



Kick-starting soccer season

Coach says women's team to come soon



Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

Jason Copeland and Tyson Moore of the Renegades soccer team fight for the ball at a practice on Sept. 19. Coach Pierre Ramirez plans to start a women's team, so long as enough students are interested.

By Jenn Zimmerman
Assistant Campus News Editor

Columbia's intramural soccer team changed things up for its new season, which started on Sept. 17. A new team is in the making for the female athletes out there.

After its first season last year the team strayed away from becoming a co-ed team. Coach Pierre Ramirez, a sophomore audio acoustics major, is trying to establish an all-women's team to balance out the strictly all-male team.

"A lot of girls showed interest [last year] but didn't show up for practices or games," Ramirez said.

Currently the team is part of the SportsMonster.net league, a website that helps intramural teams connect to compete against each other. Ramirez said in order to follow SportsMonster.net regulations there had to be a certain number of women on the field for co-ed games. With participation lacking, it was hard to keep the team integrated when they had no women players.

"The girls were fun to be with," Ramirez said. "They always had a problem every game but I told them I would help them out."

Jessica Nail, a junior advertising major, played on last year's co-ed team. She said that scheduling conflicts largely contributed to women not being able to show up to practices or games.

"It's not like a university," Nail said. "It's expensive in Chicago and we have jobs."

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Plymouth dorm to undergo renovations

Student Center, other amenities to be considered

By Amanda Maurer
Campus News Editor

Columbia students weren't the only ones hauling boxes in and around the Residence Center this fall; a few of the college's offices also moved into the building. However, those are some of the changes that will happen in the Residence Center, 731 S. Plymouth Court, this year.

In addition to moving offices to more convenient locations, the college will finalize plans to revamp the first and lower floors in the Residence Center, which will lead to the creation of new facilities, including a student center.

In the Residence Center, the office of Residence Life moved down the hall from its previous location to a space that could hold all of the staff members. On the same floor students can now find the office of Counseling Services. The office relocated from its old home in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave.

Mary Oakes, director of Residence Life, said these changes have helped organize the campus since related offices are now closer to one another.

"It's making sense in the logic of how things are set up and where students need to go to get the services they need," Oakes said.

Taunya Woods, director of Counseling Services, agreed and said the move has helped the Counseling staff to become a stronger group of professionals.

Despite these changes, administrators said students have not been confused by the moves. They believe this is because a majority of the students who visit the offices are new to the campus this year.

The changes won't end at office switches. College administrators have proposed a number of renovation projects for the Residence Center that will likely begin this summer.

These plans come after a walking tour of campus that several administrators and student representatives took last spring. The tour revealed several areas that the college felt could be reconfigured to better serve students.

The current lack of student space forced administrators to find these more immediate solutions since the college's approved \$90 million campus center, which will include several floors for a student common area, will not break ground for a few years.

Mark Kelly, vice president of

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Getting a closer look at the South Loop's alderman

By James H. Ewert Jr.
City Beat Editor

passes the South Loop and much of the West Loop, for decades. However, many students don't even know she exists.

Amanda Campbell, a junior sociology major at Roosevelt University who lives in the University Center of Chicago, 525

S. State St., said she doesn't know who the alderman is because she just moved into the area, but offered an explanation of why most students don't know either.

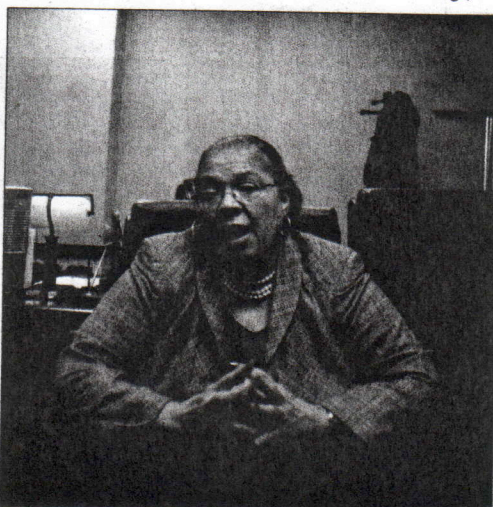
"You can get kind of immersed in the subculture of being a student, and if you're not forced to go outside of the area, many won't," Campbell said.

Appointed by former Alderman Bobby Rush, now a U.S. representative, Halthcock has served as alderman for more than 13 years, winning re-election three times, and will be running again next February in the citywide aldermanic elections.

Her early experience in the state treasurer's office and work as a banker may have helped shape her perspective regarding the role the student population plays in the 2nd Ward's expanding South Loop.

"I see [the students' role] as an economic asset," Halthcock said. "The students are going to buy from the different places, [they're] going to buy food, going [to] buy clothes."

While overseeing the unprecedented economic expansion and development of the South Loop, Halthcock said having 50,000 students in the area has certainly helped. Despite that, the last time she was on campus speaking with students in area, she felt most were



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

Second Ward Alderman Madeline Halthcock sits for an interview on Sept. 19. In 1993 she was appointed to her office by former Alderman Bobby Rush. She has served ever since.

