

The CORE

THE COLLEGE
MAGAZINE

Spring 2025 Supplement to
The University of Chicago Magazine

IT'S GOOD
game board
OLD HYDE
the university
PARK

REGISTRATION

BOSTON-CAMBRIDGE
\$100 traveling expenses

INFLUENCE CARDS

4-11-13 & 02-11-13

EGYPTIAN CARDS

HYPERBOLIC CARDS

MOBILITY CARDS

ACADEMIC

CULTURAL REVOLUTION

GRIND

BARDO

FIRST

SECOND BARDO

CALIFORNIA

\$100 traveling expenses

Place California cards here

Draw two mobas as you leave the Revolution
FREE SPACE

If you have registered, take Academic Card \$100 registration fee

Draw two mobility cards

Introduce your Bardo's guide

Draw two mobas as you leave Second Bardo





Give the Drummer Some!
by Robert Earl Paige, a
pattern-based installation
for the Smart Museum's
50th anniversary. This
pattern is called "Power to
the People." Read more at
mag.uchicago.edu/paige.

INSIDE

From the editor

TREASURE BOX

It all started because I wanted a recipe for SVNA Punch.

Created by the satirical group Students for Violent Non-Action, the punch, which required a chem lab to make, was the quintessential party beverage of the late '60s/early '70s (see page 28).

I found a recipe, surprisingly, in a 2012 blog by *UChicago Magazine* intern Emily Wang, AB'14. She had come across "Lame Duck or Chem Lab Cocktail by SVNA" in a slim orange booklet entitled *Hyde Park Cook Book*.

Its author, Leslie Strauss (now Travis), AB'73, still lives in Hyde Park and was kind enough to lend me a copy. Leslie explained that her cookbook was part of the yearBox—a yearbook alternative for the Class of 1970—edited by her husband, David Travis, AB'71, and designed by Roger Black, EX'70. Every yearBox had a different cover. They had three yearBoxes left over, and they let me borrow them all.

The yearBox was bursting with treasures, such as a board game called *It's Good Old Hyde Park* (front cover), and a portfolio of photos, including many shot by David (back cover). See more of its astonishing contents on page 26.

Leslie recommended that I come back to interview David about the yearBox. When I did, she brought out a T-shirt she had made with Maroon cartoonist Richard Kimmel, SM'90, "Ho-ho: The University of Chicago is funnier than you think"—quite possibly the first-ever UChicago novelty T-shirt (see page 20). Of course, I asked to borrow that, too.

I hope you enjoy the Travesis' treasures as much as I did.

—Carrie Golus, AB'91, AM'93

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Back cover: Photography by David Travis, AB'71

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Alumni memories

SOUVENIRS DE PARIS

This past November the John W. Boyer Center in Paris—named for the College’s longest-serving dean, John W. Boyer, AM’69, PhD’75—had its grand opening. Alumni who studied at the old Center shared these memories of their time in Paris.

I think my group was the first to go to the Paris Center in 2004. The building was very modern, and we were excited to have access to UChicago’s internet while we were overseas (an issue back then). The staff put on a wine tasting for us one afternoon. I was 20 and had never had wine before. The instructor was baffled that American 19- and 20-year-olds never drank wine and ate cheese with their parents while discussing the flavors.

—Libby Pearson, AB’05, MPP’10

My favorite memory is of Professor James Redfield [LAB’50, AB’54, PhD’61] taking us on a field trip to

Chartres: jumping from the pages of a book to reality. We were reading *Mont-Saint-Michel and Chartres* by Henry Adams for the Civ program.

—Andy Tan, AB’06

I remember the Cheese and Wine Night planned at the Paris Center to welcome the students, only on the calendar it was spelled Cheese and Win Night. Once we saw the calendar, my friends and I only ever referred to it as “Cheese and Win Night” and “cheese and win in the library.” Fifteen years later, this still makes me smile.

—Patricia Padurean, AB’10



I was on the Winter 2005 Paris Mathematics Study Abroad program. There were only seven of us. I didn't own a laptop, so I would trade my roommate a glass of wine for laptop time. We did math in cafés, bistros, bars, museums, and under the names of famous mathematicians inscribed on the Eiffel Tower.

I will never forget getting a tip on a speakeasy next to the old mint building. The password was *nounours* (teddy bear). All the special cocktails on the wall were politically incorrect aphorisms about Americans. We ordered some drinks from the barman and kept our heads down. Eventually an old woman hanging out in the corner overheard our English and came over. Fearing abuse or ridicule, we put forward the only one of us who spoke fluent French. It turned out the old woman had met an American soldier during the war and although the relationship hadn't lasted, the soldier had left her with a lifelong love of all things American as well as the barman!—*Murat Abur, AB'06*

Style sheet

CONTRIBUTE TO THE UCHICAGO WORD LIST

In the Fall/24 issue of *The Core*, **Benjamin Recchie**, AB'03, wrote about a group of undergrads who create crossword puzzles that have been published in *The New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and more.

But having a puzzle accepted by one of these prestigious publications is rare. The most dependable outlet is *The Chicago Maroon*, where **Pravan Chakravarthy**, Class of 2025, and **Henry Josephson**, Class of 2025, edit the crossword section.

The Maroon offers one thing the other outlets cannot: an audience that enjoys UChicago references and in-jokes. Chakravarthy and Josephson have created a UChicago-specific word list with more than a thousand entries. Among them:

AFRICANCIV
BIGPROBLEMS
CANYOUSIGNMEIN
CHICAGOPRINCIPLES
DOLLARMILKSHAKEWEDNESDAY
DONTSTEPONTHESEAL
FUNDAMENTALS
HONORSANALYSIS
HYDEPARKPRODUCE
LIFEOFTHEMIND
MANSUETO
MAROONDOLLARS
METRAELECTRIC
MIDNIGHTSOCCER
MISHACOLLINS
ORIENTATIONWEEK
PROMONTORYPOINT
PSET
READINGPERIOD
THEREG
SNELLHITCHCOCK
SOSC
VITAEXCOLATUR
WHENHARRYMETSALLY
WOODLAWNTAP

What other words or phrases should be included? Submit your suggestions through this form: mag.uchicago.edu/wordlist.

UChicago creature

D-LIST HYDE PARK CELEBRITY

Meet Nigel, unofficial canine ambassador for UChicago Alumni.



Name: Nigel Henry-Grauer

Instagram: @sirnigelunderfoot

Claim to fame: “He’s a D-list Hyde Park celebrity,” says **Lauren Henry**, AB’05, executive director of alumni and volunteer experience at UChicago. “Sometimes students will recognize him from Instagram: ‘Oh my god, is that Sir Nigel Underfoot?’ and they’ll ask to take a selfie.”

Why underfoot: “If he wants to go on his walk, or if you’re not following his schedule, he’ll be right underfoot. He taps you.”

Where to see him: Homecoming, Alumni Weekend, around Hyde Park

Breed: West Highland white terrier (Westie)

Age: 10

Weight: 25 lbs. “He had a bit of COVID weight gain. He’s a little svelter now.”

Origin story: In 2014, when Henry and her husband **Ryan Grauer**, AB’05, were living in Pittsburgh, their lease did not allow pets. Just before Christmas, she wrote to their landlords to ask if they would reconsider. She was hoping to get Grauer a dog. “They wrote back, ‘Can you let us think about it?’” Henry says. “My birthday is right after Christmas. I opened my package from Ryan, and it was an email from our landlords. He had written them before me, asking if he could get me a dog.”

Namesake: Actor, director, and theater manager Sir Nigel Playfair (1874-1934). Henry and Grauer were inspired by a blue plaque they noticed in London shortly after Henry got her birthday gift.

Nickname: Critter

Why a Westie: “I grew up with Westies. They’re a little dog with a big dog heart.”



Likes: Walks to campus and around the Point; visits to the Seminary Co-op and 57th Street Books. “I can often be found outside one or the other, flat-out lying to a dog” to get him to move along, Henry says. “‘Oh, it’s closed. The bookstore is closed.’”

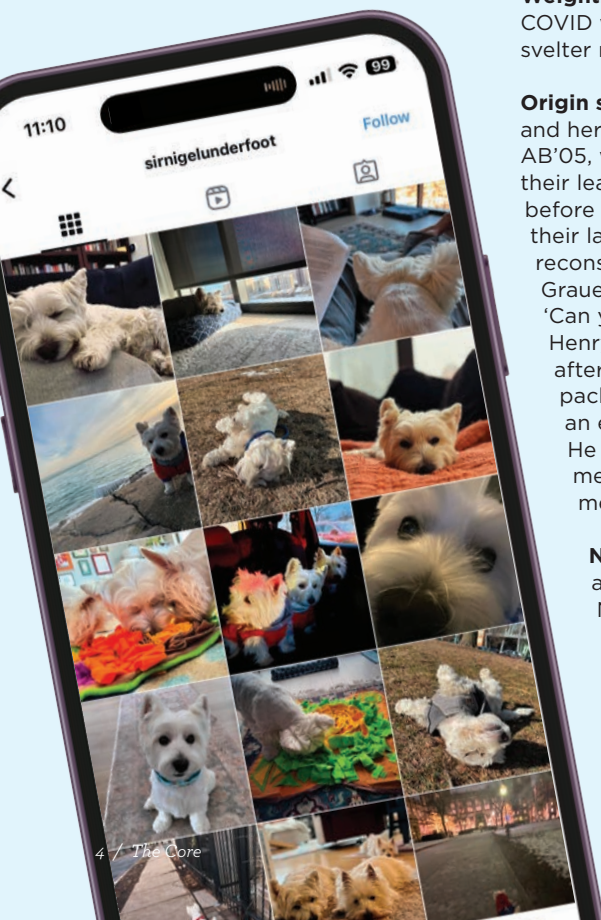
Dislikes: Being brushed. “My dad says, because Westies are so stubborn, every day a Westie should do something they don’t want to do. It’s good for them.”

Favorite treats: Liverwurst, English cheddar

Enemies: Ravens. “We question his judgment, because they have such long memories. We’re pretty sure they know him. He’s probably endangering all of us.”

Admirable qualities: “I’m biased, but he’s so smart.”

Bad habits: Strong opinions. “But that’s not really a bad habit,” Henry says. “That’s something we foster at the University of Chicago.”



