



The Ampersand

Honors College Monthly DECEMBER 2004 Issue

Professor Lippman: Genocide and the conflict in Darfur, Sudan

Jalene Lanter

On November 10, the quiet but poignant voice of Criminal Justice Professor Matthew Lippman addressed the crowd of roughly 40 students inside the first floor of Burnham Hall. Surrounded by newspaper articles chronicling the accounts of senseless violence against men, women, and children, the professor painted a vivid picture of genocide in our time. He began explaining the concept by using the Holocaust of World War II as an example, when the term genocide was first coined. Professor Lippman's involvement with the International Court of Justice, his role as counselor for senatorial committees, along with his extensive education at both Northwestern and Harvard allow him to analyze the idea of genocide, as others cannot. Genocide is a particular crime, one that notes the grave difference between killing large groups of people, particularly based on religion, nationality, ethnicity, or race. With genocide the intent is also important, the extermination of a particular group must be purposeful.

Within Darfur some international officials question the existence of genocide. The region of Darfur is distant from the central government and it is difficult to determine the conditions inside the country. However, Professor Lippman believes that genocide is occurring in Sudan and without the insistence of Secretary of State Colin Powell, the



Professor Lippman

international community and the United Nations might not be discussing it. Professor Lippman particularly notes that humanitarian aid is largely being denied to the peoples in refugee camps. The people of the region of Darfur are often stripped of what aid humanitarian groups provide immediately after. Two different groups, both the Janjaweed and the Sudan Liberation Army, victimize the people of Darfur. Women are brutalized, men disappear, and children are killed, another defining characteristic of genocide. Neighboring countries are concerned that the dispute might even spill out of the borders of Sudan. African Union troops, merely 300, were allowed in to the country to observe but their presence was negligible. Negotiations are currently in progress to grant humanitarian aid to the country and allow roughly 3,000 African Union Troops into Sudan, but it is predicted they will be unsuccessful, as previous attempts have failed. After the lecture on genocide in Darfur, students passionately debated the idea of American intervention. Ideas such as how the international community views America and would the US have multinational support if they tried to help Sudan were discussed. Additionally, whether or not intervention in Darfur would be consistent with Bush and the United States policies was disputed.

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Weeks to go!
HC Ball
March 5 2005

Strap On Your Red Shoes!

Monica Shroff



Looking for a place to spill your creative juices? Check out the Red Shoes Review! Red Shoes is a biannual literary journal produced by UIC Honors College students, featuring the work of UIC students, distributed to the UIC community. Its purpose, says Editor-in-Chief, Mosmi Surati, is to "promote the literary arts on a campus all too focused on the sciences."

Red Shoes will be accepting submissions of poetry, prose, short stories, artwork, and photography until December 10th. For submission details, take a look at the website:

www.hc.uic.edu/RedShoes/index.html

Look for the first edition of the Red Shoes Review at the beginning of second semester. Even if you're not the artsy type, support your peers by picking up a copy!

CAPE Award-Winner and Little Italy-Local: Honors College's Dean Madia

Zina Alkafaji

Janet Madia, Executive Associate Dean of the Honors College at UIC, was one of the four annual awardees to receive the Chancellor's Academic Professional Excellence (CAPE) Award. This award is presented to academic professional staff who have demonstrated excellence and have made outstanding contributions to the university. On November 1, 2004, Chancellor Sylvia Manning held a ceremony and awarded Dean Madia and three others from various departments on campus the prestigious award. Beth Powers, Director of the Office of Special Scholarship Programs, nominated Dean Madia and presented her at the ceremony with an endearing speech describing Dean Madia's dedication and commitment to Honors College students.

I had the pleasure of talking with Dean Madia about her road to success and her family background. I was able to get the inside scoop on her years as a student, her work experiences in different fields, and the history of her family's prominent leadership in the present-day Little Italy community.

Dean Janet Madia attended a Catholic grammar school and went to Trinity High School in River Forest. She started her undergraduate education at St. Mary's College, but after finding it too small and stifling given that 80% of the students were suburbanites, she decided to take a break and get some work experience. Five years later, she transferred to UIC and found its diversity to be quite refreshing in contrast to the predominantly Catholic and female educational institutions she had attended since an early age. There was no existence of an Honors College during her undergraduate years at UIC, and she finds it an ironic advantage to know how it feels to *not* be in the Honors College. She received her B.A in Spanish Litera-



*Dean Janet Madia (right) with
Nominator Beth Powers (left)*

ture and then went on to get her Master's degree. She is currently embarking on her dissertation for a PhD in higher education.

After meeting Dean Madia's mom and brother at the CAPE Awards Ceremony and listening to stories of Dean Madia's family's longtime and important leadership in not only the Italian but also the immigrant community, I was curious to hear more. Dean Madia informed me that the general area that is now occupied by the UIC campus was once a main port of entry for immigrants coming from Ellis Island. The Dearborn Street train station, which is still intact yet not in service, brought passengers looking for readily available jobs into Chicago. Her grandparents and relatives emigrated from Italy and settled in the present-day Tri-Taylor District. Both her immediate and extended family lived on the same block, almost recreating the niche they had in their homeland.

