



The Chicago Shady Dealer

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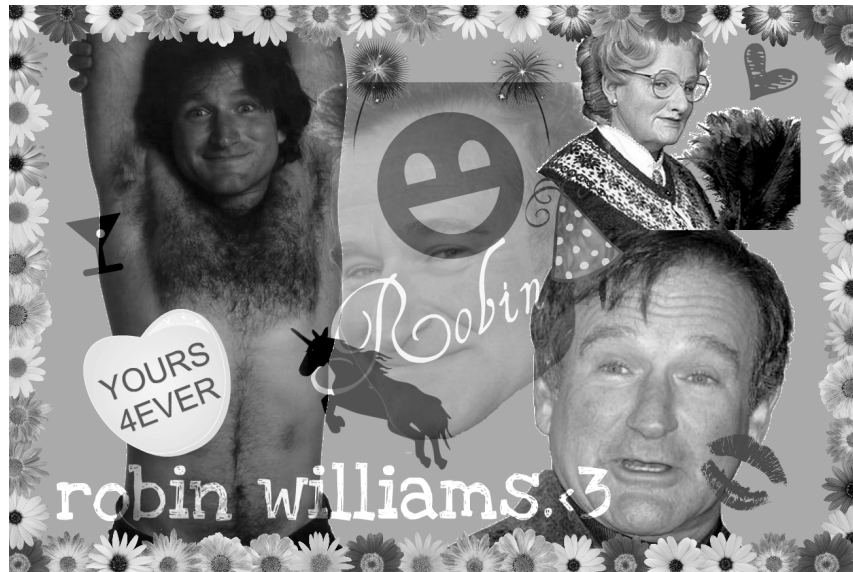
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THE *CHICAGO SHADY DEALER* CELEBRATES ROBIN WILLIAMS: MAN OF THE YEAR

By Adam Levine



2011, that old she-lizard, has dragged its mannish face into the grave. We let out a sigh of exhaustion as what was by all accounts a wretched time for everyone passes out of sight over the foothills of history. In the past 365 days we have seen brutality, scheming, conspiring, ripping, and swallowing. This was the year of kidnapping. Over six hundred men disappeared without a trace. Ransom notes became longer, but less interesting. Exciting phrases like "we have your son" or "your daughter

dies at midnight tonight, or else!" were replaced by dull affairs like "we took a person" or "we borrowed someone you've met." 2011 was a piss-poor year for kidnappings.

But it wasn't all bad. For every flubbed abduction or ransom note that ended with the phrase "but I guess you don't have to," there was some intriguing person who did something great whom we loved. We at the *Chicago Shady Dealer* catalogued the many intriguing men and women of 2011, and we saw a lot of great ones, but only

one of them could receive the *Chicago Shady Dealer* Man of the Year Award 2011. This year, that man was divorced comedian Robin Williams for his role as Jack Powell in the 1996 film *Jack*. Williams is already well-known for his roles as Magicface in *Aladdin*, Golden Person in *Bicentennial Man*, and 1-Hour Photo in *1-Hour Photo*. To find out more about the latest link in this chain of successes, we at the *Chicago Shady Dealer*

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The Chicago Shady Dealer

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DISCLAIMER

If you are offended, shocked, or otherwise provoked to hunt us down like a delusional maniac, please take a deep breath—that's right, don't be shy—and count to ten. Maybe think about some animals or something. Puppies always work for us.

META-DISCLAIMER

We're real sorry about that last disclaimer. It came off as a little snarky, plus we called you a maniac. Who does that? It was in poor taste, and we're sorry.

META-META-DISCLAIMER

Though don't get us wrong. That last disclaimer was just an apology for the tone of the first, not a retraction. Please understand: We don't give a fuck.

UNIVERSITY FINDS STUDENTS IN “A PRETTY GOOD MOOD,” CANCELS SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY

By Emmett Rensin

In an email sent to students today, College Dean of Students Susan Art announced that this year's "Suicide Prevention Day" -- a University holiday scheduled for Friday, February 10th -- would be cancelled in light of a "pretty positive atmosphere" around campus.

First instituted during the 1936-37 school year after a string of apparent student suicides (later found to be cases of hypothermia), "Suicide Prevention Day" had become a staple of University life. By granting a typically depressed student body a three-day-weekend to rest, collect their spirits, and contemplate the full rides they turned down at state schools, the holiday served as a ward against the constant impulse to shuffle off this mortal coil. For many students interviewed by the Dealer, the holiday was remembered as a rare opportunity to "sleep in," "catch up on That '70s Show," and "put away the knife."