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Haithcock: Supported cell phone, smoking, foie gras bans

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not interested in city government and politics, an opinion that is still echoed by many students.

Jerome Gilbert, a Columbia freshman film and video major, said he doesn't know who the alderman, let alone what ward Columbia is in. Gilbert said he doesn't believe many students at Columbia know who the alderman is, especially those who don't live on campus like him.

Mercedes Baker, a sophomore arts and entertainment media management major, said students should find out who the alderman is.

"I think it's important for you to know your community and know what's going on," Baker said. "Seeing the alderman more would help."

Students' lack of knowledge of the alderman and city government in general appears to be rampant as dozens of students questioned for the story were not able to name the alderman or the ward Columbia's campus is located within. Many students asked said no one had made any effort to inform them of governmental and political happenings in the area.

When Haithcock was asked how she personally has reached out to students, she replied that she has numerous interns.

As an alderman, Haithcock rep-

resents the voice of all her constituents in City Hall, casting important votes on some high-profile ordinances that have been passed recently.

On the smoking ban passed last fall, Haithcock said she voted in favor of it for health reasons.

"Secondhand smoke is worse than smoking," Haithcock said. "I think we should have clean air in the places we go into."

On the recently passed ban of foie gras, an expensive delicacy made of fatty goose liver, Haithcock said she voted in favor of the ordinance, but didn't get too involved with the issue.

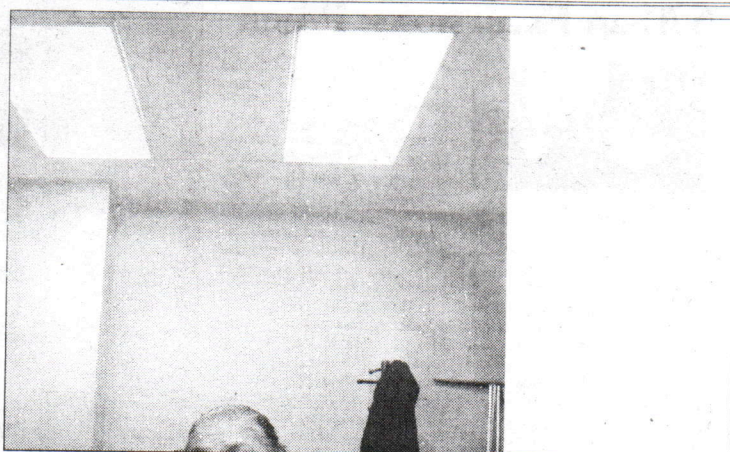
"I just voted, I think, with my colleague, I didn't get into it too much, he just wanted my vote at the time," Haithcock said. "The way they treat geese is just terrible."

On the cell phone ordinance passed a year ago, Haithcock believes the ban on the use of hand-held phones while driving should be passed across the country, but also believes using the phone is only part of the distraction.

"I think it's the conversation more than anything," Haithcock said, adding that she uses a speaker phone in her car. "People get too involved in them."

Lott Hill, assistant director of civic engagement at the Center for Teaching Excellence at Columbia, said getting students engaged with their community is part of Columbia's history. This is reflected in the college's mission statement where it says that conducting education in close relationship to a vital urban reality serves the purpose of engaging students in the life and culture of Chicago.

"We hope that our students will



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

Alderman Madeline Haithcock discusses her voting record and students' roles in the community with The Chronicle in her South Loop office, 1234 S. Michigan Ave., on Sept. 19.

find ways to engage with our local, state, national and international communities based on their own interests and academic pursuits," Hill wrote in an e-mail.

Blake Hausman, president of the Columbia College Conservatives, didn't know who the alderman was, but said he believes students are aware of local news and activities in city government.

"[Students have] at least the knowledge of it and the ability to discuss it, I don't know how involved I would say they are," Hausman said.

Attempts to contact the Columbia College Democrats were made, but the organization was unable to be reached.

Haithcock said that if students really want to see their alderman

more, that is something she could do. She said that students are always welcome to volunteer at her ward office at 1234 S. Michigan Ave; where they could become involved.

The alderman added that help and input on events occurring within the ward during the summer and winter is always welcome.

Although she has enjoyed her time as alderman, Haithcock said there are some drawbacks to the job, one being the media.

"The city works kind of slow, and a lot of things that you and your constituents want to get done, it takes a little while," Haithcock said. "People don't understand, they think it should happen right now."

Columbia president Warrick L. Carter said the school has had a very good relationship with the alderman over the past few years, citing that she has participated in the holiday food drive sponsored by WCRX, Columbia's radio station.

"The alderman has been very supportive of Columbia and our mission of democratic education, access and diversity," Carter wrote in an e-mail. "She is a fan of Columbia as we contribute to the cultural vibrancy of the city of Chicago and has been very helpful and supportive as we work with the city on various construction projects."

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