Dean Madia's grandfather was one of the founding fathers of the Campobello Social Club, which helped maintain traditions and provide a sense of unity among Italian immigrants, particularly those from a small town in Sicily called Campobello, from where most of her grandparents originated. Her grandfather owned a store on the corner of Racine and Taylor and later became a main wine distributor after prohibition ended. He worked closely with Ernest and Julio Gallo, owners of the one of the world's foremost wineries based in California. His leadership in the community was very apparent and was equally matched by his wife and Dean Madia's

grandmother, who worked with Jane Addams at Hull House, teaching English as a second language.

Upon discussing Dean Madia's vision for a successful academic institution, she expressed to me how important she feels it is to enhance the collaborative efforts between the faculty and students at a university. Furthermore, she feels students should learn about the scholarly achievements of the faculty who teach them, and that students must engage themselves in their own scholarly work.

I also asked Dean Madia whether she had any advice to offer students about how to determine academic and career goals. With a sparkle in her eye, she wholeheartedly advised that one should simply follow his or her heart- academically, that is. She said that it's ok to change your major and that she herself did it several times. After working for the second largest law firm in Chicago, she decided that law wasn't the appropriate field for her. She recommends getting experience in various areas, finding a mentor, and developing a goal. She emphasized that the process is more important than the actual outcome and that every individual takes his or her own path.

Upon elaboration about her own job as one of the Deans at the Honors College, Dean Madia calls it a job entailing "lifelong learning." She says that one is always learning while working at a university and calls it "free tuition." She finds the university environment stimulating in comparison to the corporate world and says hers is the "best job in the world." If you haven't met our award-winning Little Italy local, take advantage of her presence right here in the Honors College and attend some of the activities, like the luncheons and coffees with guest speakers, which HCAB holds every semester. We are grateful and lucky to have someone as compassionate and dedicated to UIC students as Dean Madia is!



*Do you have any questions or comments? Do you want to submit an article? Feel free to email us at:
ampersanduic@yahoo.com*



Fossil Oval-dial Silver toned Link watch at Nordstrom's for \$65

For Her

Holiday Gift Ideas

Jyoti Shenai

With the holidays just around the corner, the only word going through everyone's mind is SHOPPING! With so many loved ones and friends to buy gifts for, it becomes a long and strenuous process to buy presents that are memorable, unique, and of course well priced! It is time to forget those boring old gift cards and get them something that they will truly remember. So, to alleviate some of the tension accompanied with the holiday shopping fiasco, I have brainstormed ideas that your family and friends are sure to enjoy.

Hand Picked Gifts for Her

Crown Jewel Handbags from Nine West

Each just \$21.75

Rapture (perfume, lotion) gift set from

Victoria's Secret for \$42

Anne Klein bracele bracelet watches at Nordstrom's

Each at \$55

Hand Picked Gifts for Him



Kenneth Cole Basic Black Fragrance set at Nordstrom for \$50

XBOX video games
From Best Buy at \$50-60



Clothes

- ◆ Shirts
- ◆ Sweaters
- ◆ Pants
- ◆ Jackets
- ◆ Skirts

Jewelry (you really can't go wrong here)

- ◆ Bracelets
- ◆ Necklaces
- ◆ Earrings

Accessories

- ◆ Watches
- ◆ Fancy hair clips/pins
- ◆ Purses/handbags

Others

- ◆ Picture frames – you can even make these personalized with engraving the frame
- ◆ Crystals (excellent for moms!)
- ◆ Perfume gift sets
- ◆ Manicure/pedicure gift certificate
- ◆ House decorating items (vases, pictures, decorative flowers, etc....) – just make sure that the items will match with the room
- ◆ Jewelry box

& "Holiday Gift Ideas" Continued on Page 4 &

The Random

LITTLE COLUMN

Kathy Stachowicz

Are you always signed on to AIM (AOL @ Instant Messenger™)? Do you find yourself checking people's away messages every few minutes? Do you have to update your blog every day? Do you check your email every couple of hours?

If you said yes to any of the aforementioned questions, you may be obsessed with being online. Don't worry – you will find yourself in good company. There are tons of people out there who are just as hooked to being online. I admit it – I am one of those individuals. Remember, the first step to solving a problem is admitting that you have one. In fact, I turned to our very own "Ask Zina" columnist for advice.

Just recently, I was at Ball State University in Indiana for a residence hall conference. I went to a program revolving around time management. The entire audience for the program consisted of college students, and we had a large group discussion about our ridiculous obsession with being online, particularly instant messaging. We talked about how much time we wasted, or rather "used" while being on AIM.

