



# The Herald

Volume 40, Issue 1

October, 2024

## Student feature

Think of drag. You likely are imagining a glitzy show of pageantry. Loud sequins and ruffling feathers atop a voluptuous figure as She struts Her stuff. Big names like RuPaul, Sasha Velour, Trinity K. Bonet unleash their unabashed selves, each known for their distinct style of femme with a capital ME. At Harold Washington, we have a Queen of our own who does things a little different, a little weirder, a little creepier. In time for the eeriest day of the year, The Herald would like to put a spotlight on our own little drag horror. You know Her, you fear Her, hide under the covers, it's Char Gar Gothica.

Luke (20, he/they) always had a flair for performance. As a young aspiring drag artist in their youth, Luke would be found constantly raiding their mother's closet. Their mother had access to many fun and expressive pieces, as a stage performer herself. Having been influenced by the performing arts and to be a apart of this second generation of performers, a young Luke would find lots of success putting together catching outfits, strutting around the place acting like they owned it. Having observed this taste for drag, Luke's mother signed them up for a beginner drag class at the Center On Halsted, a notable LGBTQ+ advocacy center in the Lakeview area.

On stage, Luke becomes the unsettling Char Gar Gothica, a creepy marriage of ostentatious glam that drag is known for, and the incomprehensible horrors found in works of eldritch horror fiction. Char Gar Gothica, or known simply as Gothica is a conduit for Luke to express their love of drag while expressing their nonbinary identity.



Char Gar Gothica taking a selfie\*

Like most of us, Luke has been paying close attention to the current political cycle. They express the importance of making an informed voting decision, and has voiced concern for the possibility of drag shows becoming an underground venture, similar to speakeasies in the 1920s.

Regardless of the outcome of the election, Drag Race on Netflix will likely still be very influential, but "weird" drag Queens such as Char Gar Gothica and other aspiring drag artists could get curbed.

You can find Gothica's performances at the Subterranean. The bar off North Ave. hosts a bi-weekly show called Draggy Tingz where Gothica lip syncs, dance battles, and offers one of the best shows you will see in Chicago.

Drag content on online sites such as YouTube paired with their mother's support inspired Luke to take that leap of faith into the brave new world of drag. Luke is quoted saying "It was interesting to indulge this feminine side without feeling like it said anything about my actual gender." Luke has struggled with toxic masculinity, assigning a timeline to when they officially got into the drag scene as part of their personal send off to the unhealthy gender norms that they have been subject to since transitioning.

Normally, Luke dresses quite comfortably. Sleeveless tanktops with killer iconography are a common sight along with leather jackets and ripped shorts sending a message to the world, this person embodies an edgy cool. That edge is still observed in Gothica's attire, yet Luke feels comfortable wearing clothes outside of their normal dress. At the end of the day at their shows, the makeup and dress is a liberating performance that allows them to express a side of them so foreign and crazy yet so familiar and safe.

Questions? Comments? Concerns?

