408, according to the 2012 American Community Survey. While the hyper-local nature of the Large Lot Program was intended to allow residents to take their neighborhood into their own hands, most lowincome residents do not have the necessary resources to develop the land. Furthermore, 71.6 percent of Englewood residents are not homeowners, which severely limits the number of eligible applicants.

Another questionable aspect of the application process is it did not require applicants to present a plan of action. The only stipulation for owning one of the lots is that buyers must own it for five years before selling it to prevent them from purchasing property and then flipping it for a profit without considering its effect on

the neighborhood. Requiring a plan of action would eliminate the potential for applicants to buy the land just to flip it for a profit.

Some community members may develop the lots into urban gardens or community spaces, a move that would only benefit the neighborhood, but the lots would better serve the community if they were used as sites for modernized housing. Nearly half of the residential buildings in Englewood were built before 1939, according to the Census Bureau, and many are dilapidated, so constructing more contemporary units would update the neighborhood.

However, because the city limited the buying availability to nonprofits and residents who live on the same block, the buyers who could most effectively build on the lots were excluded from purchasing them.

Should the city implement such a program on a larger scale to address its 10,000 other empty lots, it should open the bidding process to businesses and residents within a one-mile radius rather than only one block and require them to submit a plan of action with their application. That way, business owners looking to expand their enterprises could purchase the lots and apply for re-zoning, allowing them to open up shop and encourage new jobs in economically depressed areas.

The city should carefully study the results of this initiative and adjust accordingly before attempting to replicate it elsewhere. If it proves successful, expanding it to include neighborhoods such as Woodlawn, Garfield Park and Pullman would help reduce the city's stock of unused land and thereby reduce crime. Filling the empty lots in blighted neighborhoods requires communication and careful consideration, and though the city's main goal is to get abandoned properties off its hands, it should provide residents with the resources to use them in the most productive way possible.

For more information about the Large Lots program, see the article on Page 38.

FROM 2013-2014, FULL-TIME Columbia students coughed up \$22,132 for tuition, a number that will increase to \$22,884 in the next academic year. Students are looking to maximize the value of their education, but each semester, many full-time students are charged for credits they do not use—an extra \$668 many can't afford to waste.

All full-time Columbia students are billed a uniform price for 12 to 16 credit hours. Any student who wants to take more than 16 credits must pay \$560 per extra credit hour, according to Student Financial Services. Most Columbia courses are worth 3 credits, meaning students are often forced to let their 16th paid credit go to waste. While basic math suggests lowering the full-time credit hour standard would be a quick fix for wasted tuition dollars, it would also unduly penalize students who are required to enroll in classes valued at four credits. Instead of reducing Columbia's full-time tuition to cover 15, the college should increase its prepaid coverage to 18 hours.

Many students register in 15 credits each semester, the number required to graduate in four years, but adjusting the credit maximum to reflect that has the potential to limit students whose departments offer an abundance of four-credit courses—which would be nearly impossible to schedule without incurring extra costs for maxing out at 15 hours.

Because many courses are valued at three credits, arranging a 16-credit course load is difficult but not impossible. Some departments, such as the Photography Department, offer numerous onecredit class options, but students majoring in other departments such as cultural studies or interior architecture have few one-credit courses to choose from.

Columbia should follow the example of many local colleges, such as DePaul and Roosevelt universities and the University of Illinois at Chicago, whose full-time tuitions cover 18 credits. Extending standard full-time credits could also increase retention and graduation rates by

granting students more leeway to take classes that interest them and allowing them to engineer their schedules around each semester's offerings. Not to mention many students would likely be able to complete their degrees in fewer than four years, an incentive for some students to stick around for the duration of their college careers. Only 40.6 percent of Columbia students who entered in 2007 graduated within six years, according to the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, so the college needs any help it can get.

Columbia has a wide variety of students to accommodate, and it should revise its current credit system to suit the majority of students whose course requirements and financial situations limit them to taking only 15 of their 16 paid credits each semester. Including up to 18 credit hours in full-time tuition would give students more bang for their buck and boost the college's graduation rate, a worthwhile investment that would not be a stretch from the current system.

NATIONAL EDITORIAL

Unemployment benefits inadequate

ment rate, the country's long-term unemployment benefits are in flux, causing many Americans to scramble without a livable income. Congress has been slow to respond to the problem, and its latest effort, a five-week extension of long-term unemployment benefits, is a woefully inadequate solution.

There are two unemployment categories: short-term, which involves people who have spent at least five weeks looking for jobs, and long-term, which refers to those who have been job-hunting for more than 27 weeks, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The current eligibility requirements for receiving unemployment benefits stipulate that those who are unemployed long-term can only receive benefits if they can prove they are actively searching for work. The extension awaits President Barack Obama's signature, but it is just a bandage on the nation's unemployment rate.

Originally proposed on Nov. 2, the Senate kicked the bill around in debate until the legislature passed on April 7. Although extending benefits to those who need assistance is noble, the legislation would only extend benefits until June 1. After 27 weeks, long-term unemployed individuals who aren't actively seeking jobs will be without a lifeboat.

An extension will assist the long-term unemployed for now, but it would offer no lasting solutions for chronically unemployed Americans. When unemployment benefits drop off, some may turn to welfare and stop looking for work. America's gross domestic product will also suffer if unemployed people drop out of the workforce. An April 17 data analysis by statistical website FiveThirtyEight found that someone who loses a job when the unemployment rate is high is more likely to remain unemployed than someone who loses a job when the rate is lower. By that logic, the unemployed will be set back further as long as the unemployment rate remains high, which should give Congress an incentive to assist the unemployed through outreach services.

A more permanent extension of long-term unemployment benefits would increase the jobsearching requirement, which doesn't guarantee individuals will find work but could increase the chances of doing so. Searching for a job can be time-consuming and tedious, so the government should provide more guidance, such as resume advice, for potential employees to prepare them to reenter the workforce. People who rely on unemployment benefits should be required to complete such classes to ensure everyone has the skills to find jobs.

Rather than cut benefits for the long-term unemployed, the Senate and House of Representatives need to cooperate to draft a new bill that would prepare the unemployed to reenter the workforce rather than leave them dependent on federal dollars. The unemployed are not unfortunate barnacles on the American economy—they are just down on their luck and want to get back to work as soon as possible, but they can't do it on their own.

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

-The Columbia Chronicle Editorial Board

Millennials prove themselves not worst generation



ELIZABETH EARL

Opinions Editor

EVERYONE HAS HEARD the cliche: Millennials are lazy, entitled, dependent and obsessed with social media. Though every generation may gripe about the uselessness of the next, these false stereotypes of millennials could be damaging office policies and perspectives.