Indeed, as recently as 2007, Dean Art was quoted as saying that "[Suicide Prevention Day] is a vital part, perhaps the most vital part, of this University's effort to promote the well-being of its student body. While some may call this holiday a needless interruption, we stand firmly with the medical community in our belief that long-term suicidal depression can be effectively combated by one-day holidays. Without it, I would hate to see what would happen on our campus. Think of the children."

When approached by the *Shady Dealer* about the recent change in policy, Dean Art acknowledged her past statements, but insisted that conditions at the University had changed radically in the past year, citing a number of positive developments. "Everyone is in a good mood," she said. "Thanks to the tireless efforts of the Admissions Office, the student body is better looking than ever. The CPD has stopped shutting down parties. We have Five Guys. Kids are putting down their books and making art. Did you know we have a theater department? I had no idea. Really, every time I walk onto the quad I can just feel the chill vibes. 'Hey -- you know, some of us are going to The Point later to grill some burgers and just relax for a bit, if you want to come.' God, its forty degrees in January. In January. Who would want to die now?"

University President Robert Zimmer declined to comment on the change, citing the *Dealer's* long history of fabricating his dialogue. "Seriously," he added, "Fuck you guys. Every issue there's some shit I never said next to my name. Everyone knows you're in the pocket of my ex-wife, who still lives in my house, by the way."

Student reaction to the cancellation was largely positive. "I'm actually pretty glad we get to have class that Friday," said third-year English major Robert Wallace. "One of my classes was going to cut *Sorrows of Young Werther* from the syllabus, and I was really looking forward to reading that."

"Absolutely," added his girlfriend, second-year physics major Elena Hughes, "I'm pretty into my courses this quarter. Honestly, I don't even know what I'd do with a whole day off. I'd get so bored, I'd probably kill myself."



LEAKED SEMI-NUDE PORN STAR PHOTOS SPARK LITTLE CONTROVERSY

By Jake Interrante

Controversy failed to erupt earlier this week when semi-nude photographs of porn actress Lexxxis Nexxxus appeared on the gossip blog, TMI.

The images feature the porn star's partially exposed breasts in a candid camera phone photo. Fans have responded with disappointment at the obscured breasts, which many feel fall short of the starlet's prior work. "You can't even see anything. Is that it?" inquired one commenter, who went on to declare the shot to be "unfap-worthy," and decry its "bewildering absence of leather and midgets."

Nexxxus' agent advised fans to be forgiving of the less-than-controversial shots. "Obviously, these low-quality vanilla photographs do not reflect the professionalism that the Nexxxus name represents. To keep this mistake from ever happening again, Miss Nexxxus' breasts will now be adorned at all times by a giant yellow boa constrictor."

WILLIAMS from
page 1

Man of the Year Award 2011 sat down with Mr. Williams to get his take on annual excellence.

CHICAGO SHADY DEALER: Mr. Williams, congratulations on being named the *Chicago Shady Dealer* Man of the Year 2011.

ROBIN WILLIAMS: Thanks.

CSD: You must be proud.

RW: Yeah.

CSD: Who did you play in *Jack*?

RW: Jack.

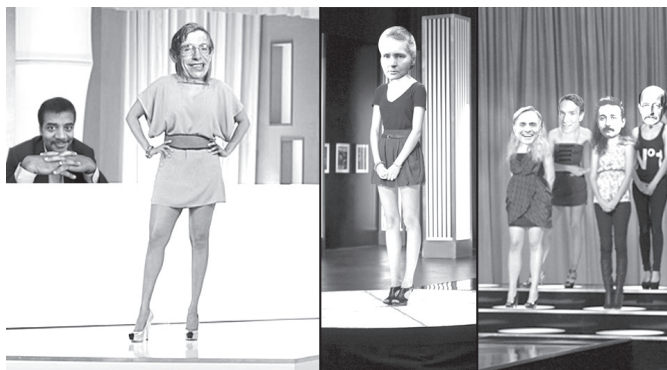
CSD: Thank you.

RW: Thank you.

Robin Williams can also be seen on *Inside the Actors Studio*, where he did the scarf thing, and in *Night at the Museum II*, in which he plays Ben Stiller.

