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Bikes, Beers and Bruises

ENGLEWOOD ILLUSTRATED

A graphic history

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Tales from the comedy stage

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13 Say What?
Essential slang for time travelers & reenactors
Compiled by Jen Partynski

16 Hammer Time Again
'80s fashion makes its return
By Mariah Craddick

19 De-test-able Changes
Students seeking free STD testing will have to look elsewhere
By Becky Lerner

17 What's in the Bag?
Treasures pulled from the jaws of Sharkada
By Aaron Pylinski

20 To and 'Fro
The twisty history of a historical hairstyle
By Mariah Craddick

14 The Candy Pyramid
A guide to daily consumption
By Theo Daniels & Eric Witt

News to You
The life and death and life of Chicago's newspapers
By Darryl Holiday

18 Mistaken Identity
These Chicago businesses aren't what you think
By Samantha Saiyavongsa

Mapping the Music
A lyrical homage to the city
By David Anthony

21 Hairy Decisions
How to find the beard that's right for you
By Valerie Wojs

Shades of Meaning
You can't separate culture from color
By Meredith Hoffman

15 Wake-Up Call
Revisiting the American Dream
By Valerie Wojs

28 Bikes, Beers and Bruises
Hardcourt bike polo roughs up Chicago
By Bethany Richard



31 Street Bard
All the world's a stage for the Shakespeare Man
By Chelsea Johnson



40 Caffeine Quest
Energy drinks are not the answer
By Christine Petrick



36 If You Bare
The winner of Echo's poster contest
By Aaron Pylinski

24 By the Numbers
Measuring the scope of social media
By Samantha Saiyavongsa

25 Worst-case Scenarios
A safety manual for the streets of Chicago
By Theo Daniels

26 Tired Tat
Here's how to get rid of your old ink
By Chandler Rollins



Summer/Fall 2012
echomagonline.com



51 Home in One Place
A South Side story
By Darryl Holliday & E. N. Rodriguez



59 Casualties of Comedy
When jokes fall flat
By Becky Lerner & David Anthony



43 Dream Weaver
A photo essay
By Ashley Fischer

FEATURES



66 Hidden Gems
Eclectic art spaces you shouldn't overlook
By Eric Witt

48 Outdoor Exhibits
Advice from Chicago street artists
By Whitney Feldmann

70 She's the Boss
Chic insights from female entrepreneurs
By Mariah Craddick

76 The Dark Knight Returns
And returns. And returns.
By RJ Roxas

68 Yes, You Can Haz Job!
College majors of the 21st century
By Valerie Wojs

iPotential
One tablet, 10 ways to use it
By Theo Daniels & RJ Roxas

71 Creative Syndicates
The Craft Mafia takes Chicago
By Meredith Hoffman

67 Analog Anew
An old-school camera shop finds a future in film
By Samantha Saiyavongsa

69 Vertical Life
Roosevelt students move up in the world
By Samantha Saiyavongsa

74 Best of Fest
A survival guide for fleet-footed fans
By RJ Roxas

80 Bus #74
An action movie fantasy
By Darryl Holliday & Eric Bird

Take Five
Finding success in the entertainment industry
By Becky Lerner

75 Great Escapes
Planning your hostel summer takeover
By Aaron Pylinski

break
ground

Photo by **Ashley Fischer**



FROM THE EDITOR

This semester *Echo* once again emerged from a collaboration between teams of editors, designers and writers. The result is the magazine you're holding in your hands. We've been pretty busy.

Our mission for this issue was to engage our readers with offbeat observations and intriguing, thought-provoking articles on topics from Chicago arts and culture to weighty social issues. We aimed to enrich, inform, and inspire life beyond our pages.

We re-launched our website, echomagonline.com, so that it could become an extension of our brand. The vitality of our website has grown dramatically, with fresh content updated daily each week on four website channels.

Producing a print publication alongside a website is challenging, and the naysayers of traditional media—the people Dean Starkman calls “the future of news consensus”—would have told us to abandon print and focus solely on the web. But it is the physical magazine from which all else flows; print is the heart of the brand.

So instead, *Echo* found different ways to employ new media. We married our web publication to this magazine by opening a dialogue with our online readers. We allowed you to shape the content that you see today, whether it was by voting for the poster that appears in this issue, or by asking questions for our website channel, Re:VERB.

We wanted to inspire life beyond our pages, and we hope we did. Here's what we created. Like it, share it—online and off.

Samantha Saiyavongsa
Managing Editor

LOST INNOCENCE

The moments that changed our childhoods forever

Compiled by **Jen Partynski**

TV Shows

David Anthony :: The moment I realized :: Rocko and his pal Heffer might be more than friends and that inter-species erotica is an off-putting world all its own.

Ashley Fischer :: The moment I realized :: That the kids from *The Magic School Bus* grew up and became the *Captain Planet* kids.

Samantha Saiyavongsa :: The moment I realized :: Everyone in *Hey Arnold!* was in 4th grade and they could walk around Brooklyn like it was no big deal.

Becky Lerner :: The moment I realized :: All the characters on *Friends* have, at the very least, kissed one another (siblings Ross and Monica included)

Andrea Luna :: The moment I realized :: I would never have a teacher as awesome as Mr. Feeny.

Michael Heck :: The moment I realized :: Mark Mothersbaugh from Devo did the *Rugrats* theme song.

Hanna Geraghty :: The moment I realized :: Darth Vader and Mufasa were both voiced by James Earl Jones.

Bernice Fountain :: The moment I realized :: I was never going to find Carmen San Diego.

Shuky Leung :: The moment I realized :: The original Power Rangers were defined by the color of their spandex.

Becky Kott :: The moment I realized :: Pee Wee Herman knows what his pee wee is for.

Christopher Reyes :: The moment I realized :: Ash Ketchum was only ten years old, yet he traveled the world with his friends.

Music

Mariah Craddick :: The moment I realized :: Jason Waterfalls was not the subject of TLC's song "Waterfalls."

Theo Daniels :: The moment I realized :: The Rick James song "Mary Jane" was about getting high.

Meredith Hoffman :: The moment I realized :: Eric Clapton wasn't singing about croquet in his song "Cocaine."

Jen Partynski :: The moment I realized :: The lyrics to Jordan Knight's song "Give It To You" did not fit the carnival themed video; a bed would have been more fitting.

Aaron Pylinski :: The moment I realized :: They were singing "after the boys of summer have gone" in "The Boys of Summer," not "after the poison severs the bone."

Ashlee Rezin :: The moment I realized :: Knowing every word to Sir Mix-a-Lot's "Baby Got Back" is not cool.

Misc.

Darryl Holliday :: The moment I realized :: Chicken fingers don't contain actual chicken fingers. And, in many cases, not actual chicken.

RJ Roxas :: The moment I realized :: The purple Crown Royal pouch I had as a kid was not for toys.

Eric Witt :: The moment I realized :: The brain is not a rigid machine crafted only by genetics; it is plastic and can be "re-wired."

Valerie Wojs :: The moment I realized :: Gushers fruit snacks in fact did not turn your head into a watermelon or a volcano like the commercials led me to believe.

Abby Redfield :: The moment I realized :: The game of Mash couldn't really predict my future. For years, I thought I was going to marry Leonardo DiCaprio.

Afrodita Hajdini :: The moment I realized :: How delicious coffee tastes at age 12.

Eunice Gomez :: The moment I realized :: Boys don't have cooties.

Benjamin Sliwa :: The moment I realized :: Money doesn't grow on trees. If I wanted a Snickers bar, I had to do work.

Kristen Vanderburg :: The moment I realized :: I wasn't white.

Vicente Vasquez :: The moment I realized :: My sister's name wasn't really Sissy.

Ashley Vasquez :: The moment I realized :: Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny were my parents.

Sarah Viktora :: The moment I realized :: Having a unicorn engraved on my glasses wasn't quite as cool as I thought it was.

SAY WHAT?

Essential slang for time travelers and reenactors

By **Jen Partynski & RJ Roxas**

Illustrations by **Eric Bird**

Technology has changed the way we speak. Converting Internet lingo from text to speech has created a whole new set of slang. According to Tom Dalzell, author of *Flappers 2 Rappers: American Youth Slang*, this may be the first time slang is written before it is spoken, or sometimes never spoken at all. “LOL gets vocalized,” says Dalzell, “and has morphed into ‘lulz’ as spoken – a wonderful example.”

Dalzell’s book offers the following guide to make you the bee’s knees in 20th Century conversation. If you want to fit in to a previous time, you need to learn the lingo.

1900s

Shark :: One who excels at something.
Waddy :: Unattractive and unappealing.

1920s

Banana oil :: I doubt that!
Nerts :: I am amazed!
I should hope to kill you :: I emphatically agree with what you just said.

1930s

In your hat :: I don’t believe that!
No soap :: That’s not possible!
Fan my brow :: What a surprise!

Who’s milkin this cow? :: Mind your own business!

1940s

Burnt to a crisp :: Up to the latest on everything.
Douse the glim :: Turn out the light.
You shred it, wheat :: You said it.

1950s

Ain’t that a bite? :: That’s too bad.
Get bent :: I despise you.

Put an egg in your shoe and beat it :: Leave!

1960s

Eatin’ the grapes right off the wallpaper :: Very disturbed.
You take care of the hot dogs and I’ll take care of the orange drinks :: You do your part and I’ll do mine.
Word from the bird :: The truth.
Bustin’ concrete :: Taking care of business.

1970s

In one’s crack :: Excessively inquisitive about someone else’s business.
Fry :: An unpleasant experience.
Come in, Berlin :: Pay attention.

1980s

Pick up your face :: Recover from being incredibly stupid.
Rock your world :: Beat you up.

1990s

What’s your damage? :: What’s your problem?
Played out :: Old.
Busted :: Uncool, ugly.



THE CANDY PYRAMID

A guide to daily candy consumption

In 2011, the USDA Food Pyramid was replaced by the Food Plate. And while sweets had a spot at the top of the pyramid, they are nowhere to be seen on the plate. To remedy this, *Echo* offers the Candy Pyramid, a guide to eating happily, if not healthfully.

By **Theo Daniels & Eric Witt**
Illustration by **Andrea Luna**

Hard Candy :: Petrified regret. You were forced to eat these when you were younger, and for some reason your grandma seemed to have an endless supply in the bottom of her purse.

Gummy Candy :: It's hard to mind when a bit of delectable fruit gummy is stuck in your teeth. Just save it for later!

Novelty :: Let's face it: If your cheeks glow from a light-up sucker or your treat is dispensed in some pointless way, it tastes better.

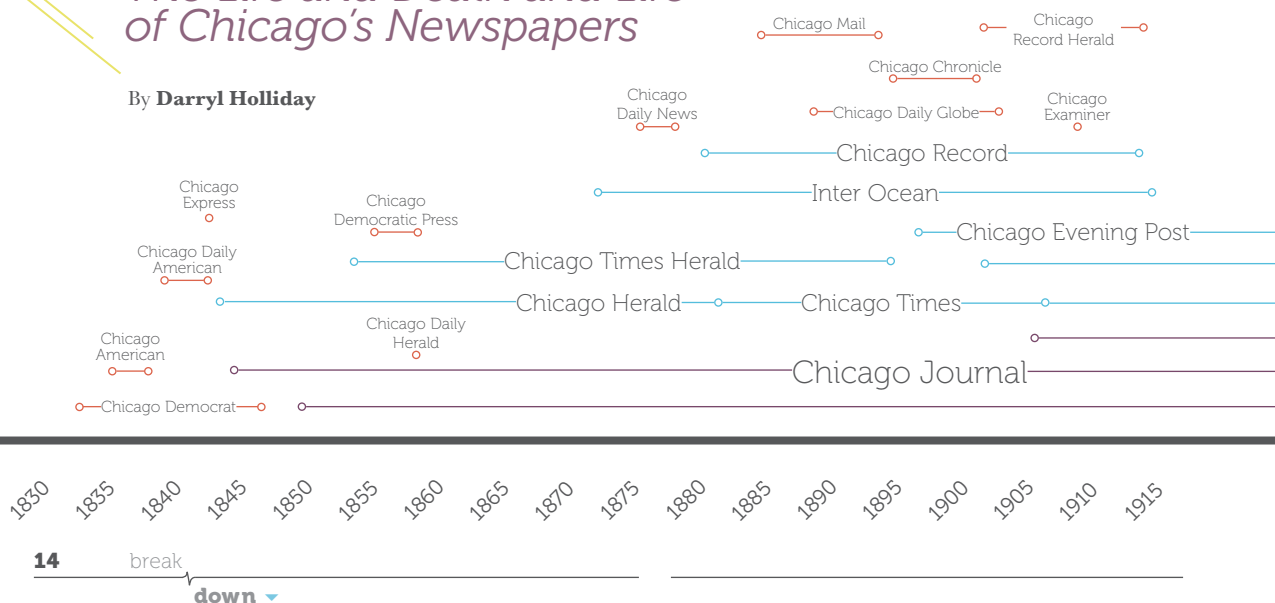
Chocolate :: This universal mood lifter and people pleaser will have you on a serious endorphin rush in just a few bites.



NEWS TO YOU

The Life and Death and Life of Chicago's Newspapers

By **Darryl Holliday**





WAKE-UP CALL

Revisiting the American Dream

By **Valerie Wojs**

Illustration by **Omar Aweidah**

In the 1950s, the American Dream was symbolized by a home in suburbia with a white picket fence. People expected to work hard for financial security – but not too hard. This American Dream was the picture of happiness, a tangible expression of prosperity and success.

But the American Dream isn't what it used to be. The foreclosure crisis and the economic recession have changed our aspirations and our expectations. So is the old dream still relevant, or is it time to wake up?

