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Columbia Chronicle (04/10/2017)

Columbia College Chicago

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Alumni co-write film about the Cubs' David Ross

PAGE 4

Into the mind of the confined: inmates speak on isolation

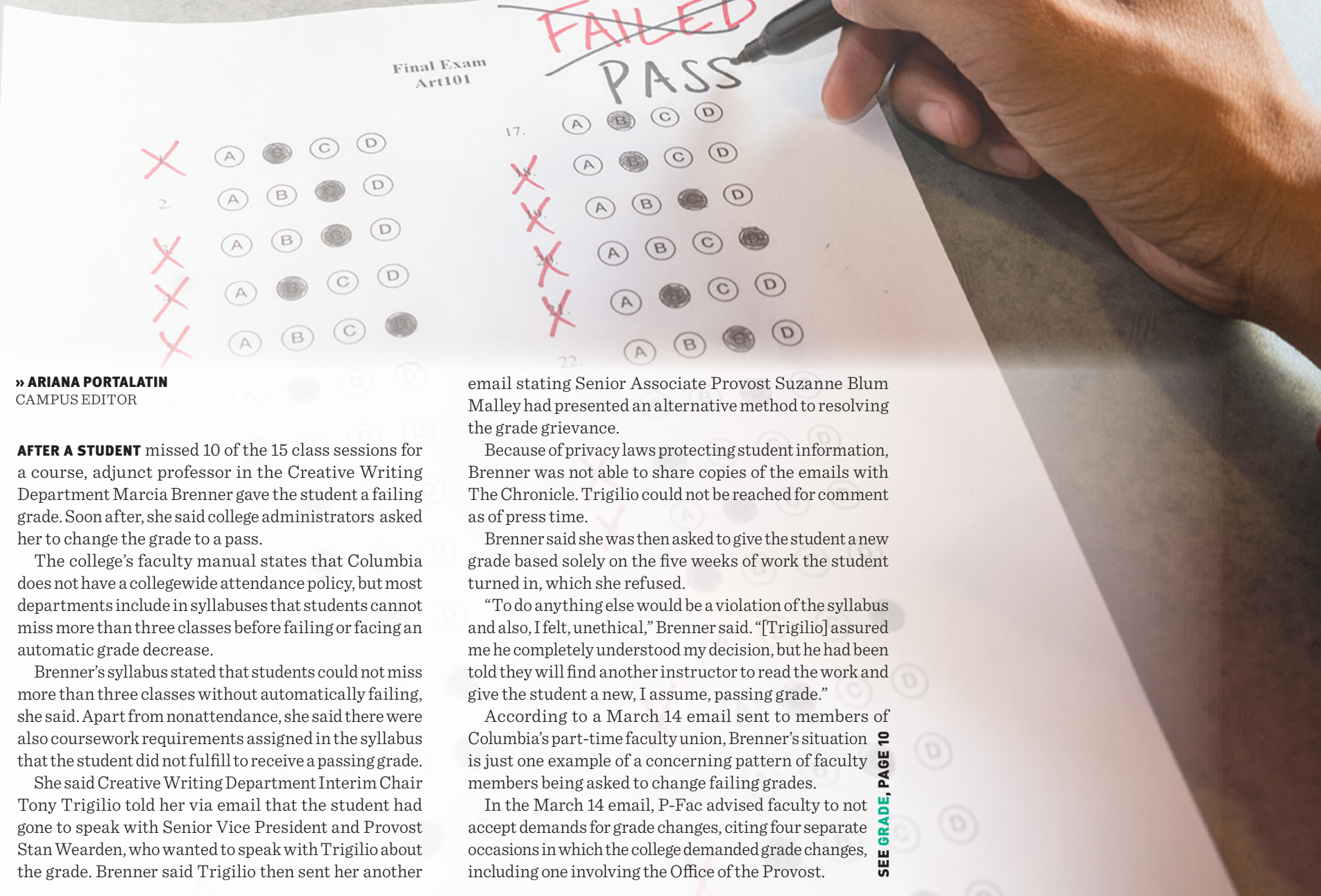
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» PHOTO ILLUSTRATION ZOË HAWORTH/CHRONICLE

Tipping the scale

Adjuncts accuse administration of demanding 'unethical' grade changes



» **ARIANA PORTALATIN**
CAMPUS EDITOR

AFTER A STUDENT missed 10 of the 15 class sessions for a course, adjunct professor in the Creative Writing Department Marcia Brenner gave the student a failing grade. Soon after, she said college administrators asked her to change the grade to a pass.

The college's faculty manual states that Columbia does not have a collegewide attendance policy, but most departments include in syllabuses that students cannot miss more than three classes before failing or facing an automatic grade decrease.

Brenner's syllabus stated that students could not miss more than three classes without automatically failing, she said. Apart from nonattendance, she said there were also coursework requirements assigned in the syllabus that the student did not fulfill to receive a passing grade.

She said Creative Writing Department Interim Chair Tony Trigilio told her via email that the student had gone to speak with Senior Vice President and Provost Stan Wearden, who wanted to speak with Trigilio about the grade. Brenner said Trigilio then sent her another

email stating Senior Associate Provost Suzanne Blum Malley had presented an alternative method to resolving the grade grievance.

Because of privacy laws protecting student information, Brenner was not able to share copies of the emails with The Chronicle. Trigilio could not be reached for comment as of press time.

Brenner said she was then asked to give the student a new grade based solely on the five weeks of work the student turned in, which she refused.

"To do anything else would be a violation of the syllabus and also, I felt, unethical," Brenner said. "[Trigilio] assured me he completely understood my decision, but he had been told they will find another instructor to read the work and give the student a new, I assume, passing grade."

According to a March 14 email sent to members of Columbia's part-time faculty union, Brenner's situation is just one example of a concerning pattern of faculty members being asked to change failing grades.

In the March 14 email, P-Fac advised faculty to not accept demands for grade changes, citing four separate occasions in which the college demanded grade changes, including one involving the Office of the Provost.

SEE GRADE, PAGE 10

Would you attend class if no one forced you?

» MEGAN BENNETT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A battle is unfolding between the college's part-time faculty union and the college administration over ostensibly unnecessary or unethical grade changes, as reported on the Front Page.

For example, P-Fac is investigating an issue involving adjunct professor Marcia Brenner. The union contends that the Provost's Office asked for her to change the grade of a student who missed 10 out of 15 classes. Brenner told *The Chronicle* that after she refused the administration's request to grade the unidentified student solely on five weeks of work rather than the entire semester, she was told they would just find someone who would.

This highlights an incredibly gray area for students and faculty: Does Columbia even have an attendance policy? Though most students' syllabuses have a paragraph indicating how many classes they can miss before facing grade reductions or failing the course—typically three or four classes—it seems they are contradictory because the college does not have an official policy. The confusion makes it easier to push part-time faculty, who have shaky job security, around.

Poor communication on all fronts has seemed to muddle up interpretation of this policy. If someone were to ask five different members of the Columbia community about how grades are affected by absences, they would likely get five different answers.

However, what P-Fac is fighting for supersedes the idea of attendance: It is about Columbia's academic integrity, the need for students to actually be in the classroom to complete a course, and for faculty to have control over what happens in their classroom.

Administration's job is to manage and make overarching decisions for the entire institution. This may sometimes include approving late withdrawals or incompletes, or other unique situations that may warrant a grade change because there are always outliers to the rules, which should be treated with care from both the faculty and college leaders working together. However, the issue Brenner describes and P-Fac is rallying against does not seem to fall under any of these exceptions. She failed a student who she said only completed five weeks of work—equal to the number of classes they attended class. Whether they attended



any of the classes is irrelevant; their effort would not warrant a passing grade at that point. If P-Fac's other, currently anonymous complaints are similar situations, it is even more troubling that the Provost's Office was potentially involved.

Assuming this to be true, for the administration to demand anything above an incomplete is disrespectful to not only Brenner and the student's classmates, but also students collegewide who make themselves available for class and do what is needed for a passing grade. It rightfully brings up the concern or speculation that the college is more concerned with retention or enrollment numbers than the educational experience itself.

The administration would be undermining faculty members' attempts to reprimand students for not attending class and completing necessary work if this is the case, despite it violating nearly all of the college's new Universal Learning Outcomes, created by a committee led by Senior Vice President and Provost Stan Wearden—who is at the forefront of Brenner and P-Fac President Diana Vallera's complaints. These outcomes, which students are supposed to fully meet upon graduation, include collaboration, community engagement, communication, career readiness and ethics. How can a student learn any of these if they are not being required to come to class or do their work?

The Columbia community needs to demand these accusations be fully investigated. If students are not going to value the need to be in the classroom and complete their mandatory work, then college leaders should be enforcing the value on their end, not backing out on their ideals.

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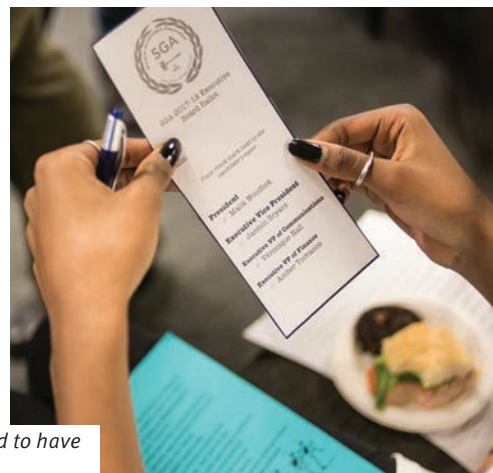


» PHOTOS KEVIN TIONGSON/CHRONICLE

Malik Woolfork, the sole candidate for the 2017-2018 Student Government Association President, spoke at the "SGA: Meet The Candidates" event held April 4 at 916 S. Wabash Ave.



For a chance to earn a position on the Student Government Association Executive board, nominees had to have served on the SGA senate and gather 100 signatures and OASIS numbers.



Student Government elections include unopposed candidates

» TESSA BRUBAKER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

COLUMBIA'S STUDENT GOVERNMENT Association announced four new candidates for its 2017-2018 Executive Board, all running unopposed.

Students collegewide have the chance to elect junior business and entrepreneurship major Malik Woolfork as president, freshman cinema art and science major Jazmin Bryant as vice president, freshman American Sign Language-English interpretation major Amber Torrence as executive vice president of finance, and freshman cultural studies major

Veronique Hall as executive vice president of communications.

SGA's current Executive Board consists of senior business and entrepreneurship major Kaela Ritter as president, sophomore journalism major Megan Perrero as executive vice president, junior cinema art and science major Marquise Davion as executive vice president of finance and junior theatre major Bree Bracey as vice president of communications.

Applications for the positions became available March 13 to any student who previously served on the SGA senate. The candidates then had to obtain 100 signatures and OASIS numbers from students

to make them aware of who is representing them, according to Coordinator of Student Leadership David Keys. Voting for the candidates began April 4 and will end April 10.

"SGA has made huge strides in establishing themselves as an organization and liaison between the student body and faculty," Keys said, adding that he hopes SGA can provide more student representation in the college's strategic planning conversations during the next academic year.

During the April 4 candidates meeting at the 916 S. Wabash Ave. Building, each candidate spoke about their nomination and responded to follow-up questions from SGA members. All the candidates expressed the same goal of making SGA more known among Columbia students.

"I want to get our name out there more to let people know that we are here and we can do something," Torrence said, adding that she wants to use her position to connect with more campus organizations.

Woolfork, who also served as the president of Black Student Union and member of the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Student Board Advisory, said as president, he would want to empower the Columbia community to voice questions and concerns.

"[I want to make sure] the student government is visible to the student body, and the student body realizes there is a place where they can bring their voice [and] there will be action taken behind their voice," Woolfork said.

A friend convinced Bryant to join SGA and she has been working hard with the organization since then, she said.

"I'm excited to be able to collaborate with more organizations on campus, create relationships with students and just better myself and my leadership skills," Bryant said.

Being an SGA member offers many opportunities, said Hall, who hopes more students will get involved next year.

"I fell in love with the opportunities and the experience that came from student government," Hall said.

SGA will announce officer positions during its April 11 meeting.

chronicle@colum.edu

Alumni will help bring Cubs win to big screen

» **MARISA SOBOTKA**
CAMPUS REPORTER

TWO COLUMBIA ALUMNI are a part of the Radar Pictures team that will bring former Cubs catcher David Ross' upcoming book, "Teammate: My Journey in Baseball and a World Series for the Ages," to the big screen.

Cinema art and science alumni Ram Getz, who graduated in 2012, and John Corcoran, who graduated in 2011 are co-writers of the film titled "Teammate."

"This film is about a family man, the ultimate teammate and somebody who puts himself before everybody else," Corcoran said.

Getz and Corcoran, who met during the Semester in LA program in 2013, said their time at Columbia supplied them with the skills to bring the story to life. Corcoran added that the college

taught him about all the different types of people in the world with unimaginable stories to be told.

Although the film is still being written, Corcoran said it will be about Ross' Chicago baseball career and how he helped break the Cubs' 108-year losing streak with a 2016 World Series win.

Because the film will be a screen adaptation of the book, which is set to be published May 9, Corcoran said as writers, they have to consider that these characters already exist as real people in Ross' life, he said.



Columbia cinema art and science alumni Ram Getz and John Corcoran will co-write the film adaptation of "Teammate" based on David Ross's book.

"What we are trying to do is turn [the movie] into something that can still hold the original message of the content true but also be an entertaining movie," Corcoran said.

Getz, who is the lead producer on the film, said he was working at Radar Pictures as one of the in-house producers and sought out the project after hearing about the release of Ross' book and then contacted Corcoran.