**Contact us!!!**

**Photographer**  
Tommy Gills  
dgill31@student.ccc.edu

**Staff Reporter**  
Joshua (minimum\_joshie) E. Tharp  
jtharp1@student.ccc.edu

**Co-Editor / Staff reporter**  
Khari Forrest  
kforrest8@ccc.edu

Lucas Pita  
apita8@student.ccc.edu

**Final Layout Editor**  
Jaime Fernandez  
jfernandez223@student.ccc.edu

**Staff Reporter**  
Kaliyma Kemet  
kkemet@student.ccc.edu

# Fun page

"Slightly Spooky" - The Herald, October

Kaliyma Kemet

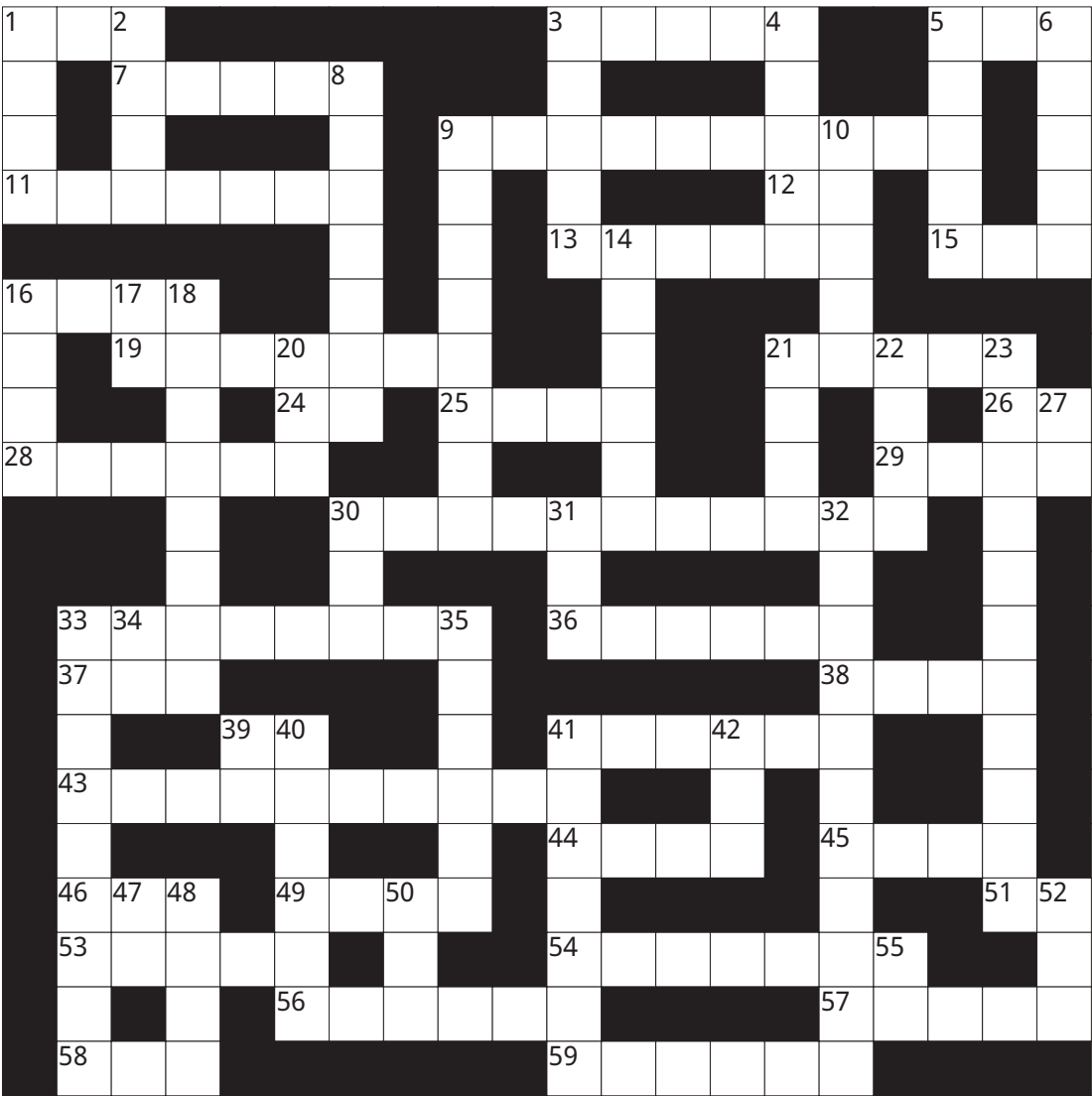
**ACROSS**

- 1 Constricting snake
- 3 Concerning sound in the night
- 5 Pelvic joint
- 7 A yummy base for movie blood
- 9 Bee's hive, ant's hill, \_\_\_\_
- 11 Dorothy's ride to Oz
- 12 Titanium, Abbr.
- 13 Candy bar made to be broken
- 15 "\_\_\_\_ the wheels fall off"
- 16 Blu-ray player insert
- 19 Bloodsucker
- 21 "Jaws" antagonist
- 24 It's tail is a popular Caribbean dish
- 25 Lyft alternative
- 26 Pennywise's debut
- 28 Where one might sit in a witch's Uber
- 29 Underwater tendrils
- 30 Halloween dance that surprisingly does not involve potatoes
- 33 A good pet and a bad omen
- 36 Dead man walking?
- 37 Funerary vase
- 38 Sigh of relief
- 39 Somewhere over the rainbow

- 41 Scooby's expression of concern
- 43 Halloween candy bag
- 44 Sci. with a lab
- 45 Body part for polish
- 46 Mummy music?
- 49 Steals, as in a child
- 51 Aliens, Abbr.
- 53 Reaper's uniform
- 54 Autumn spice
- 56 Ouija board event
- 57 Popular product of 32-DOWN
- 58 Unit of sunshine
- 59 "\_\_\_\_ is believing!"