Instead of generalizing millennials as irresponsible, older generations should examine the issues of the social climate we grew up in before casting judgment for how well or poorly we adapted to it. Millennials—those born between 1980 and 2000—have suffered worse economic conditions, taken on more college debt and had to adapt to workplace technology trends more quickly than any previous generations.

As we enter the workforce, employers are hosting and attending seminars called "How to Manage Millennials and Keep Them Engaged" and "The Millennials Are Here" to deal with the "problems" of the careless younger generation. The seminars patronizingly assume young workers will be bouncing off the wall and poorly organized and difficult to rein into the workforce. Other surveys such as MTV's March 2012 "No-Collar Worker" survey found that millennials are more idealistic and seek jobs that will make meaningful change and fall in line with their personal goals, unlike previous generations who were willing to work their way to the top despite starting out with boring, seemingly dead-end jobs.

Although every generation has its entitled youngsters, the millennial generation as a whole is financially aware and adaptive, making us a workforce full of potential.

Not all millennials are lazy, as evidenced by the extending workday and number of young people working their way through college—72 percent of college students worked at least parttime in 2011 and 20 percent worked full time, according to the 2012 American Community Survey. Most colleges recommend

students work no more than 15 hours per week, but to cope with rising college-related expenses, millennials have adapted to making their schedules flexible to work additional hours as needed, according to the ACS.

Critics also claim millennials are self-centered. Studies have shown millennials spend more income on personal expenses rather than houses, cars, health insurance or other long-term investments, likely the result of businesses hiring millennials part time without benefits or as unpaid interns. The likelihood of receiving employee health coverage fell from 64.4 percent in 1997 to 56.5 percent in 2010, according to a February 2013 Census Bureau report. This is far from shocking considering millennials lived through the Great Recession when banks folded, credit was impossible to get and the job market shrank rapidly. The resulting unemployment rate and lack of financial security has taught millennials to be cautious about investing in large purchases, not self-centered. Millennials still need health insurance and are likely to look for jobs with better benefits in coming years.

In fact, millennials evaluate costs more thoroughly than parent generations, according to the 2013 Wells Fargo Millennial Study.

The lack of long-term financial investments does not translate to job hunting, and approximately 75 percent of millennials want long-term careers instead of short-term jobs, according to the study.

Many young people have shouldered excessive amounts of student debt for degrees that may not result in long-term careers. The average amount of student debt is \$29,400 per borrower, according to the Institute for College Access & Success. As the country pulls itself out of the economic recession, millennials and our children need to be aware of cost-benefit analysis when deciding whether college is worth the crippling loans. Sometimes, if parents still have a spare room, living at home is more appealing than taking on debt.

The federal government is aware of the problem and is slowly addressing it through legislation such as the Higher Education Reform and Opportunity Act, which was introduced to Congress Jan. 9. Employers also need to be aware of this concern when hiring millennials. If we live with parents, it is only because we are trying to balance loan payments with bills, especially considering the escalating rent rate in Chicago and constantly growing taxes. Living at home for a little while is not always irresponsible.

Sometimes, it is the most responsible thing to do.

On top of that, many millennials had to take on responsibilities at a younger age because of the high divorce rate. The average length of a marriage in the U.S. is $14 \frac{1}{2}$ years, according to an August 2011 Census Bureau report, meaning the average child does not reach 18 before his or her parents separate. To help cope with expenses, the number of high school students employed at least part-time in 2013 hovered around 27.8 percent, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and when combined with the 74.2 percent of high school graduates looking for work, most millennials work at least part time throughout their schooling, preparing them for a full-time workplace environment. Because working in environments such as fast food kitchens is hardly appealing, many millennials may be instilled with a drive to pursue loftier goals.

Millennials are hard workers, financially aware and will assume higher positions in the workplace during the next decade. If employers want the best young minds, they need to treat their young employees as adults and not as irresponsible children.

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STUDENT POLL

How many credits do you take each semester?



"Usually, I've taken 15, but this semester I'm taking 12. My freshman year I had three extra credits so I've never really had the need [to take more.]."

Jolie Greenstone senior photography major



"[I take] 15. That's what I heard you're supposed to take each semester to be on track senior year. I don't know if [taking 16] would be a major difference."

Jesimiel Jaddua freshman theatre major



"Sixteen. I heard that's kind of like the maximum of what you wanna go for. I try to put as much as I can. I'm paying for it, right, so I may as well do the whole sixteen if I can."

Cristina Granados freshman theatre major

Pervy Franco faux pas passes too quietly



TYLER EAGLE
Associate Editor

INSTEAD OF MAKING headlines for a movie or TV show, actor James Franco gained national attention for an Instagram scandal after he propositioned a 17-year-old girl to grab a hotel room with him. When the girl exposed Franco's pervy side, he did little to address her complaint but said that he learned his lesson during an April 4 "Kelly and Michael" appearance. He also appeared in an April 12 "Saturday Night Live" skit with Seth Rogen that mocked the ordeal. Franco's blunder revived arguments regarding age of consent laws, but the arguments on both sides of the debate remain murky at best.

The disparities in each state's approach to age of consent are overwhelming. There is no national standard, but rather 50 different sets of laws and enforcement guidelines, some of which are simply ridiculous. In Kansas and Indiana, 16-year-olds are considered mature enough to engage in sexual activity with adults, while California and Arizona have set their age at 18. Here in Illinois, the age of consent is 17.

In states that enforce a younger age of consent, 16- and 17-year-olds can legally have sex with adults but are still legally considered adolescents, raising legal questions of whether teens in those states are more emotionally and mentally mature than 16- and 17-year-olds in other states, but the answer is obvious: They aren't. Those children just happen to live in states that have imbued them with too much responsibility and consequently put them at a greater risk for experiencing the negative effects of sleeping with someone considerably older.

A large age gap between sexual partners can be emotionally damaging, especially when one partner is younger than 18.

According to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, victims of sexual abuse—which includes statutory rape, an instance in which an adult engages in sexual acts with someone too young to give legal consent—are more likely to have negative sexual experiences as adults, suffer from depression and anxiety and contract STDs and STIs. These consequences usually manifest later in life when people reflect back on the trauma, according to RAINN.

The effects of statutory rape need to be addressed. A national age of consent is unlikely to be passed by Congress, but that doesn't mean states should not revise their own laws. All states should raise the age of consent to 18 to protect young people from being taken advantage of.

The current system for enforcing age of consent laws is reactive, but it should be protective. Too often, law enforcement is confronted with age of consent violations brought forth by a parent or guardian who decided to file charges on behalf of their child, as evidenced by the dozens of cases in which individuals slightly older than 18 are prosecuted for having sex with their high school-aged

partners. High school seniors are often 18-year-olds, so to better protect them from undeserved statutory rape charges, school officials and parents should be required to report suspicions that students have engaged in a sexual relationship with an older person and leave decisions to press charges to law enforcement, similar to the handling of suspected neglect and abuse cases.