It felt so good to know I wasn't alone! After the conference, I went cold turkey without AIM and Xanga (an online weblog community). But after 4 days, the withdrawal was too much for me to handle. Let me say that this experiment was not in vain. Although those 4 days were extremely productive, I felt like I was missing something. My hope of entirely getting rid of my internet connections is just not going to happen – but at least I realized that if I don't let it get out of hand, I can still be a productive student. It's like trying to get rid of your favorite desserts or food entirely – it's just not going to happen. If I had to live without Chipotle burritos or caramel lattes for the rest of my life, I'm sure I would go through withdrawal as well.

& "Holiday Gift Ideas" Continued from Page 3 &

For Him

Electronics and other related items

- ◆ Cell phone accessories – lights, faceplates, etc.
- ◆ Video games
- ◆ CD players
- ◆ Stereo systems
- ◆ Ipod

Clothes/Accessories

- ◆ T -Shirts
- ◆ Sweaters
- ◆ Pants
- ◆ Ties
- ◆ Shirts
- ◆ Wallet
- ◆ Briefcase – good gift for your working dad

Others

- ◆ Fragrances – cologne gift sets
- ◆ Jewelry – chain necklaces, bracelets (make sure that the guy actually wears jewelry beforehand, otherwise the gift will be a waste)
- ◆ Sports equipment (figure out what sport he likes and then get the appropriate equipment)
- ◆ Tickets to a game

Good for Both

- ◆ Magazines – get a one year subscription to his/her favorite magazine
- ◆ Books – figure out what he/she is interested or their favorite author and grab a great book (cookbooks, sports, travel, novels, etc...)

Good for Both (continued)

- ◆ Movies – Find out which movies are on the top of their list
- ◆ Collage board – gather up all the pictures of you and him/her and put together an awesome collage with added color and decorative items for them to hang up in any room. This is an awesome way to make a gift more personalized.

Kids

For Girls

- ◆ Barbie
- ◆ Bratz Dolls



For Boys

- ◆ Trucks
- ◆ Cars
- ◆ Trains
- ◆ Video games

For Both

- ◆ Stuffed animals
- ◆ Books
- ◆ Board games (connect four, clue, monopoly, etc.....)
- ◆ Puzzles
- ◆ Computer games
- ◆ Clothes

*Ana Petrovic*

Year: Senior
Major:
English (GPPA Law)

Achievement:
2004 Lincoln Academy
Student Laureate award
winner

What are your plans and goals for the future?

Well, first I plan to enjoy my last semester at UIC and then travel abroad this summer. Next fall, I plan to enter law school. I hope to study international law and/or human rights abuse cases. Once I gain experience working in these fields, I would like to be involved with creating and improving law-related policies.

Why are you interested in law?

I think growing up in an immigrant family initially attracted me to the law. I have relatives all over the world, and I observed how the laws and regulations within each society impact our lives. Once I learned more about the legal system, I became even more fascinated. I appreciate how the system embraces certain principles throughout time and also has the ability to adapt or initiate societal developments.

What advantages do you think were most helpful from the Honors College?

I think that the personal contact and relationships that you form within the Honors College are amazing. I always could depend on the Honors College to go to for advice or if I needed help with a particular problem. I always knew that someone would help me right away, and that the person would be genuinely concerned about my needs. The Honors Fellow program is one of the best examples. I admire and appreciate my fellow, Professor Matthew Lippman, tremendously. He has advised, encouraged, and challenged me in so many different ways. I am confident that my experience and accomplishments in college would not have been so great without his guidance.

Finally, I formed my closest friendships through meeting people in the Honors College. Within this great university, it is difficult to form meaningful relationships with people just through your classes. The Honors College was a community within the university that helped make this possible.

What tips do you have for other students applying for scholarships or fellowships?

First, get into contact with Beth Powers at Office of Special Scholarships. This office is one of the best resources I discovered at UIC. It is best to begin as early as possible. Be open to constantly revising and improving your application.

However, I think the key to applying is carrying the right attitude. You have to believe in yourself enough to consider yourself a worthy candidate and recognize that completing the application is an accomplishment within itself. The point is to never get discouraged from applying in the first place or to give up if the outcome does not go in your favor. From personal experience, I had to try a couple of times before I succeeded.

One problem that many students are concerned about is time management. What advice do you have about that?

I think time management is all about selecting a few top priorities and following through with them. One inclination I noticed among many Honors College students is that they seek a million activities because they have so many interests. I tried to choose the three that were the most important to me and not lose sight of them. This may sound crazy, but each night I write myself a "things to do" list. I include everything from attending class, running errands, to calling my parents. Throughout the day, I scratch off all things on my agenda. That way, I don't procrastinate and I feel more productive by the end of the day.

What do you enjoy best about Chicago?

The diversity. When I say that, I am including people as well as the variety of neighborhoods, food, entertainment, and resources. It seems like there is always a section in Chicago that is reserved for each one of your moods. The best part is that each of these neighborhoods is either within walking distance or just a train ride away.

What is your favorite experience out of your college career?