**DOWN**

- 1 Blood red veggie
- 2 Strangely satisfying YouTube genre (Abbr.)
- 3 Consequence of candy withholding
- 4 Guts for a haunted house
- 5 Nun's uniform
- 6 "I'm a star! Please I'm a star!" film
- 8 A Harold Washington College themed costume
- 9 Some have them in their closets
- 10 Pointy hat wearer
- 14 To set aflame



- 16 "Just a bit", when cooking
- 17 \_\_\_\_ Unit on Law and Order
- 18 Evil spirit of Cabrini-Green
- 20 "The Tell-Tale Heart" author
- 21 A long story such as Twilight or Star Wars
- 22 Popular ancient Egyptian symbol
- 23 Beluga's Halloween costume
- 27 Classic Halloween prank
- 30 Something checked or dropped
- 31 Tabloid news site

- 32 Horror writer with a regal name
- 33 Haunted Trails theme park attraction
- 34 Up, down, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, Abbr.
- 35 Counterparts of 3-DOWN
- 39 "Lil' \_\_\_\_ lady"
- 40 "Wow" as said by Shaggy
- 41 Instructions for a witch's potion
- 42 \_\_\_\_ and Coke
- 47 Weird Yankovic
- 48 Ring-around-the-rosy flower
- 50 Educational TV ad
- 52 "\_\_\_\_ the cows come home."
- 55 Disagreeable response



# Vintage Article

## ~2019

### Gaming club grows with ratification

By Jorge Corral  
Staff Reporter

After a stressful day of school and work, Harold Washington student Carlos Hernandez can count on one place to Smash. Down in the bowels of the Harold Washington College campus, Hernandez and a group of Smash fanatics make the basement come alive during an exhilarating match of Smash at the gaming club meeting. Having only been ratified as an official HWC club this semester, the Gaming Club has quickly gained popularity.

Hernandez, who is also the vice president of the club, is the founder of the gaming club that exists today. He expressed the enjoyment he has gotten from the club, and he described how it came to be.

The school once had a game night, consisting of a few board games and few gaming systems, he said. As a gamer, Hernandez thought he could contribute and started bringing his WiiU. If people were interested, they were welcome to play with him.

Hernandez started bringing his WiiU a few more times, and people took notice that he frequently played Smash and started joining in on the popular video game's matches.

"It was something unofficial that become very big," Hernandez said.

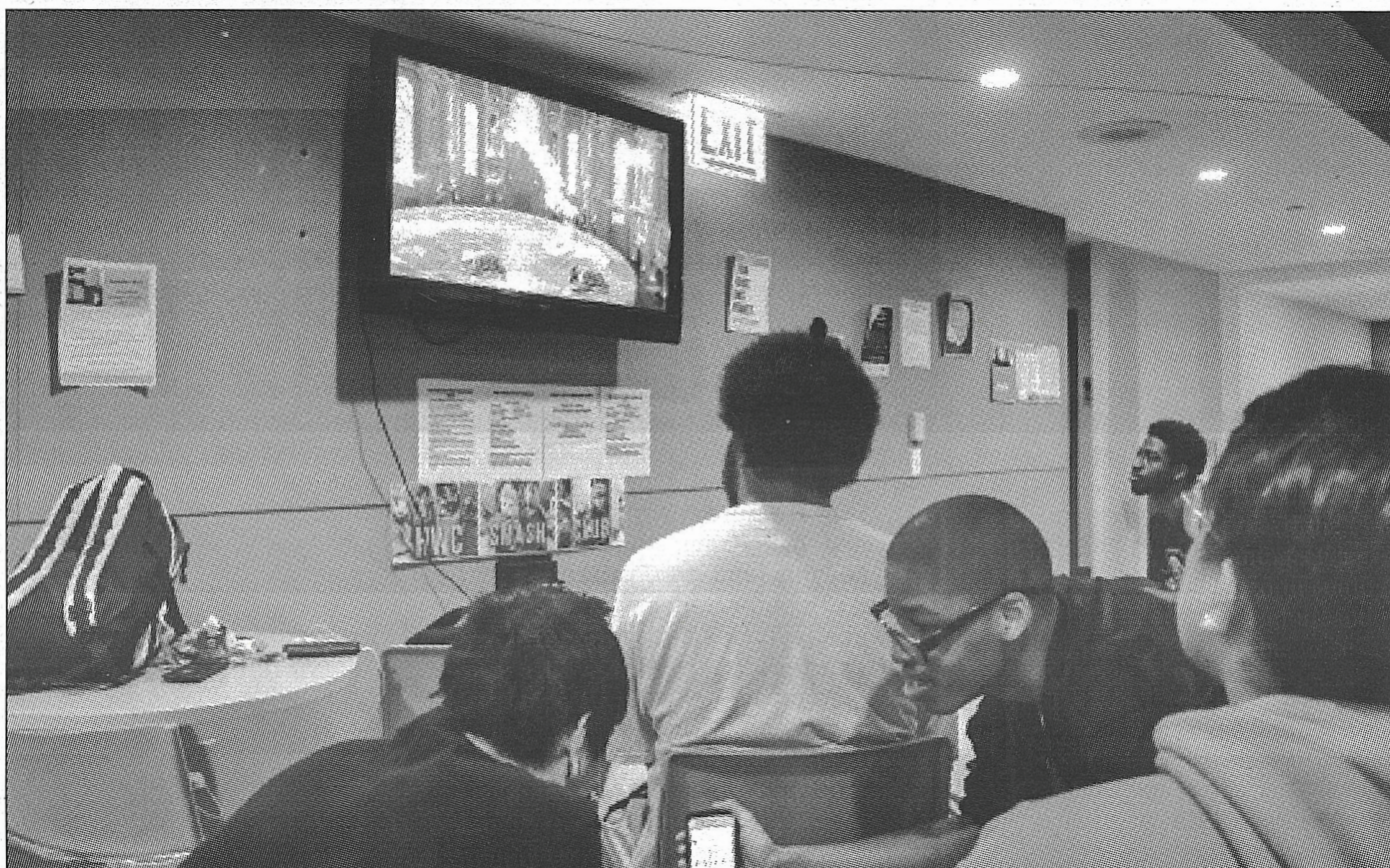
"Personally, one thing that I've always loved doing is seeing others be happy, just be able to enjoy themselves and being able to create a great environment," he said.