WHAT'S NEW IN THE COLLEGE



Danielle Levy, Class of 2025, holds Tuppi the plushie, a cuddly cuneiform tablet that she invented. Tuppi, inspired by Levy's love of Squishmallows, means "my tablet" in Akkadian. The text is a Sumerian riddle: "One enters it blind and leaves it seeing." The answer: school. Tuppi was such a popular item at ISAC's gift shop that it's now sold out.

2025 Rhodes Scholars



Next year at the University of Oxford, Anqi Qu, Class of 2025, will study innovative methods of applying AI to economic research and policy. Francesco Rahe, Class of 2025, will study classical Indian religions as well as techniques for translating Sanskrit.



Last fall students from the Phoenix Sustainability Initiative started the Free Student Book Corner at Harper Memorial Library. Since then the "corner" has expanded to contain more than 30,000 books, donated by students and free for the taking.



Beginning in academic year 2025-26, the College will offer a new major, Climate and Sustainable Growth.



Traditions

IS LIFE A GAME?

An excerpt from the 2024 Aims of Education address.

*By Patrick Jagoda, William Rainey Harper Professor
in the Departments of Cinema and Media Studies,
English Language and Literature, and Obstetrics and
Gynecology, and the College*

In his 1978 book *The Grasshopper* [University of Toronto Press], philosopher Bernard Suits retells Aesop’s fable “The Ants and the Grasshopper.” A starving Grasshopper, fiddle under its arm, happens upon a colony of Ants. The Grasshopper asks for something to eat. The Ants are shocked and ask why it hasn’t been preparing for winter. The Grasshopper replies it was busy making music. The Ants are disgusted. They turn their backs on the Grasshopper and leave it to die. The moral: “There’s a time for work and a time for play.” A fairly harsh lesson, decidedly pro-Ant in its orientation.

Bernard Suits’s version of the fable is radical. His retelling begins the moment after the Ants refuse. The Grasshopper speaks to its disciples. One offers to share food. The Grasshopper refuses. The disciple objects: “Most of us realize that our labor is valuable because it permits us to play, and we are presumably seeking to achieve some kind of balance between work input and play output.” In other words, the disciple gives us a version of

the common work-life balance line. This is a reasonable point, but the Grasshopper isn’t interested in reason. It holds onto the principle of a life devoted entirely to play.

In its dying breaths, the Grasshopper tells its disciples, “I have always had a recurring dream ... that everyone alive is in fact engaged in playing elaborate games, while at the same time believing themselves to be going about their ordinary affairs. Carpenters, believing themselves to be merely pursuing their trade, are really playing a game, and similarly with politicians, philosophers, lovers, murderers, thieves, and saints. Whatever occupation or activity you can think of, it is in reality a game.”

Is life a game? You can take this question either as literal or figurative, structural or provocative. There is no wrong answer, though any answer has enormous consequences.

It’s worth contemplating what is lost if we liken life to a game—especially a competitive, winner-takes-all contest. Of course, competitive games are only one genre. There are games of chance,

cooperative games, puzzle games and riddles, theater games, as well as world-making games of make-believe.

So what does this have to do with the aims of education?

My own education took a circuitous route. I started as a philosophy and literature double major. I went on to earn a PhD in English, moved to a postdoc in media studies, and now I'm a professor who designs games with medical professionals, climate scientists, and theater makers. To return to Aesop, I could have joined the Ants in gathering my resources for the winter. Instead, I foolishly decided to take the Grasshopper as my model.

Games are a space of *safe failure*. They are one of the few places in American life, in an often-unforgiving economy, in which people are allowed—even encouraged—to fail, fail often, and keep going. Drawing from my own experience as a game designer, game studies scholar, and educator, I want to invite you to fail.

I hope you will fail in profound ways that help you imagine new, efficacious, and just ideas. Failure is a privilege that not everyone has. By being admitted to the University of Chicago, you have earned the right to fail in this way. To reach that objective, you will have to take some risks.

Sometimes people ask me what my favorite game is. Depending on my mood, I throw out *Earthbound* or *Stardew Valley*, *Breath of the Wild* or *Outer Wilds*. The better question might be: What would my ideal game look like?

My ideal game would be long—not a five-minute round of *Wordle*. It might last, say, four years. (Wow, that's a long game.) Let's say it's a persistent open world game, where you start in a central quad and can explore a reasonably sized map. This game would certainly feature skill trees. Those skill trees might include the ability to read closely, analyze culture, historicize race, or think through knotty ethics problems.

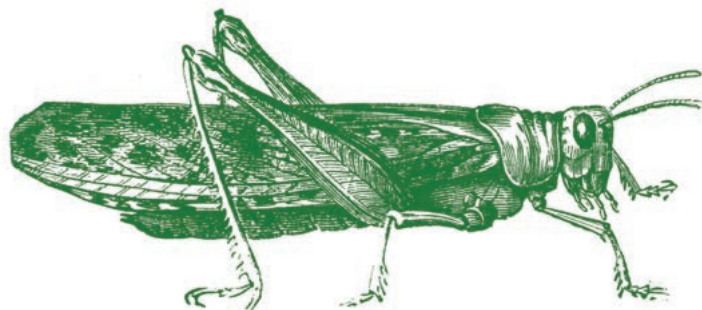
A player might boost their XP in domains like algebraic geometry, probability, topology, or logic. They might practice hypothesis testing, so they can run experiments on the open world and backwards engineer exactly how its physics or chemistry engines work. The best players might develop a few crafting abilities: write a short story, produce a film, even design a video game.

Since this is my ideal game, it would be massively multiplayer and cooperative. As the original 1986 *Legend of Zelda* game taught me, "It's dangerous to go alone!"

My design would have an endgame and a final boss. But this would be harder than a Bowser in *Mario*, a Ganon in *Zelda*, or a Dr. Robotnik in the *Sonic* games. The players of my game would decide what their boss was. Even this final moment would be one of collaborative co-creation, because my players would secretly be codesigners.

As you might have surmised, you're about to play a version of my ideal game.

Watch a video of the full address at mag.uchicago.edu/jagoda-aims.







Student life

COSTUME PARTY

Highlights of the 21st annual UChi-Con, organized by the University of Chicago Japanese Animation Society.

Attendees: 1,200—many in costume

How-to workshops: Gore Makeup for Cosplay (costume play), Photography Basics, How to Break into the Anime Industry as a Freelancer!

Anime and game music from unlikely sources: Rockefeller Chapel carillon, UChicago Pep Band

Anime-adjacent fun: neXus Dance Collective (K-pop dance performance), Kojo Daiko (Japanese drumming), karaoke, escape room

A talk by computer scientist Ben Zhao, cocreator of Nightshade, on how anti-AI tools protect visual artists: “AI models have no idea what reality looks like. Nightshade allows every single artist across the globe to concentrate their work into a collective poison attack against AI models.”

A cosplay contest: In an initial round, each contestant explained their costume to the judges: which character they chose, which parts are handmade, what materials and techniques they used.

The judges—Kyra Pan and Weiwei, both prominent members of Chicago’s cosplay community—chose the three contestants with the most creative, skillfully made costumes. Then the audience came in, and each contestant walked across the stage (in one case, on all fours).—*Carrie Golus, AB’91, AM’93*



Photography by John Zich

Read more at mag.uchicago.edu/uchi-con.

Student essay

THE MIND-BODY PROBLEM

Who among us has not been pierced by a line in a book, or been presented with a concept so difficult to grasp that thinking about it feels like turning over a heavy weight in the mind?

—Shiloh Miller, Class of 2026

Katia Sergeeva, Class of 2026, takes a moment to think.

Deep in the Shawnee National Forest, thirty minutes from the nearest gas station or hospital, is a crop of massive sandstone rocks known as the Holy Boulders. This past fall I took a road trip to the Holies with UChicago's climbing club, UROCK, to go bouldering—a kind of rock climbing done on shorter walls without ropes or harnesses. On the drive there, I read a bit of Shakespeare for a class, and then the sun set, so I looked out the window and watched the lights go by.

What is it *like* to learn? It is the strained eyes from reading in the dark, yes, but it is also afflictions of the more metaphorical sort. Who among us has not been pierced by a line in a book, or been presented with a concept so difficult to grasp that thinking about it feels like turning over a heavy weight in the mind?

"It's vertigo inducing," my Philosophy of Language professor Ben Callard warned us about his field. My favorite classes have been ones where the divide between the mind and body is slimmed—ones where the lectures send chills down my spine, or where an assigned text is so striking, I have to stand up and take a lap about it. I'm reminded of that Emily Dickinson quote: "If I read a book [and] it makes my whole body so cold no fire can ever warm me, I know *that* is poetry. If I feel physically as if the top of my head were taken off, I know *that* is poetry."

Climbing is an intellectual game as much as it is a physical one. "It's like a puzzle for your body" is the cliché pitch for non-boulderers. The routes up the wall are called "problems." A boulder problem's moves are few but often challenging, with small or oddly shaped holds linked by a series of unintuitive contortions and reaches. One of my favorite things about climbing is how certain moves can feel impossible until a small shift—stepping up with your right foot instead of your left, dropping a knee close to the wall, gripping a different side of the same hold—makes it nearly

effortless. It's the physical equivalent of the way a single shift in syntax can turn on a light in a paper's dim paragraph.

While bouldering at the Holies, I found myself near the end of a climb, one move from being able to pull myself on top of the rock. In indoor bouldering gyms, thick protective mats cover the floor, but in outdoor climbing, climbers have to carry in thinner, foldable cushions called crash pads. Below me, spotters stood on the crash pad's perimeter, ready to direct a fall to safety. I knew this. But 15 feet of elevation can do a number on what you think you know. I felt a sudden upwelling of fear, an immersion in it. It was like being behind the wheel of a hydroplaning car. I heard the encouragement of the spotters below me, and felt myself breathing, and, riding the wave of fear instead of drowning in it, I found the final foothold and clambered on top of the rock.

It is a deep comfort to be able to explain why everything happens in the body. My neuroscience class no longer lets me move through the world oblivious to the physical gates and channels that open in my brain, the machinations of my body, the axons twining down each limb. My philosophy courses have given me a Rolodex of rigorous explanations for the everyday miracles of language and communication. But it is one thing to read about adrenaline and another to feel your hands still shaking 10 minutes after a hard fall. It is one thing to read in SOSC about Durkheim's concept of "collective effervescence" and another to dance with friends and strangers, post-climbing, under warm lights strung from the trees.

