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Justin Witte, exhibiting coordinator for the Department of Exhibition and Performance Spaces, helps organize jewelry in preparation of the grand opening of ShopColumbia, scheduled for Oct. 16..



FUNNY GUY

Cartoonist Lalo Alcaraz visits Columbia and speaks about his comic strip, La Cucaracha (the Cockroach).

» SEE PG. 15



HIPSTER HOD?

manages to be part of the "hipster-rap" scene without buying into all its hype.

» SEE PG. 18

Ready, set... SELL

New ShopColumbia puts student work on the market

by Thomas Pardee
Assistant Campus Editor

COLUMBIA'S LATEST effort to showcase student work is set to launch this week in the form of an on-campus store, which will be open to the public and serve to earn both the college and artists some extra cash.

ShopColumbia, which is located in the first floor of the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., is managed by the Department of Exhibition and Performance Spaces (formally [C] Spaces). It will host its grand opening on Oct. 16 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. as part of the college's fourth annual "Talk the Walk" curatorial tour.

On Oct. 9, just a week before the scheduled opening, store employees were busy sorting and unpacking merchandise; stocking racks, shelves and tables; and putting finishing touches on displays. Most items were vaguely in place—clothes hung loosely on hangers and small items spilled out of boxes stacked on top of even more boxes.

EPS administrative assistant Camille

Morgan, who's working on setting up the store, said there was still a lot of last-minute preparation to be done.

"Note that this is not how it's going to look," Morgan said. "By next week, we'll be ready."

Kevin Cassidy, ShopColumbia's manager, said the store will feature some of the best commercial artwork being produced at the college. He said a curatorial committee made up of faculty members throughout the college judges student submissions for quality and uniqueness, as well as commercial value.

"We're looking for work that's original, well-made and smart," Cassidy said. "We want pieces that indicate the level of accomplishment of Columbia students."

Cassidy said if submitted work is original but not of professional quality, the committee will advise the student on ways to improve it. They will also work with students whose work is technically sound, but who need some creative inspiration.

"We want things that capture the spirit of the college," Cassidy said. "We love surprises, and students are always coming in with things we don't expect."

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— Kevin Cassidy

The store features a variety of items, like music by Columbia-based artists, hand-made accessories like crocheted hats and scarves, student produced garments, costumes and even unique jewelry.

One line of earrings, by senior fashion design major Bethany Kelly, takes everyday objects like pennies, buttons, guitar picks and safety pins and turns them into one-of-a-kind fashion accessories. Cassidy said this is the kind of creativity the store is hoping to cultivate.

"It's not taught in the jewelry-making class, but it is clever and we're happy to have it in the store," he said.

The store is also hoping to showcase finer art for patrons who can't afford original

» SEE STORE, PG. 8



ARTISTS MONTH

This year's citywide events focus on "Artists and Issues that Matter," seeking to promote political dialogue among Chicagoans.

» SEE PG. 30



STREET CLEANING

Author Holly Kearl and other women talk about being harassed on the streets of Chicago and what they can do to stop it from happening.

» SEE PG. 34



Curbing the cat calls

Women across the nation address sexual street harassment

story by Kaylee King
graphics sampled from Roy Lichtenstein
by Konrad Biegaj

ON A TYPICAL night out with her girlfriends, 22-year-old Allison Ricobene enjoys drinks and laughs about typical things girls talk about. The night was going fine until Ricobene noticed a bus boy eyeing her down from across the bar. He walked up to her and asked, "Fake or real?"

Ricobene was confused.

"I had been wearing an antique necklace and assumed that was what he was referring to until he said, 'No, boobs. Nice. Fake or real?'" Ricobene said.

Speechless, she stared at the bus boy until he walked away. The bartender then approached her and asked, "Oh, isn't he great?"

"I said, 'No, he just asked me if my boobs were real or fake,'" Ricobene said.

The bartender laughed and poured her a sympathy shot.

Ricobene said this is one of the many stories she has of men harassing her in public. On another occasion, while in line at a gas station, a man walked up to her and said, "Oh girl, you thick. Thickity thick. Thick like a milkshake," all the while staring at her body and licking his lips, she said.

But Ricobene said this male behavior is not surprising.

"A lot of women have become very desensitized by it," she said. "And a lot of times, when you go out, you expect it."

Ricobene is not the only woman with horror stories like, these and many are taking action by responding to street harassment.

Holly Kearl is tackling these issues, too. The 25-year-old, along with many women, said she thinks sexual street harassment is an issue that needs to be brought to the forefront, and, in response, she is writing a book about it. She nearly abandoned the idea until this summer, when she was harassed four times within two weeks.