IT'S STILL VALID

"It was a combination of owning a home and the financial stability that it brings when you're paying down your mortgage. Economically it provides shelter and it provides some level of investment. We've concluded socially that we have more economic stability when people own a home."

— **Tom Bothen**

Associate Director of the Center for Urban Real Estate at UIC

IT'S SHRUNK

"The dream still exists, but the ability to achieve that dream has diminished significantly. There are a lot of people who have the mentality of, 'Well, I just have to work harder.' There is a lot of hope, and the Occupy movement shows hope for people who are tired of this diminishing ability to climb the ladder of success and are trying to change that."

— **Philip DeVon**

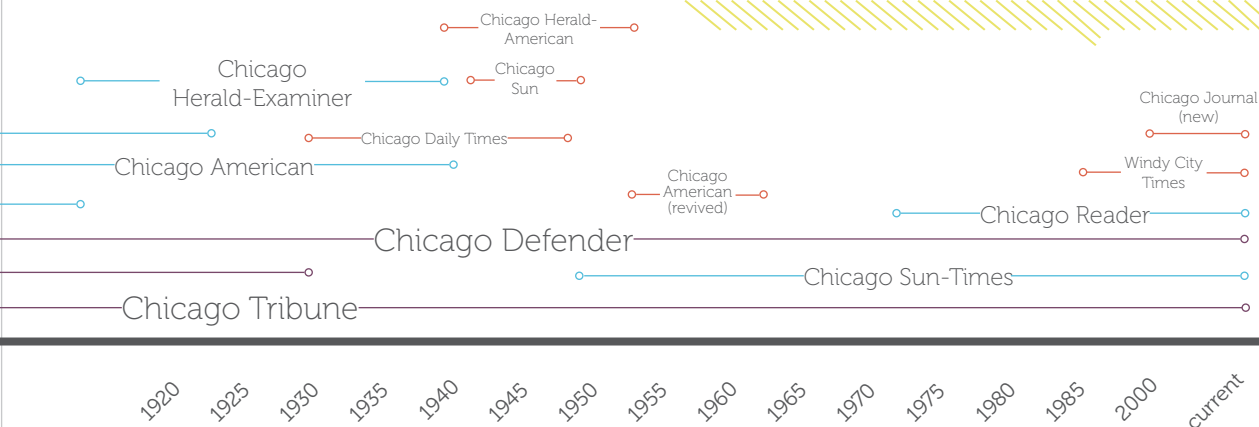
Occupy Chicago Social Media Committeeperson

IT'S OVER

"We must realize the American Dream only truly applies to those who don't make up the one percent of wealth holders in the country. If you're dreaming of pursuing opportunities or the attainment of the things and lifestyle this small group enjoys presently, you're obviously on the outside looking in. If things continue to trend the way they are going now, we could, at some point, have a dreamless generation."

— **Rashid K. Coleman**

Musician and Life Coach



HAMMER TIME AGAIN

'80s fashion makes its return

By **Mariah Craddick**

Illustration by **Lauren Bridger**

What's the hottest new look in fashion? Someone drove a DeLorean back to 1982 and returned with acid-washed denim on denim on denim and hair bigger than Michael Jackson's *Thriller* album sales. As much as people like to rag on the '80s for its interesting fashions, a number of those styles are coming back in full force, from guyliner to parachute pants and neon spandex bicycle shorts.

THEN :: Big Hair/Bangs

Crimped, crinkled, flat-ironed or curled. Ladies loved to tease their hair with copious amounts of hairspray, fine-toothed combs and mousse. We're sure a few of your moms rocked this style.

THEN :: Gigantic Shoulder Pads

For some reason, the fashion world decided it was stylish to make women look like linebackers, stuffing huge shoulder pads into blazers, sweaters and anything else with sleeves.

THEN :: Parachute Pants, aka Hammer Pants

Parachute pants defined the '80s. MC Hammer gyrating in a bright red, yellow, orange and white pair vividly comes to mind.

THEN :: Granny Boots

They remind us of the shoes the Wicked Witch of the West wore in *The Wizard of Oz*; '80s icons like Molly Ringwald made these shoes totally rad.

NOW :: Asymmetrical Bangs

We haven't completely overcome our love of bangs, but we've opted for a more layered, asymmetrical cut as opposed to the blunt, straight-across look. Volume is still in, but we've toned it down.

NOW :: Broad-shouldered Blazers

The key to making almost anything fashionable from the '80s is toning it down. Shoulder pads are cool, but only in moderation.

NOW :: Harem Pants

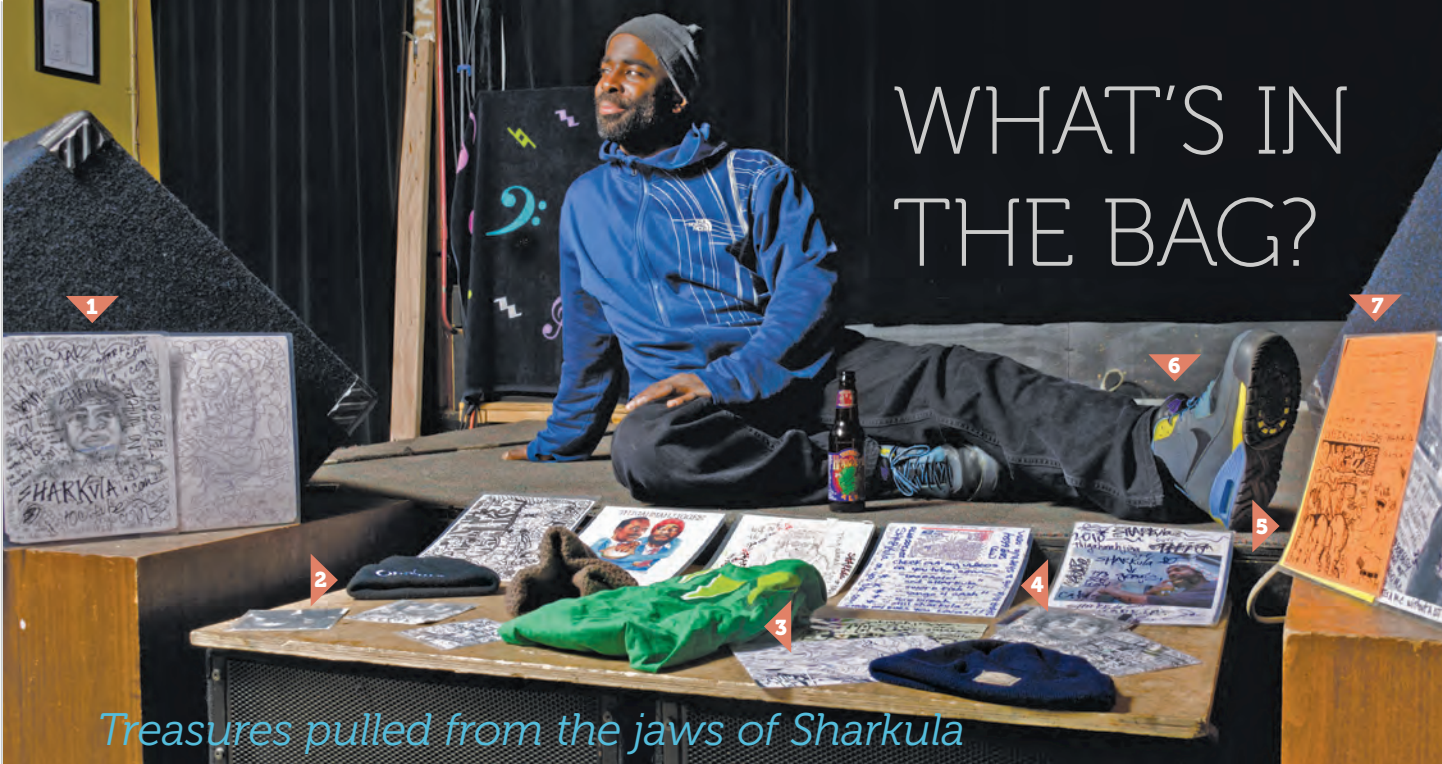
This style came before the Hammer pants. It originated in the deserts of North Africa, and was later adopted by the women's suffrage movement because its loose fit offered freedom of motion.

NOW :: Ankle Boots/Booties

The updated ankle-length bootie takes a step in the chic direction, often adding a higher platform heel so that you avoid looking too much like, well, granny.



WHAT'S IN THE BAG?



Treasures pulled from the jaws of Sharkula

By **Aaron Pylinski**
Photo by **Ashley Fischer**

Brian Wharton, a.k.a. Sharkula, is a Chicago hip-hop artist and devotee of the barter system. He prowls around the city, peddling his wares and spreading his message of tolerance, turmoil and tribulation through the art of freestyle rap. Hustling in a world full of sharks, “You have to become one,” he says, “to prevent being eaten.” And he’s planning to remain a Chicago fixture. “Even if I lose my voice, I would still hustle,” he says. “I don’t want to end up in the thrift store.”

Sharkula gave *Echo* a glimpse of his personal belongings, which express his inspiration, motivation and outlook on life.

1 “No Fear” Laminate

I can’t remember the artist who did it, but he just gave it to me. That’s what I like is when artists give me their art and they want me to write on it. “No Fear” means “No fear in the streets,” whether you’re in Humboldt Park or Englewood or Pilsen.

2 Obama Beanie Cap

I got that from a person [in exchange] for my CD. They were campaigning and I rocked it for a minute because I thought it would be good to support the President. He was around the University of Chicago when I was down there selling some stuff. At the time I think he was smoking Newports.

3 The Kermit Shirt

I got a couple of them from a friend who worked at a Muppet comic store up north. I traded for a couple of my CDs and got him some beers. I wear it all the time; I love it. It reminds me of medieval times.

4 Tribal Picture Laminate

It’s by this girl named Anna. She’s Polish and she lives out by Midway. I thought I’d laminate it and use it to advertise for this show I did with Das Racist.

5 Orange Laminate

I did the lettering. This punk rock guy did the art; I don’t even remember his name. It says “Stop the violence” and “Stop the racism.” I don’t like racism; I hate it.

6 The Nikes

I didn’t want to tell people, but I got them from Buffalo Exchange. To keep it real, I paid \$22 for these. I go to Buffalo Exchange and Crossroads because I’m trying to run a business. Why splurge? It’s broken in, too. It’s got the spirit, the karma.

7 Photo with the Cheeseburger

This is a Thigamahjgee (another alter ego) album released 2003 or 2004, if memory serves me correct. It was produced by Robert Reynolds Wrap. The DJ cuts were done by Chuck Sunshine featuring Willow. He’s an emcee that I grew up with. Taz One did some beats on it, too. This album got Top 20 in the *Reader* in 2003 or 2004.

MISTAKEN IDENTITY

These Chicago businesses aren't what you think

The Boring Store doesn't sound like the kind of place you'd have any fun, right? You'd change your mind if you knew it was a spy shop where kids learn how to read. Here are four more local businesses whose names might lead you astray.

Early to Bed (5232 N. Sheridan Rd.)

What it sounds like: A mattress store
What it actually is: A high-end adult toy store
What the owner says: "We'll get little old ladies walking in not even really realizing what we sell once they're in here," says Searah Deysach. "Even after they've seen the giant dildos in the middle of the store."



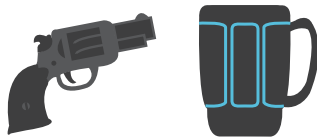
Dirty Betty's (2475 N. Lincoln Ave.)

What it sounds like: Another adult toy store
What it actually is: A doughnut shop and cookie bar
What the owner says: "We get confused customers probably twice a day," says Jeff Steinberg, who thinks Dirty Betty's sounds more like a clothing line.



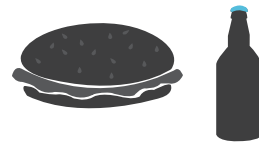
Maria's Packaged Goods (960 W 31st St.)

What it sounds like: A firearms dealer
What it actually is: Half liquor store and half tavern
What the owner says: "The place is named after my mom," explains Ed Marszewski. "I think it's a nice surprise for some people when they discover the bar."



Snickers Deli (448 N. State St.)

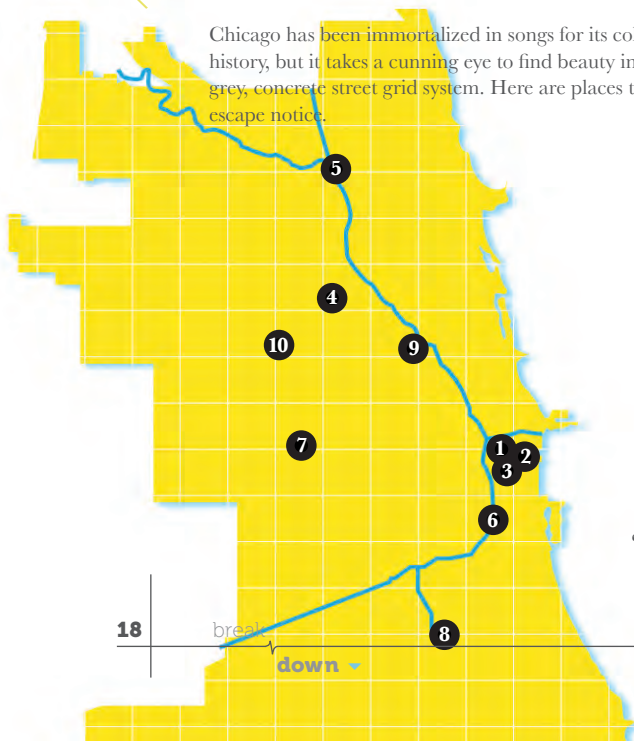
What it sounds like: A deli
What it actually is: A bar
What the owner says: "No, no we're a bar and grill," says John Snickers. "We were a deli 15 years ago!"