Pain, joy, falling, dancing. In my philosophy discussion section, we talked about instances of these kinds of subjective experiences, or qualia. We discussed whether or not you learn something from qualia, whether there exists a class of knowledge that cannot be articulated but can only be experienced. We decided there was.

—Shiloh Miller, Class of 2026



FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DESK

Once they were College students. Now they are faculty. What have they learned?

By Carrie Golus, AB'91, AM'93

Interviews have been edited and condensed.

UCHICAGO PHENOTYPE

Matthew Brady, AB'87, PhD'94, associate professor of medicine and chair of the Committee on Molecular Metabolism and Nutrition, won the Quantrell Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in 2007.

Dorm: Burton Judson

Clubs: Intramural sports. "Our coed Ultimate Frisbee team won several undergrad championships."

Sartorial style as an undergrad: "J. Crew." At an Erasure concert at the Riviera, Brady and his friends wore "pink and blue and yellow. Everybody else was in black."

Major: Biology. "I was going to become a virologist, until I took a virology class with a lab and hated it. Intellectually, virology fascinated me, but the practical aspect was not for me."

First impressions of UChicago: "Horrible. When I visited, I stayed in Woodward, where the B-school [Chicago Booth's Harper Center] is now. Thankfully, they tore it down. My host was overtly telling me not to come here. There was some issue with my visit, so I had to pay for my own cot, I had to pay for my own food. This was before ATMs. So when I got back to LaGuardia, I did not have the cash to get home. I



“I’m like, ‘Oh man, if I can’t even beat the varsity football player, I give up.’”

had to call my mother to come pick me up. But I loved the biochem class I sat in on. Intellectually, it was a home run.”

On the Core curriculum: “During college, I was kind of annoyed. I took two years of HUM, two years of SOSC, two quarters of art and music, foreign language. But after I graduated, I became an adamant supporter of the Core. I realized I never would have read Machiavelli on my own.”

Memorable moment: “In the Winter Quarter, organic chemistry was taught Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday for an hour and a half. I am not making this up. We were in the big auditorium in Kent. In one Saturday class, this student with a varsity football jacket on raises his hand and asks a question. I didn’t even understand the question. The professor goes, ‘Excellent point!’ and gets really excited and starts writing on the board. I’m like, ‘Oh man, if I can’t even beat the varsity football player, I give up.’”

The view from the other side of the lectern: “I’ve had over 100 students in the first-floor BSLC [Biological Sciences Learning Center] rooms, and you can see each and every person perfectly. You can see who’s talking, who’s dozing, who’s on their phone. I had always assumed you were hidden in the crowd.

“During the pandemic, I realized how much I depend on the students’ eyes

while I’m lecturing. Are they with me, or am I losing them?”

How the College experience shaped your teaching: “I remember being stressed before my first lecture. So I thought, what could I emulate about the teachers that I most loved? One thing is enthusiasm. So I tell my students—half of it is salesmanship—‘This has got to be some of the coolest stuff that we’re going to go over.’ And then there’s organization and being clear. I took a course with **Ted Steck** [Professor Emeritus, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology] where I was writing for 50 minutes straight, but it was so clear. Everything he said made sense.

“I really enjoy teaching. We used to joke you have to get funded so you can teach, because there’s such a strong emphasis on research funding. And now teaching seems to be coming more to the fore.”

If students know you’re an alum: “I tell them I went here as an undergrad, so I get it. At the first midterm, you think you have this class under control, so you put it on the back burner. But I warn them, it’s going to pick up.”

If College students are the same or different: “There is still a U of C phenotype.”



Ethan Bueno de Mesquita, AB'96 (left), congratulates faculty member James Robinson on being awarded the Nobel Prize for economics in 2024. Robinson is the Reverend Dr. Richard L. Pearson Professor of Global Conflict Studies and University Professor in the Harris School of Public Policy and the Department of Political Science.

QUIRKY INTELLECTUAL UCHICAGO OF THE '90S

Ethan Bueno de Mesquita, AB'96, Sydney Stein Professor, is dean of the Harris School of Public Policy.

Dorm: Woodward. "It was lousy. Cinder block and very, very hot. I loved it. I made good friends there."

First impressions of UChicago: "I did not anticipate the gothicness."

Clubs: Orchestra (violin, viola), band (guitar), Hillel, Nightline (a student-run, late-night support hotline).

Sartorial style as an undergrad: "Slovenly."

Major: Political science. "I was a dilettante. Political science did not have a ton of required classes and would accept

a bunch of econ and philosophy and math. My adviser was like, 'Take one more political science class, and you, my friend, are a political science major.'"

Memorable moment: "In the early '90s, the way registration worked for first-years was, you would go in person, and they would randomly open and close classes, to make it fair. While I was in the middle of registering, they yelled out, 'All sections of HBC [Human Being and Citizen] are now open. Get Amy Kass [AB'62] while you can.'"

"I didn't know what that meant, but it sounded like advice, so I took it. I had Amy Kass for HBC the whole of my first year, and she was a magical teacher. The most important class I took as an undergrad."

What it's like to be back: "It was surreal at first. I would walk around campus and be flooded by memories of me as a 19-year-old. My first or second year back, I went to some University-wide meeting where five faculty members had been asked to talk. I realized I had taken a class with every single one."

How the College experience shaped your teaching: "To my detriment, it didn't enough. When I think back to the classes I took with teachers who were really effective, I see they were doing things that I now know to do.

"Amy Kass, at the beginning of every single class, would take out her notepad and read back her summary of our discussion from the week before—who had said what, then who had said what in response. But she was also putting a gloss on it. She was turning a scattered conversation into a story, to remind you of the learning goal from last time, and to set up the learning goal for this time."

Teacher of teachers: "Before I became dean, I taught a course in political economy for 15 years. When you've taught a class that many times, you've heard the same

conversation over and over. So when a student asks a question, you understand not only the question, but also the underlying confusion, and what some of the responses are going to be. You can let the discussion go for a while, because you know exactly where it's going. As clever as an 18-year-old at UChicago feels like they are, you've heard it all.

"I can look back now and see the great teachers I had were doing just that—letting the discussion go, then reining it in. I can appreciate the craft."

What's changed in the College: More preprofessional majors, including public policy. "It's a good major—that I never would have done. I was not thinking about my career at all. I was oblivious.

"I loved the quirky intellectual UChicago of the '90s. But when I went to my 25th reunion, a lot of my classmates told me they left the College feeling adrift. It took them a few years to figure out their careers. Undergrads today experience much less of that."

If students know you're an alum: "I'm not covert about it. But I don't know if students know."



"I can look back now and see the great teachers I had were doing just that—letting the discussion go, then reining it in. I can appreciate the craft."



Agnes Callard, AB'97, in her colorful Stuart Hall office.

RAGTAG BUNCH OF MISFITS

Agnes Callard, AB'97, associate professor in the Department of Philosophy, won the Quantrell Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in 2017.

Dorm: Burton Judson

Major: Fundamentals, though she had intended to study physics: "In high school I didn't have the sense there was such a thing as truth in the humanities. In HBC [Human Being and Citizen] I realized there are truths here, too, and they're way more interesting."

Sartorial style as an undergrad: Colorful plaid shirts, red-and-white suede platform shoes, a "jester hat."

Clubs: Attended one meeting of the debate team.

"Towards the end of my first year, I got a little note in my mailbox. It said, come to a certain location and 'dress regally.' It was just some guy who picked out five people he thought were interesting and created a little intellectual group. I'm still friends with those people."

Memorable moments: "We found a way to get up on the roof near Classics. This was not somewhere you were supposed to go. It was snowing, and it was just really beautiful."

"But most of my best times were in classes with Amy Kass [AB'62] and her husband, **Leon Kass** [LAB'54, SB'58, MD'62]. I felt like something momentous

“Towards the end of my first year, I got a little note in my mailbox. It said, come to a certain location and ‘dress regally.’ It was just some guy who picked out five people he thought were interesting and created a little intellectual group.”

was happening. Like it really mattered what I thought and what kind of progress the class made in answering a question.”

How the College experience shaped you: “At the time there was a gym requirement. I didn’t believe the University was actually going to make me do it. The spring quarter of my senior year, I had to take intensive gym—three quarters smooshed into one.

When I showed up the first day, every face looked sullen and resentful and angry. It was also at eight in the morning. I was revolted by the thought that I was exactly like the rest of them. So I decided, I’m going to learn about the value of exercise. And I did. I started running, and in grad school I got really into long-distance biking, and I joined the cycling team.”

On returning to UChicago as a professor: “I went to grad school at Berkeley, and there were a bunch of different jobs. I went to my adviser and said, ‘You see this University of Chicago job? That’s my job.’ And he was like, ‘Okay. So that’s not the way it goes.’”

Reasons to envy today’s College students: “They get to take classes, and I don’t. In fact, I’m so envious that, actually, I do. Last quarter I took an undergrad class on Foucault. I learned so much. I’ve resolved to sit in on at least one class a year, maybe two.”

How the College shaped your teaching: “I have two teaching ideals. The small-discussion ideal is Amy Kass. She took everything everyone said so seriously, as though it could really be the answer to the question that she asked.

“The lecture ideal is **Robert Pippin** [Evelyn Stefansson Nef Distinguished Service Professor, John U. Nef Committee on Social Thought], who is still here. The way Robert taught, say, Kant, is he made it intelligible, while retaining all the complexity. And he never said it the same way twice. He had this ability to let you see a million different sides of the same point and let you grip it.

“They’re still my ideals. I’m doing little imitative hacks.”

If College students are the same or different: “When I was here, it was a little more like a ragtag bunch of misfits.”



READING NOVELS IN BED DURING WINTER

Ling Ma, AB'05, is associate professor in the Department of English Language and Literature (anticipated return July 1, 2025). The author of the 2018 novel Severance and the 2022 story collection Bliss Montage, Ma was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship in 2024. This interview was conducted over email.

Dorm: Broadview (RIP). I chose it because it was a bit further away from campus, and it was one of the few dorms that offered more single rooms. At night, my friend and I would smoke clove cigarettes in the ballroom, where smoking was still allowed. (RIP Djarum cigarettes ...)