States that slap violators with harsh punishments—such as 20-year convictions and required registration as a sex offender-use what are known as Romeo and Juliet laws, statutes that reduce punishments for sexual encounters between people on either side of the age of consent barrier who are close in age. For example, if an 18-year-old has sex with a 16-year-old, the older participant would likely be immune. Every state needs to implement a similar statute to protect age-appropriate couples because the issues with age of consent are not about people sleeping with slightly younger people. Age of consent laws are meant to stop emotionally immature teenagers from having sex with significantly older adults, who should know better than to

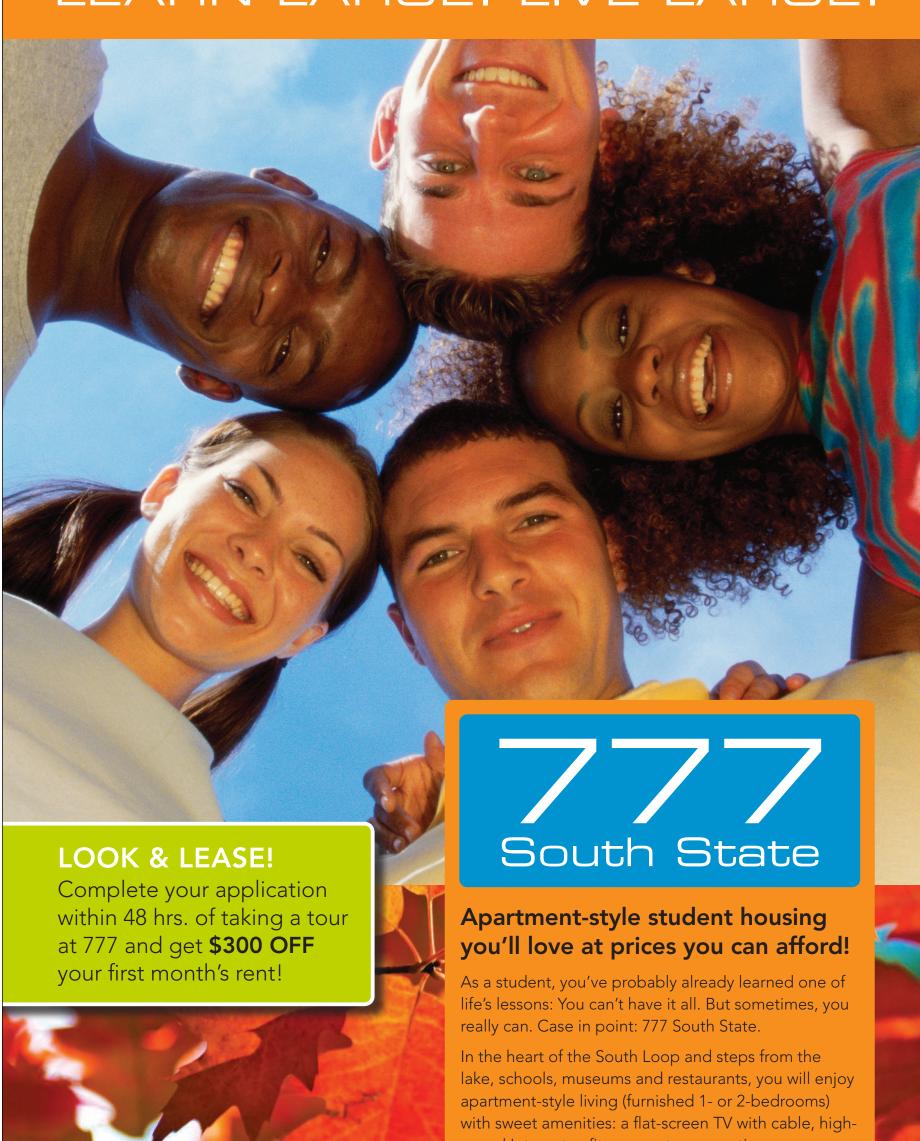
sleep with minors. At 36 years old, Franco should have known better than to solicit a girl 18 years his junior, as the cliché "age is just a number" does not hold true. People who prey on younger people should be aware of the failings of their inexcusable behavior.

Statutory rape offenders should not only be marked as predators but should also be sentenced according to the severity of their crimes. In Utah, for example, perpetrators face prison sentences as short as five years, which is unacceptable. Rather than punishing offenders with brief jail sentences, statutory rapists should be treated the same way as offenders in molestation crimes. For the purpose of protecting the young, it is only responsible.

Statutory rape is not something to joke about, despite Rogen's and Franco's SNL skit. It is a serious issue that requires national attention. Franco's indifferent response is indicative of society's flawed approach to enforcing consent laws and understanding, which is why states need to raise their age of consent to 18—society's standard for adulthood.

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Legislators crack down on e-cigarette liquids

NATALIE CRAIG

Assistant Metro Editor

ALTHOUGH THE U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced regulations for electronic cigarettes on April 24, Illinois is one step ahead.

After waiting more than a year for e-cigarette regulations from the FDA that were supposed to be

proposed in Fall 2013, state legislators took it upon themselves to restrict e-cigarettes.

"It always takes time to get things done at the federal level," said Bechara Choucair, Chicago Health Commissioner. "We really are excited that the FDA took the first steps in introducing the proposed regulations." A bill introduced Feb. 14 by Rep. Robyn Gabel (D-Evanston) would require e-cigarette cartridges and liquids to be sold in protective packaging to prevent children from ingesting the toxic nicotine liquid that fills the devices.

Gabel said she was inspired to introduce the bill after a physician pointed out the dangers of e-ciga-

rettes, which are generally assumed to be healthier than tobacco cigarettes. Gabel said swallowing 10 milligrams of the e-cigarette liquid could kill a toddler and 60–100 milligrams would be fatal for an adult. E-cigarette liquid usually comes in a 20-milliliter bottle, which holds 240 milligrams of concentrated nicotine. If a child or an adult were to ingest a teaspoon of the liquid, he or she could die within an hour, she said.

The House of Representatives approved the measure 105–10 on April 1. Although the FDA proposed measures to regulate the e-cigarette industry, the bill still awaits a vote in the state Senate.

"In concept we do like it when local and state government take action to regulate products," Choucair said. "But with federal rules and regulations, it's going to take a while for those to kick in. We did not wait for the FDA to act."

Gabel said she expected e-cigarettes to be federally regulated in the fall of 2013, but the FDA did not propose strict regulations until April 24. The FDA guidelines require manufacturers of the currently unregulated products to submit the cigarette substitutes to the FDA

for review. Manufacturers will also be restricted from offering samples or selling to minors. The public has 75 days to voice concerns before the legislation takes effect, according to an April 24 FDA press release.