UCHICAGO PHYSICIST WINS AMERICA'S NEXT TOP UNIFIED MODEL

By Bailey Steinworth



University of Chicago physics professor Vanessa Hagstrom took home top honors this season in the popular reality TV program America's Next Top Unified Model.

Hagstrom wowed the judges with her development of the so-called "Theory of Everything," providing a framework to successfully describe all physical phenomena in the universe by unifying the electronuclear force and the gravitational force. Head judge and show creator Stephen Hawking praised Hagstrom's mathematical finesse and originality. During the final judging, Hawking told Hagstrom, "Girl, your postulates about the relation between quantum gravity and the Schrödinger equation are fierce." When reached by *Shady Dealer* staff, Hawking declined to comment on string theory.

Judge Neil deGrasse Tyson, astrophysicist at the Hayden Planetarium and research associate at the American Museum of Natural History, called Hagstrom's final equation "stunning." Tyson also declined to comment on string theory.

Even Hagstrom's competitors have acknowledged her prowess. Top Model contestant George Zhao, infamous for screaming matches with fellow competitors, admitted, "I really respect [Hagstrom]. We had our share of catfights, sure, but seriously, when you get sixteen physicists living together in one house, there's always going to be drama. Yeah, that biatch so ate my granola bars and left her dirty dishes in the sink, and when she writes lower case "v" for velocity she puts this weird loop on it so it

looks like a fucking "lambda," and her nose? I mean, were her parents a camel and a fucking mutant baboon?... but I have to say I respect her as a physicist." Zhao declined to comment on string theory.

Nielson reports that nearly 20% of US households were tuned in to the dramatic finale, in which Hagstrom went head-to-head in a six-hour blackboard derivation against Harvard professor Michael Francois. Previous challenges on the show included using the curvature of space-time to build a time machine underwater, precisely measuring both the momentum and position of a particle while wearing bedazzled Madagascar hissing cockroaches, and determining whether a cat in a sealed box containing a vial of poison was alive or dead while wearing ten-inch platform heels.

Hagstrom has said that she won't let the fame she's acquired from the show change who she is. She vowed to return to her post at the University after her year-long sabbatical spent touring the world and lecturing on her new theory. The tour is part of the prize offered by the show, along with a cover shoot and spread in the top physics journal *Nature Physics*. "This was a great experience, but the University of Chicago is where I belong," said Hagstrom. "It's definitely exciting to travel everywhere by limo and be surrounded by cheering fans, but hey, that's not really so different from teaching PHYS 13300 here at the University." When asked to comment on string theory, Hagstrom told the *Shady Dealer*, "Seriously? I thought you guys were University of Chicago students."



TRAGEDY

MITT ROMNEY TRIES TO ESTABLISH HIMSELF AS THE “ANYONE BUT ROMNEY” CANDIDATE

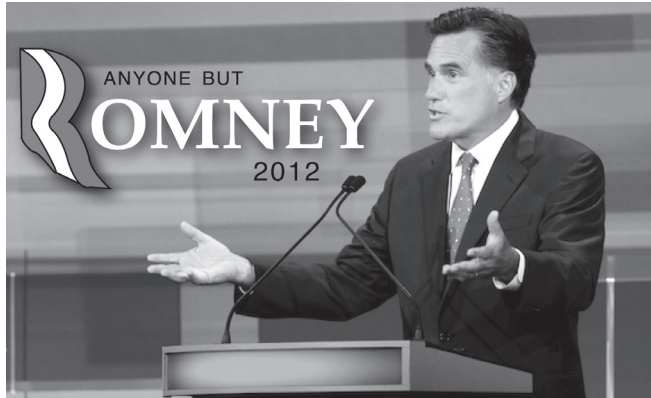
By Benjamin Boyajian

After his successes in Iowa and New Hampshire, it seems likely that Mitt Romney will win the Republican nomination for the 2012 presidential election, but there is one hurdle that he must first overcome. In order to earn the approval of the conservative base of his party, Romney must establish himself as the “anyone but Romney” candidate: a strong, electable candidate who does not share the moderate political views of Mitt Romney.

“I think that Mitt Romney is a reliable, honest politician, and therefore he appeals to me as a presidential candidate,” says Richard Smith, a resident of Hoople, North Dakota. “However, I also want a real American for president, someone who’s going to change America to how it was back in the good ol’ days. In order to vote for Romney, I have to know that he’s a rough, tough, down-to-earth, honest-to-goodness American, unlike that damn hippie liberal, what’s his name ... Rom-

ney, I think.”