"It's [college] a new place; it's hard to make friends, and I think just playing video games has definitely helped me make these friends that have come by. But I think everyone else in this group has just become friends as well to the point where we are just a big family," Hernandez said.

He enjoys the environment a club has to offer because of the stress it can take away from school. Not only that but it is a good way for students to engage in the HWC community.

President of the club Miguel Conchola, or "Doc", said he was pleased to see the club go from a gaming hangout to an official club. He has lots of plans for the club's future.

Doc was one of the unofficial mem-



The Gaming Club takes place in the basement of Harold Washington. (Photo by Bryan Arriaga)

bers before the club was ratified. He thought he could bring his WiiU as well because it was more compact allowing them to have tournaments. Soon he realized that he wanted to make it into a club and started making posters, promotions and an inquiry to the SGA to make the club become a reality.

Without a response from the SGA, Doc took it upon himself to start a mass promotion for the Gaming Club and received a huge response.

"During the first week of school, I was stationed at the stairs for the first three days for about five hours each day," Doc said. "And for Club Day, I did the exact same thing."

His dedication paid off, gaining large crowds. But his dedication and efforts go beyond promotions.

Doc developed a system that gives a council of seven members power instead of just himself. This allows for input of the club members while he is able to finalize them.

It is Doc's last semester at CCC, so he is careful about choosing the next president. Tournament rules and ranking systems of Smash are set in stone to



Gamers are focused while playing Smash Brothers. (Photo by Bryan Arriaga)

keep the club going smoothly.

"Before Gaming Club was ever established, I really didn't do much out of school. But now, I actually have a purpose, I have something to do and I like coming. I have massive plans," he said.

Smash Club is said to have a

Halloween tournament, Thanksgiving event and Christmas event as well as its weekly club meetings.

"Gaming in general is not for any specific person, any specific gender. It's for everyone, that's a big point that we make that we are inviting to everyone," he said.



# We want YOU

HERALD  
OFFICE  
ROOM  
635

## Breaking News:

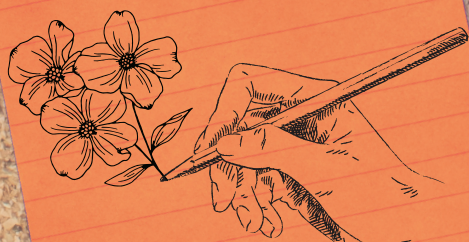
The Herald Seeks  
Its News Staff!