"Thus far, we are working to make sure not just Ross, but the Cubs and all sides are happy with the way we are telling the story and moving it forward," Getz said.

Both said they feel proud to represent Chicago and the Cubs in the making of the film and that Ross was one of the "best human beings" they could have asked to work with.

Kevin Cooper, producing area coordinator and associate

professor in the Cinema Art and Science Department who had Getz as a student, said the recent World Series title will make the movie very timely and hopefully bring in a huge audience.

"It is not just for people who live in Chicago; there are Cubs fans all around the world," Cooper said. "More importantly this is truly a story of the underdog and for us as filmmakers, the underdog is a proven storyline."

Getz and Corcoran, who have been working together for almost four years, said that coming up in the industry with a best friend and collaborating has felt like a "Hollywood moment," according to Getz.

"Ram and I both care about this, so there is never any question that the both of us are putting everything we possibly have into it," Corcoran said. "When you are functioning on that level, no matter what, you are going to get the best results out of each other."

This is truly a story of the underdog and for us as filmmakers, the underdog is a proven storyline.

—KEVIN COOPER

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'Summer at Columbia' to offer high school students college credit

» **MARISA SOBOTKA**
CAMPUS REPORTER

COLUMBIA IS PILOTING a new program for high school students who want to earn college credits while being immersed in Chicago.

The program, called Summer at Columbia, will take place from July 10–28 and offer an on-campus residential option as well as a commuter option. Registration is open until June 1.

According to Robert Tenges, assistant provost for Continuing & Community Education, the program will be an introduction to both the college as well as the students' future majors and industries.

Previously, the college's High School Summer Institute, which has run for the last 30 years, offered new, specialized courses for high school students. Tenges

said institute courses were not transferable to Columbia departments and other institutions, so it was time for the program to "pivot" into something more practical for students.

"We thought that in the interest of honoring credits, we would have a greater impact by actually repurposing existing curriculum, rather than designing special high

school courses," Tenges said.

The Communication, Interactive Arts and Media, Dance, Cinema Art and Science, Business and Entrepreneurship, and Fashion departments will all be participating in the program, he said.

Residential students can register for six different immersion areas while commuter students can earn credits in 25 courses from varied departments, said Suzanne McBride, Chair of the Communication Department and one of the program's faculty

mentors.

McBride said that the courses are identical to ones offered to all freshmen except they can be completed in three weeks. The high school students will meet every

day to fulfill the 45 contact-hour requirement and will earn three transferable credit hours

Melissa Gamble, lecturer in the Fashion Department and faculty mentor, will be teaching "Introduction to Fashion Industry." The course will include visiting designers around the city.

"It will open [students'] eyes to different parts of the industry and offer a better understanding of what it means to study fashion," Gamble said. "They have an opportunity to experience both the industry and the city."

The residential program, which costs approximately \$6,000 per student, includes living at the Residence Center, 731 S. Plymouth Court, with full meal plans and resident assistants on every floor to aid students throughout their stay.

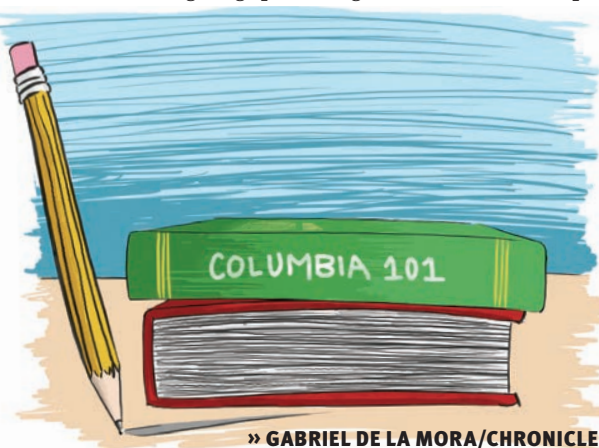
McBride said residential students will have opportunities throughout their stay to explore popular places around the city, including Navy Pier and Millennium Park.

"In addition to taking classes, they will also be doing other activities related in some way to their work and practice those things beyond the classroom," McBride said.

Tenges added that Columbia will be taking full responsibility for the students' experiences by mapping their schedules and planning "industry-specific immersions" that are different from other institutions.

Tenges said the school plans to review how the program fulfills expectations and whether changes are needed. He added that the college hopes to boost enrollment and begin a conversation with students earlier through the program.

"It will be very interesting to see how beginning these conversations sooner will land in terms of enrollment," Tenges said. "We want to deliver an authentic program for students deeply connected to their academic endeavors."



» **GABRIEL DE LA MORA/CHRONICLE**

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Summer courses offered through new online platform

» CONNOR CARYNSKI
CAMPUS REPORTER

FIVE ONLINE SUMMER courses will be the first to use Canvas, the college's new Learning Management System, which will replace Moodle completely in the Fall 2018 Semester.

Green said the summer courses are priced at a discounted rate to remain competitive with local community and city colleges because some students may not receive federal aid outside of the academic year.

As reported April 18, 2016, by The Chronicle, Green was appointed by Senior Vice President and Provost Stan Wearden last year to increase enrollment and revenue through online education programs.

"After looking at some data, we saw that some students are taking courses during the summer and then transferring the credits back into Columbia," Green said. "One of the things I wanted to do is provide a vehicle where the students could stay with Columbia and develop a set of courses, which could serve a wide variety of Columbia students."

Green added that if students transferred to other colleges over the summer, they are unlikely to find courses as relevant to the arts or their concentrations.

Courses will be priced at \$1,500 per three-credit-hour class, according to the Student Financial Services website. The online courses are \$180 less than regular summer credit hours, \$349 less than regular part-time credit hours and anywhere from \$268 to \$524 less

than full-time credit hours, depending on a student's course load.

The five courses are "American Sign Language I," "Foundations of Creative Writing," "Introduction to Game Development," "Introduction to Social Media and Digital Strategies" and "Self-Management and Freelancing." Online sessions begin June 5 and end July 29. The courses were selected using Student Advising data and were chosen because they represent the Columbia experience, Green said in an April 6 follow-up email.

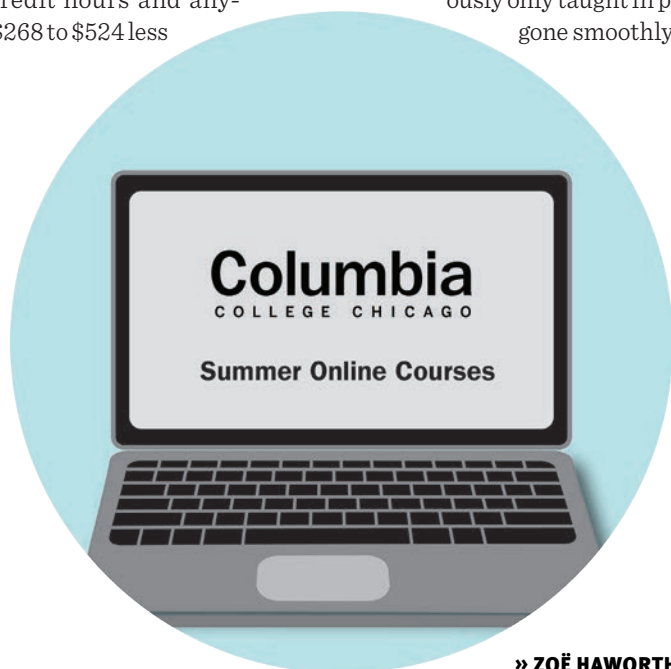
Students who take the courses can expect video conference and content capabilities, improved mobile usage, the ability to monitor grades, assignments and due dates by using the Canvas system, according to a listing of the new courses on Columbia's website.

Green said although there are elements of the online system that will not be launched until the fall, students taking the online courses over the summer will still receive the full experience of the program.

Green said additional aspects of the full online school include a website and a new student management system, a type of software used to manage registration, enrollment, attendance and other student data.

Shannelle Armstrong-Fowler, a lecturer in the Communications Department who will be teaching the summer's "Introduction to Social Media and Digital Strategies" course, said transitioning the class to canvas, previously only taught in person, has gone smoothly.

SEE ONLINE, PAGE 11



» ZOË HAWORTH/CHRONICLE

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» ESTHER BELL/CHRONICLE

Three-time Grammy Award-winning keyboardist and gospel, jazz and soul musician, Cory Henry (left), performed with the college's Recording and Performance Ensemble as part of his April 7 residency concert at The Music Center, 1014 S. Michigan Ave.

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P-Fac president and adjunct professor in the Photography Department Diana Vallera said the union has been investigating for several semesters four situations in which grade changes were made without faculty input or approval—an act she said violates both the college’s policies and faculty’s academic freedom.

The Chronicle requested Vallera ask other adjuncts with grade change complaints if they would be interviewed, but she did not respond as of press time.

“In the cases that we are most alarmed about, we’re seeing a grade that’s just changed by someone higher up and the faculty member may not even be aware of the grade change,” Vallera said.

According to the college’s academic policy, only a course instructor can change a student’s grade. A student must file a grade change request by the end of the semester in which the grade was given, and the department

chair and school dean must then approve the changed grade.

The policy also states that every attempt should be made to resolve the grievance through discussions between the student and instructor or among the student, instructor and the department chair before a grade change is made. Grading and evaluation policies outlined in the course syllabus form the basis for grade resolutions, the policy also stated.

Vallera pointed out the college’s policies are vague, with nothing established for situations in which the college administration does not follow the policy.

“I am concerned that if this continues, it’s just going to affect the quality of education, the morale and the value of the Columbia degree,” Vallera said. “The faculty member will always feel the college is just going to override it and allow students to pass, and I don’t think that serves anyone’s best interest.”

Faculty members were advised in the email to not accept demands

for grade changes, but to instead inform P-Fac immediately, which will then file a complaint with the college. They were also advised to attend any meetings over grade changes with a P-Fac representative, according to the email.

After refusing to change the student’s grade, Brenner said she wrote a letter outlining her concerns to Wearden and Blum Malley, and also sent it to Vallera and other faculty members. According to Brenner, she did not get a response from any of them. Because of privacy concerns, Brenner was unable to provide a copy of the letter to The Chronicle.

In an April 7 email to the Chronicle, college spokeswoman Cara Birch said she could not confirm or deny whether the provost received the letter because of the The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, which protects the privacy of education records.

College spokeswoman Anjali Julka declined interviews on behalf of Wearden and Steven Corey, the dean overseeing the Creative Writing Department, but sent The Chronicle a statement April 6 outlining Columbia’s support for academic freedom, which, according to the statement, is not affected by asking for grade changes.

“Columbia also has a policy in place to protect a student’s right to appeal a grade,” the statement said. “Grade changes—resulting from review processes required under the college’s grade grievance policies—do not constitute a violation of academic freedom. If P-Fac’s leadership is accusing the provost or the college of violating academic freedom because a student’s grade was changed, then that complaint should be discussed directly with the college. It is irresponsible for anyone to publicly discuss a student’s grade grievance, as that issue falls strictly under the [FERPA].”

If we don’t assume faculty are responsible [for] student grading and are the final authority, then the entire system of higher education breaks and we don’t have any faculty autonomy whatsoever. ”

CARY NELSON



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Cary Nelson, a jubilee professor of liberal arts and sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign who served as the national president of the American Association of University Professors from 2006–2012 and has written books on academic freedom, said it is unacceptable for an administrator to change a student's grade, and the responsibility should be left to the instructor of the course.

"If we don't assume faculty are responsible [for] student grading, the entire system of higher education breaks and we don't have any faculty autonomy," Nelson said.

Vallera said she has filed several information requests through the college during the union's investigation of all instances involving grade changes, including Brenner's, but has also not received a response.

However, in a separate April 7 email, Birch said she can confirm the college always receives and responds to all information requests.

Brenner said she could not speculate why the Provost's Office got involved with her student's grade grievance. One possibility could be an attempt to save student retention rates, Vallera said.

"What's the interest in the college to pass a student that the faculty feels strongly has not fulfilled the requirements of the course?" Vallera said. "It comes to mind that it's trying to get those retention rates up and that just can't happen. We have to always be committing to making sure they fulfill the requirement of the course."

Nelson added that these issues with grade grievance typically occur with adjunct professors.

"It's assumed they can't defend themselves and certainly as individuals, [adjuncts] have a problem defending themselves because they're not so much subject to being fired, they're subject to being nonrenewed, which is a very quiet, under-the-table way of getting rid of someone because it's sort of a nonevent," Nelson said.

The March 14 P-Fac email also said the union can report the grade change request to the AAUP, which will then conduct an investigation and contact college administration about the report. If the AAUP determines that faculty's academic freedom was violated, it can place the college on a censure list, according to the email.

The AAUP could not be reached for comment as of press time.

Brenner said it is important students get the most out of their tuition money and to set high standards for both students and instructors, something she experienced also while attending Columbia as a graduate student from 2001–2005.

"Part of having a syllabus is so that we treat all students fairly," she said. "I want to make sure students are getting their money's worth, and that means that we do hold them to standards," Brenner said.

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ONLINE, FROM 7 ↓

The courses were made available to students who want to gain experience working in their fields but also need to take degree-specific courses, she added.

"What [the courses] offer is the flexibility of those moments that you can't be in class and the ones where you want to continue your education but want to work on other things," Armstrong-Fowler said. "If you wanted to be in Los Angeles because you wanted to work with The Grammy's for that season, you could still be able to take courses and continue your education and still be able to get that real-life experience."