Last Sunday, Romney spoke in Charleston, South Carolina, outlining the political differences between himself and Mitt Romney. “As governor of Massachusetts,”



he explained, “Mitt Romney instituted a health care reform bill that was in fact quite similar to the disastrous ‘Obamacare’ bill. I, on the other hand, oppose Obamacare and promise to repeal it if I am elected. In addition, Mitt Romney supported Obama’s economic stimulus plan back in 2009, and I fought against

it. I could go on with the list of political differences between Romney and me for hours.”

Romney is also making an effort to emphasize his working-class roots in an attempt to distinguish himself from the elite, privileged Romney. “In order to win the nomination, I need to win the support of the hard-working Americans that make this country so great, especially for me,” he said.

Last Wednesday, Romney spoke at a campaign rally in Nebraska about his upbringing in rural Michigan, and his father’s struggles in establishing a local business. “I want y’all to know that I can connect with the common folk, and y’all can count on me sure as the rooster craws at sunup,” he said in Nebraska. Romney admits that his effort to adopt regional dialects is a “work in progress,” but he expects to have perfected his Southern drawl by early March.

Romney was last seen outside of his California mansion, smoking a cigar and brandishing a hunting rifle.

DAUGHTER OF LOSER PARENTS SOMEHOW DEVASTATED TO LEARN SHE IS ADOPTED

By Chris Graf

Local adolescent Kelly Brugman, 18, expressed shock and dismay earlier this week upon discovering that she is not the biological child of Darrel and Janey Brugman, 46 and 47, despite their both being miserable losers whose genes nobody in their right mind would want anyway.

The incredibly lame couple revealed the fact of their daughter’s adoption to her on Tuesday night, after another of Mrs. Brugman’s aggressively unappetizing family dinners. Sources say Kelly inexplicably broke down into tears of sadness, even though the revelation meant she stood no risk of having inherited her mother’s masculine jawline or her father’s beak-like nose.

“[Janey] and I just felt Kelly was old enough to learn the truth,” said Mr.

Brugman, upon whom nature had wisely bestowed sluggish and malformed sperm too weak to survive in his wife’s acidic uterus. Experts confirm that this happy genetic coincidence prevented him from passing his irritatingly nasal voice and sallow, oily skin onto potential offspring.

“We always intended to tell her, we just wanted to wait for the right time,” he said, presumably attempting to justify the half-dozen squandered opportunities to divulge the secret over the course of his daughter’s lifetime. This weakness of character and lack of resolve is typical of Mr. Brugman, who currently holds an assistant management position at the local Office Depot, despite having been with the company for twenty years.

Mrs. Brugman agreed with her husband, saying, “The last thing we want to do is hurt Kelly. She’s our greatest

miracle,” the miracle presumably being that another human being could endure time with the insufferably dull couple for more than a few hours, let alone 18 years.

Rather than expressing relief at possessing no genetic link to her two wholly unlikable parents, Kelly appeared determined to continue her association with them. “Just because I was adopted doesn’t mean I love them any less,” she said, with no discernible reason to lie, as Mr. and Mrs. Brugman were well out of earshot at the time. “They raised me, and they’re still my mom and dad.”

As of press time, Kelly had made no attempts to contact her birth parents, Matthew Desalvo of New York, NY and Amy Lobaugh of Cleveland, OH, despite their both having been attractive and confident enough to lose their virginites at 16.



BROKEBACK HIMALAYAS: COMPLETE HINDI: A HINDI TEACH YOURSELF GUIDE (2ND ED.) IS RUPERT SNELL'S TOUR DE FORCE

By Michaela Cross

When London-born Pratap decides to leave England to stay with the Kumar family in New Delhi, his main concern is improving his conversational Hindi skills. Little does he suspect, however, that what lies in store for him is not a lesson in grammar, but in love. Pratap's life changes forever when he meets his landlady Kamala's young son Raj, and we are taken on a journey of forbidden love and desire in a society intolerant of the sexual love between two men.

Complete Hindi: A Hindi Teach Yourself Guide (2nd Ed.) stands not only as a monumental love story for the ages but as a critique of a society whose members are so focused on the price and aesthetic value of the furniture that occupies their rooms, rather than the feelings that occupy our hearts. Snell writes in a prose that is stark, minimalist and Hemingwayesque in its simplicity: "Is that car Japanese?" asks Pratap on his first meeting with Raj. "No," responds Raj, "it's not Japanese. It's a Maruti." Kamala watches this dialogue commence, unaware that the undercurrent of feeling running beneath these words is as deep, strong, and dirty as the Ganges.