### Come Join The Newspaper!

Spring 2025: English 150 J -  
1256\_60660

Writers, Graphic  
Designers/Familiar With  
Adobe, Distributors,  
Photographers, and  
Cartoonists



Interested? Contact our faculty  
advisor, Rosie Banks, at:  
[rbanks@ccc.edu](mailto:rbanks@ccc.edu)

### *Area Hotspot Photo Credits*

The Richard H. Driehaus Museum. (2024). Home. <https://driehausmuseum.org/>

Conservatory & gardens. (2024). Lincoln Park Conservancy. <https://www.lincolnparkconservancy.org/projects/conservatory-garden/>

Red Light Chicken. (2024). Postcard. <https://www.postcard.inc/places/red-light-chicken-chicago-2>



# Esports

No one expected a marathon to take place in front of ten gaming rigs, but on Wednesday, September 11th, 2024, one of the longest sets of Counter-Strike 2 pitted the esports heavyweight fnatic against up-and-coming M80 not only in a test of skill, but also a test of endurance. It was Europeans against Americans in a two hour long cage match on Anubis, an iconic Counterstrike arena modeled after an Egyptian city set with beautiful sandstone houses and a crystal clear river dotted with beautiful lotuses. This charming backdrop is juxtaposed by the exhilarating duels, cunning strategies, and headshots that make you jump every time you hear that iconic tink sound.

In a virtual duel between David and Goliath, M80 pulled through with a nail-biter of a game, slugging through 16 rounds of overtime leading an overall final score of 37 to fnatic's 34. This comes before the decisive victory where M80 beat fnatic later in the set 16 to 13.

fnatic, being the older and more established team, were projected to win against the newer M80, having much more years of experience in the professional scene.



Image Credit: rizegeeko. (November 21, 2022). Anubis: CSGO's breath of fresh air. Blix. <https://blix.gg/news/cs-2/anubis-csgo/>

The concept of a Counterstrike 2 match going for such a length of time is astounding. Normally, a professional match will typically last for about 34 minutes. A match is split into twenty-four rounds. The team who leads by a majority will win the match. In the event of a tie, six additional rounds will be played until a team leads by two wins. Typically, it is normal to go into a round of overtime, or even two: The match lasting as long as it did (2 hours) trailing into eight rounds of overtime even after the initial twenty-four is a mark of endurance and nerves of steel.

M80 player reck was MVP of that set, attaining an astonishing ADR of 94.7, meaning that every round, reck dealt almost enough damage to eliminate one person off of the enemy team. Each player can take damage up to a value of 100. The type of weapon used and where on the body affects how much health is subtracted from the 100.

reck's performance that day was stellar, as reported by HLTV.org, the internet's premier resource for Counter Strike 2 e-sports, being named "Player of the Match" by 79% of voters who vote for who they think was the most influential per match. reck exceeded well above the average in all categories, attaining a very respectable impact rating of 1.25. Every player is respectable in their own right, however, the topic of this game asks us an incredibly uncomfortable question: are we going too far in our crusade against terrorism?

Counterstrike 2 is a game where players are divided into two teams, one being terrorists and the other being counter-terrorists. The game itself tells a story of the constant fight against terrorism. The fact that this historic game was held on the anniversary of one of our nation's most tragic events and that the map was set in a Middle Eastern nation challenges us to reflect on American foreign policy: How many people, domestic and abroad, must we destabilize, abrade, and murder, so that we may feel safe. Who exactly are we keeping safe, and is our anti-terrorist rhetoric truly doing the world, Middle Easterners included, a positive service?

I believe games are among some of the most evocative methods of storytelling. Although Counterstrike lacks a formal story-mode, especially at the competitive level where people sit to watch an exhilarating match, games, like any art, do not exist in a vacuum. I grew up with Counterstrike. I spent many hours trying to attain Global Elite and failing miserably. I will forever love the game for the hundreds of hours I have logged, but as we gamers become more aware socially and politically, I believe it is important, and actively invite you, to examine Islamophobia, and the displacement done to real people in the name of counter-terrorism.

The ESL Pro League, one of the largest Counterstrike 2 tournaments, was in its 20th annual season. 32 teams compete against each other in three different groups for a prize pool of 750 thousand dollars. The most well-performing teams in each group's brackets advance to the play-offs, which are a single elimination format, meaning they have one chance to win two sets in a best-of-three format before getting sent home.

Although reck and the rest of team M80 could not claim the crown at the Pro League this year, this match still will go down in reck's career as a hallmark of human endurance under intense pressure.

Image credit for the front page photo highlight: Arnav Shukla. (September 11, 2024). Longest CS2 map -- M80 beats fnatic after 71-rounds. esports.gg. <https://esports.gg/news/counter-strike-2/longest-cs2-map-m80-beat-fnatic-after-71-rounds/>

# Fun Page (Cont.)

"Slightly Spooky" - The Herald, October

Kaliyma Kemet

**ACROSS**

1 Constricting snake

3 Concerning sound in the night

5 Pelvic joint

7 A yummy base for movie blood

9 Bee's hive, ant's hill, \_\_\_\_

11 Dorothy's ride to Oz

12 Titanium, Abbr.

13 Candy bar made to be broken

15 "\_\_\_\_ the wheels fall off"