She added that she and other faculty members participated in a training class and were also given eight weeks to familiarize themselves with the Canvas platform.

Freshman journalism major Ethan Anderson said he plans to take online summer courses to get LAS Core requirements out of the way, so he can take major-specific classes in the fall. Anderson

said taking classes online over the summer will also allow him a flexible enough schedule to find a job.

"[Finding a job] was basically the reasoning for taking online classes," Anderson said. "That way, I wouldn't have to constantly go to class, and I could do it on my own time."

Students had registered for each of the five new courses only two days after registration opened, and all of the courses will have enough students to run, according to Green.

He added that the collaboration between members of the Digital Learning Office and faculty members is what makes Columbia's online classes a rich experience.

"The great thing about these courses is that they are Columbia's," Green said. "They are courses using the great faculty we have here, with a new team developing new cutting edge online products."

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»PHOTOS KEVIN TIONGSON/CHRONICLE

Producer and musician Steve Albini (bottom) knows the ins and outs of Chicago's punk scene. He has seen it grow throughout the decades and still lives it, recording punk bands at his Avondale recording studio Electrical Audio, 2621 W. Belmont Ave.

Pioneer of punk: Steve Albini remembers music community

» **BLAIR PADDOCK**
ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER

PUNK ROCK WAS a single, momentary flash of light, casting shadows on those who preceded it. Changing the lives of many, punk rock was a movement that influenced art, fashion and culture for years, and artist Steve Albini was among those who saw that spark.

Member-of-band-Big Black-turned-music journalist, Albini, 54, has been involved in the Chicago punk scene since moving to the city in 1980. He now runs the recording studio Electrical Audio, 2621 W. Belmont Ave. in Avondale, and works with bands from across the country.

Albini said he challenges what it means to be a musician in today's consumer-centered society and cherishes punk for its anti-establishment mindset and diversity.

"[The Chicago punk scene was for] freaks and f--k-ups and people who could not function in the outside world," Albini said, reflecting on nearly 40 years in the industry.



"All my friends had trouble holding a job; they would run in with the law and would go on drug binges."

Growing up in Missoula, Montana, Albini came to Chicago to study journalism at Northwestern University. While he had been involved with bands back home, he became immediately immersed in the Chicago underground music scene. After seeing a couple of shows, Albini tried to get a few bands together—eventually rounding up members to form Big Black.

Jim DeRogatis, music critic, co-host of WBEZ's "Sound Opinions" and senior lecturer in the English Department, said Big Black was one of the most important bands in the '80s, both musically and lyrically. Albini provides a journalistic quality to his music, covering topics such as the meat-packing industry and cow slaughtering in Chicago in the song "Cables."

"Albini [chronicles] certain aspects of life that were very interesting, and the harshness of those lyrical portraits are matched by the aggression of the music," DeRogatis said.

What he found significant, specifically in the Chicago punk scene, was the sense of community. In the '80s, Los Angeles and New York City had prominent people in the scene who were seen as "head figures." In Chicago, there were half a dozen bands that were at their peak and equally influential in the '80s, he added.

"There was no 'Pope of Punk' in Chicago," Albini said. "That lack of authority has been a pretty constant signifier of Chicago."

Albini said Chicago bands were more passionate about the music itself than the industry. He and his band would go against the grain, straying away from playing commercial venues or having a publicist.

"As punk rock became influential culturally, normal people got involved with it and embraced it, becoming the dominant identity of the underground music scene," Albini said. "I did feel that difference, so my bands and I try to break out of that thing."

One of the bands he has recorded at his studio is Screaming Females, a punk band from New Jersey. He said he works with the group because of how inspirational the members' passion is.

"[Albini's] not afraid to work, and he's not only recording bands that are cool and hip at the moment, he records bands that are committed," said Screaming Females vocalist Marissa Paternoster.

Albini said he has never pretended he could make a living being in a band, even though he has been making records for most of his life. Now, this recording studio is what keeps him afloat, he added.

"If I tried to make [my band] my profession, I would have hated it by now," he said. "But because it is actually a release valve for me and when I get bummed out about other stuff in my life, I know at least my band is ours."

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» ZOË EITEL
MANAGING EDITOR

That's a *wrap*

Let's talk about Harry Styles

Is there anyone left in the world who hasn't heard of Harry Styles, former One Direction member and unofficial frontman?

In the year since the One Direction members started their breaks to work on individual projects, Styles has used the time well to jumpstart his solo career. He's broken his boy band chains and tried his hand in other media, so let's look at what there is to look forward to—and hope and pray for—from Styles.



Unnamed album

With One Direction, Styles put out five No. 1 albums that have sold millions of copies. His former bandmates Niall Horan and Louis Tomlinson have put out No. 1 singles with supposed albums in the works. Zayn Malik also produced an album and a few collaborations with mostly R&B artists, but he had extra time after leaving the band a year before the hiatus.

Styles' own single finally dropped April 7 and gave fans a preview into the very not-boy band sound of his upcoming album. "Sign of the Times" is an indie song that can be most accurately described as emotionally distressing and "jangly." It would be right at home on a soundtrack for the "Twilight Saga."

"Saturday Night Live"

On March 28, "SNL" announced that Styles will be the musical guest for the show's April 15 episode where he will perform "Sign of the Times," as well as a second unreleased song, according to a April 7 Billboard article.

One Direction appeared on "SNL" three times between 2012 and 2014. While featured as musical guests, the members also appeared in sketches with hosts Sofia Vergara, Paul Rudd and Amy Adams in which they played both themselves and characters created for them.

I'm hoping the tradition will continue, and we will get to see Styles perform his two songs and showcase his awkwardness in a couple of sketches.

Photoshoots and features

In September 2016, Another Man

magazine focused an entire issue, with three alternative covers, on Styles. It was full of amazing photos of Styles in various odd outfits—a chevron blazer with no shirt and a thick leather choker with a large metal ring through it, for one—interviews and stories about Styles from people including Chelsea Handler and Paul McCartney, and even a story his older sister Gemma wrote about him. The magazine even followed Styles around his hometown of Holmes Chapel in England and took photos of his various hairdos—from past-shoulder length to a short crop.

Though this is likely to be much more in-depth and intense than any future photoshoots and magazine features, it's OK to wish for more that will be at least half as iconic and memorable.

"Dunkirk"

Coming out July 21, this World War II film centers around a group of allied soldiers who have to be evacuated from German-surrounded territory. Written and directed by Christopher Nolan and starring Tom Hardy as principle character Farrier, Styles will play a supporting character named Alex. Not much has been revealed about the movie beyond the two trailers, but you can catch glimpses of Styles in the second one. A short clip in which Styles seems to be drowning is stressful to watch, but I'll be in the theater, watching Styles fight for his life and most likely bawling my eyes out like every other self-respecting fan.

zeitel@chroniclemail.com



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Tuesday, April 11

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Friday, April 14

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Tuesday, April 11

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\$18 adv / \$20 door

Saturday, April 15

RIC WILSON

Schubas Tavern
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7 p.m.
\$11 adv / \$13 door

FROM THE FRONT ROW



British indie-pop band Bastille, led by vocalist Dan Smith, performed April 3 at the Aragon Ballroom, 1106 W. Lawrence Ave.

» ESTHER BELL/CHRONICLE

NPR's 'Pop Culture' podcast slated to debut Chicago live performance

» **ARIEL PARRELLA-AURELI**
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR



» Courtesy NPR

Host and co-creator of NPR's 'Pop Culture Happy Hour' Linda Holmes is bringing the podcast crew to Chicago for the first time for a live performance April 12 with a full band, Mucca Pazza.

NPR IS UNLEASHING the gurus of pop culture from its "Pop Culture Happy Hour" podcast to Chicago to discuss the books, music, movies and TV shows that have everyone laughing, tweeting or scowling at the latest cultural trends.

The podcast is scheduled to stop in Chicago April 12 for a live performance—the first time in its seven-year history. Host Linda Holmes and panelists Stephen Thompson and Glen Weldon are bringing their pop culture

knowledge and criticism to the Harris Theater at Millennium Park, 205 E. Randolph Drive.

The live performance, in partnership with WBEZ, will include special NPR VIPs Sam Sanders, formerly of the "NPR Politics Podcast," and W. Kamau Bell, the critically acclaimed socio-political comedian and host of Emmy Award-nominated CNN docu-series "United Shades of America."

"Any time that I am working, I am 25 percent doing what I enjoy," Holmes, a pop culture correspondent and editor of NPR's entertainment blog Monkey See, said about combining work with ingesting pop culture news and interests. "It is also true that anytime I am doing something I enjoy, I am 25 percent working."

"Pop Culture Happy Hour's" roundtable-style, minimal scripting

and personal discussion makes it unlike other NPR podcasts, Holmes said. While the show's flow is natural and raw, it is still heavily edited by producer Jessica Reedy to maintain professional quality and listener engagement, she added.

Weldon, who reviews books and movies for Monkey See, said "Pop Culture Happy Hour" should make listeners feel connected to the hosts as they are with friends.

"We want the show to sound like it is you hanging out with your friends talking about topics you are excited about—or that you are not very happy about," Weldon said.

That is certainly true for Holmes, Thompson and Weldon, who have all become best friends because of the show, Holmes said. One can hear their close relationship in the show's banter and inside jokes during the discussions—even when they disagree harmoniously, Weldon added.

Thompson said the chance to talk to your friends and call it work is really exciting and added that

the show has educated him in more ways than one.

"It has greatly increased my own cultural literacy and forced me to see movies [and TV shows] I wouldn't have otherwise seen, and books I certainly would not have otherwise read," Thompson said.

Thompson brings the musical knowledge to the show. He is an editor for NPR Music and the founder of the Chicago-based A.V. Club. He also helped co-create NPR's Tiny Desk Concerts in 2008 and is a regular on NPR's music news show "All Songs Considered." Learning from his co-hosts and other podcasts like the recently released and already highly acclaimed Serial Productions show "S-Town" takes him out of his comfort zone and makes him more well-rounded and happier, he said.

According to Holmes, the difference between live and recorded show is that live shows are more structured, and there is more play for audience interaction. Thompson added that

SEE NPR, PAGE 22

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» PHOTOS WESLEY HEROLD/CHRONICLE

Werewolf Coffee Bar, 1765 N. Elston Ave., opened to the public April 3. It was originally supposed to be a hangout space for DMK Restaurant employees.

Coffee bar makes you ‘wonder’ with delivery truck barista station

» **KENDRAH VILLIESSE**
ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER

A RECORD PLAYING oldies spins slowly as locals sip coffee on a couch. An old, silver Wonder Bread truck with a license plate

saying “Bite Me,” is parked in the middle of the “industrial chic” location, playing a repurposed role as a barista station. Patio lights are strung across the ceiling and an assortment of pastries from Floriole Café & Bakery

in Lincoln Park is being offered alongside the coffees.


Werewolf Coffee Bar, 1765 N. Elston Ave., originally planned as a “company clubhouse” for DMK Restaurant employees, opened its doors to the public April 3.

“We wanted to create a camaraderie within the company and really make it the best restaurant group to work for,” said McKenzie Gilliam, Werewolf’s general manager. “[The shop] is such a cool concept that we wanted to share it with everyone.”

Serving coffees sourced from Chicago and Portland, Oregon, vendors. Gilliam said the shop uses the best roasters and

receives freshly roasted coffee beans every week. The coffee bar carries Dark Matter, Stumptown and Metropolis coffees and an assortment of teas and draft beers. The former Wonder Bread delivery truck where customers can get their beverages took a year to convert into a barista station and was the inspiration for the rest of the shop’s décor, Gilliam said.

SEE WEREWOLF, PAGE 22




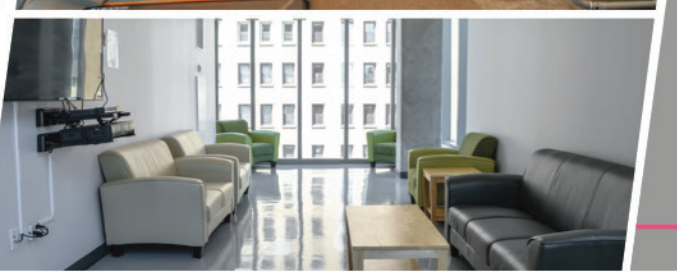
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GoldiSocks shows drag in Trump's America

» **KENDRAH VILLIESSE**
ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER

IN THE ORIGINAL musical comedy “GoldiSocks and Her Three Bears’ Fabulous Fairy Tales of Drag,” Little Red Riding C--t is chased through the forest by the big bad Donald Trump wolf trying to “grab her by the...”

Showing at the Gorilla Tango Theatre, 1919 N. Milwaukee Ave., April 7–May 26, the play features GoldiSocks, her gal pals Autumn O’Shade and Deejay Vonderthrash and her three bears.

“[The show] addresses what it now means to be LGBTQ in Trump’s America and what it means to be a drag queen in this time,” said show director Chris McGriff. “It also addresses what it means to just be human with everything that is going on.”

The production, written by Heather Branham Green, is presented as a talk show hosted by GoldiSocks, with the episode

“Fabulous Fairytales of Drag” told through Goldi’s point of view, according to McGriff.

“It is the GoldiSocks hour; it is kind of like Oprah meets Wendy Williams meets ‘The View’ show,”



» Courtesy **SAM HAINES**

Musical comedy “GoldiSocks and Her Three Bears’ Fabulous Fairy Tales of Drag,” written by Heather Branham Green, is paying homage to the drag community at the Gorilla Tango Theatre, 1919 N. Milwaukee Ave., until May 26.

said Vivian Dejour, who plays Autumn O’Shade. “On this particular episode, we are doing two different fairytales. One is of how Autumn became a pageant-winning drag queen while using the story of the ugly duckling.”