If I have to choose a single experience, it would definitely be going to the National Championship Tournament last year with the mock trial team. We worked so hard to get there and by that time we felt like our own unique family. So, we had a blast driving down to Iowa, competing against the top teams in the nation, and then partying afterwards.

If I wanted to select just overall memories, I would say living in the dorms freshman year and forming friendships with people. We used to play Cranium, watch dozens of movies, and head to Greektown for a midnight snack.

& Continued on Page 6 &

What are your hobbies?

Each day, I go running and listen to music. I also love to discover coffeehouses in Chicago and go there to study. I adore photography and creating scrap books. I am a season ticket-holder for Chicago's Shakespeare Theater. And of course, I love to read and write in my free time.

If you could meet any person you wanted (past or present or future), who would it be and why?

My great grandmother, who I was named after. She was a baker and widow for most of her life. I've heard millions of stories about her. It seems like many of our family principles stem from her influence. She sounds like a really vivacious and strong woman.

Tell us something cool or unusual about yourself!

I am obsessed with Christmas music! I could seriously listen and sing carols all year long. I used to be in choir in high school, so I was used to enjoying the music for a great portion of the year. I had to make a pact with my friends in college that I would not play or sing carols until after Thanksgiving (at least in their presence!).

Questions for Ana? Want to nominate someone for Student in the Spotlight? Send an email to spotlighted@hotmail.com today!

Good Luck on Finals!

Don't forget: the Honors College Computer Lab will be open during finals week. When you're working on that final paper, or just checking email (don't forget that academic work takes priority!), take advantage of the lab.

Computer Lab Hours:
Week of December 6th

Mon., Dec. 6th	8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Tues., Dec. 7th	8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 8th	8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 9th	8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 10th	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

And, don't forget to turn in your honors activity agreement forms by 4 p.m. on Friday, December 10th.

Have a great break!

Finally, the ever difficult issue of should countries be obligated to intervene if they have knowledge of such atrocities, regardless of the support of other nations? This is the issue that is repeatedly debated especially by those with the power to act. As college students today are the leaders of tomorrow, it is one that we too must weigh carefully. Knowledge about past events can help us to improve the future.

For more information about the specifics of the conflict in Darfur please reference the November Ampersand's article or news sources such as BBC and CNN.

UIC Announcements

Emi Carcani

OK, let's be truthful here. How many times have you actually opened an email from the UIC Announcement System that is sent out on a daily basis to all students? Even if you have opened it, have you ever read its contents? Well, I'm generally one of those students who deletes everything that resembles mass mail. I hardly even take a double look at UIC Announcements or mass mail, unless they're selling cheap tickets for an opera. However, lately I have started to periodically read the UIC announcements. I was never quite sure if there was anything beneficial to me, but to my surprise the daily announcements are an eye opener. Just one email contains information for the next three or four days. It has everything, starting with informational meetings, seminars for undergraduate and graduate students, arts and entertainment, conferences, education and training, employment opportunities, and last but not least, volunteering opportunities. What more can you really ask for?

To give a brief example of what one email from the UIC Announcement System contains, I'll start with the email sent on November 15, 2004. What immediately caught my attention was a seminar offered on November 16 on *Business Ethics*. The description seemed to be beneficial for all students, but especially for those in the College of Business. Also, an internship position at the medical center was posted on November 15 – for all you pre-med students, wouldn't this have been a great opportunity to look into?

Those are the kinds of chances you may miss out on if you skip and delete these announcement emails. Likewise check out what the Honors College posts under the daily announcements. Simply go to: www.hc.uic.edu - the link is at the top of the Honors College web site.

Take your time and read each email because there may be some great chances you might miss out on. So, read all UIC and Honors College announcements. It is a sure way to start being more involved with your college and community.

Focus on a Fellow Dean Lon Kaufman

Kathy Stachowicz

Professor Lon Kaufman is not your ordinary biological sciences professor. Dr. Kaufman arrived at UIC in 1985 and his research revolving around the regulation of gene expression during early leaf development has received nonstop federal funding since his arrival. In addition to his research, Lon Kaufman carries many titles which include, but are not limited to the Dean of the Honors College and the Vice Provost of Undergraduate Affairs. Since 1998, Dean Kaufman served as head of biological sciences until accepting his dual position this past year. Get this – he has three offices too, one located in University Hall, the other housed in the Honors College, and a research office in MRMB (Molecular Biology Research Building). If he's not running from office to office or running from meeting to meeting, Dean Kaufman also makes time to be an Honors College Fellow; he has made time for that activity since 1992. I'm not quite sure how he does it all, so I asked him a few questions.

Q: As the dean of the Honors College, what are your goals and visions for the college?

A: There are two main goals. First, to provide an academic challenge and it's not always a classroom situation. For example, there is research where students are using their knowledge, not just sitting and memorizing facts. The second is to provide a central location for peer and advisor support.

Q: What type of work do you do as the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs?