Because e-cigarettes are rapidly increasing in popularity, Illinois representatives did not want to wait for federal regulation, Gabel said, adding it was necessary to propose state regulation.

"There are many issues that the state just takes responsibility [for] their own legislation and regulation while awaiting [federal regulation] because you never know how long it will take," Gabel said.

Victoria Vasconcellos, owner of Cignot, an e-cigarette store with four suburban locations, said the state bill has no guidelines and failed to gather input from the tobacco industry. She said she does not know how the law would affect her business because it is too vaguely written.

"There is no disaster happening," Vasconcellos said. "If the FDA thought it was some horrible emergency, they would be doing something quickly."

» SEE E-CIGARETTE, PG. 41



Minorities suffer from polluted communities

NATALIE CRAIG

Assistant Metro Editor

CHICAGO COMMUNITIES WITH large minority populations are more likely to experience poor air quality and high levels of pollution, according to a recent study.

The report, released April 15 by the University of Minnesota, found that minorities are exposed to air with 38 percent higher levels of nitrogen dioxide outdoors than residents in predominately white areas, which can be to blame for thousands of premature deaths, according to the study.

The study ranked Chicago as the urban area with the 12th largest exposure gap between whites and non-whites. Illinois clocked in with the third-largest exposure gap.

Pollution caused by nitrogen dioxide, which enters the air through exhaust fumes and power plants, can be linked to asthma and heart disease. It causes about 7,000 deaths a year, according to the study.

Lara Clark, author of the study and student at the University of Minnesota, said other studies dating back to the 1970s show communities made up of low-income residents are exposed to 38 percent more polluted air than affluent communities with a white racial majority. She said the improved availability of air pollution data inspired her to conduct the study.

"It wasn't surprising to see disparities in exposure because that's something that has been seen in a lot of studies," Clark said. "What did surprise me was that it's a problem that exists even in cities that have relatively clean air."

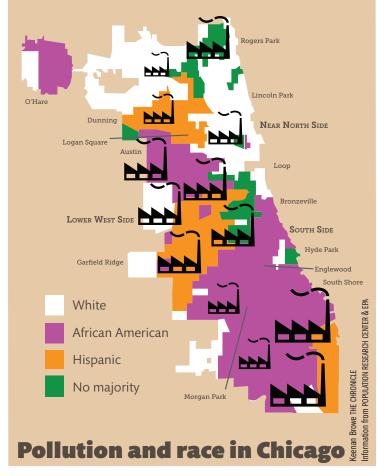
Bugel, senior attorney for the Environmental Law Policy Center, said it is inevitable that some low-income minorities will live in heavily polluted areas because they lack the financial means to relocate to cleaner areas.

"Some people don't have economic flexibility in the choice of where they live," Bugel said. "If an apartment next to the highway costs less than an apartment next to the park, then you might be picking the one next to the highway because you just don't have the choice."

Ted Pearson, co-chair of the Chicago Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, said large corporations can set up power plants in minority-occupied areas and often target these communities because residents do not have the clout to fight back.

"The economics of capitalism are such that poor people get screwed because the system is so weighted with racism and white supremacy," Pearson said.

The ELPC has been advocating to reduce levels of nitrogen dioxide in the city's minority communities, Bugel said, adding that 13 years ago the ELPC closely examined Chicago's coal-fired power plants and their impacts on residents' health. After spending more than 12 years working with 55 organizations, the ELPC was successful in shutting down two Pilsen coal power plants in 2012, Bugel said.



"This is something that matters to us for environmental justice reasons, but also because this is where we live and work too," Bugel said. "It is a public health concern, too." But just because a power plant closes, it does not guarantee that the air is clean, said ELPC media relations manager, David Jakubiak.

» SEE **POLLUTION**, PG. 41

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



Rahm 'unscripted'

RAHM HAS GREAT PR.

CNN's documentary series "Chicagoland," which aired its final episode of the season on April 24, paints Mayor Emanuel as a fearless yet compassionate leader with a supreme ability to finesse tough situations without losing his cool or appearing weak. While Emanuel surely has his moments, he's definitely not as merciful or noble as his television persona—but that's because the show's producers promised the mayor's senior aides that he would be portrayed "as the star that he really is."

The Chicago Tribune got its hands on more than 700 emails exchanged between "Chicagoland" producers and Emanuel's people, and the correspondence suggests that the documentary isn't exactly unscripted, even though it's adver-

tised as such. The back-and-forth reveals that Emanuel's advisers actually had a heavy hand in developing storylines, selecting different camera angles and reviewing ads for the show—a dangerous alliance that led a biased depiction of Emanuel to be broadcast on a major network to a national prime time audience.

Chicago has gotten plenty of bad publicity in recent years, but rewriting the facts for the sake of making the mayor and City Hall look good on TV is both misleading and in bad taste. Emanuel hires aides to make sure he seems like a nice guy in the media, but sending 700-plus emails regarding the specifics of an eight-part documentary is more than a little excessive. Creator and executive producer Marc Levin said in an April 25 Tri-

The mayor needs all the positive publicity he can get, but that doesn't give his aides license to script CNN's "Chicagoland" documentary



bune article that he was frustrated by the hoops Emanuel's office made his crew jump through just to get the mayor on camera.

"Everything the mayor does is stage-managed. Everything. That is the way he operates, so I'm not going to dispute that," Levin said when asked about the emails. "I would be the first to acknowledge that you don't get into Chicago ... and get access without having to do a certain dance."

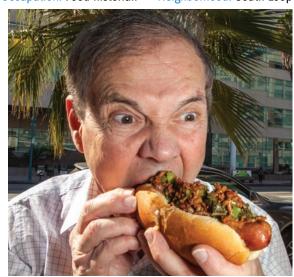
Levin asserted in the Tribune interview that Emanuel's administration didn't have editorial control over the show-but that doesn't mean Emanuel wasn't able to manipulate his way into controlling the public's perception of him.

kfowler@chroniclemail.com

NOTABLE native

BRUCE KRAIG

Occupation: Food historian Neighborhood: South Loop



MARIA CASTELLUCCI

Metro Editor

FOOD HISTORIAN BRUCE Kraig is fascinated by hot dogs. He has written several nonfiction books about the mystery meat logs, including his 2011 book "Man Bites Dog," which explores the history of American hot dog cuisine. While hot dogs may be his specialty, Kraig is an expert Chicago historian of all foods, studying both international and local food culture.

Kraig has hosted publicly broadcast food documentaries and appeared on several television shows, including "Good Morning America," and "BBC News." A New Jersey native, Kraig moved to Chicago in 1971 to teach archeology at Roosevelt University. He still teaches U.S. History at the college part-time and remains active in his organization, Culinary Historians of Chicago, an educational organization committed to the study of food culture and food history in Chicago. Kraig actively studies food history and is currently creating an encyclopedia delving into Chicago's food history.