McGriff said when casting the show, which stars local drag queens Coco Sho-Nell, Dejour and Kalli Mauri, he was very specific about his casting choices.

Sho-Nell, who plays GoldiSocks, has been performing drag for seven years after entering the drag scene by accident through a directing company and starting competitions shortly after.

“It was important for us to not cast actors and put them in drag,” McGriff said. “We wanted to honor the craft of drag, so our drag queens are all established [performers] in Chicago.”

McGriff also said “GoldiSocks and Her Three Bears’ Fabulous Tales of Drag,” is open to all ages,

so the drag show experience isn’t limited to adults.

“You can come and see it if you are 16 or 18, which opens up the world of drag to a whole new audience,” he said.

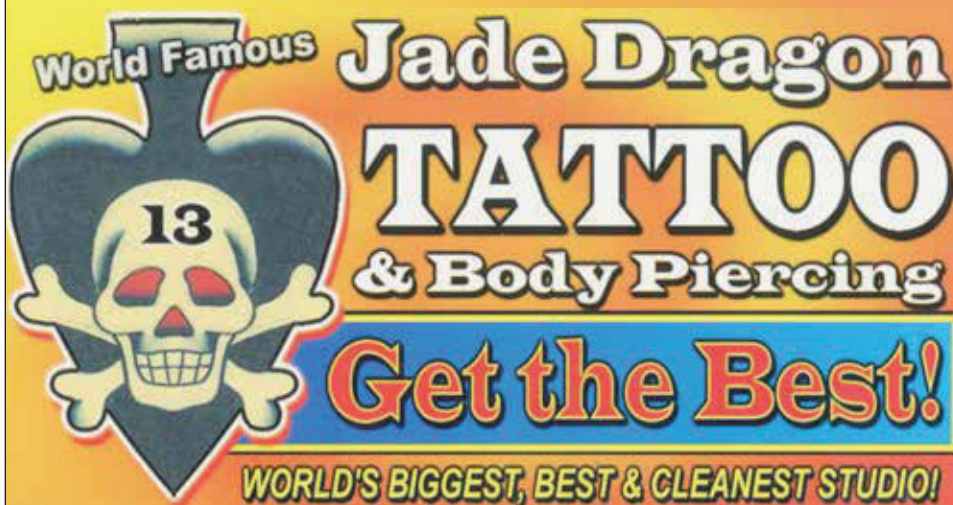
McGriff said the play, which was written to pay homage to the drag and LGBTQ community, was originally created to warn people about the election, but was rewritten to focus on what is happening in Trump’s America.

Sho-Nell said performing drag in this show will bring these topics to light while putting a comedic spin on the situation.

“That is something we need right now: to laugh more,” Sho-Nell said. “Everything is so serious. Emotions are high, whether you are on one side or the other. This is a moment where you can just come here and release all of the tension and remember that we are all human.”

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New 'Pinocchio' combines Deaf, hearing actors

» ERIN DICKSSON
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

THE PUPPET WHO just wanted to be a real boy is bridging the gap between Deaf and hearing theater in a new adaptation of the famous "Pinocchio" story.

Neverbird Project will present its production of "Pinocchio" April 20–May 14 at Chicago Children's Theatre, 100 S. Racine Ave.

With a mix of Deaf and hearing actors, Neverbird uses American Sign Language and what it describes as "spectacle and wonderment" to communicate new perspectives on classic theatrical productions. Using ASL in all of its productions, the actors hope to bring the Deaf and arts communities together and give opportunity to Deaf actors, according to an April 4 press release.

Based on Carlo Collodi's 1883 children's novel "Pinocchio," Neverbird's production takes a different direction from the 1940 Disney interpretation that popularized the story. Co-director and co-writer Levi Holloway calls it a story of "loss and grief and what to do in its wake." He first presented "Pinocchio" in 2016 at Bell Elementary School, which integrates Deaf and hearing students.

Julissa Contreras, a Deaf actress, will play the title character and Chris Chmelik, a hearing actor, will play Geppetto. All cast members will be signing throughout, Chmelik said.

Working with a Deaf actress is not different from working with a hearing one, Chmelik said, adding that he is excited to part of the cast.

"Any opportunity we get to see a story that's more fleshed out and

has different kinds of people in it with different kinds of disabilities or abilities is really cool," he said.

To Holloway, creating relationships among the cast and crew members is the most important aspect of his job.

"I'm lucky enough to have become a better, more curious, eager and ambitious artist every day I'm in the rehearsal room," he said.

Neverbird hopes to generate awareness of the Deaf community and its role in Chicago theater through its comprehensive use of sign language, Holloway said.

Corinne Bass, artistic associate for Neverbird and an advocate for accessibility in theater, said every theater company should strive for representation of all kinds.

"Our goal as theater artists needs to be to tell stories that are important and relevant to everyone," Bass said. "We're not just here to tell stories for a certain set of people; we're here to tell stories for all kinds of people."

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The Chicago Children's Theatre, 100 S. Racine Ave., will merge Deaf and hearing cultures for its take on "Pinocchio" running April 20–May 14.



» Courtesy JAY KELLY



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BREAKING THE CONFINED MIND

All Eddie Willis wanted was to take a shower. It was his tenth day without being allowed one, even though inmates were supposed to take one every two days. Reaching his breaking point, Willis said he banged on the door of his small cell, begging guards to allow him to bathe. After denying his demand, Willis said a guard fired pepper spray into the cell, and his only choice to avoid suffocation was to dunk his head in the prison toilet.

Willis, 36, was put into solitary confinement at Danville Correctional Center in Danville, Illinois, for 17 months after an auto-theft conviction. During that time, he was confined to a cell where he could touch both walls if he stretched his arms out wide. Crammed in the closet-sized room was a bed and a toilet. The lights were on 24 hours a day, and he was only given short, infrequent breaks from confinement.

“[Solitary confinement] is inhumane because in prison you’re already segregated,” Willis said. “Restricting a person’s access and free movement is already being done in prison.”

Willis was forced into solitary confinement, a practice about 2,000 inmates are currently subjected to within the Illinois Department of Corrections, according to Alan Mills, executive director of Uptown People’s Law Center. While the lasting psychological effects are debated among experts, the testimonies of past inmates illustrate that the long-term effects of confinement can be severe. Recent changes in the legal system bar its use on the mentally ill and restrict its use on juveniles.

Currently in Illinois, House Bill 0259 is being debated in the General Assembly. The bill would create the “Isolated Confinement Restriction Act,” limiting the time of confinement to a 10-day maximum within a 180-day period. It also prevents the use of solitary confinement unless the prisoner “would create a substantial risk of immediate serious harm to himself, herself, or another” with no satisfactory alternative solution.

This bill speaks to the changing mindset of solitary confinement and the future of prison reform, Mills said.

Introduced by State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford, D-Chicago, the bill passed through the Restorative Justice Committee with a 7-4 vote March 9, according to the Illinois General Assembly website. It is awaiting an unscheduled vote from a full house committee as of press time.

UPLC is also currently working on Davis v. Baldwin, a case that alleges that the Illinois prison system puts too many people in

confinement for prolonged periods of time, Mills said. The case labels solitary confinement as cruel and unusual punishment, amounting to torture.

“[UPLC] is working with a coalition of community groups and the legislature to try and change the way Illinois uses solitary,” Mills said.

Willis has been a part of the prison abolitionist group Black & Pink since he was incarcerated in 2007. Without the organization, he said he would not have received the proper help facing the trauma from prison and solitary confinement.

“It’s very hard to be locked in a little closet for long periods of time,” Willis said. “It’s torture and it has no place in a civilized society, so I guess we’re not civilized.”

During Willis’ seven years at Danville, he said he was placed into confinement because of “the way prison is set up.” While there have been improvements in the Illinois prison system, Mills said there has been an increase in the use of solitary confinement as they have become more crowded—about 43,000–44,000 inmates in a prison designed for 34,000.

Many times, inmates are put into confinement simply because there is nothing for them to do outside of cells, Mills added.

“Everyone in prison pretty much [returns] every few months,” Willis said. “We’re overcrowded, and they say, ‘Well, put people in the hole,’ then officers will go around and make up [infractions] to fill up those cells.”

In Illinois, there are no regulations on a time limit of solitary confinement, which makes it easier to place inmates in confinement without reason, Mills said.

Sitting in confinement with no educational or creative stimulation, Willis would pray for peace and try to do as little as possible to not get any infractions to prolong his stay. During some periods of time, he was allowed a cellmate, crammed together in the cell left to speak on their hopes of a more positive outcome for the future—anything to get away from thinking about the present.

“[Being in confinement] gives you thoughts of suicide because you know that if you die, you won’t be tortured anymore; you’ll be free,” Willis said.

According to American Friends Service Committee, numerous studies have documented the harmful psychological effects of long-term solitary confinement. Some effects include visual and auditory hallucinations, hypersensitivity to noise and touch, insomnia and paranoia, uncontrollable feelings of rage and fear, increased risk of suicide, and post-traumatic stress disorder.



STORY BY BLAIR PADDOCK
DESIGN BY JAMES TSITIRIDIS

FEATURE



Brian Nelson, 52, was convicted of murder in 1984 and said he had never needed psychotropic medication or seen a psychiatrist prior to his experiences in confinement at the supermax prison Tamms Correctional Center, in Tamms, Illinois, since closed for budgetary reasons.

Nelson said he was first put in solitary confinement at 14 for a week in Juvenile Temporary Detention Center in Chicago and was again put in confinement for about 12 years as an adult. He was part of what he called the “circuit program.” The program had Nelson transferring rooms after every meal for about a month, he said. In one instance, Nelson said he was kept in a pitch black cell for about 47 days in what he called a “psychological experiment.”

“When I was in Tamms, my grandfather died and I got depressed. They stripped me naked and put me in a glass room that was freezing cold with the lights on 24 hours a day,” Nelson said about another instance.

By the time Nelson was out of Tamms, he said he was on five different psychotropic medications. Because of his experience in solitary, he said he cannot ride the bus because he is fearful around people, unable to be in crowded rooms or close to any physical contact with others.

“I am worse off now than when I was released from prison because everything was new to me,” Nelson said. “As that wore off, the effect of solitary confinement started to kick in. I’m now in self-imposed solitary.”

Some experts, such as Peter Suedfeld, professor of psychology at University of British Columbia, continues to defend the practice. He conducted one of the first studies on solitary confinement in 1982 titled “Reactions and Attributes of Prisoners in Solitary Confinement.” The results of the study illustrated that with these subjects, confinement was not torture.

Suedfeld said the reasons an inmate could be put in confinement is because of a threat they might pose to another individual, if they are at risk of harm in the general population or because they ask to be in solitude.

“You could think of it as a vacation from the rest of the general population if they ask to go into solitary,” Suedfeld said.

It is difficult to tell whether confinement actually caused psychological distress, or if these symptoms existed prior to an inmate’s time in the box, he said. In order to truly get a grasp of the effect of confinement, a study evaluating the mental state of an inmate pre- and post-confinement would have to be conducted, he added.

“Psychology in this conversation is probabilistic science,” Suedfeld said. “That doesn’t mean that [inmates might have had deterioration due to confinement].”

Monica Cosby, 48, who was convicted of murder in 1998, said in many cases, the women she encountered in prison had been physically or sexually abused prior to being incarcerated. The behaviors of the guards sometimes resembled that of past abusers, she added.

“We see a lot of the same abusive behaviors from them that we see in our own lives and we tend to react to that,” Cosby said. “A lot of our trauma response is not taken well [by guards], and we’re penalized.”

Cosby said she was in confinement for 10 months, constantly moved from cell to cell. For Cosby, it was destabilizing to constantly change rooms. Without warning, guards would come into her cell with a garbage bag, telling her to pack her belongings, she said.

Now, Cosby said she checks her doors umpteenth times a day, even though she lives in a remote area outside of Chicago. She is unable to have comfortable physical contact, “halfway consenting” to giving people hugs.

“People know you’re having a hard time [from confinement], so they try to make it easy on you and stay apart,” Cosby said. “Now you’re isolated more and people think they’re helping you, but they’re making it harder.”

While confinement may have a cost to the mental health of inmates, it also has put a monetary cost on taxpayers. When Tamms was open, it would cost approximately \$64,000 per inmate per year to keep them incarcerated, according to the Illinois Department of Corrections 2008 Annual Report. The cost per inmate in this higher security supermax prison was almost \$20,000 more than the most expensive medium-security prison, which that year was Jessie Ma Houstain Adult Transition Center in Dixmoor, Illinois.

“If you lock people up with nothing to do and release them—so broken that they can’t actually hold a job—society’s going to support them for the rest of their lives [through taxpayer money],” Mills said.

Most inmates who come in and face confinement are not sentenced for life; thus, they are going to be released back into society, Mills said.

“We continually lock up more people, and it’s certainly not working,” he added. “The streets are not any safer than they were before.”

Danville Correctional Center and Illinois Department of Corrections were not available for comment as of press time.

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ARTS & CULTURE

NPR, FROM PAGE 15 ↓

there is a different set of conversation muscles used in live shows, like noticing one's own speaking ticks; For him it is a small giggle.

Weldon said simply sitting in a semicircle to see each other recalls the roundtable format and adds a conducive energy to the show.

"Our live shows are a different way to interact with [the] NPR [community]; it is a little punchier and sillier," Holmes said. "I like it as a way to get different tastes of what people at NPR like."