Clubs/activities: I dabbled in a few things. I was briefly involved with *Euphony* [literary journal] and Fire Escape Films. I wrote exactly one article for *The Maroon*. And I attended an Elliott Smith vigil after he passed. For income, I worked 10 hours per week at the Reg shelving books, though I usually canceled a shift every week.

Major: I had the intention of focusing on anthro, but I ended up with a concentration in English. I majored in what came easiest to me: reading novels in bed during winter. And of course, I was able to take many creative writing courses as an English major.

Sartorial style as an undergrad: I wore a random mishmash of things I found at secondhand shops. I remember I had a tweed blazer from this vintage shop, Land of the Lost on Belmont, that I was very fond of. From what I remember, on campus the aspirational style at the time was Anna Karina in Godard films. I too went through a Godard phase.

First impressions of UChicago: I was very intimidated. In my first month, I had a panic attack and thought about dropping out. But I stuck it out.

The high school transition: Beyond taking classes, I simply had too little practical knowledge of living on my own. I had never used a gas stove. I thought it was fine to put my sneakers in the washer. But I learned quickly.

How the College shaped your teaching: I think I have an understanding of the kind of stress the students are under, especially now that the term has been reduced from 10 to 9 weeks.

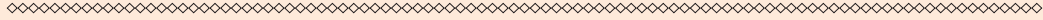
Reasons to envy today's College students: I'm not so much envious of what current students have. It's just that I wouldn't mind being a student again and taking some of the courses I see in the catalog.

What was better then: Hard to say what's better or worse. All I can say is, I miss my college friends. And the free time. I didn't understand I had a lot of free time back then.

If College students are the same or different: When I first started teaching as a lecturer, in 2017, the students seemed much the same as when I had been a student. Over time, I have seen a wider range of personality types.

If students know you're an alum: If the subject arises, I tell my students. It's not a secret but maybe it's not that pertinent either.

On coming back to UChicago: I had no inkling at the time that I would even end up in academia again. This institution is very familiar to me, and it has had a role in forming my intellectual life. I feel that I belong here. ❀

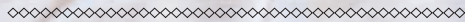


“For income, I worked 10 hours per week at the Reg shelving books, though I usually canceled a shift every week.”





An oral history of College life in the 1970s.



By Shiloh Miller, Class of 2026, and
Rory McGann, Class of 2025

If today’s students were able to travel back in time to the College of the 1970s, “it would feel very foreign,” says **Paula Szewczyk Ausick**, AB’72. “It would be like a whole other country.”

Over the years, while working on *The Core*, I had heard occasional rumors—legends, maybe—about the student culture of the 1970s. There was a giant kazoo, apparently. A fancy dress ball, held in Ida Noyes, where you got in free if you were naked. Also varsity football.

This past summer, *The Core*’s Metcalf interns—**Rory McGann**, Class of 2025, and **Shiloh Miller**, Class of 2026—asked 20 College alumni and administrators what the ’70s

were really like. “Both wacky and weighty,” is how Miller describes it. In the early ’70s especially, during a period of national political unrest, student levity was tinged with anger, frustration, grief.

“I had the honor of being there at a time where either you were camping out on the main quad in protest against the war in Vietnam, or to be first in line for registration for Karl Weintraub’s [AB’49, AM’52, PhD’57] Western Civ section,” says **Leslie Strauss Travis**, AB’73 (who came up with the idea for the “Ho-ho” T-shirt shown here). “I got a very different education than I would have, had I been there ten years earlier.”—*Carrie Golus*, AB’91, AM’93

BIG ED, THE WORLD'S LARGEST KAZOO

In 1969 varsity football returned to UChicago after a 30-year absence. Reactions were mixed. For some students, the football field was an untapped well of amusement—a well that spilled forth during halftime, as the fez-topped members of the University of Chicago Marching Kazoo Band paraded Big Ed, a 15-foot-long kazoo, around on the grass.—*Shiloh Miller, Class of 2026*



UChicago president Hanna Holborn Gray (far left), Mayor Michael Bilandic, and Bilandic's wife Heather Morgan play kazoo during halftime in 1978.

The “Ho-ho” T-shirt, possibly UChicago’s earliest novelty T-shirt, was a collaboration between Leslie Strauss Travis, AB’73, and *Maroon* cartoonist Richard Kimmel, SM’90.

Speakers

Jim Vice, EX’55, AM’54, various administrative and teaching positions, 1953–75

Dan B. “Skip” Landt, AM’62, assistant dean of students and student activities director, 1967–75

Bill King, AB’69

Roger Black, EX’70

Seth Masia, AB’70

David Travis, AB’71

Paula Szewczyk Ausick, AB’72

Pamm (Reichl) Collebrusco, AB’72, AM’74

Dorthea Juul, AB’72, PhD’89

Alphine Jefferson, AB’73

Leslie Strauss Travis, AB’73

Barbra Goering, AB’74, JD’77

Frank Gruber, AB’74

Alice Leiner, AB’74

Bruce Gluckman, AB’75

Donald Bingle, AB’76, JD’79

James Lawrence Fuchs, AB’76, AM’77, PhD’83

Hanna Holborn Gray, president of the University of Chicago, 1978–93

Julian Brown, AB’77, AM’78

Ron Gagnon, AB’79

Interviews have been edited and condensed.

Bruce Gluckman, AB’75: Football started again after being long banished from campus.

Jim Vice, EX’55, AM’54, various administrative and teaching positions, 1953–75: In the fall of ’68, I prepared a memorandum to go to the Committee of the Council to reestablish varsity football. But they were so worried about disruptions, it never made it to the top of the agenda. In Winter Quarter, while the sit-in [at the Administration building] was going on, a group of Psi Us started a petition to endorse football. A lot of people signed it, both left-wing and right-wing students, so the Committee of the Council simply approved it. It seemed like an effort to create unity.

Dan B. “Skip” Landt, AM’62, assistant dean of students and student activities director, 1967–75: There were protests. As a graduate student, I marched. I had a poster of this farm girl with crossed arms. This stern-looking girl. No words. A couple hundred people marched on the field because we did not want football back.

Dorthea Juul, AB’72, PhD’89: The players took it seriously. I think you have to take it seriously or get killed out there.

“I was at football games where they brought out the big kazoo. You would do the famous amoeba formation, where you go out on the field and you just sort of mill around.”

Bruce Gluckman: Big Ed and the kazoo was mockery. Genial mockery, but mockery nonetheless.

Jim Vice: It was Skip's idea, so far as I know.

Skip Landt: I went out to one of the first games, and Paula Ausick, an undergraduate student, came up to me and said, “What we really need to make this a distinctive University of Chicago event is a kazoo marching band.”

Paula Szewczyk Ausick, AB'72: Halftime comes and everything's dead silent. And this idea came into my head that we needed to have some of the paraphernalia of real football. I went over to Skip Landt. I said to him, “Would you fund a marching band?” He looked at me like, *What?* And I said, “I want 100 kazoos.”

Skip Landt: I ordered some fezzes that said “University of Chicago Kazoo Marching Band” on them. And then I thought, *Why not?* So I called the duct shop. The University had a number of buildings heated by steam tunnels. And they had a whole shop. All they did was build this ductwork all day. So I called them and I said, “I really need a big 12- to 15-foot kazoo.” They were *delighted*.

Paula Szewczyk Ausick: Big Ed was built to replace Big Bertha [the marching band's bass drum when UChicago played in the Big Ten]. Big Bertha still existed at that time, at the University of Texas, but we couldn't get her back, so we had to have a substitute. And the obvious person to name it after, at that point, was Edward Levi [LAB'28, PhB'32, JD'35, UChicago president, 1968–75].

Skip Landt: They finished it, and they said, “OK, Mr. Landt. Where do you want this delivered? We

have to warn you, this is kind of heavy. A couple hundred pounds.” I placed an ad in *The Maroon*: “Keeper of the Great Kazoo.” And I thought, *What a great thing. If I'd been in college, oh boy, I would've jumped on this.* I asked Marie [Hauville, assistant director of student activities], “Any applications?” “No.”

James Lawrence Fuchs, AB'76, AM'77, PhD'83: There was somebody in my dormitory who was in the kazoo band. Donald Bingle.

Donald Bingle, AB'76, JD'79: As I was passing the Student Activities Office, I saw a poster with a picture of Big Ed on it that said, “WANTED: Keeper of the World's Largest Kazoo.” In high school, a friend and I had created an all-kazoo marching band for the greater Naperville area. So I considered myself qualified. I opened the door and asked to apply to become the Keeper of the World's Largest Kazoo.

Skip Landt: Finally, she said, “Yes, we have an application.” I said, “Don't tell him that he's the only applicant. I've got to set this up and make him think this is the toughest job in the world.” To him, I said, “Now, you know, this thing weighs a lot of—” “No, no, no. We can take care of it.”

Donald Bingle: There were handles on it. I don't know if there were handles on it originally, but somebody had bolted two handles on either side.

Skip Landt: All of a sudden, we had a Keeper of the Great Kazoo.

Paula Szewczyk Ausick: Next football game, we had cheerleaders dressed in outfits you would see in old movies. Big bulky sweaters, skirts below your

knees, pom-poms. And come halftime, the Kazoo Marching Band came out on the field.

Donald Bingle: It was very free form. Where other marching bands would do formations of the initials of the university or complicated things, we would do things like Brownian motion.

Paula Szewczyk Ausick: Somebody would shout out a form, and they would wander around until the shape would come into being.

Barbra Goering, AB'74, JD'77: I was at football games where they brought out the big kazoo. You would do the famous amoeba formation, where you go out on the field and you just sort of mill around.

Paula Szewczyk Ausick: Of course, the opposing team just didn't know what the hell was going on.

Hanna Holborn Gray, president of the University of Chicago, 1978–93: One of the first things that I did in my first couple of weeks was to take the mayor of Chicago [Michael Bilandic] to a football game at the University. We had a marching kazoo band.

And he loved it. He said he always enjoyed high school athletics.

Donald Bingle: My sophomore year, I think the team scored 14 points at home games: seven in the first game and seven in the last game.

Bruce Gluckman: If Chicago ever decides to become a Division One team, that's the moment I'll probably die.