In this way Snell brilliantly begins a passionate affair that burns stronger than the spiciest curry and lingers longer than its smell. As Pratap's stay in Raj's home lengthens, Snell elegantly builds a palpable sexual tension between the two men, who dare not speak of their shared longing under the watchful eyes of Kamala and society, refusing even to admit it to themselves. We see the painful internal struggle in Pratap's diary entries as he fights his own feelings and the bonds of his sexuality. "Sangeeta is

pretty. Raj is small."

The dialogue between the characters is Snell's satirical commentary on the meaninglessness of words and the vacuity of society. Unable to say what matters most, they speak of furniture, and revealingly, of fruit. One of the most erotic scenes takes place when Raj and

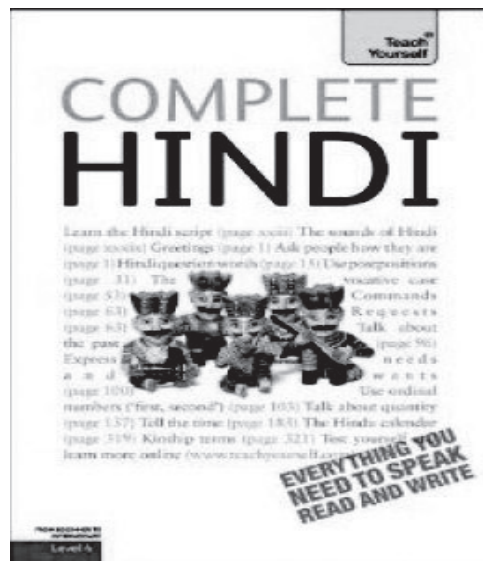
closets that have become their prisons and are now leaving them behind and empty. But Kamala's blindness about the truth of her son prevents her from understanding, which shows the existential abyss that lies between human beings that words fail to bridge.

Meanwhile, devastation befalls the Kumar family when Raj learns that Uncle Arun has misplaced his glasses.

Complete Hindi: A Teach Yourself Guide (2nd Ed.) is a beautiful love story, but a tragic one. Snell ingeniously reveals to us the ugliness of a society that makes a beautiful love like that between Raj and Pratap wrong. For the mango of their love never ripens: too focused on furniture and grammar, Pratap spends the rest of his stay in Delhi absorbed in his studies and leaves India with a full vocabulary but an empty heart. Raj, meanwhile, drunk on jealousy and chai, dedicates himself to the search for

Uncle Arun's glasses and is never heard from again.

But for all its sadness, this story is a lesson in tolerance; *Complete Hindi: A Teach Yourself Guide (2nd Ed.)* is India's *Brokeback Mountain*, and with Snell's masterful writing, it is difficult not to have the cobra charmed from one's heart. This book makes you question the value of communication itself when it is so helpless in the blind face of culture. Upon closing this book there is no doubt that the reader will leave with a greater understanding of love and life. This story, ultimately, is one of triumph. "How are those fruits?" one character asks Pratap towards the end. "These fruits are good," says Pratap. These fruits are good.



Pratap visit the fruit vendor. "This banana is unripe," says Pratap. "Eat my orange," responds Raj.

At one particularly climactic moment Pratap begins "I am--" and we hold our breath, waiting for him to whisper the truth of his hidden homosexuality, only for Pratap to finish by admitting that he is "Gujarati."

Snell, in a parody of the hypocritical standards of Indian society, uses language rife with symbolism to hint instead of state. "Is the cupboard empty?" asks Kamala during a particularly intense conversation. "Yes, both cupboards are empty," responds Pratap significantly. The symbolism is obvious: Raj and Pratap have escaped from the



AMERICAN GROUP EXECUTES SUCCESSFUL HOSTEL TAKEOVER

*By Stephen Lurie,
Foreign Correspondent*

After weeks of mounting pressure in the TravelGo Hostel in Barcelona, a group made up of 63 young people from the United States has finally secured greater than 50% of the hostel's holdings.

When 24 year old University of Missouri students John Reilly and Michael Parker moved into room 420, with a shout of "FUCK YES, BRO," it signified that American students had finally gained control of the majority of the space offered by the hostel. This takeover only came at the end of a 2 month power struggle between factions from the Universities of Melbourne and Sydney, Tokyo Student Alliance, and the "Buenos Boys" from Argentina.