The crew said Chicago will be a fitting place to bring the live performance of the podcast because of the city's strong public radio community. They hope to attract public radio fans and WBEZ fans who may not know the show but are rooted in local public radio and care about pop culture.

With a laugh, Weldon added, "You can't force a family member or a friend to listen to a podcast, but you can drag them to a live show."

aparrella@chicroneil.com

»Courtesy NPR



"Pop Culture Happy Hour" will bring the acclaim, smirks and criticism on recent pop culture to the Harris Theatre, 205 E. Randolph Drive, April 12 with a comfy living room setting to emulate the casual and fun podcast vibe.

WEREWOLF, FROM PAGE 16 ↓



Werewolf coffee distributes three different brands of coffee as well as pastries from Floriole Cafe.

"This building used to be an old foundry, so it made really large metal parts. This truck was in here when the [current] building owner bought it," Gilliam said. "We couldn't just throw it away; we needed to use it for something, and this is the perfect application for it."

In the future, Gilliam said the business plans to host a lunch special that allows customers to pre-order food from another DMK restaurant and pick it up at the coffee shop.

First-time customer and Chicago resident Paul Gayed said he loved the idea of a shop carrying three brands of coffee. Gayed stopped in after he saw an Instagram photo of the truck and decided to go on a hunt to find it.

"The truck is super unique, and the lighting is awesome," Gayed said. "I love Stumptown coffee; you don't get to find it that much in Chicago."

Being in the center of various businesses, from architecture



firms to cocktail delivery services, the shop is also a perfect getaway for employees, Gilliam said.

Leigh Stronsnider, a barista at Werewolf, agreed with Gilliam, adding that it's a unique touch that the shop's centerpiece has been as long as the building has.

"We have built around it, and it is really neat to see the final aspect of the building coming into play," Stronsnider said.

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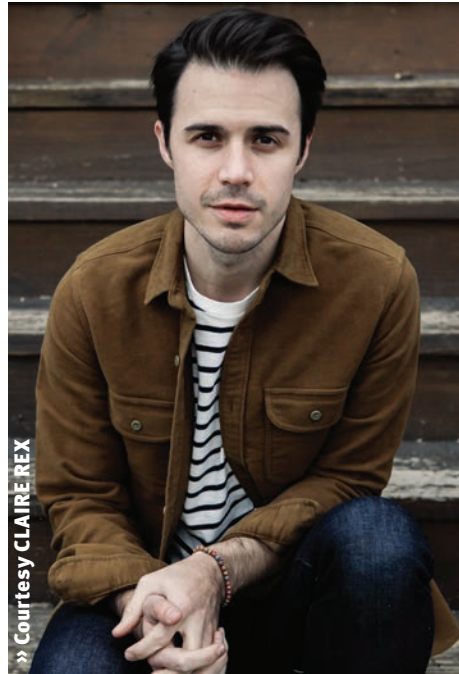
» ARIEL PARRELLA-AURELI
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

Forever heartthrob Kris Allen is 'Letting You In'

Kris Allen is still livin' like he's dyin'. The Arkansas singer, known to the world as "American Idol's" Season 8 winner, is touring and performing his fourth album, *Letting You In*, released March 18, 2016. The 31-year-old musician and father has been steadily making music since his "Idol" debut.

Allen's faith plays an active role in his music and helps him write emotional and powerful lyrics that connect his fans to his experiences. The Midwesterner will return to play a sold-out show at Chicago's Lincoln Hall, 2424 N. Lincoln Ave., April 14 with Parachute, a male pop band from Virginia.

The Chronicle spoke with Allen about his new music, "American Idol" nostalgia and his striking Chicago memories.



Kris Allen is opening up with his new album Letting You In, a more personal look into his experiences. Allen is set to play a sold-out show April 14 at Lincoln Hall, 2424 N. Lincoln Ave.

then I worked on the music. It is amazing how much, for the most part, writing the music to the lyrics is a lot easier than writing the lyrics to music, so I definitely think it will be something I keep doing. I want my lyrics to be very personal.

What are your feelings about "Way Up High" off the new album?

This song was the second one written, and I was on a flight back home. It's pretty autobiographical of just writing about the thoughts thrown around in my head, and it's funny because I wrote them down and they all happened on one flight. I don't do that ever. Lyrics are such a hard thing for me to do [and] those were just flying out, which was amazing. When that happens, it is a spiritual thing for me. I immediately got home and picked up my guitar and that song came out. That is my favorite song on the record.

How does religion play into your music?

I am always on the search for what spirituality and religion mean to me and where it has a place in my life. Sometimes it's really important, and sometimes I forget. Songwriting is something I can't do on my own; I like to rely on God and on spirituality to help me write songs. If I try to write on my own, it is like clockwork. I almost have to get to his defeated place where I am like, "God, please help me make good at this and write a song." It's amazing that it happens every single time. Looking at "Way Up High" [it shows] I'm not afraid to talk about it and say I'm getting closer to God.

Do you still think about your experience on "American Idol"?

I have to reminisce all the time; I am forced to, but not in a bad way. Every time I think about it, I feel overwhelmed in an amazing, joyous way. The things that have happened from it have been life-changing, and it's a dream. It feels like a lifetime ago; I look back and people show me pictures and videos like, "Can you believe this happened?" and I'm like, "That's not the same person. I don't think that's me." I am incredibly grateful I was able to be apart of the show's history. Fifteen years is a long time; that should be celebrated.

What are your Chicago memories?

I did a show three years ago or so [at Lincoln Hall], and it's still one of my favorite shows. It was electric. It's hard for me to remember specific shows but I remember that show. Chicago is just—I've always had amazing experiences there. There's this jazz club called the Green Mill and we go every single time we are [in Chicago]. I have spent nights dancing there, listening to amazing jazz musicians and it is always so much fun.

I always have weird experiences there, too. I helped this guy push his car to a gas station [at 2 a.m.] and then his car blew up. No lie.

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▶ Do You Even Lift, Dog?

Staff *Playlist*
open.spotify.com/user/the-columbiachronicle

» ZOË EITEL
MANAGING EDITOR

» KENDRAH VILLIESSE
ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER

» BROOKE PAWLING STENNETT
OPINIONS EDITOR

» JAMES FIRKINS
COPY EDITOR



"Wiggle" Jason Derulo ft. Snoop Dogg



"The Puppy Song" Harry Nilsson



"Bacon" Nick Jonas ft. Ty Dolla \$ign



"Hound Dog" Elvis Presley

"Drop It Like It's Hot" Snoop Dogg	"Dog Days Are Over" Florence + The Machine	"Born To Run" American Authors	"Who Let the Dogs Out" Baha Men
"California Gurls" Katy Perry ft. Snoop Dogg	"Martha My Dear" The Beatles	"Wannabe" Spice Girls	"Black Dog" Led Zeppelin
"B---h Please" Snoop Dogg	"Howl" Florence + The Machine	"Breakfast" Fleur East	"I Wanna Be Your Dog" The Stooges
"Doggy Dog World" Snoop Dogg	"Jump" Van Halen	"Pay My Rent" DNCE	"How To Skin a Cat" Hüsker Dü

CHECK *me* OUT

WHAT IS YOUR STYLE INSPIRATION?

» PHOTOS ESTHER BELL/CHRONICLE



William Rietjens
freshman fashion studies major

"I like to take inspiration from everything. I might dress really preppy tomorrow and really grunge the next day."



Brooke Antuna
junior public relations major

"Givenchy, haute couture; I love edgy, I love metal, I love hardware."



Carlos Cerutti
cinema art and science graduate student

"I like all kinds of gender mashing, sci-fi and comedy."



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our staff's
top 5 picks:



SKILLS I WISH I HAD

» **ARIANA PORTALATIN**
CAMPUS EDITOR

Whistling:

I'm not sure why, but whistling has always been something I have wanted to do. As I kid, I used to practice constantly and even tried to have my older brother teach me but was never able to get it right.

Playing guitar:

The two instruments I've always wanted to learn the most were guitar and piano. I learned to play the piano in high school, and growing up watching my grandfather play the guitar is one of my favorite childhood memories. Naturally, the guitar is next on my list.

Being ambidextrous:

My father is ambidextrous, and his ability to use both hands for everyday tasks is always something I've envied. Despite my interest, I don't think I'm willing to put in the effort to train my hands to work equally. So for now, I'll remain left-handed.

Photographic Memory:

Having a photographic memory would reduce a lot of school-related stress. No longer having to memorize things through repetition sounds like a dream—a dream I always wake up from, realizing that I need to stop procrastinating and start studying.

Juggling:

Juggling has fascinated me for no reason other than it just looks cool. It is also said the skill can improve your concentration and serve as a form of stress relief—things I desperately need.



HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS

» **CONNOR CARYNSKI**
CAMPUS REPORTER

“Lunch Atop a Skyscraper”—Charles Ebbets (1932):

This photo hung in my father's office for years. It was taken during the construction of Manhattan's iconic 30 Rockefeller Plaza and shows 11 men eating lunch with only a steel girder between them and a 840-foot fall.

“V-J Day in Times Square”—Alfred Eisenstaedt (1945):

This is a candid and beautiful shot of a sailor kissing a nurse after Japan's surrender in World War II. Eisenstaedt never had the chance to get the couple's names, and years passed before the two were eventually identified.

“Earthrise”—William Anders (1968):

The Apollo 8 mission marked the first time man entered the moon's atmosphere. Earthrise displayed what humanity had never witnessed: Earth in its entirety.

“Migrant Mother”—Dorothea Lange (1936):

Owens Thompson is shown in a camp waiting for her husband among thousands of other migrant farm workers out of jobs because of ruined pea crops destroyed by freezing rain. The photo quickly became a symbol of the Great Depression.

“The Falling Soldier”—Robert Capa (1936):

The photo shows a Spanish loyalist soldier at the moment of his death during the Spanish Civil War. Capa claimed he raised his camera above his head while in the trenches to take the shot, meaning he never saw the image in his frame.



CHICAGO PLACES TO VISIT IN SPRING

» **MARISA SOBOTKA**
CAMPUS REPORTER

Bombobar:

I have never been a huge fan of doughnuts, but when a drink is covered in frosting and sprinkles with a handle made out of a doughnut, I can get on board. This outdoor shop is the perfect stop in early spring because it serves warm drinks for the chillier days and specialty gelato for those lucky 70-degree days.

3 Arts Club Cafe:

This cafe can be found inside of Restoration Hardware on Dearborn Street and is one of the best near north spots. The cafe's glass, domelike structure allows you to enjoy a delicious brunch while staring spring straight in the face.

Lincoln Park Conservatory:

Next to Lincoln Park Zoo, this giant arborium smells as if I were standing inside of a bouquet of fresh flowers. It's a great place to do homework on colder days.

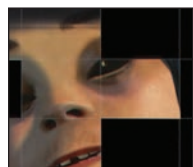
Urban Outfitters Surplus Store:

This store is full of clothes I didn't buy the previous season because they were too expensive. Also in Lincoln Park, it is the perfect place to build a new spring wardrobe as well as one for next winter. You can spend an entire day there.

The Hampton Social:

Be aware, this place is as boujee as they come. You step in and feel as if you have been transported to the Hamptons. With coastal vibes and delicious mimosas, it is the perfect place to spend your morning and to get you into the mindset of sunny days with no worries.

video & blog reviews



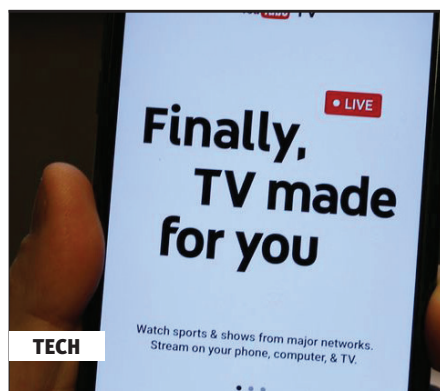
Video: “Gorillaz - ‘Let Me Out’”

The new Gorillaz album, when it drops April 28, is going to be an artistic masterpiece and a powerful statement about the political climate in America. Featuring artists such as Grace Jones, De La Soul, D.R.A.M., Noel Gallagher and Benjamin Clementine, this is set to bring a powerful blow to the status quo, and an affirmation of humanity. Be part of the moment.



Blog: “kushandwizdom”

Kushandwizdom is full of “motivational typographic” quotes to encourage the consciousness of well-being and spread positivity. Whether you're feeling down and need some motivation or want to stay on top of your A-Game, use this blog for all of your “good vibe” needs. These posts are easy on the eye and great to share with a friend who needs a pick-me-up.



YOUTUBE TV



» GABRIEL DE LA MORA
GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Aimed at those breaking away from expensive cable plans and a generation with historically low interest in paying for live TV, Google is trying to stand out among competitors with its new streaming service. YouTube TV, which launched April 5, includes the four major broadcast networks, 40 cable channels and a Cloud-enabled DVR with unlimited storage for a simple \$35 per month. Not a bad option.

LITTLE MIX'S 'NO MORE SAD SONGS' VIDEO



» ZOË EITEL
MANAGING EDITOR

This famous girl group has a long list of songs for getting over a guy or even just getting out of a funk. "No More Sad Songs" is no different. The video, released March 29, is all about going out with your girlfriends and having a good time. Jade, Leigh Anne, Jesy and Perrie strut into a country bar in what can only be described as cowboy chic and proceed to go all "Coyote Ugly" on the place.