16 Blu-ray player insert

19 Bloodsucker

21 "Jaws" antagonist

24 It's tail is a popular Caribbean dish

25 Lyft alternative

26 Pennywise's debut

28 Where one might sit in a witch's Uber

29 Underwater tendrils

30 Halloween dance that surprisingly does not involve potatoes

33 A good pet and a bad omen

36 Dead man walking?

37 Funerary vase

38 Sigh of relief

39 Somewhere over the rainbow

41 Scooby's expression of concern

43 Halloween candy bag

44 Sci. with a lab

45 Body part for polish

46 Mummy music?

49 Steals, as in a child

51 Aliens, Abbr.

53 Reaper's uniform

54 Autumn spice

56 Ouija board event

57 Popular product of 32-DOWN

58 Unit of sunshine

59 "\_\_\_\_ is believing!"

**DOWN**

1 Blood red veggie

2 Strangely satisfying YouTube genre (Abbr.)

3 Consequence of candy withholding

4 Guts for a haunted house

5 Nun's uniform

6 "I'm a star! Please I'm a star!" film

8 A Harold Washington College themed costume

9 Some have them in their closets

10 Pointy hat wearer

14 To set aflame

16 "Just a bit", when cooking

17 \_\_\_\_ Unit on Law and Order

18 Evil spirit of Cabrini-Green

20 "The Tell-Tale Heart" author

21 A long story such as Twilight or Star Wars

22 Popular ancient Egyptian symbol

23 Beluga's Halloween costume

27 Classic Halloween prank

30 Something checked or dropped

31 Tabloid news site

32 Horror writer with a regal name

33 Haunted Trails theme park attraction

34 Up, down, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, Abbr.

35 Counterparts of 3-DOWN

39 "Lil' \_\_\_\_ lady"

40 "Wow" as said by Shaggy

41 Instructions for a witch's potion

42 \_\_\_\_ and Coke

47 Weird Yankovic

48 Ring-around-the-rosy flower

50 Educational TV ad

52 "\_\_\_\_ the cows come home."

55 Disagreeable response

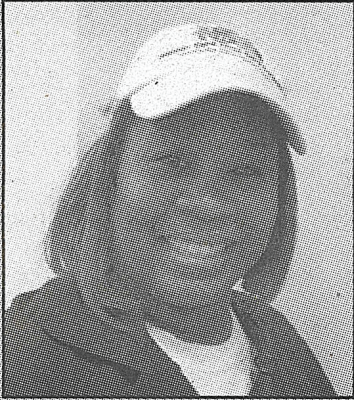
<sup>1</sup> B	O	<sup>2</sup> A								<sup>3</sup> T	H	U	M	<sup>4</sup> P			<sup>5</sup> H	I	<sup>6</sup> P	
E		<sup>7</sup> S	Y	R	U	<sup>8</sup> P				R				A			A		E	
E		M				H			<sup>9</sup> S	P	I	D	E	R	<sup>10</sup> S	W	E	B	A	
<sup>11</sup> T	O	R	N	A	D	O			K		C				<sup>12</sup> T	I		I	R	
						E			E		<sup>13</sup> K	<sup>14</sup> I	T	K	A	T		<sup>15</sup> T	I	L
<sup>16</sup> D	I	<sup>17</sup> S	<sup>18</sup> C			N					G					C				
A		<sup>19</sup> V	A	M	<sup>20</sup> P	I	R	E			N			<sup>21</sup> S	H	<sup>22</sup> A	<sup>23</sup> R	<sup>24</sup> K		
S			N		<sup>24</sup> O	X		<sup>25</sup> T	A	X	I			A		N		<sup>26</sup> I	<sup>27</sup> T	
<sup>28</sup> H	A	N	D	L	E			O			T			G		<sup>29</sup> K	E	L	P	
			Y				<sup>30</sup> M	O	N	S	<sup>31</sup> T	E	R	M	A	<sup>32</sup> S	H		L	
			M				I				M					T			E	
	<sup>33</sup> B	<sup>34</sup> L	A	C	K	C	A	<sup>35</sup> T			<sup>36</sup> Z	O	M	B	I	E			R	
	<sup>37</sup> U	R	N					R								<sup>38</sup> P	H	E	W	
	M			<sup>39</sup> O	<sup>40</sup> Z			E		<sup>41</sup> R	U	H	<sup>42</sup> R	O	H			H		
	<sup>43</sup> P	I	L	L	O	W	C	A	S	E			U		E			A		
	E					I			T		<sup>44</sup> C	H	E	M		<sup>45</sup> N	A	I	L	
<sup>46</sup> R	<sup>47</sup> A	<sup>48</sup> P		<sup>49</sup> N	A	<sup>50</sup> P	S				I					K		<sup>51</sup> E	<sup>52</sup> T	
<sup>53</sup> C	L	O	A	K		S				<sup>54</sup> P	U	M	P	K	I	N			I	
A		S		<sup>56</sup> S	E	A	N	C	E						<sup>57</sup> N	O	V	E	L	
<sup>58</sup> R	A	Y								<sup>59</sup> S	E	E	I	N	G					