Donald Bingle: Ten to 15 years ago, I got contacted by the University. And they said, "Where is Big Ed?" and I said, "Well, 30 years ago it was under a light-green tarp in the maintenance building directly south of Stagg Field." I found out later that there was now a children's hospital there.

Paula Szewczyk Ausick: He was never found.

Donald Bingle: I put it on every resume I have ever used. The last entry is always "Former Keeper of the World's Largest Kazoo." Because you always need something to talk about in interviews.



The University of Chicago Marching Kazoo Band takes the field in an undated photo.

THE LASCIVIOUS COSTUME BALL

There's no one answer as to what, exactly, the Lascivious Costume Ball was: a satyric satire of stuffy campus traditions; a product of the free-love, libertine '60s; a distraction; a disaster; a good time. The LCB—with an entry fee inversely proportional to the amount of clothing you wore—made its debut in 1969 and met its demise in 1984.—*Shiloh Miller, Class of 2026*

Dorthea Juul, AB'72, PhD'89:

It was pretty lascivious.

Paula Szewczyk Ausick, AB'72:

The first one took up all of Ida Noyes.

James Lawrence Fuchs, AB'76, AM'77, PhD'83:

I actually did consider going my senior year, but I was too busy working on my BA paper.

Hanna Holborn Gray, president of the University of Chicago, 1978–93:

The ball was invented by very imaginative students with a talent for comedy.

Dorthea Juul: One of the women in my class was involved in this Students for Violent Non-Action group. I think they were involved in organizing, SVNA. I think they were trying to make more fun on campus.

Dan B. "Skip" Landt, AM'62, assistant dean of students and student activities director, 1967–75:

They made it sound very innocent.

Paula Szewczyk Ausick: It was a highly political event. It talks to the satirization of some of the old traditions at the U of C. There was this Miss University of Chicago. There was Washington Prom [a formal dance held in February, which included the Miss University of Chicago contest] that the student

government spent money on. Someone said there were only 14 couples that went. What a waste of money. It didn't fit in with what was happening in the culture at the time.

Pamm (Reichl) Collebrusco, AB'72, AM'74:

I ran for Miss University of Chicago. I remember going to Saks Fifth Avenue and buying this macramé dress that was completely see-through. I wore regular stuff underneath it. It was kind of a fun thing to do. I don't know if the other students thought it was that great.

Paula Szewczyk Ausick: I think I was nominated one year, by *The Maroon*, and I was really angry at *The Maroon*. *How could you do this to me?* We also had, on campus, a Victoriana festival. And I went to a lecture called "The Whip That Tickles," about Victorian pornography. Here we are in the coffee shop in Mandel Hall. I was sitting there with some members of SVNA. "Oh, another Wash Prom. Can you believe they're doing another Wash Prom?" And as we were kvetching about this, the idea came up of holding a counterculture prom.

Skip Landt: Students came into my office saying, "We'd like to hold something called the Lascivious Costume Ball." "What would that be?" They said, "Well,

we got some old Army films about VD."

Roger Black, EX'70: There were small amounts of money in Student Activities that you could liberate with any kind of reasonable proposal.

Paula Szewczyk Ausick: The lasciviousness came into it because I had "The Whip that Tickles" embedded in the brain. What would be lascivious? Well, we would have people pay to attend.

Bill King, AB'69: It had a graduated admission price. It was \$3 or something if you came as you were. It was a dollar if you were in a lascivious costume.

Paula Szewczyk Ausick: And if you came nude, you got in free.

Skip Landt: How dumb could I be? I'd like to think I understood what they were really doing. I don't think I did.

Julian Brown, AB'77, AM'78: There was streaking through the Lascivious Costume Ball, which was kind of pointless, since people were naked anyway.

Paula Szewczyk Ausick: The fact that the administration allowed it to happen says something.

Skip Landt: There was certainly a feeling that if students can do something to keep their high

spirits away from politics, that's fine. That must be the reason why I didn't push it very hard.

Paula Szewczyk Ausick: There were people there not only from the College, but graduate schools and the medical school. And medical interns, some low-level administrators, secretaries.

Donald Bingle, AB'76, JD'79: Because the University ID requirement was so strictly enforced, there was always a line. From inside Ida Noyes, you could see cars coming down Midway Plaisance. They would see this line, and the car would start to drift and hit the curb. Sometimes it would lose the hubcap, sometimes it wouldn't, but no one stopped.

Hanna Holborn Gray: An assistant dean heard that she was to be a chaperone at a student ball, and so she dressed very well, in a ball gown. She was the chaperone at the Ida Noyes swimming pool. And she sat there in a chair and was stunned when all these nude figures appeared at the swimming pool. She never quite recovered, so her stay with us was rather short.

Bill King: They sent an administrator to the Lascivious Costume Ball to guard the door, because they were afraid that there was going to be a police raid of the event.

Jim Vice: There was a fellow running for state's attorney in Chicago. And there was great concern that he would try to raid this party as a political gimmick.

Skip Landt: All the deans and assistant deans and associate

deans were in formal wear and came dressed, early, and gathered someplace near the door. So people coming to the door couldn't see anything, just very neatly dressed people. So when the police came the first time, they said, "We understand there's something terrible going on here." "No, we're having a little dance. Just strictly students, our own students." "Well, OK."

James Lawrence Fuchs: They showed pornographic movies, I was told.

Skip Landt: So, an hour and a half later, the police came back. "We understand there really is something going on here and we have to get in." "Look, we have identification cards, we're deans of the College, we're officials, we're in charge." "Well, OK."

Leslie Strauss Travis, AB'73: They had a homecoming queen, and it was a Frigidaire refrigerator. It was not a live human being.

Skip Landt: There was a large quantity of grapes that people rolled in. I don't understand how that happened.

Paula Szewczyk Ausick: You're going back to Roman times. Huge mats and pillows on the floor and women going around and feeding you grapes.

Skip Landt: The third time the cops came back, fortunately it was late. And they said, "We have to get in. We were told there was awful stuff taking place here." "Look, we're closing in five minutes. Give us a break." And they did.

Julian Brown: They quit having it for some reason. I forgot why

THE LASCIVIOUS COSTUME BALL
SATURDAY, MAY 8
8:00 - 1:00 P.M.
IDA NOYES HALL
MUSIC BY
**CATCH AND
CIRCLE OF CAPRICORN**
ENTERTAINMENT includes
ART FILMS, MAGAZINES, AND
NOVELS, BELLY DANCER, JANELLA
MUSICAL NUDE BATHING IN THE POOL,
STRIPPER - CIRCUS, FURIOUS
COSTUME CONTESTS, AND SELECTION
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An ad for the Lascivious Costume Ball in the May 4, 1976, issue of *The Maroon*: "Admission is limited to students, faculty, and staff. \$2.25 in street clothes, \$1.25 in costume, without clothing free."

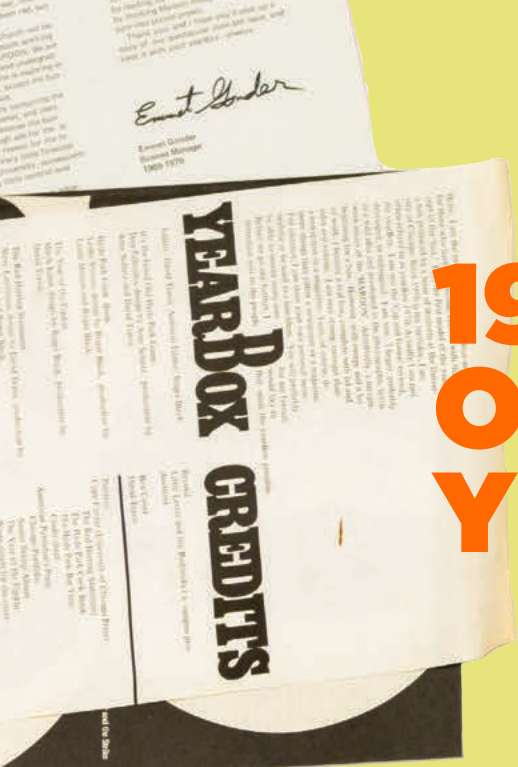
they quit having it. Maybe it was because of the energy crisis?

Hanna Holborn Gray: I was the person who shut it down.

Dorthea Juul: One of the reunions I went to, I went to hear Hanna Gray talk. She said, yeah, I had to put a stop to that Lascivious Costume Ball because it got to be, you know, too much.

Paula Szewczyk Ausick: I think it lost its political origins, but still, it was a lot of fun.

Hanna Holborn Gray: Many traditions get started and are wonderful, and over the years they take on a different form and no longer have the kind of original inspiration, and people need to invent new things. I think that's part of the joy of student life.



1970, YEAR OF THE YEARBOX

“What’s a yearBox, you ask?” read the ad in the March 13, 1970, issue of the *Maroon*. “The yearBox is not a MAROON ... or a *Cap and Gown* [the title of UChicago’s yearbook], or any thing that you would normally expect.”

The yearBox, edited by **David Travis**, AB’71, and designed by **Roger Black**, EX’70, cost five dollars (about \$40 today).

After graduation Travis became curator of photography at the Art Institute, a position he held for three decades. Black became an art director at *Rolling Stone*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *Esquire*, and many other publications.—*Shiloh Miller, Class of 2026*

Read an oral history of the yearBox at mag.uchicago.edu/yearbox.