KENDRICK LAMAR'S 'HUMBLE'



» LAUREN KOSTIUK
DIGITAL CONTENT MANAGER

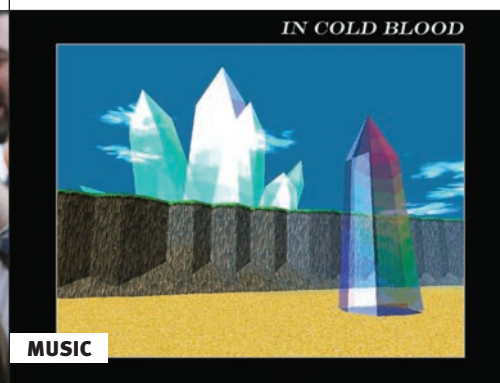
Kendrick Lamar's "Humble," released March 30, is a manifesto of his talent, not to mention the visually pleasing music video from Dave Myers that accompanied the release. The song is full of symbolism and is heavy with a Mike Will Made-it beat, that resembles Kendrick's *Good Kid, M.A.A.D. City* days. Both this song and its music video have already topped my charts for 2017.

'13 REASONS WHY'



» ESTHER BELL
PHOTO EDITOR

A sad book adapted into a sadder Netflix series plays too much on the sad realities of the characters—swelling on guilt and grief rather than focusing on the story at hand. Since the show's release on March 31, it has been given more opportunity than necessary to be overdone, and the story would have benefited from being made into a movie instead.



I BURNED YOUR TWEET ROBOT



» ARIEL PARRELLA-AURELI
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

A robot is publicly burning each of the president's tweets, and everyone can see it happen live. With the handle @IBurnedYourTweet, the robot prints off one of Donald Trump's tweets, cuts it and then drags the paper over to a lighter before discarding the ashes—then amazingly replies to the said tweet. The red robot caught users' attention March 30 and has made global news. If you're having a bad day, stop, watch and smile.

KENDALL JENNER'S PEPSI COMMERCIAL



» ARABELLA BRECK
MANAGING EDITOR

In a blatant attempt to play on people's recent interest in political activism, Pepsi released an ad April 4 featuring Kendall Jenner ripping off a blonde wig to join a moderately attractive hipster boy in a nondescript protest. In the ad, which has now been removed, Jenner gives a police officer a sugary can of blatant insensitivity, which lightens his and the crowd's moods. If only we had known about this soda's peacekeeping effects before!

ALT-J'S 'IN COLD BLOOD'



» ETHAN STOCKING-ANDERSON
OPERATIONS COORDINATOR

Alt-J seems to be on a quest not to be pigeonholed, but that hasn't stopped them from developing a notoriously pretentious reputation. Now equipped with a cheesy surf organ and a marching band horn section, Adam Sandler's indie-rock outfit has released a song March 29 that sounds a lot like the ska band that every high school had in 2005—not that there's anything wrong with that.

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: RENEW YOUR VOWS #5



» ERIC BRADACH
METRO EDITOR

The out-of-continuity comic series tells the story about a married Spider-Man with a daughter. Written by Gerry Conway, the man who killed Gwen Stacy, and art by Nathan Stockman, the fifth installment continues its positive trend. The family outing turns "superheroics" with an encounter with the Sandman. Its only flaw is the art isn't as strong with the absence of Ryan Stegman.



Internet privacy cut in Congress' continuing partisan politics

Millions of Americans use the internet everyday to peruse their favorite blogs and online news as well as connect with friends via social media, but while many may consider these actions private, the resulting data now has the potential to be sold to the highest bidder.

Congress recently repealed rules that protect online privacy, which the Federal Communications Commission adopted in October 2016 and were scheduled to go into effect later this year. The rule gave consumers the right to forbid internet providers from sharing personal information, including app or browsing histories, mobile location data and other information generated using the internet.

President Donald Trump signed the legislation repealing the regulations April 3, which will allow companies such as Comcast, Verizon and AT&T to monitor, collect and store information about Americans' online activity, then sell it.

Given its consistent history of keeping government separate from private lives, it's as if the Grand Old Party has reneged on its values and is simply striking down everything authored by the Obama Administration. Congress is obviously out to make a profit, and the American people are likely too tired to fight because of the sheer number of repeals of regulations in recent months.

Under new laws, marketers and data brokers will be able to purchase not just browsing histories but enough sensitive information to build an almost-complete profile of a person. This information would include salary, up-to-date location, political and religious views, and purchasing habits. As if it's not invasive enough to search the internet and then have advertisements pop up regarding those searches, now companies will be able to generate targeted ads through the equivalent of "listening in" on private conversations.

According to a March 31 Huffington Post and YouGov poll, 83 percent of the 1,000 U.S. adults interviewed oppose the regulations' repeal, including a majority of Republicans, proving the law has no support other than from internet providers.

Internet service providers now will be able to install undetectable software that tracks activity in real-time, insert advertisements into web browsers and display them on websites where advertisements

Unfortunately, the FCC is unable to fix the damage. Under the Congressional Review Act, the FCC is barred from drafting any replacement order that would be the same as what was overturned, according to a March 30 Washington Post article.

The lack of privacy is going to lead some people into the "dark web"—a network with restricted access that is used for anonymous, illegal file sharing—and others will struggle to conduct basic conversations without fear of having their thoughts sold.

People were wary of the safety of the internet after its inception, but it has become increasingly acceptable to share information on the web. However, now they can only hope ISPs don't blackmail them

At this point, not even the bank account apps or websites are safe. ”

aren't typically shown, according to a March 30 Newsweek article. They also will have the right to undermine basic encryption technology, which keeps the internet secure. At this point, not even the bank account apps or websites are safe.

into buying back information that should have never been for sale at all.

People have been convinced that the internet is a place to share thoughts, but with ISPs ready to seize that information, those thoughts seem better left untyped.

State should legalize marijuana but use tax money wisely

Illinois State Sen. Heather Steans and Illinois State Rep. Kelly Cassidy are likely to be popular with Illinoisans who favor legalization of recreational marijuana. That's 74.4 percent of the state, according to a March 28 poll conducted by the Southern Illinois University-Carbondale Paul Simon Public Policy Institute.

Cassidy and Steans introduced legislation March 22 in the General Assembly and Senate to legalize and tax recreational marijuana for adults over 21. The bills, Senate Bill 316 and House Bill 2353, would legalize possession of up to 28 grams of marijuana and, similar to alcohol laws, allow facilities to sell products to adults over 21.

Purchasers would be required to show proof of age, and sales to anyone under 21 and driving under the influence

would remain illegal. Any marijuana sold in the state would be subject to testing, labeling and regulation as a consumer protection measure, according to a March 22 ABC 7 Chicago report.

The drug's sales would be taxed similarly to alcohol. According to a March 22 Chicago Reader article, wholesale transactions of marijuana would be taxed at a rate of \$50 per ounce, and retail sales would be subject to the state's 6.25 percent sales tax.

As of press time, alcohol tax in the state is 23.1 cents per gallon of beer; \$1.39 per gallon of wine; and \$8.55 per gallon of hard liquor. Chicago imposes its own taxes, which are tied to percentage of alcohol, excluding beer.

The tax revenue could help the city in many ways. In 2015, the legal marijuana industry in Colorado helped create more

than 18,000 new full-time jobs and generated a total of \$2.4 billion in economic activity, according to an Oct. 31, 2016, Chicago Tribune article. Both Colorado and Washington have seen marijuana taxation produce tens of millions of dollars a year invested in education and public health—exactly what Chicago needs.

This seems like the perfect solution to the unending fight over the state budget. Legalizing marijuana could be the state's road to recovery, offering new avenues for a state with a tumultuous economic history.

The Marijuana Policy Project, a national organization working on pot policy reform, projects that sales of legal weed in Illinois could produce between \$350 million and \$700 million in tax revenue annually. With this kind of money, Illinois—especially Chicago—could start to pay off the state's heavy deficit. Tax money and increased economic activity could go a long way toward helping Chicago Public Schools,

state community colleges, mental health institutions and homeless shelters.

Though the money has the utmost potential to fill in budget gaps, attract more tourism and unclog the court system, police need to be trained for proper protocol when weed becomes legal. While Colorado's arrests for marijuana dropped by 95 percent in 2015, a Colorado Health Department survey found the marijuana arrest rate for white 10–17-year-olds fell nearly 10 percent from 2012 to 2014, while arrests for black adolescents rose by 20 percent and 50 percent for Latino adolescents. In light of the Chicago police's history of racial profiling, safeguards against targeting minorities must be created before legalization is approved.

The CPD and state governments need to consider issues that could arise after legalization and work to ensure that marijuana will benefit the city, given that it will be a big part of the future.

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Did you catch a mistake, think we could have covered a story better or have strong beliefs about an issue that faces all of us here at Columbia?

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



COMMENTARY

Blackhawks, it's time to get serious about concussions

» BROOKE PAWLING STENNETT
OPINIONS EDITOR

Watching someone take a flying puck to the face or get checked into the boards by a 200-pound-plus hockey player might be exciting for fans to watch, but for the players who eat either ice or their own teeth, it really isn't.

It's the aftermath of these incidents, however, that really should put fear into the hearts of hockey players.

The fallout includes concussions—a seemingly common side effect of the sport—that can lead to uncontrollable vomiting, splitting headaches and a long recovery. The NHL can no longer ignore the problem in light of the recent release of a Blackhawks' doctor's emails from 2009 regarding the unsafe handling of concussions.

A federal judge recently unsealed the emails as part of ongoing litigation between former players and the NHL regarding the league's handling of head injuries, according to a March 31 Chicago Tribune article.

The Tribune reported that the unnamed team doctor questioned

the handling of a head injury to former winger Martin Havlat. A Detroit Red Wings defenseman threw Havlat against the ice during Game 3 of the Stanley Cup Playoffs in the 2008–2009 season. The hit knocked him unconscious. Havlat returned for Game 4 just two days later and had to leave that game after he was hit again.

According to the official protocol, teams must watch for a player who “clutches his head” or is “slow to get up” after his head hits the ice. These are a few of the signs of concussion. Other signs include “lying motionless on the ice,” “motor incoordination/balance problems” and “blank or vacant look.”

While this does not sound egregious, many players try to ignore these rules. The Sports Network Canada reported Dec. 5, 2016, that players were frustrated by a new protocol implemented in the 2016–2017 season, which required concussion spotters during games.

If the NHL had this protocol in place all these years, the players wouldn't

act as if someone's concern for their safety was stealing their chances of winning the Stanley Cup. If there were more organizations centered on the need for hockey-related concussion protocol, players might be more apt to stop clearing themselves to play and refusing medical tests.

Players, coaches and fans who criticize these procedures need to remember tragic instances like former Blackhawk Steve Montador's death after suffering from depression stemming from concussion symptoms.

The Blackhawks have an opportunity to be the leading force behind new concussion protocol and follow in the footsteps of NFL teams that have taken ownership of the issue. The team has to stop waiting until a player is practically half-conscious—in Havlat's case, completely unconscious—on the ice. NHL teams have to realize that winning trophies shouldn't require loss of life.

bpawlingstennett@chroniclemail.com

STUDENT POLL

What do you think about Columbia offering more summer classes?

“[Summer classes] are a bit cheaper and faster, easy credits in the summer, so it's a good idea.”



MYRANDA RISLUI
junior theatre major



LORENCE VELASCO
senior interactive arts and media major

“[Summer classes] are a good thing because a lot of students work in the fall, winter and spring.”

“If you can get [summer classes] out of the way early, it could save money and you can take electives.”



TAYLOR PERRY
junior advertising major

COMMENTARY



Arts no longer an afterthought, thanks to Chance

» LAUREN KOSTIUİK
DIGITAL CONTENT MANAGER

After donating \$1 million to Chicago Public Schools in early March, Chance the Rapper announced March 31 his new “Chance Arts and Literature Fund.”

The philanthropic fund, in collaboration with Children's First Fund, will work to improve CPS' arts programs and spotlight their importance in young students' lives. The Ingenuity Fund—a grant making partnership between Ingenuity and CPS' Department of Arts Education—and Chance's nonprofit Social Works will help identify schools needing the most support.

The arts have proven to be a vital part of young adult education, yet every time the CPS budget comes on the agenda, arts are almost always the first thing to be cut. This especially affects public schools in low-income areas that unlike private and magnet schools, aren't able to receive enough outside funding or donations to financially support the arts.

According to Ingenuity's 2015–2016 report, CPS improved its art programs since implementing its Arts Education

Plan in 2012, but only 60 percent of the schools were certified as strong or excellent in the arts—mostly on the North Side.

For many adolescents, Chicago's art scene provides a sense of belonging. The arts teach students responsibility, collaboration, discipline, patience, character and leadership. It enables kids to solve problems within their communities.

Supporting arts education may be a small fix to a larger problem, but if it means influencing young and vital lives, it shouldn't be pushed aside.

Last December, Gov. Bruce Rauner vetoed a bill that would have provided \$215 million in funding for CPS, as reported Dec. 12, 2016, by The Chronicle. The lack of funding led to extensive layoffs and now the CPS is considering cutting the school year short by 13 days—which will be detrimental to many families and communities.

During his March 31 press conference, Chance said the “arts are essential,” and he is right. Thanks to Chance, someone is finally filling in where Chicago's youth have been let down.

Though he hasn't inspired Rauner to do much, Chance's work hasn't been in vain. His efforts have inspired many organizations, including the Chicago Bulls and celebrities like local comedian Hannibal Burrese to donate. Social Works agreed to donate \$10,000 to specific schools for every \$100,000 raised. Even a Wicker Park bakery made cookies resembling Chance's infamous hat in order to raise money. So far, the campaign has raised more than \$2.2 million in less than a month, according to a March 31 Chicago Tribune article.