MAPPING THE MUSIC

A lyrical homage to the city By **David Anthony**

Chicago has been immortalized in songs for its colorful history, but it takes a cunning eye to find beauty in the city's grey, concrete street grid system. Here are places that didn't escape notice:



"Lake Street was three years too late."

CSTVT "Six Parts Summer" **1**

"Lonely Wabash under curving El."

Sundowner "Jackson Underground" **2**

"On State Street, that great street."

Frank Sinatra "Chicago" **3**

"The 11 Lincoln bus approached Ashland and Belmont."

Wesley Willis "Get on the City Bus" **4**

"He's Buddy and his wife in Uptown by the Aragon."

The Lawrence Arms "A Guided Tour of Chicago" **5**

"You said you wouldn't go past 22nd Street."

Toby Foster "22nd Street" **6**

"My girlfriend's in the coolest band that you've ever seen, they play the Empty Bottle every week."

The Lawrence Arms "Here Comes the Neighborhood" **7**

"These are the stories told by Stony and Cottage Grove."

Common "The Corner" **8**

"The 22 Clark Bus approached the Fullerton Parkway"

Wesley Willis "Get on the Bus" **9**

"Somehow the singer showed the Fireside exactly how I feel."

Alkaline Trio "Goodbye Forever" **10**

DE-TEST-ABLE CHANGES

*Students seeking free STD testing
have to look elsewhere*

By **Becky Lerner**

Illustration by **Kristie Melgar**

Is it possible that an innovative and progressive school this size, in downtown Chicago, actually lost its ability to offer students free HIV and STD testing? Yes, indeed it has. And it's a bigger problem than we thought.

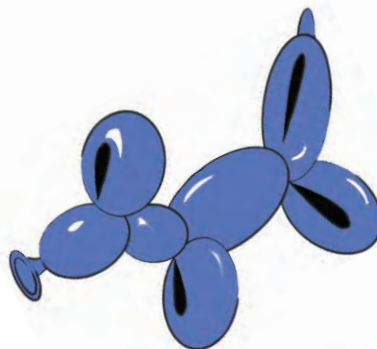
For two years, Columbia's Student Services Department offered free tests for 60 students monthly on a first come, first served basis. No slots went unfilled. "The ease of it being on campus made it something more people would do," says Russell Yost, former president of Common Ground, Columbia's Gay-Straight Alliance.

Columbia wasn't the only college to end the free testing. "It's a nationwide thing," says Coordinator of Student Services Mark O'Brien. "Governors and mayors all over the country are tightening their budgets, and as a result, services are being reduced."

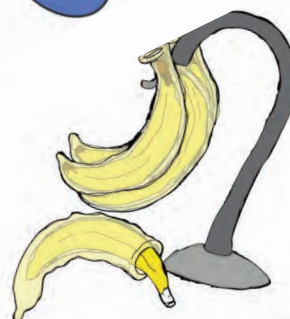
Working for Togetherness, the company that previously offered the free testing on campus, closed in 2011. The school reached out to the Chicago Department of Public Health, which offers condoms and informational pamphlets. It offers testing in other locations but not on campuses because of "limited resources," according to Director of Public Affairs Efrat Dallal Stein.

"It's difficult to identify a provider of the service because all of the agencies are pulling from the same resources," explains O'Brien.

Fortunately, students can get free or reduced-fee testing by traveling off campus (see sidebar). And if you picked up more of those free condoms on campus than you need—no judgment, of course—here are a few alternative uses for your practical prophylactics. ▼



Balloon Animal



Banana Preserver



Beverage Koozie



Coin Collector

Off-Campus Testing Sites

Access Community Health Network

866.882.2237

Grand Boulevard Center, 401 S. Wentworth Ave.

TPAN 5537 N. Broadway Ave.

Madison Center 3800 W. Madison St.

Austin Health Center

773.826.9600

5937 W. Chicago Ave

CORE Center

312.572.4700

2020 W. Harrison St. near UIC

Howard Brown Health Center

773.388.1600

4025 N. Sheridan Rd.

To find more sites offering free or reduced HIV/STD testing, call 1.800.342.AIDS

TO AND 'FRO

The twisty history of a historic hairstyle

Remember Diana Ross's famously oversized, curly mane, Christina Aguilera's huge blonde coiffure in *Lady Marmalade*, or Huey Freeman's fireball dome in *The Boondocks*? The afro can't be overlooked, whether the wearer be black, white or even cartoon.

Echo combed through history and consulted A'Lecila Bundles, Black hair historian, to untangle this hairstyle's progress.

By **Mariah Craddick**

Photo by **Sarah Ozog**



1700s Enslaved Africans use sheep fleece carding tools to comb out their hair, unintentionally birthing the "afro" style.

1860s P.T. Barnum of the Barnum & Bailey Circus showcases "Circassian Beauties" with big, curly hair as sideshow acts. This starts a fad, with traveling shows featuring "moss-haired girls" who dipped their hair in beer and teased it to stand straight up.

1865 Slavery ends. Big, curly hair is seen as a mark of being a newly freed slave, and African-Americans who had been free for generations set themselves apart by straightening their hair. The "comb test" is implemented at some churches; those seeking to join have to pass under a fine-toothed comb that hangs from the church front door.

1880s Freed slave T. Thomas Fortune, editor and owner of several black newspapers and co-founder of the Afro-American League, coins the term "Afro-American," possibly where the term "afro" came from.

1950s South African women begin wearing their hair in small "bushes." Greenwich Village artists and intellectuals follow suit.

1960s The afro becomes more political statement than hairstyle. The bigger the 'fro the better, and the style becomes the Black Power movement's signature look.

1966 Inventor William Lee Morrow, author of books on black hair, mass produces the plastic afro pick.

1970s The afro loses its political significance and becomes a fashion accessory to disco music and dancing. Afro wigs surge in popularity as the style transcends racial barriers.

1980s The afro fades out of style in favor of perms, relaxers and the oh-so-popular Jheri Curl.

1987 Other natural hairstyles, such as cornrows and braids, become popular among black men and women. A woman is fired from a Virginia Hyatt Regency Hotel for refusing to remove her cornrows.

1990s-2000s Afros undergo a resurgence, with celebrities like Erykah Badu, Lenny Kravitz and Kobe Bryant rocking the look.

2011 A 13-year-old Australian student is suspended from an Islamic school for his afro. The principal called it a "mop."

The first 'Fro Fashion Week is held in Georgia, celebrating the rebirth of the hairstyle. Naturally Me! Media reports that 70 to 80 percent of African-American women opt for the "traditional approach" in treating their hair.

2012 The stigma persists: A Brazilian university student is barred from attending her first day of school because of her "Black Power" hairstyle.

African-American actress Viola Davis wears a TWA (Teeny Weeny Afro) to the Academy Awards, receiving mostly praise from the fashion world. *Vogue Italia* hails the "black hair craze," as seen in curly and textured hair on the runways.

HAIRY DECISION

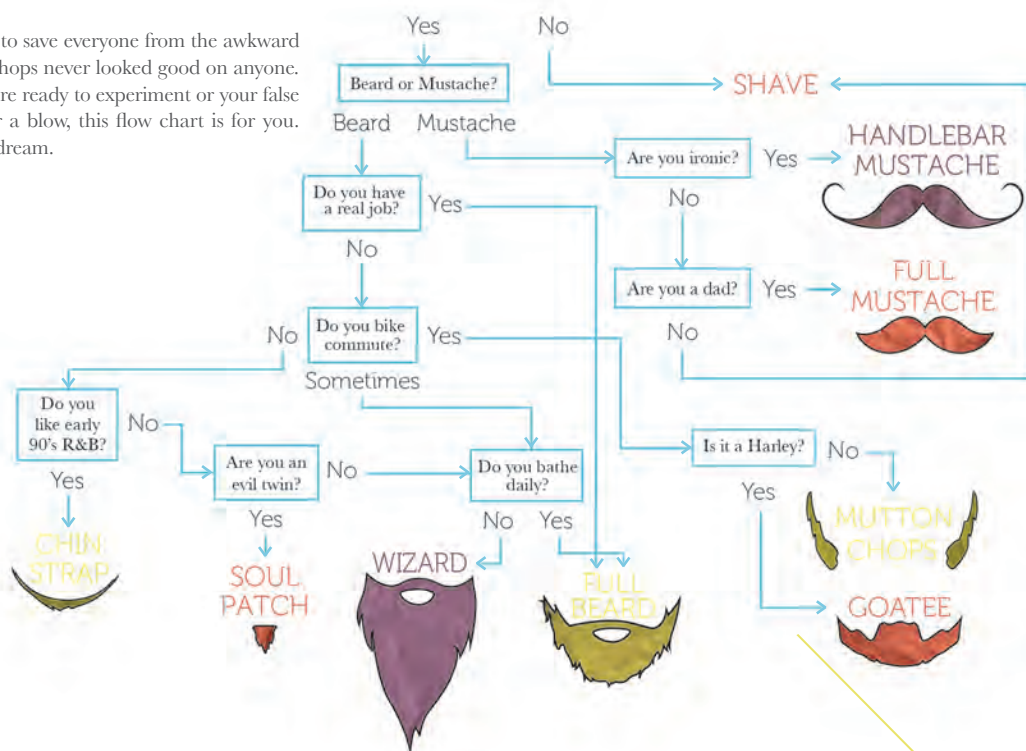
How to find the beard that's right for you

By **Valerie Wojs** Designed by **Shuky Leung**

Have you ever met a guy who wasn't proud of his facial hair? Even when his patchy 1800s beard looks like it's molting from the spring, the answer is still "no."

If only there were a way to save everyone from the awkward realization that mutton chops never looked good on anyone. Gentlemen: whether you're ready to experiment or your false sense of pride is due for a blow, this flow chart is for you. Ladies: it doesn't hurt to dream.

Are you ready to commit to facial hair?



SHADES OF MEANING

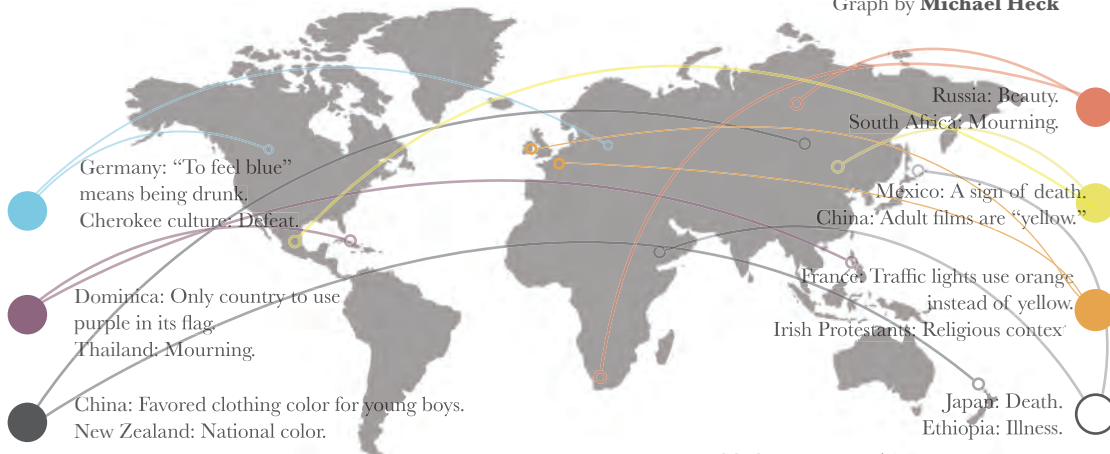
You can't separate culture from color

Green means "go" and blue means "boy," right? Well, not in other parts of the world. "Different nationalities have different flags," explains Jill Morton, a color consultant and owner of Colorcom based in Hawaii, noting that the colors

in flags are particularly meaningful. "Music communicates things that can't be put into words. Color is a phenomenal tool to communicate visually."

By **Meredith Hoffman**

Graph by **Michael Heck**



BY THE NUMBERS

Measuring the scope of social media

By **Samantha Saiyavongsa & Valerie Wojs**
Illustration by **Sarah Viktora**

Quick: Which is bigger? The number of Lady Gaga's Twitter followers or students enrolled in colleges and universities? Gaga's "little monsters" outnumber students 20,686,000 to 20,428,000. What if social media were measured in real life terms? We did the math so you don't have to.*

40.1 million

Number of
Justin Bieber's
facebook friends



40.1 million

Population of
Argentina

4,183

Years on YouTube
spent watching
Bad Romance



4,244

Years on YouTube
spent watching
Lady Gaga

10,318

Number of tweets from
Kim Kardashian



4,607

Number if tweets it
would take to write
Ayn Rand's
Atlas Shrugged

471,957

Foursquare
check-ins at
O'Hare



411,600

Number of people at 10
sold-out games at
Wrigley Field

\$281 million

Box office earnings of
Twilight Breaking
Dawn: Part 1



\$281 million

3,500 4-year degrees at
Columbia College
Chicago

34

Number of votes in the Iowa
caucuses between
Rick Santorum &
Mitt Romney



40

Number of
Echo staff
members

WORST-CASE SCENARIOS

A safety manual for the streets of Chicago

By **Theo Daniels**

Illustration by **Kristie Melgar**

Ladies and gentlemen, in the event of an urban emergency, the following tips will help keep you safe. We strongly suggest you read them before take-off. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask one of our sources: martial artist Terrance Hicks, police officer Joseph Warnke, and self-defense instructor Katie Webster.