Photography by John Zich



1. The board game *It's Good Old Hyde Park*. (The goal of the game: to escape.)

2. A pocket guide to Hyde Park bars

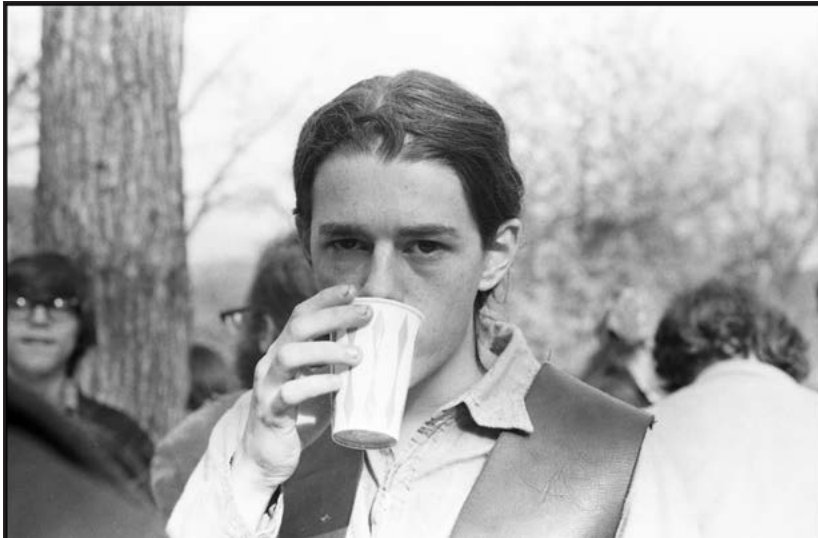
3. Senior pictures printed to look like postage stamps

4. The Hyde Park Cook Book (see page 34)



5. An inflatable bust of University President Edward Levi, LAB'28, PhB'32, JD'35, and bow-tie stand

6. A 45 rpm record of "Blue Greens and Beans" b/w "Mack the Knife" by Little Lester and the Rednecks



Kip Palmer, EX'74, drinks SVNA Punch during a daytime party on the Main Quad.

STUDENTS FOR VIOLENT NON-ACTION

The satirical group Students for Violent Non-Action, or SVNA, which began in the 1960s, was responsible for many of the defining elements of student culture at the College in the 1970s.

—Rory McGann, Class of 2025

Bill King, AB'69: We had the Vietnam War going on, the civil rights movement was in full bloom, as well as the women's movement. And so there were a lot of angry people on campus.

Leslie Strauss Travis, AB'73: I went to the U of C from '68 until I graduated in '73. There was not a single year that I was there when classes were not interrupted by some kind of major sit-in or protest that shut down the University or changed the grading curve very radically.

Bill King: There was a sit-in because the University was creating a separate class ranking for men and providing that information to the Selective Service. If you were not doing so well in college, you had a better chance of getting drafted.

Alice Leiner, AB'74: There was a pervasive atmosphere of unrest and violence—people being afraid of being shipped off to a senseless war and not coming back.

David Travis, AB'71: I had my physical on the day we invaded Cambodia. I called my draft board in Nebraska. I said, "I'm calling about the lottery. I have the number 211." And a very polite person said, "Oh, you have nothing to worry about. Everybody will get to go."

Bill King: There was a group of individuals who felt that their input wasn't being solicited with regard to a particular professor who was up for tenure, Marlene Dixon.

Paula Szewczyk Ausick, AB'72: She was denied tenure. And embedded in that was the

idea that women weren't really getting equal due.

Bill King: There was another big sit-in in 1969. And this time, the administration appointed people to go in and take names of people who were in the sit-in and expelled a bunch of students. So our graduation ceremony was pretty tense.

Jim Vice, EX'55, AM'54, various administrative and teaching positions, 1953–75: It was dreadful, because I knew so many students. I ended up identifying something like two-thirds of the people who appeared before the disciplinary committee.

Seth Masia, AB'70: A lot of people reacted to their environment with intentional chaos, like the Students for Violent Non-Action.

Julian Brown, AB'77, AM'78: They were a pun on SNCC [Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee].

Jim Vice: SVNA was a kind of parody of SDS [Students for a Democratic Society].

Paula Szewczyk Ausick: Frank Malbranche was their alter ego. They all named themselves that, whether they were male or female. I did know two of them: Steve Landsman [EX'69] and Bill King. They were head honchos.

Bill King: Steve Landsman was a very interesting guy. I remember sitting in a dorm room in Hitchcock one evening and him coming up with this idea to do some sort of absurdist alternative to all of the serious stuff that was going on.

Jim Vice: He was quite delightful and zany.

Roger Black, EX'70: Steve Landsman had a nom de plume, Frank Malbranche. He got a group of people together and they took over WHPK. Somebody from the *Sun-Times* asked why. He said, "Didn't you ever read Trotsky? That's the first thing you do in a revolution: Seize the radio station."

Paula Szewczyk Ausick: Students for Violent Non-Action was a satirical political performance group. They were just absolutely brilliant, highly creative.

Bruce Gluckman, AB'75: They really weren't hardcore revolutionaries. They were just merry pranksters.

Ron Gagnon, AB'79: They struck me as just a little silly. I got that they had a kazoo band.

Bruce Gluckman: They were renowned for taking vats, large plastic vats, filling them with grain alcohol and dry ice and Kool-Aid.

Paula Szewczyk Ausick: They had social events on the quads where they had their SVNA cocktail.

Dorthea Juul, AB'72, PhD'89: It would foam up.

Roger Black: SVNA punch is easy. Equal parts lab alcohol and Hawaiian Punch. Do not mix. Simply pour into a galvanized steel drum over dry ice.

Alice Leiner: I didn't have a lot of it. I made it to class.

Paula Szewczyk Ausick: They're the precursors of the type of comedy-plus-news that you see today. Colbert, *The Daily Show*. They sort of combined the

spontaneity of Second City with this very satirical look at politics and culture.

Barbra Goering, AB'74, JD'77: We were told over and over again by Dean John Boyer [AM'69, PhD'75, author of *The University of Chicago: A History*] that our class, which was entering in 1970, was chosen to be a quiet class.

Hanna Holborn Gray: When I became president, we had a next generation of students who had not experienced the '60s. That did not mean that they didn't have serious matters on their minds, but they were not in the business of protest so much as students had been in the '60s.

Julian Brown: It was pretty quiet when I was there. The war was more or less over. The draft was over. There wasn't much going on. There was the Spartacist Youth League, the Socialists, Communists. They would sell their paper and talk about running dog lackeys and capitalist lackeys. But I didn't have much sympathy for them. We read Marx in *Self, Culture, and Society*. I had to spend the summer working in a steel mill, and I thought he was, frankly, wrong. The guys in the steel mill—you can say a lot of things about them, but "alienated" was not one of them.

Alice Leiner: The country was in a lot of tension and upheaval, and it was reflected on campus. SVNA spoofed some of the seriousness with which we had to confront life. It was a welcome relief.

From the *Hyde Park Cook Book* by Leslie Strauss Travis, AB'73. Read more on page 34.

SVNA PUNCH

For quantity, use 10 pounds of sugar, twenty packages of cherry and grape cool-aid, one quart of Real Lemon, three to five cans of Hawaiian Punch, seven to nine gallons of water, and $\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ gallons of Reagent-grade ethanol. Mix the things in a large (10 gallon) plastic waste basket. After it has been mixed, add several pounds of dry ice. Not only is the surreal bubbling of the sauce good theater, but the brew is also cooled and carbonated. The stuff is also quite powerfully activated.

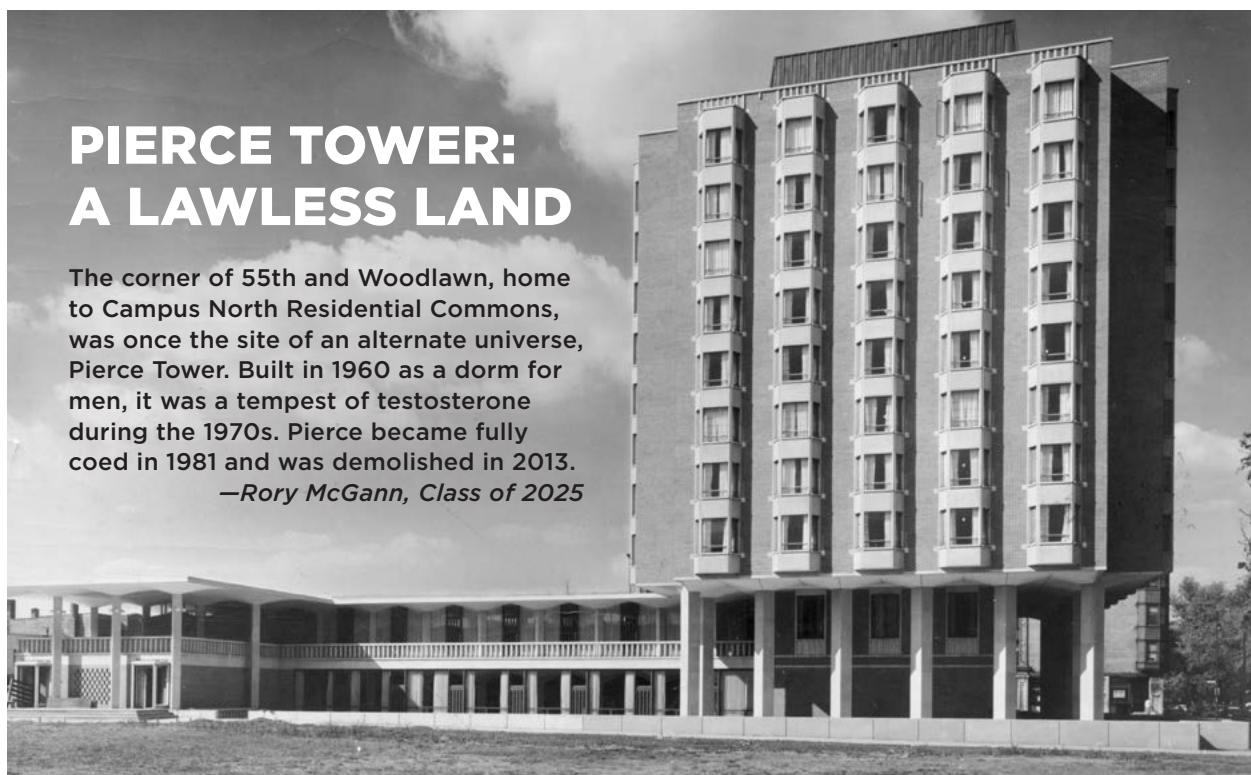
Cost:

You can afford this only if you can find friends in a chem. lab. If you can, about \$6.50 for ten gallons.

PIERCE TOWER: A LAWLESS LAND

The corner of 55th and Woodlawn, home to Campus North Residential Commons, was once the site of an alternate universe, Pierce Tower. Built in 1960 as a dorm for men, it was a tempest of testosterone during the 1970s. Pierce became fully coed in 1981 and was demolished in 2013.