It's time to stop pointing fingers because no one has the perfect answer, but it needs to be recognized that children's education is in jeopardy simply because a group of adults can't put their political differences aside.

Chance said it best when he said, “Take our kids off the table.” It is embarrassing that someone else has to do the state politicians' jobs so children can receive a fulfilling education.

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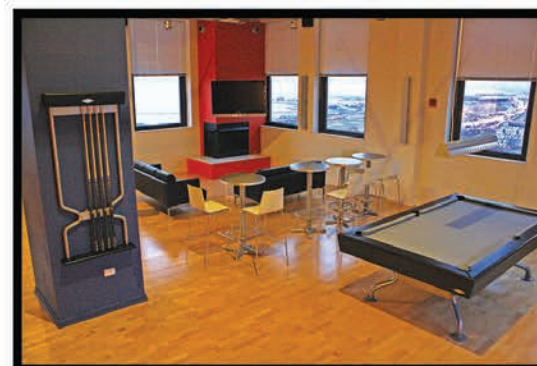
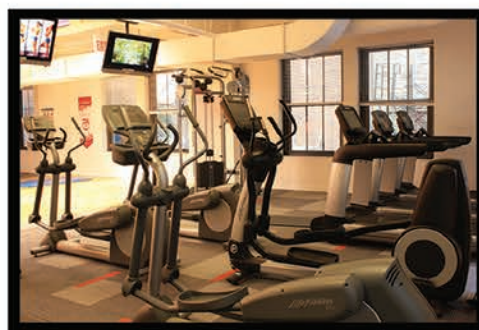
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CTU strike averted, tensions remain

» **ERIC BRADACH**
METRO EDITOR

THE LOSS OF another payday for Chicago Public Schools teachers led to a lack of support for a one-day strike for May 1, according to union leaders.

The Chicago Teachers Union has had an ongoing public dispute with Mayor Rahm Emanuel and CPS CEO Forrest Claypool over budget cuts, which led the union to consider a strike on May Day, which is also International Workers' Day. Following an April 5 CTU House of Delegates meeting, union president Karen Lewis said members were not in favor of a walkout. Instead, schools will remain open, but CTU members are asked to participate in a series of demonstrations against the "mayor's illusion of a sanctuary city."

"What we have learned for the past month of listening to our members through school visits, workshops and trainings is that they are frustrated and outraged," Lewis said. "The mayor and his handpicked Board of Education have chosen to take the skin off our backs to alleviate a budget crisis that their leadership has created."

Lewis also pointed blame at Gov. Bruce Rauner, who has been in a budget stalemate with the Democratic-controlled General Assembly for more than two years.

"Both the mayor and the Illinois governor have the power to stop budget cuts and to keep school doors open with the strike of a

pen," Lewis said. "Instead they do nothing but pointlessly bicker and leave us all in limbo under the looming threat of ending the school year early."

The union also passed a resolution calling for an emergency meeting to respond in the event that CPS incorporates more furlough days, Lewis said, and asked Emanuel to release tax increment financing funds to fill in the city's education budget gap.

CPS has been scrambling to plug the budget hole with provisions, including four unpaid furlough days with two remaining in June. Currently, CPS is considering ending the school year early by almost three weeks—or 13 school days—on June 1 as opposed to June 20, according to Lewis.

In November 2016, City Council approved Emanuel's 2017 budget proposal while relying on a \$215.2 million grant from the state for teacher pensions. Gov. Bruce Rauner vetoed a bill in December 2016 that would have provided those funds because it lacked reforms to the pension system, as reported Dec. 12, 2016, by The Chronicle.

Lewis said the furlough days, although legal, are an "abrogation" of CTU's contract by altering the salary schedule.

Illinois Senate President John Cullerton has attached a bill with those funds to the Senate's "grand bargain" budget package. It will also provide \$221.3 million for the 2018 fiscal year and supply pension funding in following years, according to state legislative records.

The bill passed in February, but the 11 other bills in the package must also pass in order for it to take effect, according to Cullerton's spokesman John Patterson. The package has been put on hold because there is not enough support from Republicans, who have been accused of acting under the direction of Rauner, he added.

Meanwhile, the Chicago Board of Education and five parents of CPS students have filed a lawsuit Feb. 14 against the state, Rauner and the Illinois State Board of Education. It accuses the defendants of creating a separate and unequal education funding system and violating the Illinois Civil Rights Act, according to the lawsuit.

"Chicago students, who are overwhelmingly students of color, are learning in a separate but unequal system," Claypool said in a public statement regarding the lawsuit the same day. "The message from the state



» **ESTHER BELL/CHRONICLE**

Although the Chicago Teachers Union continues to protest and disagree with Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Chicago Public Schools CEO Forrest Claypool, it decided not to strike on May 1.



» **ESTHER BELL/CHRONICLE**

is that their educations matter less than children in the rest of Illinois, and that is both morally and legally indefensible."

According to a public response to the lawsuit from Illinois Secretary of Education Beth Purvis, the governor's bipartisan Illinois School Funding Reform Commission has recently issued its report, which recommends an equitable school funding formula that defines adequacy according to each school district's needs.

"The governor remains focused on moving forward these recommendations and hopes that CPS will be a partner in that endeavor," Purvis said.

On the second scheduled furlough day, April 7, more than 100 CTU members, students and supporters gathered at the River Point tower, 444 W. Lake St., to protest.

Matthew Luskin, a CTU organizer with three sons in CPS, said the union chose the location because it was built with \$30

million in TIF funds. That is \$30 million that should have gone to saving public schools, and Emanuel and Claypool can not just wait for more funding from state legislators and the governor, he added.

"Springfield needs to put more money into Chicago [schools], no question about it," Luskin said. "But are we going to just sit on our hands and wait until Bruce Rauner's heart thaws out?"

Katie Osgood, a special education teacher at Langston Hughes Elementary School, 240 W. 104 St., said she wanted to not only speak out against the budget cuts, but also to stand up for fellow special education teacher Sarah Chambers. She said Chambers has been threatened with the termination of her job because she advocates for more funding and has criticized CPS to the press, she added.

"The mayor can fix these problems tomorrow if he so chooses," Osgood said, adding that the children should matter more than the city's high-rises.

Osgood said CTU will not accept a shorter school year, and the budget cuts threaten the most vulnerable students.

Along with demanding use of TIF funds and reinstating the furlough days, Lewis said Emanuel should "get out of the way of an elected-representative school board."

"So much of what our members do every day is out of love for their students and their profession," Lewis said. "We will continue to stand together in solidarity with our students, parents, immigrant communities and other labor allies to demand our district receives the revenue, and the communities that stand with our members in the difficult days ahead as we take a series of actions to protest those cuts."



» **WESLEY HEROLD/CHRONICLE**

Pictured: CTU President Karen Lewis

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»ARABELLA BRECK
 MANAGING EDITOR

Airstrikes in Syria are America's, not Trump's

Exactly 100 years after the U.S. entered World War I, the current president decided to take action in one of the most contentious modern conflicts by ordering airstrikes in Syria April 6.

Only time will tell what global waves this action will cause, but by the looks of it, they have the potential to have a tsunami-level impact.

The conflict does not just involve Syria or even the U.S. and Syria. It also involves Russia—a strong military presence in Syria—and basically every country in the world because many countries have become places where Syrians have fled in search of refuge.

Usually at this point in my column, I would delve into the global politics of this issue and how Americans need to look outside their own bubble to see the ramifications of a decision like this. However, with this decision, Americans—especially those who now oppose these airstrikes—need to critically examine their own political beliefs before dissecting the meaning of these airstrikes in the context of the civil war in Syria and international politics overall.

The reality is, American politicians on both sides of the aisle have been in favor of airstrikes before and still are. Even Hillary Clinton called for airstrikes in Syria hours before President Donald Trump announced his decision. Reporters and political pundits from MSNBC and CNN have called the sight of the airstrikes “beautiful” and cited this as the moment Trump truly became the president.

It might sound grotesque and twisted to say this is a presidential quality, but it is not inaccurate. Trump's decision was characteristic of a U.S. president.

However, because of Trump's unpopularity—his approval rating is 35 percent, according to an April 5 Time Magazine article—it is not a shock that he has received flak. For Americans who already hate Trump, it is not a stretch to hate anything he does.



It is easy to call out the hypocrisy of Trump being apparently so moved by videos and photos of innocent people dying from chemical weapon attacks to send in airstrikes but apparently not moved enough to give humanitarian aid or to allow Syrian refugees into the U.S.

It is similarly easy to point out that Trump cannot spare a dime to save the environment, pay for education or even meals for the elderly in the U.S., but is willing to send airstrikes into Syria as he pleases.

What is not as easy is to recognize that these airstrikes are not “Trumpian,” they are American.

The fact that this decision represents Americans does not mean that it was the right decision. There is not enough bipartisan support, media praise and a historical precedents to make this reaction morally justifiable.

The values and beliefs shown by these airstrikes are not ones that started with Trump, and they will likely not end with him either.

The only slightly positive outcome of this is for these airstrikes to cause Americans of all political beliefs to consider the decisions of the politicians that represent them through a more moral and fair lens. But, there is no reason why Americans' reality check should come at the price of innocent lives and, potentially, an all-out war.

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Hospital donation turns child patients into superheroes

» CAROLINE BOWEN
METRO REPORTER

TWELVE-YEAR-OLD KEITH JOHNSON has cerebral palsy, which has required 14 surgeries and many months in hospital gowns. If another surgery is needed, he will get to be a superhero during his stay at the hospital where he has spent a significant portion of his life, said his mother, Javaze Johnson said.

The Joy in Childhood Foundation, formerly the Dunkin' Donuts and Baskin-Robbins Community Foundation, is partnering with the Starlight Foundation, a Chicago-based nonprofit, to provide new superhero-inspired hospital gowns to La Rabida Children's Hospital, 6501 S. Promontory Drive, said

Christopher de Haan, vice president of the Starlight Foundation. The hospital will start distributing the donated gowns within the next few months.

"Over the years, we have heard that hospital gowns tend to make kids feel worse [rather] than feel better," de Haan said.

The new gowns button down the side, opposed to the conventional and uncomfortable back opening, have an attached cape that comes in various colors and are made of "super soft" fabric, de Haan said.

"[My son] was like, 'So if I stay again, I won't have to wear that gown that opens up in the back?'" Javaze Johnson said. "It gives [children] something to look forward to, and it brightens up their long stays."

The gowns are part of a \$200,000 grant that will also aid in remodeling a kitchen area for families and children to use at La Rabida, de Haan said.

By remodeling the kitchen, children who have traumatic brain injuries will be able to use cooking as therapy, said Colleen Harper, director of Developmental, Rehabilitative and Child Life Services at La Rabida. The kitchen will also be used for recreational activity and as encouragement after a child has been through a difficult procedure, she added.

Javaze Johnson said some of her best memories have been made in the kitchen. As a parent who "lives at her son's bedside," she said she finds solace in knowing the space will be there during difficult times.

PHOTOS WESLEY HEROLD/CHRONICLE



La Rabida Children's Hospital, 6501 S. Promontory Drive, will soon provide superhero gowns for its patients, adding to the hospital's child-friendly atmosphere.



SEE HOSPITALS, PAGE 38

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Jennifer Leininger

OCCUPATION: Manager of Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital's Sex and Gender Development Program

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» CAROLINE BOWEN
METRO REPORTER

When Jennifer Leininger started a master's program in teaching five years ago, she noticed many of her fellow classmates were not discussing inclusive environments in schools for gender-nonconforming, gender-questioning and transgender students.

Meanwhile, as the manager of the Sex and Gender Development program at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital, Leininger decided to create the education and community outreach portion of the program, for which she meets with school faculty to teach them gender-inclusive policies and procedures. Her individual casework with LGBTQ children and weekly circles with teens provide a network of support for the young, marginalized community.

The Chronicle spoke with Leininger about how her work is changing mentalities in schools around Illinois.

THE CHRONICLE: What motivated you to work directly with LGBTQ students in schools?

JENNIFER LEININGER: A lot of education programs talk about how to support the diverse needs of students, but they typically don't include how to support the needs of transgender students. A lot of times teachers and administrative folk don't know what to do. They don't know how to answer questions from parents and peers of a transgender person. They don't know what the practices are to have a supportive transition in their school.

The Illinois State Board of Education has mandates for including racial diversity in curricular inclusion, but they don't have any mandates for including LGBTQ people in curriculum. We know that by not including gender diversity in schools, whether it's policies or curriculum, it is basically telling those students that

» ESTHER BELL/CHRONICLE



transgender people don't matter and don't exist.

Has the education you are providing brought about change in the schools you work with?

[I am] working with teachers on how to talk about gender in a diverse and nonbinary way, and to demonstrate and understand that gender is expansive. So students can see themselves reflected back in the curriculum.

The first year I offered school training and school-based support, I maybe did three or four in a year. Now, I am doing two or three in a week. More districts, schools, teachers and administrators are seeing that information on what to do and how to be supportive.

What lessons have you learned from LGBTQ students?

Every day that I do a training, I show videos because nothing is

more important than showing the youths' voices. Everything I have done, especially in schools, is informed by the youth that I work with. [Students] tell me, "Here is why pronouns are meaningful to me. Here is what it feels like when a teacher misgenders me." I try to bring those voices into the training. The youths' voices are the clearest way to build empathy and contextualize the importance of [educating teachers]. Young people are impacted by the things we do every day, and creating an environment where those voices are heard is important.