Collar Grab ::

If an attacker has you by the collar of your shirt and it looks like there's no way out, use the closeness to your advantage. Turn 90 degrees to the left or right to escape his grasp. Then give him a swift chop with your dominant hand on the inside of his elbow and follow up with an elbow jab to the jaw.



Gun be Gone ::

Chop the inside of the attacker's elbow and pull the gun upward with your other hand. The attacker's hand will get caught in the trigger of the gun and his finger will snap.



Thumb Break ::

If you miss the attacker's wrist, grab his thumb and wrench it backward. "The controlling point of the hand is the thumb," says Hicks. "He can't grab you if you break the thumb."



Jab and Grab ::

If an attacker approaches you while your back is against a wall, jab two fingers at his Adam's apple to stop him and create distance. If he persists, grab his wrist with one hand and chop the side of his elbow with the other. As he buckles, grab his head and circle to guide him into the wall behind you.



Tip from the Masters

Watch their hands ::

"If I'm going down the street, I watch their hands. Even if I had to walk down the street and I'm seeing four or five guys hanging, I'll walk all the way around. Put them in your eye sight."

— Angelic Martial Arts Academy instructor Terrance Hicks, Jr.

Sucker Punch ::

"Your main objective is to flee and get to safety. Yell to attract attention, and strike like you mean it. Don't half-ass punch somebody. End the fight by getting out of there."

— Chicago Police Department officer Joseph Warnke

Get Away ::

If you feel uncomfortable, speak forcefully and insist on physical boundaries. "Avoid if you can, confront if you must. Try to avoid being in that area."

— Katie Webster, director of violence prevention programs at Thousand Waves Martial Arts and Self-Defense Center



TIRED TAT

Here's how to get rid of your old ink

By **Chandler Rollins**

Illustration by **Chelsea McCombs**

Getting your favorite band's logo seemed like a good idea — when they were your favorite band. But the novelty has worn off, and your tattoo still remains. So what are your options? Take our quiz to find out, because you can't wear long-sleeved shirts forever.

1. How old are you?

- a) 15-21
- b) 22-28
- c) 29-34

3. Where did you get your tattoo done?

- a) Tattoo studio
- b) At an artist's home
- c) In someone's basement

4. Do you plan on getting more tattoos?

- a) I'm working on a full-sleeve.
- b) Maybe, but not anytime soon.
- c) I'm trying to get rid of one, why would I want another?

5. Why do you regret your tattoo?

- a) Aesthetics
- b) Location
- c) Profession

6. How big is your tattoo?

- a) The size of a quarter
- b) Tennis ball size or smaller
- c) Half sleeve or larger

If you got mostly As :: *Modify your tattoo.*

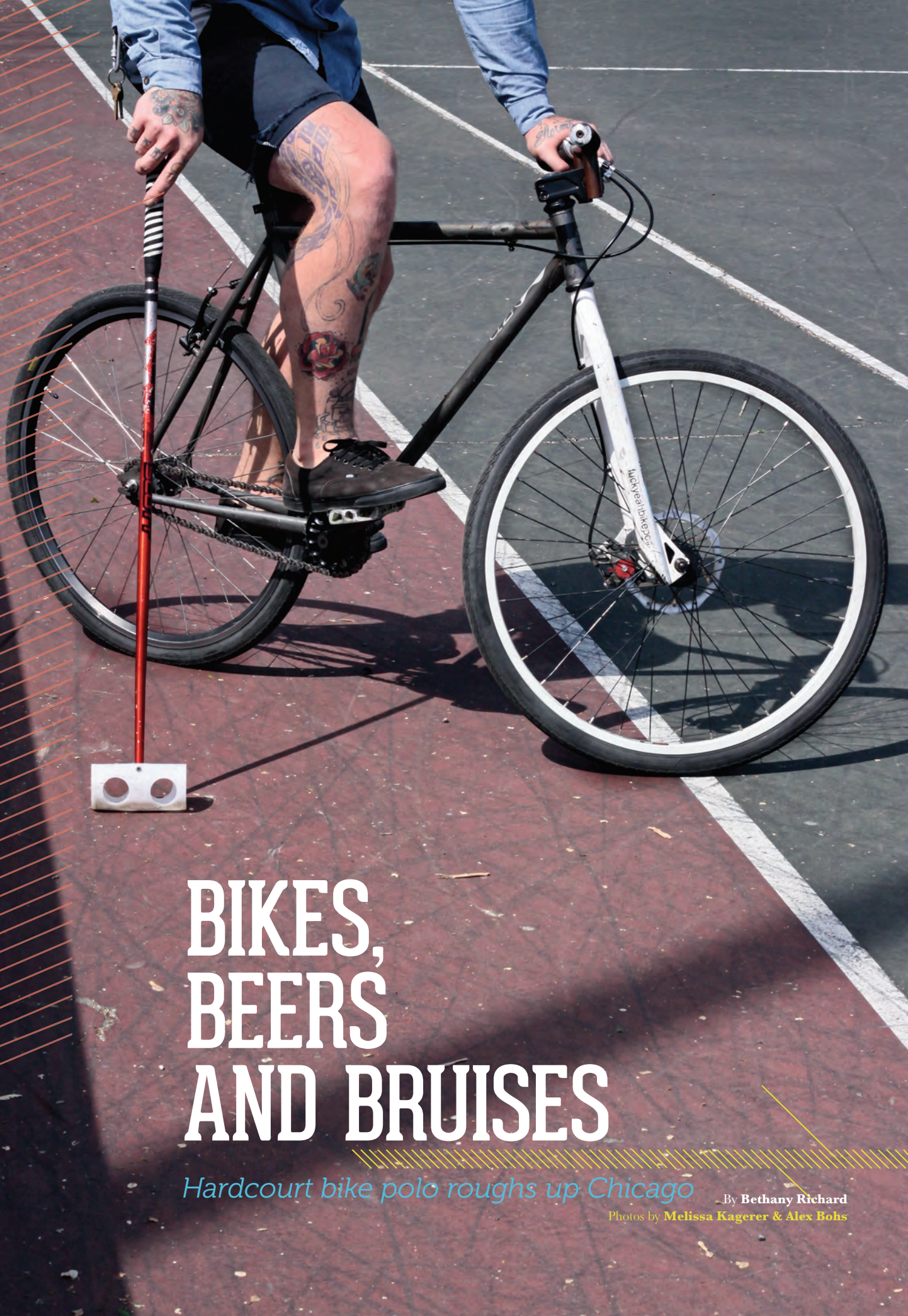
You're young and still love tattoos, and the tattoo in question is of good quality and could easily be altered. Book the next appointment at your local tattoo studio. "Tattoo modification allows the user to keep the offending tattoo by working with a tattoo artist to create a second tattoo [as a cover up]," says Zac Deluc, a tattoo artist formerly of Classic Tattoo Studio.

If you got mostly Bs :: *Try topical fading cream.*

You're a little older and perhaps less enamored by tattoos, but you are not necessarily finished with them. Try Fadeplex or Wrecking Balm, which are designed to fade a tattoo over time. Results will vary, and the area may resemble the color of a black-and-blue bruise, says Deluc. Try it if you're in a pinch for money and time.

If you got mostly Cs :: *Go for laser tattoo removal.*

You're even older and in a profession that discourages tattoos, or you're just plain sick of it. A laser procedure can fade most of a tattoo, but results depend on the depth of the tattoo ink and the color. Lasers also can have a hard time distinguishing between ink and skin. "Colors such as green and yellow, which resemble skin tones, are harder to remove," says Mark Mass, MD, a physician at the Tattoo Centers of America. Be prepared for several trips; the number of treatments needed ranges from three to 15, depending on the tattoo's size. If the lasers don't work, surgery is another option, but that can leave scars.



BIKES, BEERS AND BRUISES

Hardcourt bike polo roughs up Chicago

By **Bethany Richard**

Photos by **Melissa Kagerer & Alex Bohs**

Rule Number 1 :: Don't be a dick.

There are other, more technical rules to hardcourt bike polo, of course, but this one's the most important. It dates back to when the game was self-governed and referees were scarce, when it helped keep players safe as mallets and balls flew through the air.

"It's a wild enough sport as it is," says Tucker Schwinn, 25, a redhead whose thick-framed glasses help to distract from the gaping hole in his cut-off shorts. Schwinn is the designer of the Joust, a Fleet Velo bike created specifically for bike polo—another sign of the sport's growing popularity. "You have to trust the people around you because [players] already get hurt," he says. It's true. Broken bones and gashes that require stitches are a possibility.

Hardcourt bike polo is a lot like the game with horses, only there are elements of hockey thrown in. It involves two teams, six players, and one roller hockey ball. The players race up to the ball, trying to knock it into the goal on the opposite side of the court. If a foot touches the ground, the player is out. What's more, all contact must be "like contact," which means mallet-to-mallet, bike-to-bike, elbow-to elbow. Shady moves like T-boning and chicken winging are not permitted. Neither are wild swings with a mallet and denting another player's bike. (See Rule Number 1.)

The game is pretty rough. Even as a spectator, I received a few battle wounds of my own: a flying mallet head hit my shin, followed by a roller hockey ball to the face mid-interview. But the players take it in stride. "We have a higher tolerance for pain than most people," says Mick Costello, 25, a cook at RIA in Chicago. "You go home and you got deep gashes—you're like 'that's cool, that's a normal day.'"

Costello's girlfriend, Marisa DeBlois, 24, isn't worried. "There are some pretty terrible injuries, but you're more likely to get hit by a car on your way to bike polo," she says.

Still, Ben Schultz, 35, a mechanic at Rapid Transit Cycleshop and the man who started hardcourt bike polo here in Chicago, recommends investing in knee pads. It's also a good idea to place caps on both mallets and handlebar ends for protection. Helmets should always be worn (they're required in tournaments).

Rule Number 3 :: Find the right place to play.

For four years, the Chicago Hardcourt Bike Polo team has been playing on the tennis court-turned-roller hockey rink near the Garfield Park Conservatory. They say the neighborhood has generally been accepting of the swarm of hipster-looking guys on bikes. "It's cool what they do. They seem like nice kids. They keep it clean," says Regina Gray, 55, a life-long resident of the neighborhood.

The players also say it was a little rough in the early days when local kids ran off with players' bikes and belongings. But things are a lot friendlier now. "We'll go into a liquor store and the people ask if we're playing today," says Abraham Oshel, 28, an application development specialist and Pilsen resident. He says even the cops have warmed up to them. "Now they're like, 'Isn't it too cold to play bike polo?' over their PAs," he says. The answer is generally no. The players will shovel snow off the courts in the winter so they can play. "People will drive out with salt and shovels and chip all the ice off to play for two or three hours," Costello says. But some days they stay in and play video games. Either way, mad respect.

Finding a location isn't always easy. Schwinn recalls playing

"Some people just call me a badass and I like that. Polo is empowering for me, especially being a woman in a male-dominated sport,"

— **Megan Mazzei**, a 24-year-old student at Harold Washington College

in Pilsen under the I-94 bridge. "It's just like Mario-land. There are little tents where homeless people are sleeping and sometimes the ball would go in there. It was really surreal to have cars going above you." That set up didn't last for long. Having a regular court is a privilege for bike polo players. "In Milwaukee, they used to play in a parking garage; it was kind of an epic spot at the art museum. They all got arrested," Schwinn recalls. The Milwaukee players eventually were given a space in a part of town that was less populated.

Rule Number 4 :: Mix competition with play.

The atmosphere at games is very casual. In the downtime, players enjoy chips and beers (312 is a sponsor) from the sidelines. On one Sunday, when would-be players were fighting for a spot on the team for an upcoming tournament, the tryouts looked more like a hang-out with beer drinking and cigarette smoking. There's also a lot of swearing.

Heckling is a big part of the sport. "Insult and drink," Costello says. "It's like a self-esteem test. If you make it through a whole game without crying, welcome to the team. Welcome to bike polo!"





Rule Number 5 :: Share the love.

Players may be tough on the courts, but they're also teddy bears. Goodbyes include hugs and "I love you's" and the camaraderie extends beyond the court.

"No one here really stays a stranger for too long," says Schwinn. This is a community where the lines between teammate and friend intertwine. After games, players hang out together, playing video games or going to bars. Biking is also a lifestyle. Costello, a wild-haired character with gaged ears, rides his bike to and from work year-round and laughs about the dangers of being a cyclist in Chicago. According to him, it's one of the worst cities to ride in. "It's more that people don't notice you than anything. You don't exist," Costello says. The tight-knit culture of this community helps offset some of the downsides of city biking.

Kevin White, 23, a Jimmy John's manager and player on the Lafayette, Ind. team, says the obscure sport creates instant camaraderie. "You can't talk about it with someone who doesn't know what playing it is like," White says. "They're not going to understand strategy, different upgrades, mallets."

Rule Number 6 :: Welcome the ladies.

While dudes are kind of everywhere in bike polo, Chicago Hardcourt is actually a co-ed team. "Some people just call me a badass and I like that. Polo is empowering for me, especially being a woman in a male-dominated sport," says Megan Mazzei, 24, a nursing student at Harold Washington College.

While the major tournaments are co-ed, the ladies of bike polo have created their own showcase for female talent, known as the "Ladies Army."

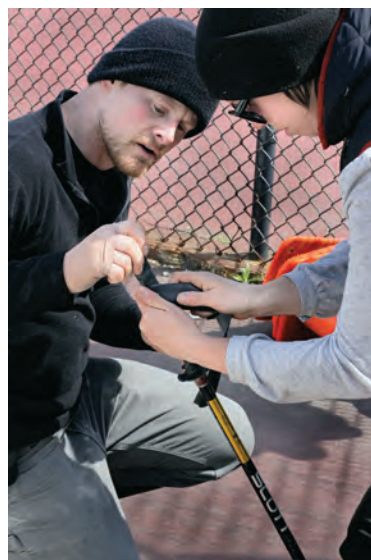
"It's its own entity, but it's not a separate community," Schwinn says.