—Rory McGann, Class of 2025



Pierce Tower, exterior. According to rumor, the bay windows were added after the small rooms were found to violate Illinois prison codes.

Bruce Gluckman, AB'75: You know the movie *Animal House*?

Donald Bingle, AB'76, JD'79:

The water fights were epic enough that we shrank the carpet in the hallway.

Bruce Gluckman: The resident master was a guy named Robert Stein [associate professor of English], and he handed out little popcorn buckets that ended up being the weapon of choice for water fights. We were very serious about our studies too, mind you, but there was bust-out time sometimes, usually on Fridays, and we committed. That's to say there was a lot of water.

Alphine Jefferson, AB'73: I have no recollection of water fights. I spent a lot of time in the library.

Leslie Strauss Travis, AB'73: The boys' dorms had housecleaning

come in once a week to clean their dorm room. The girls' dorms were not like that.

David Travis, AB'71: Oh, that was just for sanitary ... Fungus could be growing.

James Lawrence Fuchs, AB'76, AM'77, PhD'83: Someone had figured out a way to be able to make long-distance calls by inserting a penny, so Thompson [one of the houses in Pierce] guys made numerous calls to Trunk Island [in Bermuda] and the like. No one knew anyone on Trunk Island, of course. I recall vaguely that the phone company was investigating, but I am not positive about that.

Donald Bingle: Rumor is that someone rappelled out of their window down to the roof of the cafeteria in Pierce Tower, greatly upsetting the women

on the third floor as they went past.

Alphine Jefferson: Early on I became the switchboard operator at Pierce Tower. "Pierce Tower. Can I help you? No, Mrs. Abramovitz, no. Aaron is not here. He has gone out with his girlfriend. He will be back. Yes, I will tell Aaron to call you." Everybody liked me because I knew their business.

James Lawrence Fuchs: I was actually elected chairman of my dormitory my third term, but I was viewed as the lesser of three evils. One of my competitors was so unhappy about the fact that I had defeated him, he was attempting to disrupt the one and only meeting I held and had threatened water balloons. So I wore a bathing suit under my clothes.

Donald Bingle: I still have a scar on the inside of my mouth where I collided with somebody, slipped on the carpet, ran into the wall, and managed to bite into my lip.

Alphine Jefferson: I didn't participate in any of the silly activities. If someone had poured water on me, I would have done them harm.

Bruce Gluckman: We did crazy-stupid physics experiments. Fitting together Coke cans, putting in a little butane, throwing in a tennis ball, lighting it, and shooting it across the hallway. We were not very well-behaved sometimes.

Donald Bingle: We had tennis ball cannons. You would put together several pop cans so they made a cylinder, stuff a tennis ball down it, and then put lighter fluid in the bottom. Then you would point it out the dorm window on the 8th floor and light it, and a flaming tennis ball would shoot out the end.

James Lawrence Fuchs: One person set fire to my room.

Donald Bingle: We made an effort, for several evenings, to try and hit the Field House from Thompson. I don't think we ever succeeded. We also tried to hit the Chicago Theological Seminary [then on the other side of 55th Street] with a paper airplane from the 8th floor. It took us something like 400 tries to get a paper airplane to actually hit the seminary. And of course that left paper airplanes all over Garfield [Boulevard].

Bruce Gluckman: We were doing, you know, projectile trajectories.

We were all involved in the project together, so in some ways it was all an effort to bridge the gap between the sciences and the humanities. It was a reflection of the Common Core in a practical kind of way.

James Lawrence Fuchs: A lot of students in my dormitory were real loafers and goof-offs. I remember this guy had put a bed in an elevator, and there was a woman who was sitting in the bed with him. They were going up and down the elevator while he was typing his social science paper.

Donald Bingle: Sophomore Christmas, a group of people from Thompson House dressed up one of the gargoyles above Hull Gate as Santa Claus.

Bruce Gluckman: There's a building on 57th that I ended up living in my last two years. It's not owned by the University anymore. If you go past that one [the 57th Street Apartments at 1400 South Dorchester], that's what the old Pierce Tower looked like.

Julian Brown, AB'77, AM'78:

It was supposed to be called *Pierce Towers*, but they never built the second one.

Frank Gruber, AB'74: We had fun, but it was makeshift. The University didn't do very much for the students, and that's one of the reasons why so many kids dropped out.

Bruce Gluckman: We were all subject to the draft. That made the zeitgeist kind of frenetic sometimes, even though there was a lot of work. But in some respects, we were probably given a little more leeway.

Donald Bingle: My good friend and I put our heads together and we correctly figured out who was most likely to drop out of school during the summer. We put their rooms down as our first choices, and we both ended up with single rooms because we guessed who would drop out of school. I think I still have the key to my dorm room. But Pierce Tower isn't there anymore.



Pierce Tower, interior.

ACADEMICS: SLEEPOUT, SHERRY HOURS, A BRAND-NEW LIBRARY

Like today, the students of the '70s had their own set of academic rituals, larger-than-life professors, and career-altering courses. They were also the inaugural patrons of the Joseph Regenstein Library, the Brutalist edifice at the heart of campus that quickly became a fixture of academic and social life.

—*Shiloh Miller, Class of 2026*

Alphine Jefferson, AB'73: Had I known the University of Chicago was the University of Chicago, I would have been so intimidated that I would have failed out instantly.

Bill King, AB'69: This was right at the tail end of the old Hutchins Common Core-type thing. So your first two years were pretty much laid out for you.

Dorthea Juul, AB'72, PhD'89: The curriculum has gotten much more flexible nowadays.

Barbra Goering, AB'74, JD'77: You had to pass a swimming test or take physical education. I learned in Ida Noyes. It was Winter Quarter, and I had hair down my back. I remember walking to my class with my hair icing over.

James Lawrence Fuchs, AB'76, AM'77, PhD'83: Study abroad was not something that occurred. When I was an undergraduate, that was not allowed.

Alphine Jefferson: An apartment was built onto Pierce Tower for the chairman of the German department, Kenneth Northcott. I mentioned to him that I wanted a

study abroad experience. He said, "Well, I know somebody at the University of Warwick. I can probably arrange for you to go there." So I went to the University of Warwick in the fall of 1971.

Leslie Strauss Travis, AB'73: I took every class I could with Norman Maclean [PhD'40]. I took every class I could with John Cawelti. I took every class I could, which was only one, with Karl Weintraub [AB'49, AM'52, PhD'57].

Alice Leiner, AB'74: I lucked out and had Karl Weintraub for Western Civ.

Julian Brown, AB'77, AM'78: His Western Civilization class—people who wanted to get in would camp out to get dibs on registration.

Ron Gagnon, AB'79: Yes, that was done. Although people kind of thought it was silly. It was sort of like, "Really? You have a crush on a Western Civ professor."

Julian Brown: I met Weintraub, but I'm not one for guru adorations.

Alphine Jefferson: I am very proud of the seven D's I earned

at the University of Chicago. I worked harder for my seven D's than I did for my seven A's.

Leslie Strauss Travis: Herman Sinaiko [AB'47, PhD'61] was willing to let students put together their own classes that he would then teach for free. He said he couldn't give us credit for them, but he also wouldn't charge tuition.

James Lawrence Fuchs: I took an intellectual history class with Leonard Krieger, which was basically the reason I ended up going to graduate school in European history.

Dorthea Juul: You'd be lined up to get into Regenstein at 10 in the morning or whenever it opened.

Julian Brown: Regenstein was like something out of *Space Odyssey*, this limestone plinth that just popped up out of the ground. It was just grass and pff ... Regenstein.

Dorthea Juul: The Regenstein was a big social scene.

Julian Brown: They began to have a café that kind of evolved from vending machines to a little coffee shop.

Dorthea Juul: I remember going down there and getting chocolate milk.

Ron Gagnon: I worked for the library. I had an office down in the basement—that's where I wrote my bachelor's thesis. It was absolutely quiet. So many books, insulated by so much paper. I could have survived a nuclear attack down there.



Behind the Reg, Alan Wertheimer, AB'73, sings "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot." The song was part of a daylong performance art piece by Sally Banes, AB'72, staged in and around Hyde Park in 1974.

Alice Leiner: We had someone staying in our apartment in Hyde Park who broke into some kind of draft facility or burned some kind of federal crime. We didn't know. We let him crash at our apartment, and he later was investigated by the FBI. And they came in [to the Regenstein] to interview me and flashed their badges, and the security guard wouldn't let them in because they weren't U of C IDs.

Julian Brown: A lot of the intellectual, cultural life was around sherry hours. Different departments and faculty members would host these sherry hours.

Leslie Strauss Travis: They didn't at the girls' dorms. The boys had sherry hours.

Jim Vice, EX'55, AM'54: No undergraduate would drink too much sherry, and it would loosen faculty members a little. So when I was asked to be the Director of Housing in '61, I said, "I will

take it, but only if I can introduce sherry hours."

Alphine Jefferson: My second year, Fred [director of admissions] and Alice Brooks moved into Tufts House. And they asked me to chair sherry hour. I had no idea what it was, but I said, "OK, I'll do it." I hosted people like Milton Friedman [AM'33], Mortimer Adler, John Hope Franklin, George P. Shultz, George Stigler [PhD'38], and Ed Levi [LAB'28, PhB'32, JD'35, UChicago president, 1968-75]. Very, very famous people.

Ron Gagnon: Winter Quarter my freshman year, I was at a sherry hour in Hitchcock, and I wasn't feeling entirely confident about staying at the University of Chicago. Almost everyone had had a better high school education than I did. There was an astrophysics professor who was standing there holding a glass of sherry. I began to share with him my reservations. He listened carefully, then he said, "Well, I can tell you, that if you're asking those types of questions about yourself, you belong here.

You are exactly the kind of person this school was designed for."

Hanna Holborn Gray: When I became president, I gave a big party in Ida Noyes. We had a different band on each floor, there was dancing, there was food, and the whole building was sort of rocking. And at the end, a young woman approached me and she said, very politely, "Thank you very much, this was a nice party." And then she fixed me with a terrible look, and she said, "I hope you're not planning to make this a fun school."

Julian Brown: I know that there are some people who had a miserable time. I had a great time.