# Vintage Article

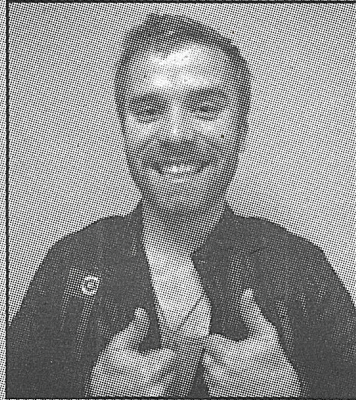
## ~2009

### Should Kanye West be banned from next year's VMAs?



"No, but maybe he should rethink his process on how he should present himself and maybe seek some professional help."

**Ashunda Harris**  
*Full-time Student*



"No, because he's entertaining to watch, even though he may offend some people.  
If he wants to make an ass out of himself, then it's entertaining to everyone else."

**Chris Collins**  
*Full-time Student*



"Yes. I think he should be banned from just about everything.  
His actions were atrocious."

**Leonetta Clark**  
*Part-time Student*



"No. He's my favorite artist."

**Qin Li**  
*Full-time Student*



"Yes. He was drunk. He was very rude to a young girl, which is wrong, and he ruined her first award ever."

**Margarita Martinez**  
*Full-time Student*

Interviews by Ariella Toren

Photos by Lawrence Przybyl

## Student Poll

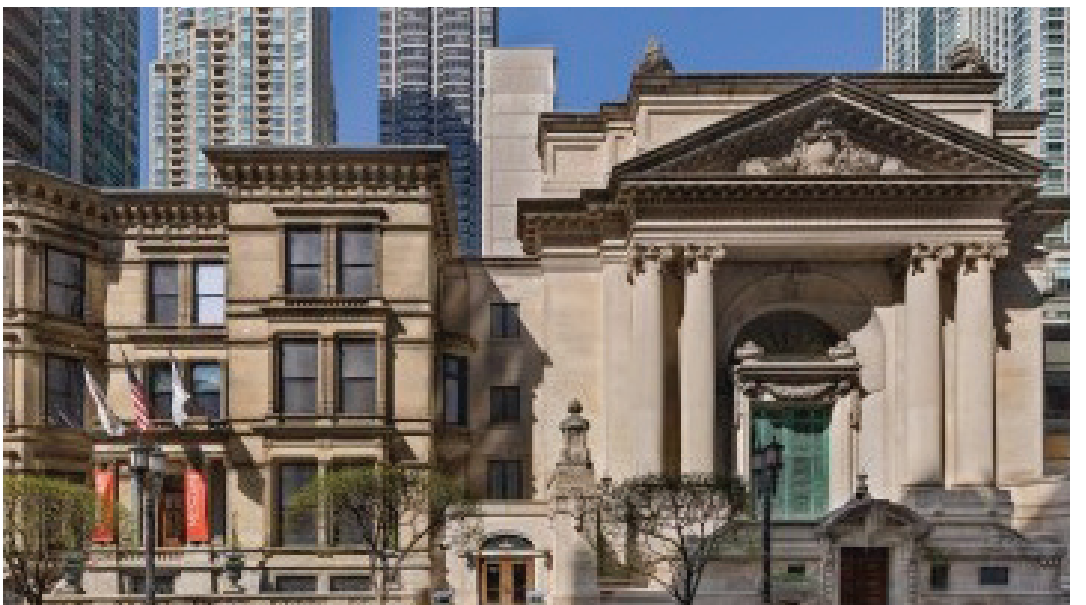




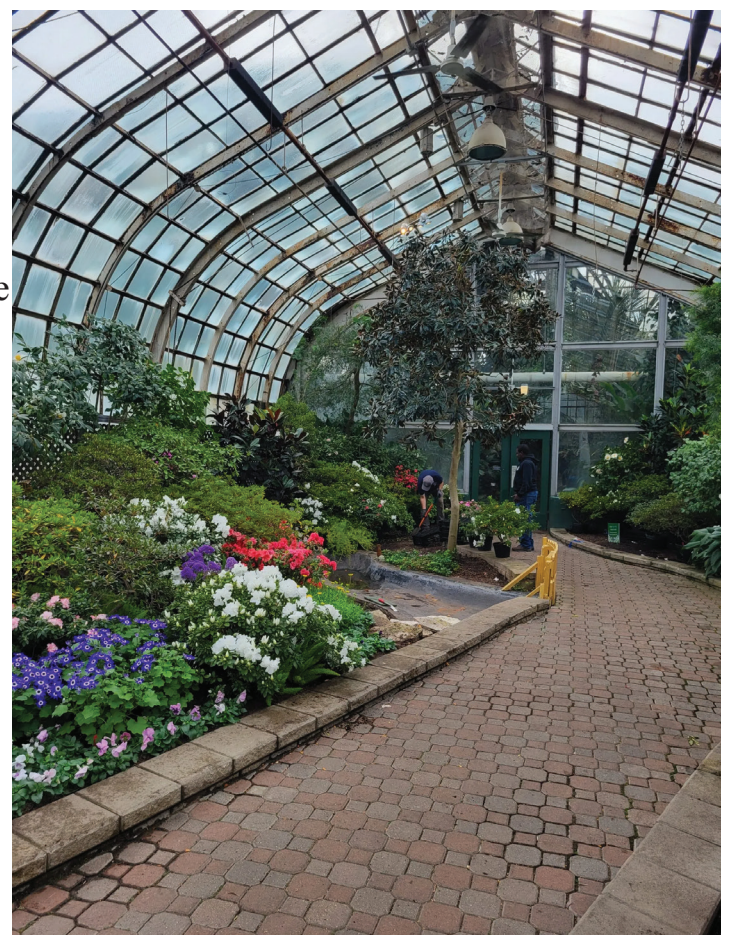
# Area Hotspot

The Herald hotspots column will cumulatively examine local areas and establishments of interest with an epic energy you’ve yet to see. We will observe restaurants, museums, and recommended quality areas of designated fascination. Have you ever inquired about the presence of niche activities throughout Chicago? Good news! The Herald Travel guide will explore each referenced location of interest in regards to the social relevance, entertainment, political, and economic factors. What is the historiography of a given location? Why are they relevant to me? Are they a socially conscious establishment? Are they cost effective? During this issue, we will be surveying these facets of: The Driehaus Museum, Lincoln Park Conservatory, and Red Light Chicken.