Kraig spoke with The Chronicle about his affinity for hot dogs, childhood dreams and Chicago's food culture.

THE CHRONICLE: When did your exploration of food culture begin?

BRUCE KRAIG: I've always loved food and I can remember eating my first hot dog at Nathan's Famous at Coney Island right after World War II in 1947. It's a vivid memory, [and] although I know memories are highly unreliable, this one is. I grew up in a family that liked food. I was really interested in food in general, but I wasn't trained. My training is in history and archeology and anthropology. I had kids and I often had to cook for them, and in 1979, I wrote a cookbook on Mexican food because I had been working in Mexico a lot. That is how I really got into it and began teaching it at Roosevelt [University].

What were your childhood dreams?

I wanted to be an actor. I was really serious about acting and knew a lot of professionals, but it occurred to

me that it is better to take my acting to a classroom than to fail in either TV or stage, so I gave it up. I know a number of academics that have done the same thing. One of my best friends teaches and when we're at conferences we often break into songs from shows and appall the audience. We both wanted to be actors. Apart from that, I always wanted to be a professor, so I became a professor. I was taken with a common character called Professor Hobart Frisbee [from the 1948 musical "A Song is Born"] as a kid. I thought I should be Professor Frisbee.

How would you describe Chicago's food culture?

It is less so now than it used to be before the 1970s, but Chicago was very regional and very ethnic. You could go up Milwaukee Avenue and there were Polish restaurants and grocery butchery shops and you were in little Poland. You could go to Taylor Street or over to Harlem Avenue, which still has an Italian community, and you knew you were in Little Italy. You could go down Halsted Street from top to bottom and you see the succession of ethnic groups heading down south. That is what is so interesting about Chicago, its ethnic diversity.

How did hot dogs become the focus of your career?

I presented a paper about why we don't eat dogs in England in 1985. It was a great outrage in England and it became a thing in all the newspapers that this American went to England telling them why they should eat dogs. I got death threats and all kinds of things. On TV now, people are eating everything, like dogs. Americans still don't really like that, though. The next year, they asked me to come back because they thought it was great [that] I caused such an uproar. The thing about hot dogs is they tell us a lot. It's a symbol of American culture and American industry, the meat industry particularly, and the fast food industry, but our myths ... what we think about ourselves, they're all embedded in hot dogs.

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Englewood finds growth in vacant lots

JENNIFER WOLAN

Assistant Campus Editor

TO REVITALIZE THE blighted Englewood neighborhood, the city launched a pilot program March 20 that enabled homeowners to purchase vacant lots for only \$1-an opportunity residents were eager to take advantage of.

The Large Lot program, a monthlong initiative under Mayor Rahm Emanuel's Five-Year Housing Plan to create, improve and preserve more than 41,000 units of housing citywide, allowed Englewood residents to purchase one of the neighborhood's 5,000 vacant lots to promote community development. The application deadline was April 21 and the city received more than 400 applications, according to Peter Strazzabosco, deputy commissioner of the Chicago Department of Planning and Development.

The CDPD recommended the program in its Green Healthy Neighborhoods plan, a 10-20-year

strategy to maximize the use of vacant property in the Englewood, West Englewood, Washington Park and Woodlawn neighborhoods. The program is being tested in Englewood because residents pushed for its services in their community.

The pilot is an opportunity for low-income South Side residents to build a stronger community by creating gardens, community art areas and dog parks, said Tina Harbin, president of the Yale-Harvard Homeowners Association in Englewood.

"It brings people together," Harbin said. "This is a group project with the whole community involved and I think people want a stronger sense of community."

Residents felt compelled to pu chase the empty lots because they are the ones who tend them anyway, said Demond Drummer, tech organizer for Teamwork Englewood Residents already feel responsible for the lots, which they will now legally own, Drummer said.

To be eligible to purchase one of the lots, residents must live on the same block as the lot they want to purchase and be paid up on their property taxes, water bills and parking tickets.

The program excludes businesses and churches, but nonprofit organizations and homes or home extensions can be built on the lots. Applicants are limited to owning two lots and must wait five years before selling the land to prevent people from buying the plots of land just to turn them for a profit. Each plot of land goes for \$0.60-\$2.00 a square-foot. Strazzabosco said owners must pay annual property taxes on the land, which can range from \$200 to \$500, and that residents can expect to gain access to their lots this summer.

To read more about the city's Large Lot program, see PG. 39.

To read the Editorial Board's evaluation of the program, see PG. 34.

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Erik Rodriguez THE CHRONICLE



<hack>data</hack>

Local hackers raise awareness through community-focused websites

Written by Jennifer Wolan Designed by Aly Dodds

data for years now and they finally gave it to us," Eder said. "It's on us now to finally do something with it and that was our motivation to begin creating civic websites."

Eder hosts the weekly Open Gov Hack Night event at 1871, a tech startup incubator located in the Merchandise Mart, to unite community organizers in developing civic websites.

Since he began Open Gov Hack Night on March 22, 2012, more than 281 developers, designers, data scientists, civic organizers and students "People want to make change in government, and you can become a politician to do so, but the other path you can take to create change in government is to hack," Lane said.

Eder said the problem with civic hacking is identifying key community problems and issues and said he was excited to work on LargeLots.org because the community identified its own problem.

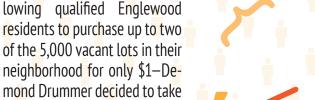
"The hardest part about making civic websites is, OK, now you have the tools and the resources to build a website, but

what are the actual problems that are out there?" Eder said. "I've made a ton of apps and a lot of them are scratching my own itch on something. Those are useful, but to make something that is actually going to help people, come out with the expectation that they're going to be making \$100,000 and be working for Facebook or optimizing click performance and that just doesn't seem quite fulfilling to me," van ZanTen said.

Lane said he hopes more people will begin to see the value of civic hacking and that more non-programmers will attend, brain storm ideas and contribute to hack events.

"[Hack events] aren't just for developers and programmers," Lane said. "If you care about government and care about making change, go to hack days, go to hack-a-thons. Civic hacking isn't just for geeks. It's for everyone to get involved."

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A tech organizer for community group Teamwork Englewood, Drummer said neighborhood residents were eager to purchase the plots of land, but the city's website interface was confusing and made the application process difficult. In the midst of the confusion, Drummer approached a group of hackers—not to overhaul the city's website, but to make it more accessible.

SOON AFTER CHICAGO

launched its Large Lot pro-

gram—the city's initiative al-

the project one step further

with the help of a few hackers.

"It's not that the city website is bad," Drummer said. "They just don't have the resources or the time to expand on [it]."