Rule Number 7 :: Enjoy the perks.

With tournaments comes the ability to travel. Greg "Y'all" Valentine, 25, is currently unemployed, but has traveled to Vancouver, B.C.; Savannah, Ga.; and Pensacola, Fla. Valentine says, "I'm getting to see new places I otherwise wouldn't have had the opportunity to go to or afford."

Some Chicago Hardcourt players even traveled to Berlin for the World Hardcourt Bike Polo Championships in 2010 on Schultz' tournament team, "Machine Politics." Chicago placed second at the tournament, behind the Milwaukee Beaver Boys.

Still, few people know about the team. That may change if the game's popularity and the team's reputation continue to grow. Hey, the game may be coming to a tennis court or roller hockey rink near you. Or maybe even a court that is solely reserved for bike polo. In the meantime, there will be three things for sure in Garfield Park: beer, bruises and love. ▼▲





STREET BARD

By **Chelsea Johnson**
Photos by **Hannah Dunsirn**

All the World's a Stage for Shakespeare Man

When it comes to street-level proselytizers in Chicago, the man outside of Old Navy is so well known he's a check-in spot on the popular app Foursquare. Far fewer know 64-year-old Elijah Attala Ayers Muvla, a.k.a. the Shakespeare Man, who has been standing outside Yolk restaurant in the South Loop for the last seven years. Instead of providing a running commentary on smoking, homosexuality, and women's rights to wear pants, Muvla offers up courtly greetings and his own pearls of wisdom. The name's a bit of a misnomer. He rarely quotes Shakespeare, but he does speak in Elizabethan English.

"Hello, my fair lady! It's beautiful out, is it not?" he asks a woman in business attire as she passes the Michigan Avenue restaurant. Although it is an unseasonably warm day, he's dressed in a thick yellow windbreaker, and his five oversized dreadlocks are partially covered by a dingy, black skullcap. As he bows to her, she pays him no mind. He swiftly turns toward me, fully aware I've been observing him and recording his every word, and says, "See? She does not want an old toad like me talking to her! It is not right!"

Some weeks he's there five times for about three hours a day. Muvla leaves his small Rogers Park apartment and travels more than an hour to the restaurant, where he attempts to engage patrons and downtown commuters in colorful conversations. When there's no one to address, he feeds scraps of old bread to the pigeons near the flowerbeds. Despite his efforts, conversations are usually one-sided. He's often ignored, but he says it doesn't bother him. He claims to have dealt with far worse in 15 years of living on the streets—from having his nose broken six times to enduring beatings that left him unconscious.

"This is what happens when you're like me and you stand in a neighborhood with people with all this money. They feel odd when they have someone around them like me. And I'm a threat just by evoking that emotion in them," he says.

Yet, not everyone that walks past him on the sidewalk seems disturbed by his presence. One gentleman who lives in the building next to Yolk stops, pulls out a money clip, and places five dollars in Muvla's waiting hands.



"Oh, they good people. They always give me something to eat and drink. But they can't help it. I'm so old and ugly, why wouldn't they?"

— Shakespeare Man —

The gesture makes the Shakespeare Man happy, so he thanks the businessman by bowing and calling him "Governor."

This is only one of many donations he will receive that day, he enthusiastically explains. He says he stays in front of the restaurant until he has enough money to buy groceries for that afternoon or evening.

"Come here, my good man, come here. Let me talk to you," Muvla calls to a gentleman he says he sees regularly. "You're looking mighty well in that new sports jacket, aren't you, Governor?" His praises and compliments seem to work.

"My message is give mercy to the poor bum,"

— Shakespeare Man

The man nods his head and laughs while reaching for his wallet.

While waiting for the young man to complete the transaction, the Shakespeare Man brings my presence to the man's attention, referring to me as Cleopatra, which is comical to not only me, but also the gentleman handing Muvla a five dollar bill and a few singles.

Instances like these are why he calls standing outside of Yolk restaurant his "job," at least until he finds other means to support himself. The restaurant has no objection to his presence, says Yolk's manager, Curtis Hagger, who has seen customers buying muffins for Muvla.

"All of us in here think that's he's pretty freaking awesome. We don't have a problem with him, so we don't cause any problems for him; he's never done anything to us," Hagger says. The Shakespeare Man appreciates the generosity.

"Oh, they good people. They always give me something to eat and drink. But they can't help it. I'm so old and ugly, why wouldn't they? I'm not stealing nothing. I ain't taking nothing," he says.

He says he plans to stick it out until he's no longer poor.

"My message is give mercy to the poor bum," he yells, drawing attention to himself once again.

He also has a back-up plan: publishing his autobiography, which he says will tell his tale from his beginnings in Tanzania.

"It's called *The Ugly Perspective by Mr. Ugly* and I shall have it out real soon. I got about a chapter and half to go," he says, grinning and feeding the last of his bread to the pigeons.

In his autobiography, Muvla says he tells about his journey as a young boy in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, traveling throughout the mountains to visit family for long periods of time while his Tanzanian father worked for the U.S. Air



Force in the United States and started a new family with a woman in Alabama.

He says he raised 18 children whom he doesn't want to burden by asking for help. "They get pissed off because I won't come stay with them. They're doctors and lawyers and business people because I made sure they got through college," he says.

How much of this tale is true? "I'm an old, ugly lying ass rascal. And I'm a stinky, old toad," he says. "But I'm telling the truth about me. Can you say the same?" ▼▲

IF YOU BARE

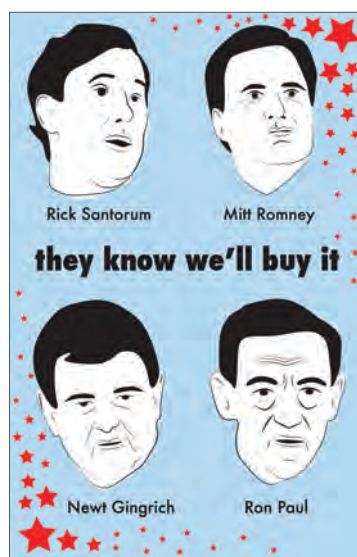
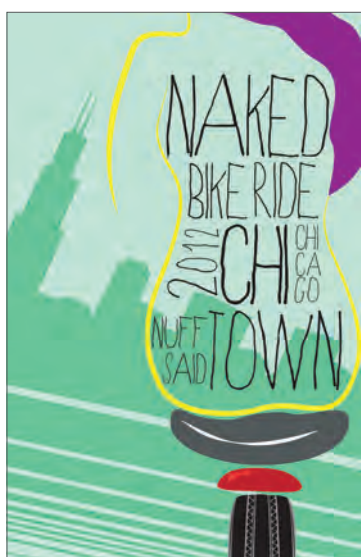
The winner of the Echo's poster contest

By **Aaron Pylinski**

This year, *Echo* married our print content together with our website in holy matrimony. The idea was to commission two of our talented designers, Shuky Leung and Brett Capen, to create promotional posters for important current events and ask our website audience to vote for the best one. The subjects we chose were the World Naked Bike Ride, the GOP Presidential race and the NATO Summit.

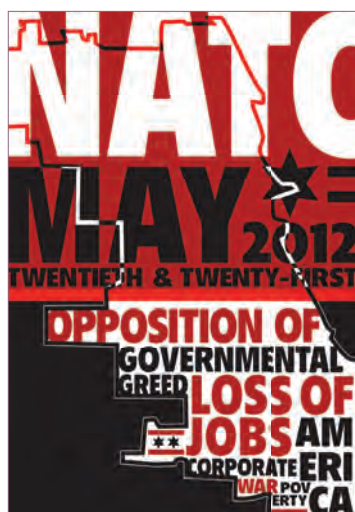
Our followers voted, and we're printing the winning poster here. It was a close race between the World Naked Bike Ride posters. Shuky Leung's "Less Gas, More Ass" won with 190 of the 407 votes cast, while Brett Capen's "Nuff Said" was a close second with 184 votes.

Our thanks to everyone who voted. ▴▾



Brett Capen

Shuky Leung



June 9 2012



Less Gas More
Ass

CAFFEINE QUEST

ENERGY DRINKS ARE NOT THE ANSWER

By Christine Petrick

Illustrations by Melissa Rohr





There are 1,440 minutes in every day, and some people want to be alert for every one of them. They drink Red Bulls as though they were water, snort Ritalin and consume coffee with as many as four shots of espresso to stay awake.

Miranda Jolene*, a 20-year-old hair stylist, used to drink four Red Bulls a day along with two or more Adderall pills, or "Addys" as she fondly calls them, until she ended up in the emergency room vomiting up blood. She was diagnosed with stomach ulcers, which were attributed to her excessive caffeine consumption. She tried cutting back, but soon she was back to the caffeine level where she started; she just switched to drinking a couple of Monster energy drinks in place of the Red Bulls. "Caffeine and stimulants are my best friends," she says.

Jay Sullivan, 24, a student at Illinois State University and a part-time mechanic, drinks about four cups of coffee within an hour of getting out of bed. Then, to ward off headaches caused by caffeine withdrawal, he pops pills with up to 1,000 mg. of caffeine, washing them down with three cans of Pepsi. That may seem like a lot, but he's actually cut back on the soft drinks; he used to drink about 12 cans of Pepsi a day. That is, until he was diagnosed with heart disease caused by a combination of bad genes, excess weight and penchant for greasy food, he says.



Jay and Jolene may be extreme, but caffeine consumption has been on the rise across the U.S. in the last decade. According to the National Coffee Association, Americans' consumption of coffee and gourmet caffeinated beverages increased 26 percent from 2000 to 2011. Sales of energy drinks, which appeared in the U.S. market in 1997 with the introduction of Red Bull, are expected to reach \$19.7 billion in 2013, according to the British consulting firm Datamonitor. That's more than twice the sales in 2008. These drinks contain large amounts of caffeine. Monster Energy, one in a line-up of drinks that include M-80 Energy + Juice and Monster Assault, contains 160 mg. of caffeine per can, about the same amount as 4.5 cans of Coca-Cola, according to the website Energy Fiend. Starbucks can top that; a Grande coffee has 330 mg. of caffeine.

"Not everyone thinks about what caffeine is doing to their bodies because they see consuming it as a necessity to get through the day," says Azadeh Aalai, PhD, a social psychologist who teaches at Montgomery College in Maryland.

A person consuming too much caffeine can become wired, anxious or tense and have difficulty concentrating, says Sheldon Greenberg, MD, a psychiatrist with expertise in addiction and forensics. Caffeine also stimulates insulin, which can lead to a drop in blood sugar, which in turn causes a person to become tired or crash.

Caffeine also blocks the neurotransmitter adenosine, which promotes sleep, according to Lawrence Epstein, MD, of Harvard Medical School, and that can have serious consequences. Sleep plays a key role in memory, mood, motivation and judgment. And a lack of it puts people at a higher risk for hypertension, diabetes and obesity.

"We are a very sleep deprived culture, leading some researchers to refer to Americans as 'walking zombies.'"

— Azadeh Aalai, PhD, of Montgomery University

Signs of overconsuming caffeine from person to person, says Elif Oker, MD, medical director for the insurer Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois. Symptoms include jitteriness, shakiness, higher blood pressure, higher heart rates, and abnormal heart rhythms. "The dose at which a person can experience these symptoms varies from person to person," she says. "One cup of coffee can cause problems for some. Other medications consumed with the stimulant drug can also [have an] impact." Overdoses of stimulants can lead to heart attacks, strokes, and abnormal or life-threatening heart rhythms, Oker says.

If people are turning to caffeine and stimulants because they feel they need more energy, that raises the question: What is a realistic amount of energy? "Appropriate energy is when you're obviously feeling alert throughout the day to conduct your activities," Greenberg says. If you have enough energy to accomplish routine daily tasks, then you should not need to boost your energy with drugs.

**Miranda Jolene's name was changed to protect her privacy.*

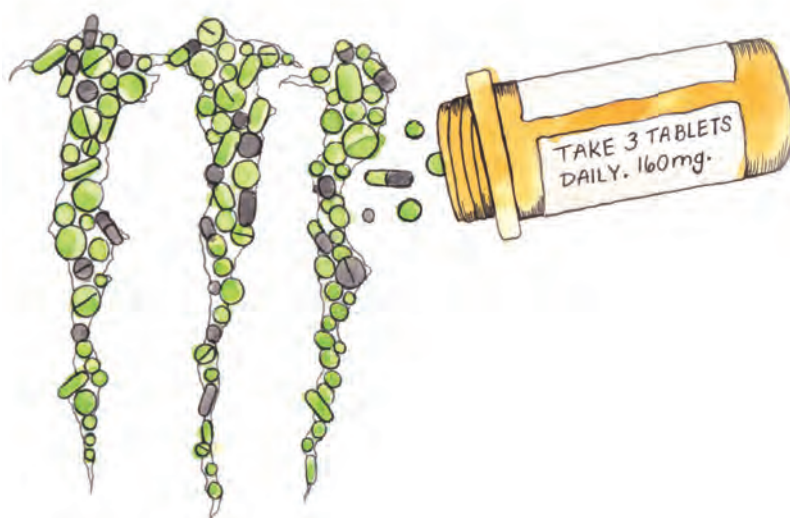


It may be tough for people to settle on a reasonable number of activities, but Aalai believes people's reliance on caffeine and other stimulants is a function of the amount of multitasking expected of them. "The technology and expectations put on people's time today is certainly indicative of a faster-paced world that is challenging for us to keep up with. Our brains are not wired for multitasking so we do not do it well, but nonetheless we are all trying to do several things," she says.