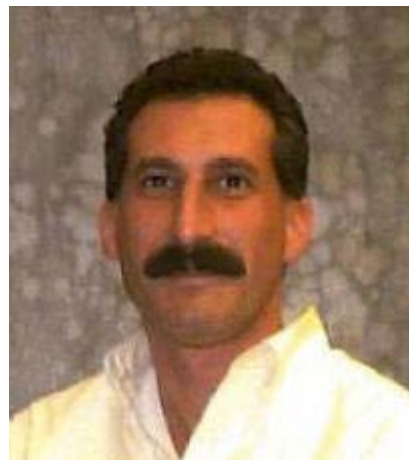
A: To make sure students have a high quality, excellent undergraduate education. For example, the general education program has to work.

Q: What classes do you still teach?

A: Right now I am teaching a 3 cr Freshman Honors Gen Ed Core (HON102), as well an Honors Freshmen Seminar (HON101). Next semester I am going to teach the second semester of that Honors Core (HON103) as well as a portion of BIOS 526, a 5 cr. core course required of all first year in the Molecular Biology and Cell and Developmental Biology Graduate Programs.

Q: What do you, Dean Lon Kaufman, do as an Honors College Fellow? What is the value of being a fellow on top of all your other commitments to UIC?

A: I am a fellow in 2 capacities. First, I work with my set of students, whom I meet with for advising. Typically, my students end up doing research, often in my lab. Second, I



Dean Lon Kaufman

advise a bulk of the pre-pharmacy students [60-70 students] who are with the Honors College for 2-2.5 years.

Q: What is your favorite part of being with the Honors College?

A: Students! 1400 great students!

Q: What advice do you have for HC students?

A: It's easy to coast. You have the responsibility to challenge yourself.

Q: How do you do it all?

A: I work with outstanding people. All the persons that I work with are on the same page –students matter. There is also a lack of sleep involved and less baseball than I used to watch.

Check out Dean Kaufman's Website for more detail on his research in biological sciences:

<http://www.uic.edu/depts/bios/faculty/kaufman-1.htm>



Do you have any questions or comments? Do you want to submit an article? Feel free to email us at:

ampersanduic@yahoo.com

Have you started working out yet?

**HONORS COLLEGE BALL
MARCH 5, 2005**

Students gather to make a difference about North Korea

Kiwon Ko

In the aftermath of the Korean War (1950-1953), what was once one country ended as two. While those currently residing in South Korea enjoy an economically successful and democratically controlled life, there are many people in the north who are starving and suffering due to oppression. The communist government of North Korea controls all aspects of life using police terror to suppress the slightest instance of dissent. Additionally, it fails to even produce adequate supplies of food or manufactured consumer goods for its citizens.

In March of 2004, a group of young Korean-American students created LiNK (Liberation in North Korea) as a non-profit, non-partisan, non-ethnic organization to aid the citizens, educate the world, and fight for human rights of North Koreans. It has rapidly grown to over 60 chapters in 4 nations, with one currently forming here at UIC. Allymay is a UIC student who was motivated to start LiNK at UIC. She says, "The issues about North Korean human rights need to be known. There are so many who have a lack of knowledge, even myself as I am still learning more and more." Also, as a devoted Christian, she felt that it was important to take action pertaining to issues of injustice, suffering, and hunger. She stressed that what is most important about the organization is the cause. LiNK at UIC will work in partnership with other LiNK chapters, different organizations around Chicago, and organizations in other areas of the Midwest. Its goals are, but not limited to, informing the public through various speakers, discussions, displays, and events, and raising funds for humanitarian aid for North Koreans. Recently, KAUSE (Korean Americans United To Serve Equality) and LiNK came together on November 9 to host the North Korean Panel in CCC, which marked a beginning of the spread of awareness around campus.

Anyone who wishes to learn more and fight for the right cause is welcome to join. LiNK will need help in a variety of ways, including networking, writing articles, passing out fliers, playing in a band, baking goods, and designing displays. Also, some positions for the Executive Board are currently open. The UIC chapter plans to officially start in January and meet weekly thereafter. However, all this will be possible only through the participation of many motivated and devoted minds of UIC.

Visit <http://www.linkglobal.org> or contact Allymay@namonet.net for more information

Cité *Judy Liu*

Above the city, on the 70th floor of Lake Point Tower, my boyfriend and I celebrated our anniversary at Cité. Last year we celebrated at the Signature Room above the John Hancock building (his choice), so this year I chose a location that would be just as breathtaking. Both Cité and the Signature Room are comparable in terms of the view, the price, and the dress code. However, Cité offers a quieter and more formal setting.

Shortly after we were seated, the waiter folded our napkins and placed them on our laps. Then we were asked if we would prefer ice water or bottled water. After ordering, we were served by several waiters. Bread was not in a basket on our table but on a silver platter, which the "bread waiter" served with matching silver tongs. Then the "butter waiter" served us two types of flavored butter. Shortly after, another waiter served us each with a small hors d'oeuvre, "compliments of the chef." As a final treat, we were then served a small ball of pineapple sorbet. On top of the little extra surprises, our main courses, a steak and a fish entrée, were unique and delicious. The portions were just the right size, leaving me satisfied but with room for dessert. We ordered a chocolate truffle cake, which was much smaller (about half the size of a cupcake) but tasted better than we expected.