The Large Lot website does not include step-by-step instructions but instead provides PDF images of applications. LargeLots.org lists and depicts each lot with a simple map including photos and lot sizes.

Drummer said he reached out to Derek Eder, co-founder of DataMade, a company that creates civic websites, and asked him to develop a more accessible version of the city's website. Eder and his three-person team took on the challenge in the spirit of civic data hacking—a quickly expanding culture intended to improve government efficacy through technology. With funding from the Local Initiatives Support Corporation, the group created LargeLots. org, an easy-to-use website that clearly spells out the necessary steps to purchase one of the empty lots.

"This is where civic hacking meets civic organizing," Drummer said. "Usually, it's tech geeks that are asking if these are the problems. Now it's the

residents that are saying, 'We created this policy and now we need this tech tool to helps us."

Drummer said the Large Lots website has been very successful since its April 11 launch, logging more than 6,500 hits as of press time.

"People have been telling me it's easier

to understand and there is a lot that's available on this site," Drummer said. "We saw an opportunity to take an innovative program and make it easier to understand, navigate, access and capitalize on."

Using public data already available in city and county data portals, the website was fairly simple to create, said Eric van Zanten, a DataMade developer who coded LargeLots.org.

"This is just a matter of cleaning up data and putting it in an accessible format," he said.

Eder said that hacking it began catching on in Chicago in April 2012 when Mayor Rahm Emanuel launched an initiative to release mass amounts of city data on a navigable online data portal easily accessible to the public. The data portal inspired local programmers and provided them with data they needed to develop other websites to improve government efficiency and community engagement.

"We've been asking for this

have come together to contribute to more than 130 projects on local, state and national levels, according to OpenGov-HackNight.org.

Open Gov Hack Night has created websites such as IsThere-SewageInTheChicagoRiver. com—which tracks the dumping of excess sewage water into Lake Michigan and the Chicago River after heavy rainfall or significant snowmelt—and SchoolCuts.org—which enable parents to anticipate potential school closures last year when Chicago Public Schools closed 50 schools.

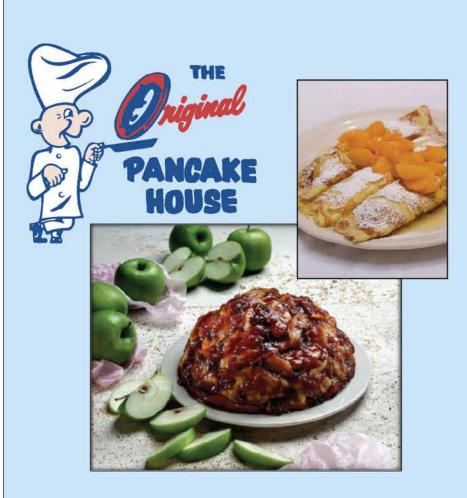
Civic data hacking is picking up all over the country and internationally as more programmers realize their knowledge of technology gives them the power to influence legislation, said Kin Lane, a programmer who works with the White House to release public data using an API or application program interface, a set of tools to build software applications.

you need to figure out what the real problems in government, society and community are."

Civic hackers voluntarily develop these community-fo-cused websites at hack night—a philanthropic component that van Zanten said makes the work worthwhile.

"A lot of people, when they go to college for programming,





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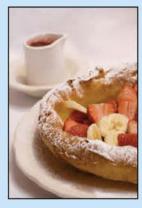
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Dine-In or Carryout available

» LIBRARY

Continued from Front Page

Flowers said because Obama is the first black president, tourists from around the world would flock to Chicago. She said if the library were located in Chicago, it would provide an economic boost to not only the city, but the entire state.

"With all due respect to my [Republican] colleagues, maybe they have just been busy lately or they are very concerned with the state of the economy, but I'm sure if we were to step outside our safety zones and realize the returns we would get on our dollars, it's like buying a 50-cent scratch-off lottery ticket and winning \$1 million—that's how much investment we would get," Flowers said.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Obama's former chief of staff, said he wants Chicago to be the chosen location, and because it is where Obama began his political career, it would be the most logical choice. He testified at the committee hearing, supporting state funding for the library, and has said the city plans to submit a proposal.

Although Chicago plans to submit a proposal, the city has yet to decide on a location. The University of Chicago, the University of Illinois at Chicago and Chicago State University announced they would submit proposals. However, Emanuel said during a Jan. 24 news conference that Chicago will only submit one proposal, not several.

Flowers said the library would be most profitable if it were located on the South Side. She said putting it in a blighted neighborhood such as Englewood or Bronzeville would provide economic opportunities that the areas desperately need.

"Englewood and other places on the South Side have a very long way to go, but this would be an opportunity for revitalization," Flowers said. "I see endless opportunities that we could have if it is was situated at the right place."

Karen Riley, executive director of the Business Leadership Council, said the facility would have a positive impact regardless of where the city proposes to build it.

"If the library was on the South Side, it could serve as somewhat of an engine to help rebuild and give an economic boost to the communities that have really suffered as a result of the economy going south," Riley said. "The economic recovery on the South Side is much lower and there is much greater loss."

Riley said she supports using state funding to assure Chicago is chosen as the site of the library. However, critics of the measure maintain that it is an irresponsible financial commitment.

"I don't think in any financial situation taxpayer dollars should go to the construction of the library, let alone in Illinois," said Jane McEnaney, government affairs manager at Illinois Policy Institute. "We are not in the position of throwing taxpayer dollars at something that may or may not be built here."

Columbia University, where Obama received his bachelor's degree, is expected to submit a proposal, as is the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where the president was born.

The Obama library will be the 14th presidential library, a tradition that began in 1939 when President Franklin D. Roosevelt submitted his presidential documents to the federal government. The Barack Obama Foundation, established in January 2014, will review all the submissions and work with Obama to select a location, which will be announced in early 2015. Construction is expected to begin in 2017, according to the foundation's website.

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> AMBULANCE Continued from Front Page

Of the CFD's 75 ambulances, 60 are ALS-equipped and the other 15 are basic life support ambulances, which are operated by firefighters or emergency medical technicians—not trained paramedics—and are meant to transport patients with less severe health concerns, Sposato said. They are not

In March, the Better Government Association published an investigation of Chicago's ambulances that found there is a shortage of ALS ambulances, which sometimes results in service delays of 20–30 minutes.

Many CFD paramedics interviewed for the report said the lack of ALS ambulances needs to be addressed, according to Patrick Rehkamp, the BGA investigator who published the findings.

This needed to be addressed yesterday. Not now, yesterday."

Nick Sposato

equipped to handle critical situations such as gunshot wounds or heart attacks, whereas the ALS ambulances are.

Sposato, a former firefighter, said BLS ambulances are often sent to the scene of a fire, but patients usually need more advanced care, resulting in delayed treatment because of the time spent waiting for ALS ambulances to arrive.