So how much is too much? A number of doctors recommend that people drink no more than 200 mg. per day. "I'd say two cups of coffee is enough along with three meals and two snacks a day. Anything more than that, again, is excessive," says Jannette Klepek, D.O., of Loyola Medical Center in Hickory Hills, Ill.

As an alternative to relying on stimulants, Greenberg focuses on developing non-medicinal strategies to increase both attention and energy, including cognitive behavioral therapy. And Aalai emphasizes the age-old remedy: getting more sleep. "We are a very sleep deprived culture, leading some researchers to refer to Americans as 'walking zombies,'" she says.

Exercise may help with both energy and sleep. "Exercising will stimulate endorphins. People who exercise tend to sleep better and get into a deeper sleep," says Klepek. "I always tell people to exercise five days a week for 30 minutes a day. If you really stick with that, you will sleep better and your energy will be much better." ▲



DREAM WEAVER

Photo essay by **Ashley Fischer**

If you could be anything, what would you be?
Echo gave four students a chance to exhibit their inner identities.

A full-page photograph of a young man, Austin Echols, performing on stage. He is wearing a black mesh long-sleeved shirt with holes, dark jeans, and black boots. He has colorful face paint on his left cheek and is singing with his mouth wide open, hand raised. In the foreground, another young man is seen from the side, wearing a purple t-shirt and playing a white piano. The background is dark with stage lighting.

"I want to be a rock star because it's something I could see myself doing in the amazing industry we call music."

Austin Echols, 20, vocal performance major, dance minor, toured the world with a professional choir after high school.



"I have always idolized Rose's strength mixed with her gracefulness in *Titanic*. I was able to embrace that power she harnesses throughout the movie."

Emiley Smith, 21, photography major.




"I wanted to be made into my character from this story so I could embody him in the fullest sense."

Nick Juliano, 21, graphic design major and one-man creative force behind *World's Greatest*, a semi-autobiographical comic book.

"I am hoping to one day open my own dance studio where I can teach on a larger scale."

Gaby Garcia, 25, single mother of three, dance pedagogy major, dance teacher.





By Whitney Feldmann

OUTDOOR EXHIBITS

*Advice from
Chicago street artists*

Think of street art as graffiti's cool older brother. Where graffiti simply marks a territory, street art marks a generation. Although the approaches and materials they use differ, the mission is often the same: to speak for those who feel disconnected from the government and the world around them.

Street artists don't think you should have to enter a museum to see their work, nor do they view themselves as vandals, because their goal is to launch a dialogue about social issues. To these artists, ads strewn across our cities telling people what to wear, eat and drink are the real vandalism.

The beauty of becoming a street artist is that it only requires a strong point of view, a few art supplies and a little advice from a some experienced street artists. We asked three for pointers on how to do it.

{SPADE}



Spade

A Chicago native, 27, recently accepted into the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

She's displayed many of her works in galleries in the Pilsen neighborhood. Her street work is done bare-handed using buckets of white, red, yellow and blue paint that can end up smeared across the entire length of an underpass. One of her pieces features three clown-like heads, one wearing a crown. Another simply states: "Heavy is the head that wears the crown."

"I'm trying to get across absolute truth," she says.

{Where & when to work}

Viaducts can provide huge, blank canvases that are concealed from the wide-open streets, so the risk of being noticed while working is lower here. This is especially good for artists who think big.

"I have developed a real thirst for the large scale and I want it to last...[I] go into a neighborhood where maintenance isn't paramount."

The best times to go out and put up your work will vary depending on the location. Abandoned buildings are easy targets, but you have to make sure surrounding businesses are closed. Hitting the side of a business? Think twice.

It is illegal.





The No-Name Bunch

These 20-something artists have done extensive research on the history of street art and street artists. One is a journalism major at Columbia College, another is a recent film graduate at Columbia, and the third a recent graduate of the University of Illinois at Chicago.

They focus on social media and society's obsession with labels and name brands. They put Facebook "like" symbols on storefronts they like and "add as friend" buttons on bus stops to demonstrate the thin separation between real and virtual lives. They also put the Chanel® and Louis Vuitton® logos on pieces of trash and tape them to garbage cans to see if trash with a designer logo is treated differently.

{What to use}

For beginners, spray paint and stencils may be the quickest and easiest way to get your message across. Be aware, though, most business won't sell spray paint within the city limits even though the ban on sales has been lifted.

F#*k

F#*k, 29, uses many mediums, including wheat-paste posters.

"I played around with images and words and chose to paste up posters of Jesus with contradicting words written in red across his face. An integral part of my message is confusion, but I use Jesus as the constant. No one can confuse Jesus."

{What to say}

F#*k recommends picking a subject you feel strongly about—a political stance or your view on a social issue—then choosing the most succinct way to put your view on display. It may be a word, a phrase or a picture. If your message is as simple as peace, where would you place your peace signs? ▼▲





Home

IN ONE PLACE

A South Side Story

Written by Darryl Holliday // Illustrations by E.N. Rodriguez

My great uncle was born at the Cook County hospital in 1936. He grew up around 35th and State Street, but for the last 40 years he's lived mostly in Englewood, in a house that my family bought 58 years ago.

During those years, he was an Air Force recruit, a Chicago public worker for 20 years, a local newspaper reporter, a yoga instructor and secretary of the Englewood Concerned Citizens Organization in the late 70s.



In all that time Englewood has changed in all but name, from its local economy and its political ward boundaries.



Four generations of my family have occupied this home at some point or another, from my great grandmother to my little sister.

Englewood was founded in the late-1860s, when an area located around newly laid railroad lines, formerly known as 'Junction Grove,' was renamed.



Within 30 years, the neighborhood had largely become a mix of blue-collar, white Anglo-Saxon Protestants and European immigrants from Sweden, Germany and Ireland.



Like other ethnic groups, the local black community consisted mostly of railroad workers. At the time, it was less than 1 percent of the total population.



The railroad industry eventually led to a population boom, a relatively diverse community, and the creation of a popular 'bright lights' district* around 63rd and Halsted.

* A local shopping and entertainment center.

But by 1950 things had changed.

According to Chicago historian Dominic Pacyga, the changes began after WWII, when waves of Southern migration eventually led to labor disputes, cultural conflicts and a radical shift in the neighborhood's demographics.

Real estate manipulation and redlining became commonplace, leading to racial tension.

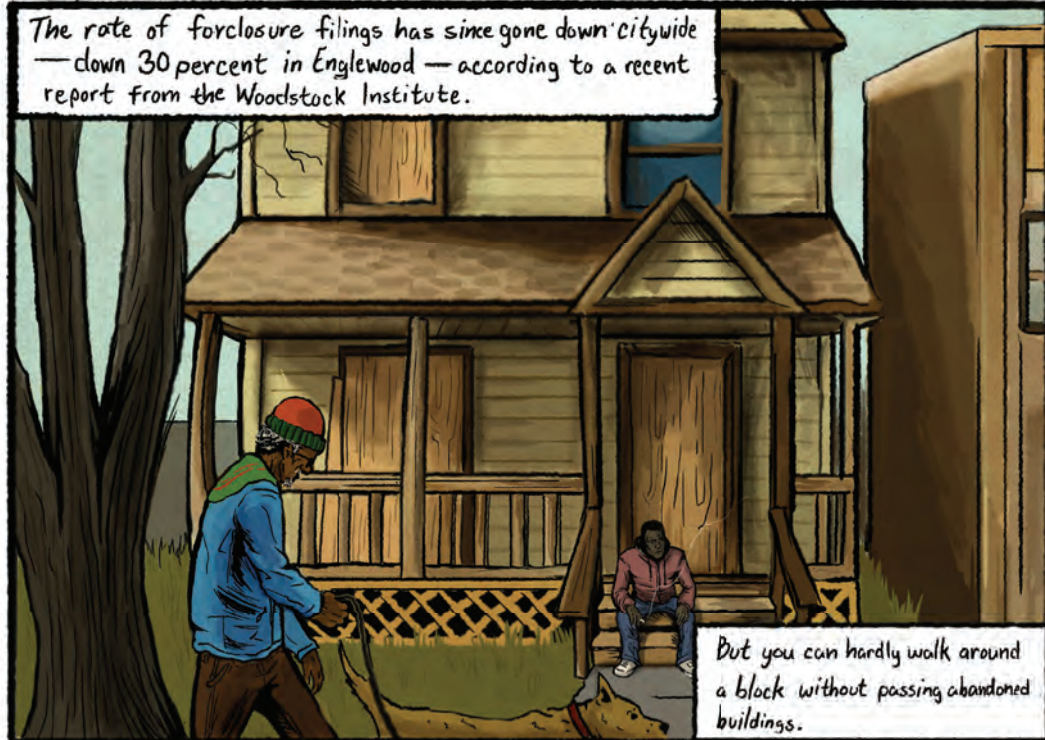


Unemployment rose, properties fell into disrepair and a racial polarity began to form in the neighborhood.

Construction of the Dan Ryan Expressway later displaces thousands of black families —many of which move into Englewood.

50 years go by.





This is disproportionately true for the homes of black residents, who've made up more than 95 percent of the neighborhood since the 1970s.



Families facing an unemployment rate roughly 3 times higher than the citywide average.

At 75 years old, my uncle walks his dog* around the block when he's able.

* Dragonlady



The rails outlining the neighborhood's borders are shut down.

Empty storefronts line the streets around 63rd and Halsted.









Photos by **Hannah Fehrman**
By **Becky Lerner & David Anthony**

CASUALTIES OF COMEDY

When jokes fall flat



There's nothing worse than getting geeked up to see one of your favorite comics live, only to find yourself woefully disappointed. Oh wait, perhaps being said comic is worse. Indeed it is. *Echo* spoke to a few of Chicago's own fantastically funny people about a time they totally tanked.

Ever Mainard
Cat tale

This was my first tour. I was different than the headliner and the Green Bay locals didn't care about my Chicago credits. They also didn't care for my cat jokes, or meth jokes, or really, my jokes in general.

On the last leg of the tour, our host and local DJ asked me how he should introduce me. I told him to tell them I am the new humor columnist for *Cat Fancy* magazine.

It didn't help that the crowd that night was in a horrible mood after a Packers loss.

So the host went on stage and did his bit, and he introduced me as "the new humor columnist for *Cat Fancy* magazine. Ladies and gentlemen—Ever Mainard!"

I wish there were crickets. Instead, as soon as I got on stage, this drunk, scrunchie-wearing woman smoking a cigarette screeched, "We don't like your kind!" to which I replied, "Oh, you're dog people!" From then on it was an uphill battle. I told personal jokes about drug addiction and relatives of mine being addicted. The crowd took it upon themselves to call out all of their friends and family who were on drugs.

When I started talking about the OBGYN, all I got was blank stares. I ended on cat impressions, but at that point they had started talking on cell phones and playing pool. I am used to improvising and riffing on my feet, and this tour really helped sharpen that.



5 Dont's of Stand-Up Comedy

1. Don't steal other comedians' jokes.
—*Ricky Gloré*

2. Never blame the audience if they're not laughing.
—*Ever Mainard*

3. Don't feel like you have to stick to your script.
—*Ranjit Souri*

4. Don't get too tipsy before hitting the stage.
—*Ricky Gloré*

5. Don't burp onstage. It just make you look sloppy.
—*Ever Mainard*.

Ranjit Souri

Music man

When I first started doing stand-up, all of my material was musical. I would lug around a huge, full-size, 88-key digital piano along with a stand and a boom mic for my sets. Typically, I would arrange in advance that the host would do some stand-up while I did my two minutes of hurriedly setting up my equipment before my set. When I was done setting up, I'd nod to the host and he or she would introduce me, and my four minutes would start.

One day I got what I thought was a brilliant idea: Wouldn't it be hilarious if I did all of that set-up with all of that heavy equipment, and then just sang a five-second song, and that was it? I decided to unleash this comedic gem on the "Your Sunday's Best" open mic at Schuba's, which was the most popular open mic in the city.

I wrote a jingle. The lyrics were: "Bring your Sunday best ...to Schuuu-baaa's," followed by a single high "C" on the piano creating a "ding" effect.

So the host introduced me, and as my four minutes began, I started getting out the keyboard and stand and began plugging it all in, during which time everybody in the audience started talking to one another. When I was finally ready to play the song, just about everybody in the audience was chatting. I performed the five-second jingle. Then I turned off the keyboard and started breaking down my equipment. What I had envisioned was that now there would



be a huge wave of laughter and applause. What happened instead was that people continued the conversations that they had been having during my set.

As I continued breaking down my equipment, the host for that night – one of my favorite Chicago comics, James Fritz – took the mic and gamely did his best to grab back the energy that had been completely sucked out of the room by my debacle of a set. As soon as my set was over, I quickly gathered my equipment and slinked down the stairs and out into the cold, lonely night and metaphorically tossed those four minutes of material into the city's winds so they could never stain a stage again.

Nellie Huggins

Lost in translation

The last time that I did really poorly was at an open mic a few years ago. It was awful. There were some cocktails involved because it was a pretty late night (open mics aren't usually the most formal or sober events in the world). I got up and didn't come as prepared as I thought I had. I'm so used to sort of just being funny and doing essays and getting reactions from that I was just like, "No problem, stand-up will be a piece of cake."

So I got up and just started doing what I normally do, like a piece of prose, and it went horribly.



I didn't really handle it that well. I sort of just barreled through and then ran off stage. That's also when I started making the decision that I should maybe stick to different types of performance.

I had done Improv and had gotten decent laughs and I'm a good writer, so I feel like I took stand-up for granted a little bit.