Overall, I loved Cité. I loved the quiet and romantic setting, the amazing view of the city, and, of course, the special treatment (and many waiters). If you plan to dine there, though, do watch out for one thing—proposals. We witnessed two that night and I felt like I had spotted a celebrity (we always hear about and know all about proposals, but few of us actually see them in real life). Even if you don't see one, you will know there was one when you hear applause and no birthday song.

Cité
505 North Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, IL 60611
(312) 644-4050
www.citechicago.com



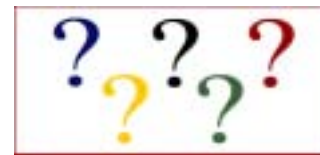
Dining view at Cité.

Cuisine: French American
Avg. entrée: over \$30
Parking: Valet available on Grand Ave. entrance.
\$19 for 2-3 hours.
Note: Reservations suggested



‘Dear Zina’

Zina Alkafaji



*Dear Zina,
I'm having troubles figuring out what I should do with my schedule next semester. I want to graduate in three years, but that means I have to take Physics, Bio-Chem, and Orgo at the same time. That would be a really hard semester and I'm not sure if I should do that yet. Is graduating in three years important enough to have such an impossible semester?*

*Thanks,
Overwhelmed on Roosevelt and Halsted*

Dear “Overwhelmed on Roosevelt and Halsted,”
Considering I've been in precisely the same situation that you find yourself in now, I am speaking from experience when I tell you to evaluate your reasons for wanting to graduate in three years. Is it to save money? Is it because you're parents told you that you have to? Is it because you want to impress others by announcing that you were able to graduate from undergrad in only three years? Whatever the reason may be, ask yourself what you will lose if you don't graduate in three years and what you will gain. Compare the pros and cons. Then decide whether these are worth endless nights of studying, long days of classes, a lot of caffeine-highs, and several exams in a week if not in a day. Personally, the pros definitely don't outweigh the cons. Also, think about all the opportunities you may miss out on if you're so busy studying and end up graduating in a hurry. You may want to spend a semester abroad, do research in a lab, join some extracurricular clubs, or just have spare time to do some self-exploration and socialize with friends and family. I would seriously suggest giving this decision plenty of time and thought. Discuss it with your parents, professors, advisors, and mentors and get their feedback.

*Dearest Zina,
I read your column last issue...and I loved it! My problem is as follows: I am involved with way too many clubs/activities/things on campus that I find myself with no time for homework. What should I do? I seriously am committed to these clubs and they mean a lot to me, but I feel like I'm neglecting my school work. I feel so torn. Help!*
*Sincerely,
Way too Involved*

“Way too Involved,”
Despite your deep-seated commitment to the extracurricular activities that you're involved with, you must bear in mind that your first and foremost reason for being at a university is to receive an education. In order to do that you must dedicate a

lot of time and effort to studying. If most of your time is going to attending meetings and preparing for events and such, you will naturally be left with very little for studying. I am by no means discouraging involvement in clubs, but you must have a good handle on how to prioritize your activities. If you are involved in several clubs, you may want to decide on one or two that you find most important and have already committed a lot time to, and eliminate the rest. If you can't withdraw now since it's the middle of the semester, notify the club president that you may not be able to dedicate as much time to it as you used to and that you unfortunately will not be able to be a part of it next semester. It won't be easy to do, especially since you say they “mean a lot” to you, but school comes first!

*Zina,
I'm addicted to being online! It's sick! I have to be on AIM all the time. And I'm checking my email like every 4 hours. I'm obsessed! What can I do to curb my addiction? Eek!*
- Online Addict

The best advice I can give you, “Online Addict”, is to uninstall AIM from your computer until exams are over. If this seems like too drastic of a measure for you to take, try keeping your computer off until you've finished all the work you need to do, and reward yourself with a little Instant Messaging while you check your email. Keep track of how much time you spend online and restrict yourself to no more than an hour of AIM time. If you need to surf the web for an assignment, do it at school in one of the computer labs where you're less likely to chat online. Have some self control!

*Hey Zina-
What's the best way to relax before and during finals and midterms, especially if your schedule is totally overbooked most of the time. Please help!*

The most effective thing you can do to keep stress levels to a minimum before finals hit is by keeping yourself organized and to do as little procrastinating as possible. I know this is as hard as asking two-year olds not to cry and that the term “procrastination” almost defines a college student's academic life, but if you want to kill those finals without freaking out, you've got to eliminate the last-minute-studying and all-nighters. In terms of trying to de-stress after it's already hit, there are several things you can do. First of all, take breaks between long hours of studying. Call a friend, make something to eat, go workout, or

take a short nap. Be careful not to let study breaks turn into excessively long and unproductive amounts of time. Also, try breaking up your work into small segments and setting simple goals for yourself, like to read one chapter of your biology book for the next hour. Most importantly, try to prevent getting yourself sick during a time of stress by eating healthy and drinking plenty of water. Good luck with finals!