\* The Richard H. Driehaus Museum: The Driehaus Museum, located mere steps from Chicago’s infamous Michigan Avenue, remains one of the most exquisitely decorous, opulent, preserved mansions of this century. Having acclaimed notoriety via the titling, the home was conserved by, initially, a collective of over one hundred Chicagoans and then subsequently Richard H. Driehaus, the restoration investor from 2003-2008. The museum has become host to permanent collections of architecture, art, and jewels within the ‘Nickerson’ subset of the mansions which was completed during the gilded age in 1883, now coinciding with the recently refurbished 1926 Murphy Auditorium. Boasting a myriad of engraved wood carvings, hand carved & painted tiling, and original Tiffany glass, the exhibits posture themselves as the formative authority on Chicago art and grandiosity. Stop by! For a discounted student entry fee of \$12 [card only].



\* Lincoln Park Conservatory: Lincoln Park Conservatory is located just north of the inner metropolitan city proper of Chicago, and they are an entirely free establishment with entrance dependent on a reservation slot. However, what we colloquially referred to as Lincoln Park is in fact located within the homelands of numerous native tribes. These include: the unceded lands of the council of three fires [Ojibwe, Odawa, and the Potawatomi]. Additionally, over a dozen other tribes have referenced these lands as their own, including but not limited to: The Fox, Ho-Chunk/Winnebago, Illinois Confederacy, Iowas, Kickapoo, Menominee, Meskwaki, Miami, Missouriia, Otoe, Piankashaw, Sauk, and Wea. “The land we walk was, and remains, native land.” The Lincoln Park Conservatory remains home to some of the finest most picturesque botanical arrangements in all Chicago.



\* Red Light Chicken: Open TUES through SUN, this unique, if not minimal in presentation, Chicago landmark is one for the books! With only three items, the most notable of which being the fried chicken sandwich, this shop does not boast a broad menu. However, they are profoundly well adept at constructing the optimized chicken sandwich. Located mere minutes from the Fullerton stop at 2147 N Sheffield Ave, this prime lunch or dinner spot demonstrates exquisite promise in the future of Chicagoland economical, delicious bites. Drop in for a cost effective sandwich of merely \$8.