I had studied stand-up, and followed stand-up, and I write about stand-up and I see stand-up. But once I got up there and realized how horribly it could go, I got a whole new respect for my friends and peers and people who do it. Just being a good writer and being a good improviser does not make good stand-up. It's an entirely different format, and I learned that the hard way.



Ricky Glore

Chair wars

At a comedy festival where I was working, I was playing one of the tents next to the main pavilion stage. And one of the headlining comedians hits the main stage—it's a really well-known comedian who plays a toaster as a musical instrument, just so you know—and he goes on and I'm already into my half hour set, and it's the last sets of the night.

I've got like 100 to 150 people in my tent, and he's got 200 to 250 out in the audience. But so many people are going to see him that they're starting to run out of chairs in his pavilion. People are going out to the surrounding tents and taking chairs. Well, I still have people coming to my tent, and they start getting pissed about the chairs being taken, but they don't do anything.



Well I notice and I say, "You know what we need to do? We need go back over there and take back our chairs. We should take any empty chairs they have and bring them back. We've got people wanting to sit down, too."

So slowly there starts this tiny riot in my tent of people like, "Yeah! Yeah!" (And this is a drinking festival, so there are some pretty inebriated people.) So basically, it's like having two sports teams: There's my team of 100 to 150 riled-up dudes in cutoff t-shirts and tank tops who've been in the sun drinking all day, and his team of 200 to 250.

The comedian on the main stage notices a little bit of commotion in my tent. So we start bantering back and forth about which audience is better: his or mine. This is all playful joking around about whose audience could kick the other's ass. Then, as this is going on, actual fights break out in small pockets of drunken people.

So this cop brings a guy up to me in handcuffs and goes, "This gentleman told me that you incited a riot." And I go, "Oh no, you can't arrest him! We were joking." "Well this guy picked up a chair with someone in it and tossed the person out of it. You have to stop this." So me and the comedian were trying to make peace out of the total drunken chaos. But it was like I was a superstar in my own little tent because my audience was so behind me.

Kelsie Huff

Ladies' night

I always tell people, you have to schedule your failures. That's like the whole point of open mics is to start loving when you bomb. It's gonna happen, more often than not.

I'm like a super, super aggressive comic, so people aren't like "Get off the stage!" What happens to me is that a lot of older ladies want to be my friend on stage. It's really odd.

I had this one experience where I was on stage telling this story and this kinda drunk lady was like, "Oh, that happens to me!" She wanted to have a conversation, and it's like, "Alright, lady, we can be friends after the show, but right now I have to talk."

When I first started out in the world of comedy, I went to a bar in Wrigleyville (which is always a risk) and there were a whole bunch of drunken dudes being douchy. So I walked up to the stage and they're wasted and one of them is trying to have a conversation with a lady at their table. As soon as they saw me they were like, "BJ drinks!" and they chanted that through my whole set. That was great.

I mean, pretty tame. Nobody's ever puked on me, and that's happened to people.



Where are they now?

Ranjit Sourì

performs at open mics and showcases around the city. You can catch him at the iO Theater doing a musical sketch comedy every Saturday night with the Cupid Players (3541 N. Clark St.).

Kelsie Huff

performs stand-up around the Chicagoland area, from clubs to colleges – anywhere that will pay her or at least give her doughnuts.

Ever Mainard

is the host of Shit Show Open Mic at The Shambles (2050 W. Division St.) and a cast member of the esteemed Chicago Underground Comedy at the Beat Kitchen (2100 W. Belmont Ave.).

Nellie Huggins

writes about comedy for Gapers Block and the Examiner. She performs one-off shows all over the city.

Ricky Glore

is an understudy and writer for "Bye Bye Liver," a Chicago sketch show. He continues to perform around Chicago (3220 N. Lincoln Ave.).

HIDDEN GEMS

Eclectic art spaces you shouldn't overlook

By **Eric Witt**

Photo by **Bernice Fountain**

Chicago boasts art venues and galleries of international renown. But it's also home to secret spaces unfamiliar even to most local folks. If you're looking for something inspiring and a little out of the ordinary, *Echo* has you covered.

Heaven Gallery ::

heavengallery.com
1550 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Eccentric, temporary exhibits adorn the walls of this vintage clothing shop, and musicians perform in a large open space among paintings by local artists. This subtle and simple haven has carved its own vibe over the last decade, and now it's more than locals who are making their way to Heaven.

Go for :: Protest Heaven on Saturday nights. Listeners can expect anything from free jazz to ambient/experimental performances.

Temple Synphorium ::

synphorium.com
5602 N. Ridge Ave.

The walls of the glowing "hall of intentions" are peppered with post-it notes inscribed with visitors' goals and desires; a silver Buddha lounges beneath a disco ball. Long lines of lights and the DJ beats beckon to the natural grass dance floor, where glow-in-the-dark walls and toy animals hang from an Astroturf ceiling. These monthly "heart-centered celebrations" are meant to inspire love.

Go for :: Synphoria, a spiritual celebration, sans religion. Leave your political, meat-market and alcohol-induced energy behind; these gatherings are meant to open the mind, not hinder it. RSVP only. Connect through Facebook.

A FEW MORE PLACES TO CONSIDER

Co-prosperity Sphere ::

coprosperity.org
3219-21 S. Morgan St.

Expect socially engaged art, from futuristic photography to ambient soul music, at this Bridgeport gallery.

The Enemy ::

enemysound.com
1550 N. Milwaukee Ave.
3rd Floor

Expect volume at this go-to place for experimental noise in Chicago.

Treasure Town ::

Find more info at
diychi.org

Expect crust, pop punk, folk, grind, straight noise, or anything with a DIY aesthetic on two stages among freak bikes and local art.

Temple Synphorium is part home,
part gathering space.



ANALOG ANEW

By **Samantha Saiyavongsa**

Photo by **Sarah Viktora**

An old-school camera shop finds a future in film

The bright studio walls at A&A Studios in Oak Park are lined with vintage Leicas, 1960s Kodak Instamatics and obscure, clunky Argus cameras from the '40s. A fully functioning chemical photobooth sits in the corner. On a warm summer evening, people wander in and out of the shop, checking out

the cameras, inquiring about renting the photobooths, and chatting with owners Anthony and Andrea Vizzari. What's the attraction? "Nostalgia is a powerful drug," says studio manager Robert Oldham. *Echo* sat down with Oldham and co-owner Andrea Vizzari to ask how well the medication is working.

Echo :: What's it like trying to cultivate an interest that seems to be fading away?

Vizzari :: People can really appreciate the old-fashioned way of doing things, slowing down and taking your time.

Echo :: So I have to ask, how do you really feel about digital?

V :: The truth of the matter is that it's pervasive; it's everywhere you look, and it's convenient. You're going to sometimes miss a moment if you don't just pull the iPhone out of your pocket and take a shot versus loading your film camera.

Oldham :: There are two worlds, and it's apples and oranges, but that doesn't mean you can't like both.

Echo :: How do you feel when people say film is dying?

O :: Here's the essence of why film and all these things from the past are going to survive: It's because of the conversion to digital, because of the Internet. In a lot of ways, digital has saved film.

V :: People find us from all over the world, and they find us online. If it weren't for the Internet, what? Are they going to look us up in the Yellow Pages?

Echo :: How will analog photography continue to grow over the next few years?

V :: I don't see it going anywhere but up. I can't imagine that in three years, for example, it's going to be like Hammer pants.

O :: What, you're not wearing Hammer pants anymore?

A&A Studios
128 W. Harrison St., Oak Park
312photobooth.com
312.278.1144



Imperial camera found
at A&A Studios.

TAKE FIVE

Finding success in the entertainment industry

Save dough

Competition is fierce, and it takes time to be discovered. Set yourself up with a side career, such as an office job or bartending, and build up a safety net. Trac Turner, founder of Boom Crack! Dance Company and seasoned hip-hop teacher-choreographer, recommends having at least \$5,000 in your savings account.

Relocate

If you're not near your industry, you're setting limitations for yourself. New York and Los Angeles are the biggest markets for the dance, acting, modeling and singing world. "My volume of work is not even comparable to any other place in the country, really," says actor and Chicago native David Barnes, who relocated to Los Angeles, where he's able to take advantage of last-minute auditions and opportunities.

Brand yourself

"Know what you will and won't do and stay in your pocket," says Turner. For Barnes, networking and getting official introductions to producers and casting directors is his main route for work. Barnes also attends workshops held by casting directors. Knowing people and continuing to hone your craft can only work in your favor.

Start small

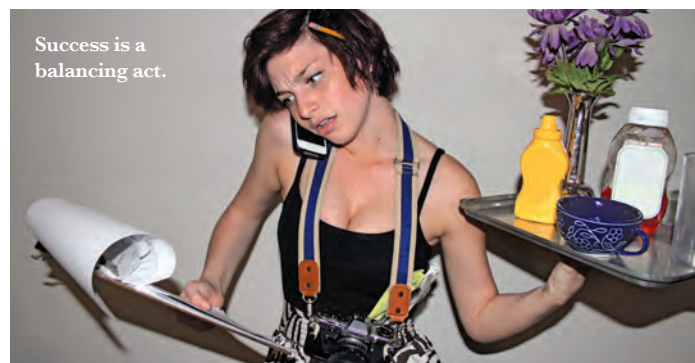
Start with small bookings. Barnes uses resources like actorsaccess.com and castingnetworks.com to seek out opportunities in addition to his

networking efforts. Agencies are great resources for commercial work and often hold open calls.

Be yourself

"Tenacity, personality and confidence can convince the client or agent to forget the rules," says fashion model agent Marie P. Anderson. "You can have an exceptional beauty walk in the door with all the right measurements, but if they can't carry on a conversation with some humility, I'm not looking to represent them."

By **Becky Lerner**
Photo by **Alex Bohs**



YES, YOU CAN HAZ JOB!

College majors of the 21st century

By **Valerie Wojs**

School	Major	Description	Possible Occupations
Northwestern University	Meme Studies (Internet Memeology)	Study how Internet memes reflect and influence society. Finally, a school where "Introduction to Redditleology" is offered as a prerequisite.	Social media expert, professional derp derp.
Moody Bible Institute	Missionary Aviation Technology	Learn about religion. And also airplanes!	Christian missionary, pilot, mechanic, relief worker.
Hot Dog University	Art of the Cart	Combination of hands-on and classroom lessons for starting up your own hot dog cart business.	Entrepreneur by way of the wiener.
Seibel Institute of Technology	Beer Brewing Technology	Get a world-class brewing degree from this 140-year-old college.	Follow in the footsteps of Seibel alumnus Louis Koch, founder of Sam Adams Brewery.
University of Chicago	Big Problems	Explore matters of global or universal concern with classes such as World Hunger, Moments in Atheism, and Role of Animals in Modern Society.	Activist, philosopher, Superman.

iPOTENTIAL

One tablet; 10 ways to use it

Technology evolves all the time, and we're constantly deciding what to do with our outdated gadgets. If you're yearning for a new iPad, take solace by embracing all the ways to repurpose your ancient artifact.

Here are more ways to use your old iPad ::

- 1 ▶ **Frisbee**
- 2 ▶ **Beer coaster/chalice coaster**
- 3 ▶ **Bling (Flavor Flav-style chain)**
- 4 ▶ **Cafeteria tray**
- 5 ▶ **Tiki statue**
- 6 ▶ **Cutting board**
- 7 ▶ **Jousting shield**
- 8 ▶ **Tetherball replacement**
- 9 ▶ **Target practice**
- 10 ▶ **Infant snowboard**



By **Theo Daniels & RJ Roxas**
Illustrations by **Brett Capen**

By **Samantha Saiyavongsa**

Illustration by **Chris Dazzo**

VERTICAL LIFE

Roosevelt students move up in the world

Remember *Zenon: Girl of the 21st Century*, about the character who lived in an orbiting space station in the year 2049? Roosevelt University students couldn't wait that long; they'll be living and working in an all-inclusive, 32-story vertical campus in fall 2012. At 469 feet—a football field and a half

in height—it's the second tallest university building in the country. And although it's the newest campus building in Chicago's South Loop, it's connected to one of the oldest. It joins Roosevelt's historic Auditorium Theatre at four points, literally linking the future with the past.

9th Floor ::

The three-story science center features 10 modern labs with science equipment straight from the future. Faculty offices and classrooms combine to give the center a "community feel," according to Roosevelt's literature.



5th Floor ::

In case you're worried that students will forget how to walk because they don't need to leave the building, this floor is devoted to a recreation center with two multipurpose rooms for exercise, yoga and martial arts.