Send all questions, comments and concerns to zalkaf1@uic.edu. Feel free to send any questions you want advice about for the next month's Ampersand edition.

New Pixar Movie Makes Incredible Impression

Vivas Kaul and Kevin Go

In this day and age, hit movies that actually bring something artistically worthwhile to the world of film are hard to come by. Last month, our review of *Shark Tale* showcased what can happen when a company, in this case Dreamworks, tries to remain one step ahead of the curve in the world of CG animation. This month we bring you Pixar's response and the newest entrant into the world of animated movies, *The Incredibles*.

Within the last three or four years, there has been a tide of animated films that have done their best to top one another. This contest of wits started years ago when Pixar pioneered and refined the technique of CG animation in their first movie, *Toy Story* in 1995. The rest was history when that film was followed by *A Bug's Life*, *Toy Story 2*, and *Finding Nemo*. These films have consistently raised the bar for the realism and quality that is expected of movies of this type. *The Incredibles* does all of this and with a style and flair that only Pixar Studios can deliver.

Being a super hero is a daily upward battle. Even the most super of heroes have trouble saving the world, defying gravity, and, hardest of all, raising a family when devoted to a life of crime fighting. For Mr. Incredible (Craig T. Nelson from the TV series *Coach*), this is simply all in a days work. He is at the top of his game, and is getting married to Helen, aka Elasticgirl. That is until one fateful night when his biggest fan interferes with the apprehension of a criminal. A major lawsuit and several angry jurors later, all superheroes are banned from performing any services in public ever again. It is then that a terrible danger begins to take shape.

This is the second animated film (the first being the *Iron Giant*) that director and writer Brad Byrd has directed. With the backing of Pixar Studio's budget Bird had a chance to show that he can make a great animated film when given the chance. It is in this capacity that I am proud to say that he

does not disappoint. Furthermore, the dialog is sharp and crisp, and contributes to the perfect blending of action throughout the script. The problems that the characters face throughout the story are things that would not normally be a problem for a superhero. In fact, some of the best scenes are the ones in which the children are told not to use their powers in public due to the consequences that could ensue.

Samuel L. Jackson (from *Shaft*) completes the role of Frozone in a manner that will have many viewers wondering why this character got the shaft in terms of the amount of screen time. Jason Lee (from *Mallrats*) plays the part of the villain in a way that doubles as comedic relief. For those of you that are fans of Lee's movies you probably will not be surprised with the results. Holly Hunter (from *O' Brother Where Art Thou*) provides an excellent complement to Nelson's Mr. Incredible. She does a great job of conveying how motherly Elasticgirl can be when the world does not need saving

Out of all of the animated films that have graced theaters this year, *The Incredibles* represent the zenith of studio animation for the year 2004. This film is definitely worth the \$10 spent at a theater downtown and makes the movie going experience well worth it. All in all *The Incredibles* show that even overweight, slightly disgruntled superheroes can still do incredible things.

Rating:  On a scale of 0-4 thumbs



Diving In

Jonathan Huang

Some people have a fear of heights, others have a fear of entering the water. These are just two trivial matters that my roommate encounters on a daily basis. Ever since Joshua Johnson, a UIC diver, began diving during junior year of high school, he's loved it.

I, for one, can't understand how anyone has the courage to venture up a diving board that can be as much as ten meters above the ground. And then immediately after, subject himself to fate as he plummets through the air. But it happens. "What other sport do you get to do two and a half flips in the air?" questions Johnson.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23 TO OCT. 22)

Lady luck is on your side this month Libra! Expect the unexpected and be prepared for an unforeseen good grade or special visitor that will be poppin up!

SCORPIO (OCT. 23 TO NOV. 21)

Built up frustration can get the best of you Scorpio, so keep you head high, and don't let some stress get you down. When the goin' gets tough, curl up with a good book or a good friend.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22 TO DEC. 21)

Make sure you don't let the hustle and bustle of the upcoming holiday season get a hold of you this month! It's easy to become sidetracked and let distractions get the best of you!

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22 TO JAN. 19)

Share your sensitive side this month... write a warm email to a friend or coworker, or take your Mom out to lunch. You are feeling extra bubbly, so spread the wealth!

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20 TO FEB. 18)

Love is coming your way Aquarius! Single? Look forward to meeting someone new who sparks your interest. Attached? Your love life is particularly pleasant this month. Celebrate with a fancy dinner out!

LEO (JULY 23 TO AUG. 22)

Your upbeat personality and positive attitude keep others around you happy. This is a great quality to posses- just remember to keep yourself happy as well.

VIRGO (AUG. 23 TO SEPT. 22)

Oh Virgo! Happiness is headed your way! Whatever it may be that brings it, enjoy! Extra time with that special someone? An unexpected visitor? Who knows? Enjoy!