"Sometimes it just takes that personal touch again to be like 'Oh yeah, this is really upsetting, I need to do something

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desensitized
by it."

—Allison Ricobene

about this," she said.

Kearl created an online survey to help research how men and women felt about street harassment. In 17 days, 949 people responded. Respondents included stories of their own harassment experiences and the number of times strangers interacted with them based on a number of situations.

For example, one question asked how many times a stranger has made a sexist comment toward the survey taker, with a choice of answering never, 1 to 5 times, 6 to 25 times, 26 to 50 times, 51 to 100 times, as well as monthly, weekly or daily.

She is using the survey results to help her write the book but has yet to declare a publish date.

Filmmaker Maggie Hadleigh-West has and continues to combat sexual street harassment.

In 1998, Hadleigh-West created her film, *WarZone*, in which she walked crowded urban streets in unsuspecting clothes—black leggings with a knee-length sleeveless black dress—waiting for men to make passes at her or harass her. When they did, she pulled a camera out and confronted the men with questions of why they act the way they do. The men reacted unwillingly, stuttered and blushed as they thought of clever ways to explain their behavior. In one instance, Hadleigh-West chased a man up two escalators as he escaped the scene climbing the steps two and sometimes three at a time.

"I felt like my camera was my weapon and it was the thing that was going to protect me, keep me safe and also allow me [to have] a voice," Hadleigh-West said.

She said she feels men think it's OK to harass women because they have privilege, entitlement and predatory reasons to do so.

"Who doesn't want their privileges taken away?" she said. "Can't you imagine walking down the street and being able to fantasize about a woman being naked and then being able to project that fantasy on them—because you can?"

Besides being a filmmaker, Hadleigh-West travels the nation speaking to audiences of all ages about sexual harassment issues.

"You should see me in front of a freshman orientation class; it's like the worst thing



ever," she said. "Because they've just gotten their licenses to have sex and to drink and here I am saying, 'Check your behavior,' and they're like 'Are you crazy?'"

Several groups have also formed in an attempt to tackle street harassment in Chicago since 1990. The blog *HollaBack Chicago*, *HollaBackChiTown.BlogSpot.com*, gives women who have been harassed an outlet to tell their stories and comment on other people's experiences with this behavior.

In a recent blog post, one woman told her story about an incident at the Aragon Ballroom, 1106 W. Lawrence Ave., where she was groped inappropriately and forced to stand on the side of the crowd. The post read, "... [The assaulter] was grabbing my behind, rubbing his hand and proceeded by touching my vagina."

Thomas A. Foster, an assistant professor of history at DePaul University who specializes in gender, sexuality, masculinity and U.S. women's history, said he doesn't think harassment is a modern or recently developed topic, but is recognized more because of the higher number of women speaking out about the issue.

"In some ways, you could say if the instances of public street harassment are increasing, it's partly because women are being more defiant in being in that public sphere because they have a right to be there," Foster said.

Foster also said throughout history, there have been moments when women have spoken out about harassment. And in the early 20th Century, with the flappers—young women who wore short skirts, bobbed their hair and listened to jazz music—there was much more visibility of young, single, middle-class, educated women out in public on their own in social or work settings.

Based on U.S. history, Foster said while defeating sexual street harassment could take a long time, bringing more awareness to the topic could help on a greater scale.

"Take the working class women of the 19th Century: They had sexual harassment in the workplace, but until feminists and second-wave [feminists] began to call it 'sexual harassment' and until they passed laws against it, it didn't change," Foster said.

Ricobene, Kearn and Hadleigh-West all agreed that it's up to women to take a stand and get more people aware of the problem of sexual

street harassment. Each of these women gives different suggestions of how women should handle the issue.

Hadleigh-West said she believes in the power of language and that by insulting the assailants, victims only make the situation worse.

"Say things like 'Stop,' 'Get away from me,' [and] 'You're bothering me,' rather than insulting them, saying, 'you fat f---g pig,'" she said.

Kearn said she thinks networking and sharing advice with other women is an essential way to help each other deal with being assaulted. Ricobene said she thinks women need to not allow themselves to be desensitized by it.

But if there is one thing all three women agree on, it's the fact that whistling, honking and making crude passes at women is most definitely not in their nature or how males' brains were programmed during evolution.

One of Kearn's favorite arguments to this statement is from Martha Langelan's book, *Back Off: How to Confront and Stop Sexual Harassment and Harassers*.

"If this was evolution, it would work more often than it does," Kearn said. "If men were really getting dates and being able to reproduce from whistling at women on the streets, then that would be evolution."

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"... By insulting the assailants, victims only make the situation worse."

—Maggie Hadleigh-West