What is a moment that has stuck with you from teaching the program?

During one of our teen groups, a young person and I were talking about their involvement in school and what their school could be doing to support them. They said

their teacher was misgendering them, meaning using the wrong name and pronouns. Not only did they feel unsupported, but they felt like they couldn't engage in class. They couldn't ask questions because they didn't want their teacher to call on them and use the wrong name. It didn't give them the same opportunities to learn, ask questions, be involved and engaged with their peers. [LGBTQ students] have the same potential to strive as their peers. They aren't able to reach that same potential if the adults in the room don't give them the same opportunities.

What is the most difficult part about your job?

There are not enough hours in the day. I try to go between managing the program itself and finding time to go out into the community. The best way to make change within a community is to show up, to drive

out to Round Lake and Waukegan or wherever it may be and build those relationships.

Are the transgender students being affected by the nation's current political climate?

It's helpful for youths and their parents to know regardless of some [policies] changing, our commitment to them doesn't change. If anything, it furthers my resolve to ensure that schools recognize and understand that regardless of what the federal government says [transgender people] have to do, it doesn't really change what they should do. To me, it's helpful to know that there also are protections within Illinois and reminding parents and adolescents that the Illinois Human Rights Act still protects them.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

I am pretty lucky. I run this teen group once a month, and seeing people continue to come back and come out of their shell has been amazing. Maybe they have never had the opportunity to be friends with other trans people in the past. Seeing them connect with other youths and really open up—just be their true selves and their most outgoing or whatever selves they are—is really awesome. These young people are really bright, incredibly resilient and brave to live their lives as themselves every day, particularly when they are in communities [that] aren't as supportive as they should be. Seeing them completely take on the world in that way is really amazing and it makes me want to do whatever I can to support them.

It's my job to lift up the voices of the young LGBTQ people because they are the experts on their lives and their experiences. It's my job as an adult ally to make sure their voices are heard. They are really making the change for themselves. I am just here to help support them as much as I can.

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New response center to help homeless families

» **JACKIE MURRAY**
METRO REPORTER

CHICAGO'S FIRST RAPID response center designed to help homeless families get on the path to permanent housing will be built on the West Side through a collaboration between city officials and the Salvation Army.

"We're just very thankful for the opportunity the city is providing us," said Lt. Col. Charles Smith, metropolitan divisional commander for the Salvation Army. "We look forward to this service as the years go by."

The Shield of Hope, 910 N. Christiana Ave., will have a 20-room unit that can house up to 75 beds and a multipurpose room that can house cots if necessary. Families can stay at the shelter from one to 10 days while being

assessed and then will be referred to one of the 50 family shelters in the city before hopefully moving to permanent housing, Smith said.

Construction is scheduled to begin in April or May 2017, and the facility is scheduled to open its doors in the latter part of spring 2018, he added.



Another resource for families will be across the street at Salvation Army's Freedom Center, 825 N. Christiana Ave., which provides job training and after-school programs. The Shield of Hope will better serve homeless families who are not getting the care they need at the city's Garfield Center—a community service shelter at 10 S. Kedzie Ave.—Smith added.

"This is going to definitely be a much better overflow facility for families than [previously]," said Julie Dworkin, director of policy for the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless. "[The Kedzie location] didn't have facilities for food, showers or proper beds."

Dworkin said the city has historically not dedicated many local resources to homelessness. That is starting to change with a 4 percent surcharge on all Airbnb rentals in Chicago,

the first local dedicated funding stream that addresses homelessness, she added.

"Unfortunately, it's been the job of the federal government to put in the majority of the resources for housing," Dworkin said. "Over many decades, those resources have been cut back. Even in more favorable administrations, they haven't been enough."

President Donald Trump has asked for more than \$6 billion in cuts to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in his 2018 budget proposal. The department was established to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable housing for all Americans, according to its website.

Dworkin said the city should have greater funding for affordable housing, similar to services in Los Angeles and New York City, to address homelessness on a larger scale.

While private and public partnerships in Chicago have been involved in successful programs to

house homeless individuals, including veterans, there is still a shortage of affordable housing along with other obstacles to permanent housing, said Christine George, an associate research professor at Loyola University Chicago's Center for Urban Research and Learning.

"We know what works, but we often don't have enough resources to deal with it," George said.

George said affordable housing is important because most poor families cannot keep up with Chicago's rent prices, which surge as areas are gentrified. Advocacy within the federal and state government is also needed to avoid cuts in housing programs, she said.

The Shield of Hope will provide assistance until families can get into a shelter or a permanent location, she added.

"The key is a question of [having] permanent housing and social services in place to support [these] people who have very fragile lives," George said.

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Chicago's segregation costs billions, stunts society growth

» **JACKIE MURRAY**
METRO REPORTER

CHICAGO'S HIGH LEVELS of segregation costs the city billions of dollars in economic growth in addition to creating a less-educated public and leading to hundreds more homicides, according to a March 28 study from the Metropolitan Planning Council.

In conjunction with the Urban Institute, the Chicago-based public policy research group studied three types of segregation patterns: economic, African-American-white and Latino-white segregation in 100 of the most populous metropolitan areas. The study also looked at indicators such as educational attainment, median and per-capita income, homicide rates, and life expectancy among the regions, to understand where Chicago placed.

The study's mission was to find out how segregation affected Chicagoans, said Kendra Freeman, a manager with the MPC.

"In some ways, [Chicago has] reduced levels of racial and economic segregation, but at the pace we're going, it would take until 2070 to get to [the national] median level [of segregation]," Freeman said. "We don't have time to waste. We're losing income, and we've lost potential [as well as] lives."

Out of the cities studied, Chicago has the fifth highest combined racial and economic segregation and the tenth highest African-American-white segregation.

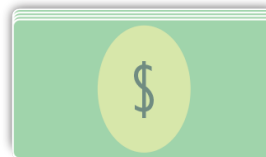
According to the study, if levels of economic segregation between African-American and white Chicago residents were lowered to match the national median, the city's gross domestic product

would rise by approximately \$8 billion—250 percent more than the region's average annual growth. Because of an educational gap in Chicago—a researched correlation found between lower levels of segregation and a higher percentage of the population with a bachelor's degree—the region is losing out on approximately \$90 billion in total lifetime earnings of residents.

"When you have a segregated city, you really have two cities, so you have two of everything," said Stephanie Schmitz Bechteler, vice president and executive director of the Research and Policy Center at the Chicago Urban League, an advocacy group for African-American progression. "[The] history of segregation that we've experienced in the city has just continued to lead to dual worlds."

Schmitz Bechteler said people living in segregated communities tend to be less invested in the community because of the adversity they face, such as job loss because of the withered industrial base on the South and West sides of the city.

If the level of segregation between black and white Chicagoans was reduced to the national median...



Incomes for black Chicagoans would rise by an average of \$2,982 per person per year.



83,000 more people would get bachelor's degrees



The homicide rate would drop by 30%.

» **ZOË HAWORTH/CHRONICLE**

» **INFORMATION COURTESY METROPOLITAN PLANNING COUNCIL**

Money and opportunities are also lost, causing schools and families to have less money available to offset school funding gaps or pay for better housing, she added.

"It's hard for the communities to get ahead when you lose a big swathe of your industry and the way people make money and are able to live and work [without]

pour[ing] money, resources and efforts back into building up that infrastructure," she said.

Chicago's segregation dates back centuries to the city's origin, said Dick Simpson, a political science professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago and former 44th Ward alderman. Segregation was

SEE SEGREGATION, PAGE 38

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HOSPITALS, FROM PAGE 33 ↓

“We can make the kid’s favorite meals, and if it’s their birthday, we can go down and bake a cake together,” Javaze Johnson said.

The investment reflects the hospital’s commitment to create a child-friendly environment, which Harper said assists in a faster healing time for children. The hospital has patients’ art covering the walls and works with a nonprofit organization, Medals 4 Mettles, that awards medals to especially brave children going through difficult surgeries and treatment.

“We try to see what the world looks like from the child’s point of view,” Harper said.

Javaze Johnson said she and her son have experienced various Chicago hospitals since the day he was born 13 weeks premature and have also stayed for a long period of time at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. But she calls La Rabida her “lake home” because of its view of Lake Michigan and the tight-knit relationships she has formed with the staff.

More hospitals in the city should adopt policies and programs geared toward the comfort of child patients and their families, she added.

“The hospitals need to be more kid-friendly,” Javaze Johnson said. “The staff needs to be closer to the parents to give them that security.”

According to Debra Carey, chief operating officer for Cook County Health and Hospital Systems, all Chicago hospitals are required to have age-appropriate equipment designed for children, but because La Rabida is a free-standing children’s hospital, its space caters to children from the basement to the top floor.

An area where all hospitals can improve is with the Starlight gowns. Other hospitals are eligible for the program and participation instructions are provided on their website, according to de Hann.

“You don’t stop being a kid just because you are sick,” de Haan said.

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SEGREGATION, FROM PAGE 36 ↓

cemented during the Civil War period as the African-American community grew on the South Side, and it has been present ever since, Simpson added.

he typically sided with the whites, Simpson said.

According to Freeman, the MPC plans to release a report in early 2018 partnering with neighbor-

segregation but is not willing to confront it “head-on.”

The mayor’s press office was not available for comment as of press time.

[The] history of segregation that we’ve experienced in the city has just continued to lead to dual worlds. ”

STEPHANIE SCHMITZ BECHTELER

Chicago’s struggle with integration is related to the city’s political machine, particularly from the era of former Mayor Richard J. Daley, he said. During this time, African-Americans tended to have the authority to have their own aldermen, congressmen and some representation in levels of government. Daley, however, made the African-American community “more second class” because

hood and community-level leaders, advisers and academic partners to use the data to lessen the level of economic and racial segregation. The report will look into different policy areas such as housing, economic development, public health, safety and education to focus on solutions, she said.

Simpson said Mayor Rahm Emanuel seems to be willing to help with some aspects of Chicago’s

“There are different policies that need to be followed, and it’s a matter of having the political will to do them,” Simpson said.

Schmitz Bechteler emphasized persistence is needed for a solution. “Unless we purposefully work to undo the legacy of segregation, we’re going to have these same stories over and over again,” she said.

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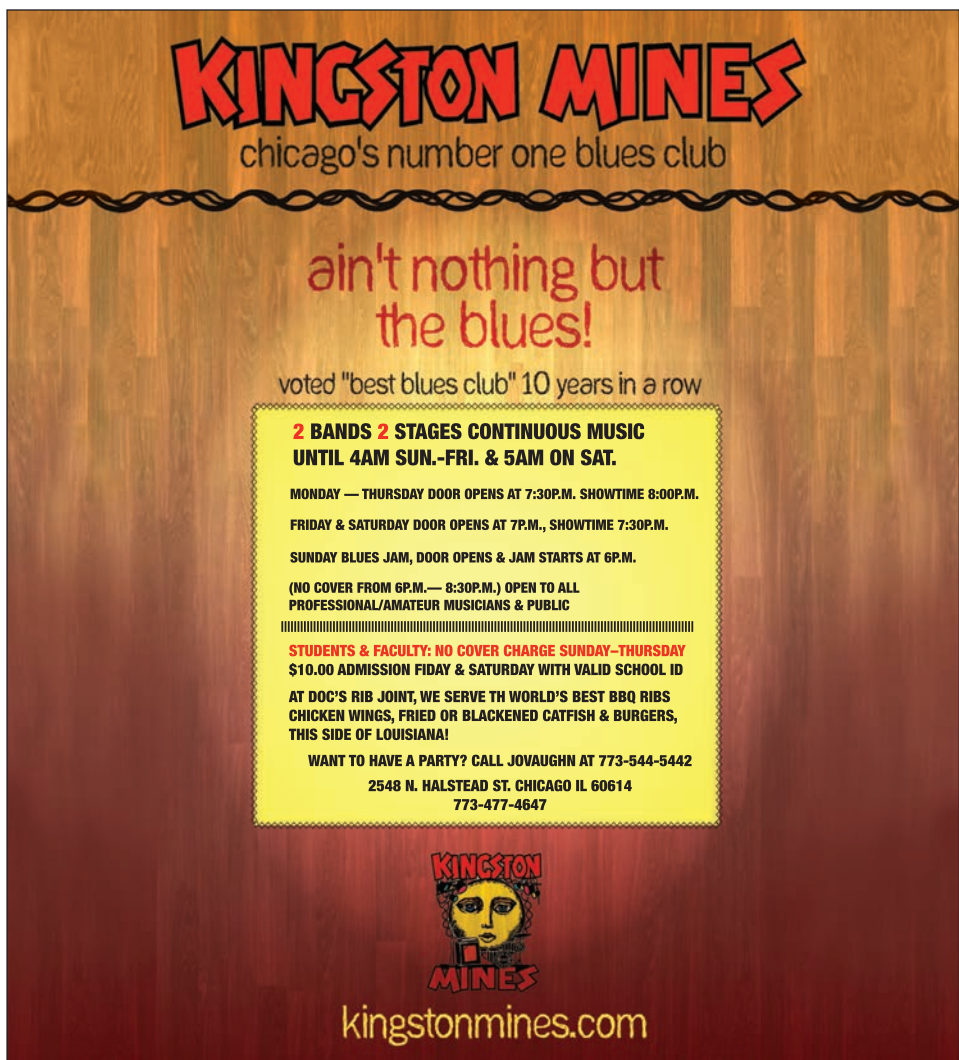


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