HOROSCOPE

Kristin Toranzo

ARIES (MARCH 21 TO APRIL 19)

You are really in a productive mode this month! You are determined to accomplish several tasks and you are doing everything you can to make sure that your goals are met! Keep it up!

TAURUS (APRIL 20 TO MAY 20)

You are going to find yourself drawn to the outdoors this month. Weather permitting, you will find yourself bike riding, hiking or rolling in the leaves all month long!

GEMINI (MAY 21 TO JUNE 20)

Aggravations are headed your way this month, but that's okay! You can handle it! Just remember that the grass isn't always greener on the other side! Keep your head up high, because a change of luck is coming your way towards the end of the month!

CANCER (JUNE 21 TO JULY 22)

Cancer, Cancer, Cancer. Calm down this month! You are finding yourself succumbing to the stress! Don't cave! Remember, relax and smell the roses! You can handle anything!

PISCES (FEB. 19 TO MARCH 20)

You are being very analytical this month! Money seems to be flowing your way. Expect some type of extra bonus! Monetary or not, you'll still enjoy it!



& "Diving In" Continued from Page 10 &

The training and practice that divers go through is very intense. Every morning I wake up to my roommate's alarm clock who gets up at 7 a.m. to lift weights prior to class. Now that is what I call dedication. Occasionally I see him at dinner, exhausted and weary from the afternoon practices. Though bone-tired, he still smiles because he loves it. In addition to being able to keep in shape, diving has brought a sense of responsibility to him as he balances and manages his time. This is especially vital as he is taking 15 hours of class.

His journey through seasons of diving, though, has not been without worry or stress. Injury is a common risk. From bruises to welts, and even broken bones, this sport can induce great frustration. In light of the challenges and difficulties,

Johnson realizes that he just needs to have caution and confidence during each dive. But at those painful moments, Olympic athletes like Sara Hildebrand and Laura Wilkinson inspire Johnson to keep persevering by sticking to it and just diving in. At the end of our conversation when asked what one thing he would change about the sport Johnson comically said that he wished the "water was softer when [he] smack[ed] into it."



December Fun Time

Dariusz Barwacz

Chicago is well known for its architecture. During winter break, take advantage of the city and check out the architecture on a beautiful winter day. The Historic Skyscrapers Tour hosted by the The Chicago Architecture Foundation showcases skyscrapers built before the 1930's. The tour starts at 224 S. Michigan Ave between 10:00 A.M. and 12:00 P.M. The cost ranges from \$9-\$12 and they are open daily, but make sure to call and confirm reservations at 312-922-3432. Also, the Historic Skyscrapers Tour will focus on modern and postmodern constructions through December 30.

Another "must see" is the Chicago Theatre built in 1920's, later restored in 1980's. The Chicago Theatre is located at 175 N. State Street. The tour of this building is on Thursdays at 12:00 P.M., Saturdays at 11:00 P.M. \$5, 312-462-6300] During the tour that runs every third Saturday of the month, you will have a chance to hear an amazing Wurlitzer pipe organ.

The IMAX Theater at Navy Pier is featuring the movie "Santa vs. The Snowman 3D." The IMAX Theater is located at 600 E. Grand Ave. The movie is playing now until January 2, 2005 - the price of tickets range from \$8 to \$10. Call 312-595-5629 for more information.



A clip from "Santa vs. The Snowman 3D"

If you are already planning a trip to Navy Pier, I also recommend ice skating in their indoor arena during the Winter Wonderfest. Ice skating will be available December 10th to January 2nd from 10:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.

There is also the Annual Christmas Sing-Along and Double Feature. This attraction is at the Music Box Theatre. It offers an unforgettable experience – picture yourself singing along to the bouncing ball on the screen while watching the original "It's a Wonderful Life" and "White Christmas" movie trailers. Before the movies, you will have the opportunity to sing Christmas carols with Santa, Rudolph and Frosty the Snowman. People often show up in full costume, which are related to the movies that are being shown. So maybe you can come up with something original to wear too. The Music Box Theatre is located at 3733 N. Southport Ave. The sing along extravaganza will be out December 20th to the 23rd. The double feature costs \$15, while the single film costs \$10. For more details call simply call 773-871-6604.

The Ampersand



Take an architectural tour of Chicago on a beautiful winter day!

Finally, check out "Rudolph, the Red-Hosed Reindeer" at the Loop Theater. Don't bring your younger siblings or little nieces and nephews. It is a play for adults about a cross-dressing reindeer. The Loop Theater is located at 8 E. Randolph St. The show will run Fridays and most weekends in the month December. Showtime starts at 8:00 P.M and tickets cost between \$10 and \$15. Call 312-744-5667 for more information.

The Ampersand encourages everyone to share his or her favorite places.

Email us: ampersanduic@yahoo.com



Do you have any questions or comments? Do you want to submit an article? Feel free to email us at:

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