"This needed to be addressed yesterday," Sposato said. "Not now, yesterday."

Fioretti, who drafted the proposal, said he has been in talks with the CFD, which is looking into the matter.

"[The ordinance is about] making sure that all the city gets serviced in a prompt, expeditious manner," Fioretti said. "We're concerned with the safety, health and welfare of everyone in the city."

It would cost an estimated \$750,000 to convert 15 BLS ambulances to ALS, which Fioretti said would cover equipment and personnel costs because ALS ambulances are required to have a paramedic on board.

"I think we're better off giving an upgraded response than we are for a downgraded response," Sposato said.

"You get the sense now that there's more urgency to it with the aldermen picking up on it now," Rehkamp said.

The CFD and Office of Emergency Management and Communications declined to comment on the matter.

The Chicago Firefighters Union must approve the aldermen's proposal before it can take effect, but Sposato said he is confident they will ratify the plan in the next few months.

Sposato said the fleet could be completely converted to ALS vehicles by September if the initiative is approved.

"This is a win for everybody—a win for the city, a win for the union, a win for the residents," Sposato said. "[It is] less of a work burden among the paramedics [and] better service for the residents of Chicago."

Rehkamp said he hopes the lack of ALS ambulances is remedied sooner rather than later because of the health risks.

"It's an essential function," he said. "I don't think we can afford not to address the problem."

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» E-CIGARETTE Continued from PG. 37

The bill calls for the Illinois Department of Public Health to develop packaging guidelines and child-proof e-cigarette liquid refill bottles, Gabel said. Legislators are not the only ones warning against the liquids—poison control centers have also made efforts to inform consumers of the dangers associated with e-cigarette liquids.

"We want to prevent it from becoming a huge problem," said Carol DesLauriers, operations director at the Illinois Poison Center. "Nicotine is extremely toxic. It has the potential to be very dangerous. It is wise for consumers to know about the potential toxicity and that it should be treated very safely."

An April 4 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report shows that calls to poison centers regarding e-cigarette liquids jumped from one call in September 2010 to 215 calls in February 2014.

Vasconcellos said the CDC findings are valid, adding that poison centers receive more than 20,000 calls each year about toothpaste and makeup poisoning, but no one is cracking down on those products.

"Why would you jump to conclusions?" Vasconcellos said. "E-cigarettes stand to save hundreds of thousands of lives."

Although e-cigarette liquids may be dangerous when consumed incorrectly, Vasconcellos said they have the ability to help smokers break their addiction. She said she agrees that children should be protected from the liquids, but that electronic cigarettes are a better alternative to smoking.

"I want parents to go to their kids' weddings," Vasconcellos said. "We get parents off of smoking. Their kids will not smoke and parents are going to become grandparents to those children's children. We want to save the kids, so let's improve their parents' lives."

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» POLLUTION Continued from PG. 37

"We're not going to shut down a coal plant and all of a sudden end asthma in Pilsen," Jakubiak said. "At the same time, if you know there is an issue, you want to take every step to minimize those risk factors, and that's why it's important [to close such facilities]."

Pearson said state officials often ignored residents' complaints when they reported experiencing side effects of pollution exposure.

"They justify their tolerance of polluters [because] they create jobs and economic development," Pearson said.

Bugel said Mayor Rahm Emanuel and various aldermen have been supportive of the Chicago Clean Power Ordinance, which shut down Pilsen's coal-fired power plants. However, she said the Illinois Environmental Protection

Agency, which is tasked with regulating Illinois' air quality, has not been active enough in addressing air pollution.

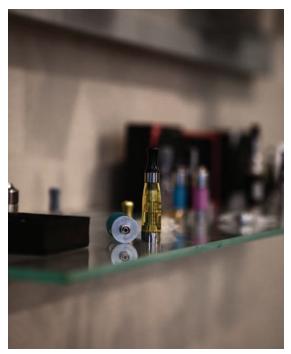
"In my experience in working with IEPA, I am disappointed," Bugel said. "Unfortunately, when you make an argument about public health, respiratory [health] and premature mortality, they never seem to respond to those concerns."

The IEPA did not respond to requests for comment as of press time.

Pearson said he believes that if community members and city officials pressure state legislators to take a stance against environmental injustice, they will act.

"Folks may get weary, but you have to keep fighting the good fight." Jakubiak said. "Keep pushing as hard as you can. That's the only way we are ever going to get anywhere."

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Photos Samantha Tadelman THE CHRONICLE

Smoque Vapors, 537 S. Dearborn St., is an electronic cigarette shop that opened in the South Loop in the fall of 2013. State legislators have proposed a bill that would require child proof packaging for e-cigarette liquid refill bottles and place stricter regulations on e-cigarettes in Illinois.







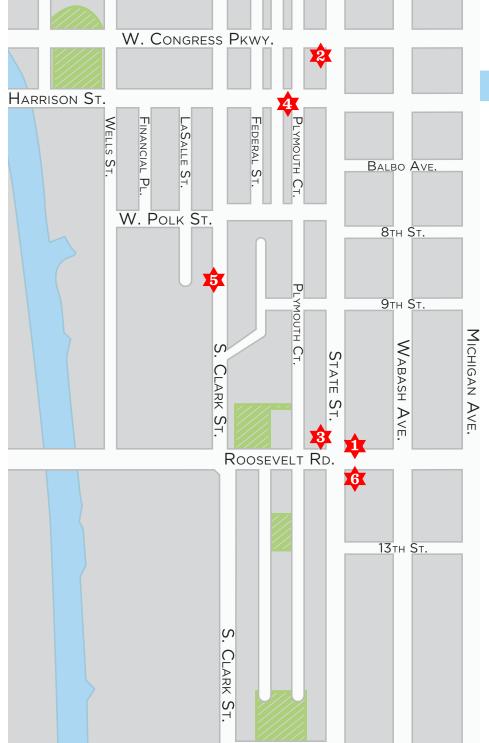


FEATUREDPHOTOGRAPH



Anthony Soave THE CHRONICLE

The Global Climate Convergence for People, Planet and Peace over Profit, an educational direct action campaign, rallied outside the James B. Thompson Center, 100 W. Randolph St., on April 22 to protest the practices of Chase, BP and Boeing, which are the world's worst climate offenders and destructive corporations, according to the Global Climate Convergence.





Apple jacked

While a 19-year-old woman was sitting on a bench at the Roosevelt Green Line station, 1167 S. State St., on April 23, a 15-year-old boy sat down behind her and took her iPhone 5 from her back pocket. When she turned to confront the boy, he ran down the stairs and exited the platform. The woman called police, but the thief could not be found when authorities arrived.