Paula Szewczyk Ausick, AB'72: It was intense on all fronts. To this day, when some of my friends who are from U of C and I talk about it, we say it made such an impression on us. It wasn't your sort of like, oh, these wonderful, great four years. It's the rest of your life. 🌸

Read more at mag.uchicago.edu/1970s.

Recipes

A SNAPSHOT OF 1970

The *Hyde Park Cook Book* “could perhaps be more accurately titled ‘a handbook of useful observations for an inept cook, collected from an indefinite number [of] Hyde Park student[s] and residents,’” **Leslie Strauss Travis**, AB’73, writes in the prologue. The slim, staple-bound booklet, designed by **Roger Black**, EX’70, was part of the 1970 yearBox (see page 26).

At the time, “**David [Travis, AB’71]** and I were living on the third floor in Kenwood, and I was cooking on a hot plate and washing dishes in a bathtub,” Strauss Travis says.

The cookbook includes the usual sections—meat, fish, soup, vegetables, bread, desserts—as well as one page of “spectaculars.” The three spectacular recipes: Quiche Lorraine, Chocolate Mousse, and Lame Duck or Chem Lab Cocktail (more commonly known as SVNA Punch; see page 29). Other culinary highlights:

Chicken Flavored Nail Soup: “Just before serving, add the *nail*. Whoever gets the nail gets to do the dishes.”

Meatloaf: “I do not even like meatloaf. So there is no recipe for meatloaf here. Ask your mother for one. She has one. Write it here.” (Below this, a blank box.)

Leftover Mashed Potatoes: “Do not throw leftover mashed potatoes away.” Make potato patties out of them, fry them, and “serve them to the same people the next night.”

Salad: “Chop up everything and put it together.” (That’s it. That’s the recipe.)

Wacky Cake: “All the mixing is done in the pan you use to bake the cake.”
—*Carrie Golus, AB’91, AM’93*

HYDE PARK COOK BOOK

LESLIE STRAUSS

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VEGETABLES

USEFUL OBSERVATION: Vegetables are supposed to be useful because they let you have a well balanced diet. They are also useful because they will let you spend less money on food than if you do not use them. If you have potatoes, salad, a vegetable, and meat in a meal, less meat will be consumed than if you just have meat. Add to that the assumption that vegetables are cheaper than meat, and you have saved money.

USEFUL OBSERVATION: Sometimes vegetables are less expensive than meat. Vegetables are one thing that really change in price during different seasons, and to save money, even within one store, some comparative shopping should be done with them. Sometimes frozen vegetables are cheaper than fresh ones. Sometimes fresh vegetables are cheaper than frozen ones. Frozen peas are usually less expensive than fresh peas, especially if you value your time at all.

USEFUL OBSERVATION: Potatoes are vegetables in this cook book.

RECIPE FOR: REBAKED POTATOES
Almost anyone can bake a potato. Almost anyone can mash a potato. But when you put the two techniques together, you get rebaked potatoes, which look terribly elaborate, impressive, and complicated. They are not. First, bake as many potatoes as you want. When they are almost done (test by seeing if a fork will force evenly through one), take them out of the oven and let them cool. Cut them in half, and make little boats from tin foil to fit tightly around them. Being very careful not to break the skins, spoon out the insides for a

RECIPE FOR: NUT BREAD

Sift 3 cups graham flour, 4 tablespoons baking powder, and 1 cup wheat flour together three times. Add 1 cup sugar, 1 cup nut meats, and 2½ cups sweet (not sour) milk. Pour into buttered bread pans, and bake for about an hour at 325°.

USEI

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RECIPE FOR: LEFT OVER MASHED POTATOES

Do not throw left over mashed potatoes away. If you do not use them for Skyline Country Pie, make potato patties out of them by shaping the cold mashed potatoes into hamburger shaped patties and frying them on both sides until they are brown. Serve them to the same people the next night.

RECIPE FOR: LINCOLN (NEBRASKA) BEANS

Mix together one can drained French cut green beans and one can cream of celery soup. Put them in a casserole dish and bake at 350° for forty minutes. Top with one can French fried onion rings and bake uncovered for another five minutes.

RECIPE FOR: GOOD GARLIC DRESSING

For salad dressing, take one cup of salad dressing, ½ cup vinegar, 1 teaspoon salt, 1 teaspoon sugar, ½ teaspoon dry mustard, a dash of tobacco, and 5 minced cloves of garlic, mix it all together in a jar, and store in a refrigerator. Shake before using.

RECIPE FOR: SALAD

Chop up everything and put it together.
USEFUL OBSERVATION: If you put salad into individual bowls beside each person's plate before they get near the table, all sorts of nice things will happen to you. You will be sure that you have enough salad, and if you do not, you can make more. And usually people will eat more salad, and they will eat it first, which means that they will eat less meat and you will save money.

DESSERTS

Desserts are what will completely ruin any budget if anything besides beer is going to. Buying cookies, cakes, and pies which are already made is easy. It is also extremely expensive. So, if you are going to have deserts, make them. It is much cheaper, and the things you get will usually be better. All desert recipes are good.

Cookies

RECIPE FOR: SANDIES

Cream 1 cup of butter (REAL butter) and ½ cup powdered sugar. Add 2 teaspoons of vanilla and 1 tablespoon of water. Add 2 cups of flour, mix well, and add 1 cup of chopped pecans. Roll the dough into small balls and bake on ungreased cookie sheets at 300° until they are delicately browned. While they are still hot, roll them in powdered sugar.

RECIPE FOR: CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

Cream 1 cup soft butter (margarine again), ¾ cup sugar, ¾ cup brown sugar, 1 teaspoon vanilla, and ½ teaspoon water. Beat in two eggs. Then add 2½ cups flour, 1 teaspoon baking soda, and 1 teaspoon salt. All this can be done with an electric mixer, but when you add 12 ounces (2 cups) chocolate chips, do it by hand. Drop by spoonfuls onto greased cookie sheets and bake at 375° for about ten minutes. For some reason, the bottoms burn very easily. Watch your oven.

USEFUL OBSERVATION: If you are baking cookies with more than one cookie sheet, use the top and middle racks of your oven. Put the cookies in first on the top rack, and then move them to the middle rack about halfway through the baking time, when you take out the tray that is there. Meanwhile, you can be filling up a third tray out of the oven.

RECIPE FOR: CHRISTMAS SPRITZ COOKIES

Cream 1 cup butter and ¾ cup sugar and one egg. Add 2½ cups flour, ½ teaspoon baking powder, salt, and 1...

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SPECTACULARS

RECIPE FOR: LAME DUCK or CHEM LAB COCKTAIL by SVNA

For quantity, use ten pounds of sugar, twenty packages of cherry and grape cool-aid, one quart of Real Lemon, three to five cans of Hawaiian Punch, seven to nine gallons of water, and ¾ to 1½ gallons of Reagent-grade ethanol. Mix the things in a large (10 gallon) plastic waste basket. After it has been mixed, add several pounds of dry ice. Not only is the surreal bubbling of the sauce good theater, but the brew is also cooled and carbonated. The stuff is also quite powerfully activated.

Cost: You can afford this only if you can find friends in a chem lab. If you can, about \$6.50 for ten gallons.

RECIPE FOR: QUICHE LORRAINE

Or, How to impress casual visitors by whipping up a gorgeous soufflé while discussing politics and hardly looking at what you're doing.

sugar. Beat it all until creamy, and pour it over the cake as soon as it is removed from the oven.

RECIPE FOR: EGGLESS, MILKLESS, BUTTERLESS CAKE

Boil 1 cup water, 1 cup sugar, 1 cup raisins, one-third cup shortening, ½ teaspoon salt, 2 tablespoons cocoa, and 1 teaspoon cinnamon for three minutes. Then add 1 teaspoon baking soda dissolved in a little warm water. Add 2 cups of flour, and ½ cup chopped nuts. Bake at 350° in a greased and floured pan for thirty-five to forty-five minutes.

RECIPE FOR: WACKY CAKE

All the mixing is done in the pan you use to bake the cake. A 9 X 16 pan may be used, or you can cut all the measurements in half and use a nine inch square pan.

Mix 3 cups of flour, 2 cups of sugar, 6 tablespoons of unsweetened cocoa, 2 teaspoons baking soda, and 1 teaspoon salt. Make three wells in the pile, and put ½ cup liquid oil in one, 2 tablespoons of vinegar in another, and 2 teaspoons of vanilla in the third. Pour 2 cups of cold water over it all and mix well. Bake it at 350° for fifty to sixty minutes. Frost with chocolate frosting.



Poem

IN THE GARDENS, GLASSHOUSES, ARBORETUMS

By Chanda Feldman, AB'99



And when you traveled you visited gardens, glasshouses, arboretums, mazes of rhododendron, rose mazes in the mountains, cacti and snake plants along ochre dirt roads, you stood in the Cambridge Botanic Garden beneath a clone of Newton's apple tree. Left your husband with the child in the stroller and went head deep into prairie grasses, lingered in misted rooms of orchids that had sewn themselves to trunks and limbs, Mediterranean herb gardens on your early morning walk alone you beat your hands through to rouse the aroma—the gardener who crushed the myrtle and rubbed his fingers beneath your nose, Middle East desert oases, a spring where you sunk into the mica-flecked water, naked and hidden among the green-spiked saharonim, espaliered pears on a garden brick wall, the lambs and kids out to English pasture, and the solitude the decapitated monarchy once walked, sycamore lanes along a pond of swans, and sat on the iron bench in Marie Antoinette's secret garden, and stopped the car to wander gravel paths through bees roving in lavender, and boxwood and yew hedge, and the frangipani ringed in red geraniums in the Bahá'í Gardens, the hillside of overgrown stinging nettles you forced yourself through to stay on the wilderness trail, you paid to enter the whimsy of topiary birds and crouching cats, and in your own home, you grew orange begonias in pots against the bedroom window's security bars, because they were easy, reliable bloomers, petite, beautiful faces erupting with no need or expression of a single emotion.

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Strange Planet

By Nathan W. Pyle



NATHANWPYLE

Ibidem

HYDE PARK, 1970



OBJECT: The object of this game is to get out of Hyde Park for good. The winner gets a good laugh at everyone's expense and gets to pick up the pieces.

—Game rules for *It's Good Old Hyde Park*
Conceived by Don Palumbo, AB'70
Designed by Amy Schutz, AB'71