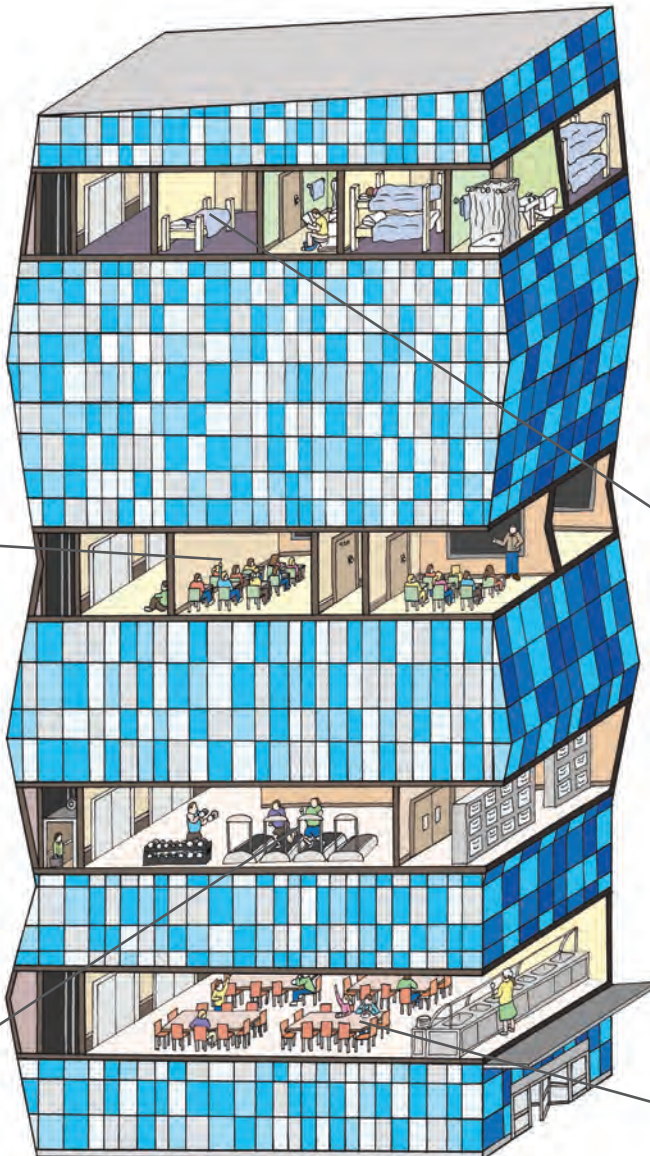
16th to 32nd Floor ::

Because of Chicago's city ordinance that prohibits building east of Michigan Avenue near Grant Park, students get unobstructed views of Lake Michigan. Yeah, that's where more than 600 students will live. *Jealous!*



2nd Floor ::

The dining center seats 300 people, making it the perfect place for socializing with other members of the colony...er, college. There's also a bridge here, called a campus crossroad, connecting the dining center to a lounge in the Auditorium Building.



SHE'S THE BOSS

Chic insight from female entrepreneurs

By **Mariah Craddick**

Photos by **Ashley Fischer**

Beyoncé proclaimed it in her 2011 hit song, “Run the World (Girls).” And we agree. Girls—excuse us, women—do run the world, with an estimated 8.1 million female-owned businesses in the U.S. alone generating over \$1 trillion in revenue and employing 7.7 million people, according to a 2011 American Express OPEN State of Women-Owned Business Report. That’s a lot of people.

“Women want the opportunity to make their own way,” says President of Property Management, Inc. Sarah Gullette-Johnson and member of CRAVE, a support community for women business owners. “Especially when they might feel like their voice isn’t heard in the corporate world. They want to create their own story.”

Just take a look at these three innovative and tenacious young ladies waiting for their reign.

Brittany Burt :: Creations by Brittany, custom photo and web design company specializing in memorials
Age :: 21 **About the business ::** “I hate to say it, but I’ve been to a lot of funerals,” says Burt who started her custom memorial business when she was 13 years old. **Difficulties ::** “When you’re young everybody’s like, ‘Why do *you* want to start your own business?’” **Advice ::** “Make sure it’s something that you absolutely love. They say that the greatest job security is when you can look at your boss in the mirror.”

Yaminiah Rosa :: Purpose Handmade Accessories, repurposed jewelry

Age :: 25 **About the business ::** “There were a lot of materials we saw that just went to waste: from fruit skin to broken records. Those bright, orange plastic warning sign cones – we have jewelry made out of that. But when you see the jewelry, you don’t really think ‘plastic cone.’” **Difficulties ::** “Making good work and something that’s really going to last. It’s also really easy to slack since you are making your own work.” **Advice ::** “Not everybody is going to love what you do, but you have to love what you do. Live in it and be proud of your work.”

Alexandra Threw :: Peachykiki, custom cosplay design

Age :: 24 **About the business ::** “It started as a hobby and I began to realize this was a niche market that didn’t have much competition within, as far as the producers of the garments. I wasn’t expecting this to be a full-time job that could pay my bills coming straight out of college.” **Difficulties ::** “With this being such a specialized thing, I’m getting the problem of having too many orders and I’m only one person. Even people with fashion design degrees don’t know how to make these things.” **Advice ::** “Do a lot of research and know what you’re getting yourself into. As an artistic person, I wish I had taken more business classes.”



Brittany Burt

Yaminiah Rosa

Alexandra Threw



By **Meredith Hoffman**

CREATIVE SYNDICATES

The Craft Mafia takes Chicago

Hoping to cash in on your creativity? Wanting to turn your knitted mittens into money? The Chicago Craft Mafia can help.

Echo caught up with Rebeca Mojica, a Mafia member and the owner of Blue Buddha Jewelry, to learn how the Mafia aids emerging crafters who wish to get into the business, and what it takes to get involved with the *Familia*.

Echo :: So what is the goal of the Craft Mafia?

Mojica :: The Craft Mafia wants to promote the idea of handcrafted goods and explain to the community at large the benefits of buying things handmade and then work with crafters.

Echo :: How does the Mafia accomplish that?

M :: We do community events like the Craft Racket, which is a quarterly networking event. It allows other crafters across the Chicago area who aren't part of the Mafia to learn and see what's going on with various business aspects of crafting like pricing your work, marketing, taking photographs, building a website, stuff like that. And those are all free and open to the public. And we do the DIY Trunk Show as well.

Echo :: Is this a good time for craft?

M :: I think that no matter what is going on politically or economically people really need this outlet to express themselves. Someone takes the time to make something and passes that on to someone else.

Echo :: Are emerging crafters welcome?

M :: Sometimes it's nice to see someone else and go, "Hey, here's somebody else who started out and was just like me. Now look a year later at what they're doing." It's really comforting since crafting tends to be something that's done alone, so this helps bring like-minded people together.

ChicagoCraftMafia.com



BEST OF FEST

A survival guide for fleet-footed fans

By **RJ Roxas**Illustrations by **Liz Elston**

***DISCLAIMER:** *Echo* is not responsible for any foolishness or consequences that may occur. While *Echo* cannot promise that these can be done successfully, we can almost guarantee you a free ride in a police car or sudden rise to fame on YouTube.

You Don't Have a Ticket ::

You will need:

- Athletic clothing
- Running shoes
- A group of other ticketless freeloaders

Optional:

- 3 or 4 friends you wouldn't mind throwing in front of security

Sprint to the entrance. Keep your eyes moving. If you see a security guard within arm's reach, throw the person next to you in his path. Hide in the middle of the runners and force security to pick at them before they reach you. Zigzag! This supposedly only works when you're being chased by an alligator, but why not be daring?



Food Costs Too Much ::

You will need:

- Chips
- Body spray
- Duct tape
- Bottled or canned beverages
- Loose fitting pants with pockets

Optional:

- Buffalo wings in a Tupperware container

(NOTE: DO NOT ATTEMPT THIS WHILE TRYING TO SPRINT TOWARD THE ENTRANCE)

Duct tape your drinks to the back of your calves and the bags of chips to your stomach. If you're really bold, place the container of Buffalo wings in your pocket. To conceal the smell of the food, use enough body spray to make you smell like a walking Bath and Body Works.



There they are, the bright lights, the roar of a massive crowd, and your favorite musicians energetically strutting their stuff on stage. It's the season of music festivals, and it's always good to be prepared for these potential scenarios:

You Hate Mosh Pits ::

You will need:

- Your grandmother or an elderly woman who is still capable of walking and standing for long periods of time

Have your grandmother/the elderly woman grab your arm tightly and scream in fear. When the mosh pit participants stop and stare, have the elderly woman scold each and every one of them until their heads hang in shame. Continue to enjoy the show without risk of injury. (Optional step: Ask her for ice cream after the show. **DISCLAIMER:** You are not guaranteed a "yes.")



You Don't Have a Ticket (But Your Friend Does) ::

You will need:

- Sunglasses
- Designer clothing
- Cell phone
- Fake press passes
- A friend already inside

Your friend should enter first, wearing a press pass. Wait 20 minutes before walking to the entrance. Have your cell phone out. When security asks for your ticket, tell them you're a VIP and point to your press pass. Security may allow you to enter. If not, simply call your friend. When your friend arrives with his press pass visible and bails you out, security should feel dumbfounded and let you in.



You Want Front Row Seats ::

You will need:

- Piñata
- Pole
- Rope
- Group of friends

Tie the piñata to the pole. Designate one person as the leader of the group and have him/her hold the pole as high as possible. Begin a loud chant with the group. Starting from the back of the crowd, march toward the stage and chant loudly. Everyone will stare in confusion and move out of the way. Once in front, untie the piñata from the rope and hurl it onstage.



GREAT ESCAPES

Planning your hostel summer takeover

By **Aaron Pylinski**

Illustrations by **Brett Capen**

The vacation bug is biting, gas prices are soaring, and money's tight. Yes, summer is here. If you're looking for affordable travel options, *Echo's* got you covered with three compelling hostelling options.



San Francisco

Where to stay ::

San Francisco City Center Hostel

What you get ::

Bunk bed with linens and towel, continental breakfast, wifi and phone calls for \$36 a night.

What to do ::

Check out the Castro (SF's famous LGBTQ community), Fisherman's Wharf, Haight-Ashbury (beat poet central) and Charles Manson's recruiting home.

sfhostels.com

Arroyo Seco

Where to stay ::

The Abominable Snowmansion

What you get ::

A bed with linens, kitchen access, mini-fridge and wifi for \$22 a night. Or stay in a tipi for \$38 a night.

What to do ::

Visit nearby hot springs, hike mountains, and visit the Georgia O'Keefe museum.

snowmansion.com

Boston

Where to stay ::

Friend Street Hostel

What you get ::

A bed, locker, breakfast every morning and free wifi for \$35 a night.

What to do ::

Grab a bike from Hubway Bike Sharing and head to the Red Room @ 939, where the Berklee School of Music hosts open mics and live shows on Wednesdays.

friendstreethostel.com

THE DARK KNIGHT RETURNS

And returns. And returns.

By **RJ Roxas**Illustrations by **Liz Elston**

Since 1989, *Batman* audiences have seen the role of Bruce Wayne transfer from Michael Keaton to Christian Bale, but what would the Caped Crusader's adventures be like if these actors took the spotlight? Matt Streets, manager of Graham Crackers Comic Books in Chicago, helps sort out this Dark Knight dilemma.



Matt Streets :: Manager
Graham Crackers Comic Books

Keanu Reeves

Batman and Robin's Excellent Adventure

The Good A serious, dark portrayal of Bruce Wayne.

The Bad "Sad Batman" memes start spreading on the Internet.

The Ugly A pair of unlikely villains teaming up. (Mr. Freeze and Catwoman?)



Hollywood thinks that you need to have two villains in a movie, like one isn't enough.



Terry Crews

Everybody Hates Batman

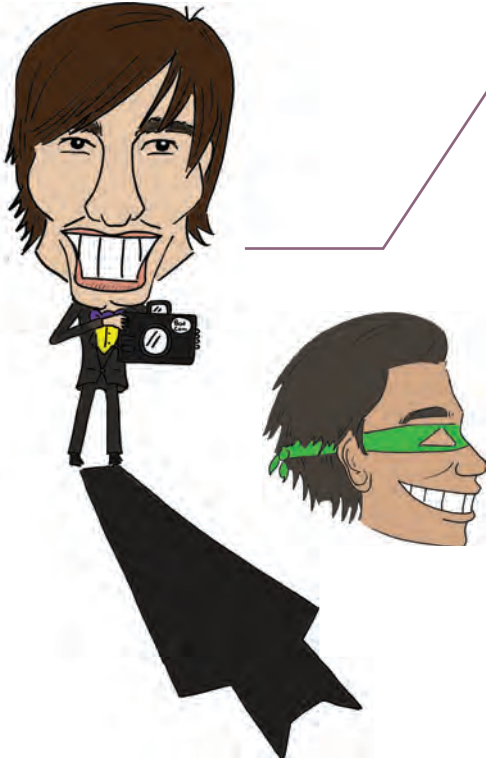
The Good Explosions and action like crazy!

The Bad Bruce Wayne in this sequel will have a new catch phrase. (Hint: "Hello, ladies...")

The Ugly Directed by Michael Bay.

You definitely need a tall guy. You can't really have anyone short unless you're going to do some camera trickery.





Ashton Kutcher

The Batman You'd Love to Hate

- The Good** We won't be thinking about Charlie Sheen while watching this.
- The Bad** Wilmer Valderrama as The Riddler.
- The Ugly** Nikon product placement throughout the film.

When you're talking about people who are going to play Batman, you also have to remember that they have to play Bruce Wayne. They have to be a billionaire playboy outside of the costume.



I'm not just dangerous... I'm Gotham City dangerous.



If you want a sillier Batman, you could watch the cartoons like *Batman: The Brave and the Bold*, but for the movies, they've just gotten serious now.



Seth Rogen

Holy Mushrooms, Batman!

- The Good** James Franco as Robin.
- The Bad** A barrage of drug references that would make a dealer nervous.
- The Ugly** Nicolas Cage makes a cameo.



Harrison Ford: Batman Episode IV

A New Hope for the Return of the Lucas Empire Striking Back

- The Good** Mark Hamill as The Joker.
- The Bad** George Lucas will "digitally remaster" each film.
- The Ugly** A prequel trilogy made 20 years later that doesn't measure up to the original trilogy. At all.

He's not going to pull shark repellent out of his utility belt like he did in the old Adam West movie [*Batman: The Movie*, 1966].



BUS #74

An action movie fantasy

By **Darryl Holliday**
Illustrations by **Eric Bird**



There's something about waiting for the Fullerton bus.



That sets me off.



Jets vs. Sharks style.



Like the elevator scene in *Speed*.
"Pop quiz, hotshot."



Or the bathroom brawl in *The Cable Guy*.
"Stay away from Robin. She's taken."



You never see people waiting for the bus in the movies.