The manager at CVS pharmacy, 520 S. State St., saw a 36-year-old man shove a baseball hat into his coat sleeve without paying for it on April 21. The man tried to run out of the store when the manager confronted him, but police arrested him outside the store. Upon further investigation, police discovered the offender had a previous record of retail theft.



Sketchy station

Police witnessed a 17-year-old girl etching the letters "BDM" into a support beam at the Roosevelt Red Line station, 1167 S. State St., on April 23. Police confronted the girl, then arrested her. Upon searching her belongings, officers found a pill bottle containing four prescription ibuprofen pills and confiscated it.



Mystery punch

While walking down the first block of West Harrison Street, a man was punched by an unknown man exiting a parked car. A second man then emerged from the car and pointed a gun at the victim, demanding him to give them his phone. He gave them his phone and the assailants drove away. The thieves' whereabouts remain unknown.



Mission impossible

Police were called to a construction site at 850 S. Clark St. April 22 when two men in black hoodies were observed climbing over a fence to enter the site. When police arrived, they noticed muddy footprints that led to an apartment with a broken window. Police heard the voices and footsteps descending the stairs. The police met the men at the stairs and arrested them.



Thanks for the ride

A 33-year-old woman noticed on April 23 that her debit card was used to purchase three CTA Ventra cards valued at \$255. The debit card was stolen a few days prior to the purchases at the Roosevelt Green Line station, 1167 S. State St. The woman called police, but the offender remains unknown and the woman's belongings have not been found as of press time.



COMICS FROM COLUMBIA'S BEST AND BRIGHTEST

Edited by Chris Eliopoulos



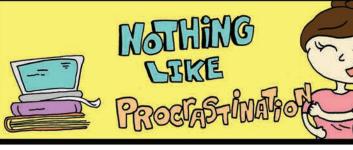




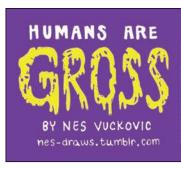
















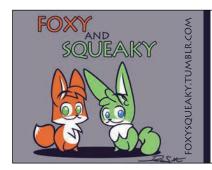


















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Narcissistically written for our readers by

HURUSCUPES

The Chronicle Staff Oracles

ARIES (March 21–April 20) After the ocean has been overfished, everything will be OK when goldfish crackers replace them.

TAURUS (April 21—May 20) Your heating bill will be 75 percent higher this month, but luckily it is the end of winter and the beginning of winter II.

GEMINI (May 21—June 21) Today is not a good day, but at least you ordered that blow up doll last weekend, should be in the mail any day now, so you got that going for ya. **CANCER** (June 22—July 22) On Tuesday you will think you are in the safety of your

cubicle and let a gassy lassie out, but your office crush will walk past 3 seconds later. **LEO** (July 23—Aug. 22) You may believe you are dragon-born but, your inability to walk through

flames will lead to third degree burns when you try to put candles out with your fingers.

VIRGO (Aug. 23—Sept. 22) The coffee you purchase from Dunkin Donuts tomorrow will

have a penny at the bottom of it. Treat yourself!

 $\label{libration} \textbf{LIBRA} \mbox{ (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Later this week you're going to win the lottery, but you're only going to get the amount you owe the government. Congratulations, you're at zero again.}$

SCORPIO (Oct. 24–Nov. 22) The tape dispenser will not dispense tape this evening. Instead it will dispense x-acto blades. Defend yourself!

 $\textbf{SAGITTARIUS} \ (\textbf{Nov.}\ 23-\textbf{Dec.}\ 21) \ That\ YouTube\ comment\ you\ made\ in\ 2002\ has\ a\ reply.\ Don't\ bother\ reading\ it—it's\ racist.$

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22—Jan. 20) The carpeted seat on the CTA will not provide warmth and comfort, but it will soak your pants with day-old piss. Thanks, Obama.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21–Feb. 19) A gene defect will cause your pores to give off a poopy smell when you turn 24. Brace yourself, eternal single life is coming.

PISCES (Feb. 20—March 20) Someone will steal someone else's laptop from the coffee shop table in front of you today. You will do nothing to stop it... Real nice, a**hole.

ACROSS	43 Cen
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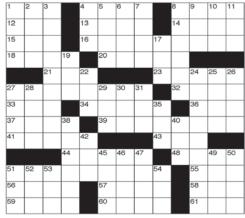
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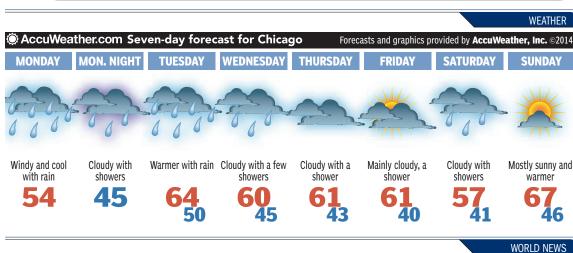
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April 25, 1876

THIS WEEK IN Chicago history, the Cubs, then nicknamed the Chicago White Stockings, traveled to Louisville, KY., for their first game in the National League of Professional Base-Ball Clubs. The Chicago team won the first National League title over the Louisville Nine, ending the game with a 4-1 score.



May 1, 1981

THIS WEEK IN 1981, The Chronicle reported that former Associate Dean of Student Affairs John Moore started a student letter-writing campaign to combat a proposed \$26.1 million in state and federal budget cuts to student financial aid programs, affecting 17,000 Columbia students.





like "an adult" and more like a

"former fetus."



Ingrid Michaelson, indie-pop singer from New York, performs at The Riviera Theatre on April 24 during her headlining tour.

Instagram.com/CCCHRONICLE

» Violent protests broke out April 22 in Rio de Janeiro after a 26-year-old professional dancer was beaten to death by police, according to an April 23 BBC report. The protests erupted just weeks before Brazil is set to host the World Cup, causing a man to be shot to death and a series of citywide street closures. Demonstrators set tire barricades and cars on fire.

» An Egyptian military official died April 23 after a bomb attached to his car exploded, according to an EgyNews report. The homemade bomb killed Gen. Ahmed Zaki and injured a nearby policeman in the Cairo suburb Sixth October City. The attack came one week after an improvised explosive device detonated at a traffic security checkpoint in Cairo and left two other Egyptian officers injured. » At least 63 train passengers were killed and at least 80 people were severely injured after an overloaded freight train derailed April 22 in Katanga in the Democratic Republic of Congo, according to an April 23 BBC report. Officials said the train was beyond capacity and at least seven passengers who had been riding on top of carriages became trapped under debris from the crash.

» Rival Palestinian factions Fatah and Hamas announced that they came to an agreement to reconcile on April 23, according to a same day CNN report. The interim government could be established in as little as five weeks and would put the West Bank and Gaza under the same government leadership for the first time in seven years, a Fatah spokesman told CNN.