Through a deal brokered by representatives of the U of M and Arizona State, American students decided to band together and ensure increased and united numbers of American students. The coalition then took action to secure the remaining 15% of the hostel that they would require for a majority. Many tenants called upon their "chill dudes" still in the US to cross the pond and help ensure the success of this bid. The calls were heeded en masse and, as of yesterday, the American coalition now has full and pre-eminent control of the common rooms, pool, and all balconies.

A variety of tactics, some more extreme than others, allowed these students to fill vacancies in the hostel previously rented by other students. To eject the previous room-holders, the coalition enacted the controversial "24 Hour Ke\$ha mandate," giving other residents 24 hours to make way for American students or to face a full 24 hours of high-decibal Ke\$ha and Ke\$ha dubstep remixes. Ultimately the threat was not fulfilled, as within 60 minutes a group of 16 French students had evacuated their rooms. In celebration of their success in the hostel takeover, the American student group plans to hold a "Fiesta Grande" that, according to Parker will feature the best Barcelona has to offer: "tacos, margaritas, and bitches."

SAUDI ARABIA BANS WOMEN ALTOGETHER

By Daniel Moattar

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — Saudi Arabia's highest religious advisory council, the Shura Council, has announced plans to outlaw the presence of women in the Middle East's largest nation, whose population is approximately 26 million. The planned reform, which would have the final ovary-bearer outside Saudi Arabia's borders by December 2013, follows a series of less stringent restrictions, such as bans on women's rights to drive automobiles, vote in council elections, and display particularly colorful eyes.

The recommendation, which will become law when vetted by Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah, is expected to reduce the administrative, judicial, and legal costs of dealing with female presence by as much as one hundred percent. In addition, the birthing of female babies will be banned, as will the sale of women's clothing, the sale of men's clothing which strongly resembles women's clothing, and thoughts deemed "excessively feminine" by a committee of religious experts including the United States' own Pat Buchanan.

"It's going to be a hell of a lot easier, I can tell you that," said Shura Council executive speaker Abdullah ibn Muhammad Al ash-Sheikh in an exclusive lunch-hour interview with the *Dealer*. "These days, it's all tits, tits, tits, everywhere you look. You can hide them behind a veil, you can keep them in the house, you can behead them for sorcery,

but you know they're still there, bouncing around — how can a man sleep at night? Just last week, we had to give my own wife twenty lashes for possession of a suggestive gourd."

Saudi Arabia's conservative religious elite came forth strongly in favor of the ban, writing in a statement yesterday

that it "would put an end to the woman-borne evils of pornography, homosexuality, prostitution, gambling, disease, divorce, and hay fever." Noted religious academic Kamal Subhi, involved in drafting the new legislation, held a question-and-answer session where he

discussed citizens' concerns. "In many respects, a ban on women is a natural progression," Prof. Subhi said. "For so long, we have dreamed of a society where women may as well not exist. Why not a world where women truly don't exist? Only in a woman-free society can a man truly be free."

Referenda administered by the Shura Council have shown broad approval for a woman-free Saudi Arabia across every spectrum of Saudi society, with support from men for the ban measured at 73 percent, and support from women close to 100. When asked where women leaving Saudi Arabia would go, Prof. Subhi replied, "Ibiza? The Moon? Whatever. Somewhere else."

At press time, the Shura Council is considering an amendment to the planned law that would ban women from the four inner planets of the Solar System.



CHICAGO CUBS TO BECOME CRICKET TEAM IN HOPES OF WINNING A CHAMPIONSHIP

By Ari Hakkarainen

Facing the probable scenario of their 104th straight season without a championship and a fan base that just can't take it anymore, the Chicago Cubs Baseball Operations Department has decided to take the club in a new direction. At a press conference at Wrigley Field this morning, New President of Baseball Ops and Boy Genius Theo Epstein announced the decision of the troubled organization to become a cricket team. Epstein said that this decision is effective immediately and the team is currently in negotiations with Congress to hasten its transition to the American Cricket League (ACL). Epstein said, "When I came from Boston, I took the Cubs as the next new challenge to pad my résumé. What I quickly realized is that this team has no chance in hell of winning the World Series, ever. In this business, when a team cannot win in one sport, management has to consider other options. I just hope to God that the Billy Goat Curse does not apply to cricket."

Epstein describes the decision as a joint effort between new General Manager Jed Hoyer, himself, and owner Tom Ricketts.

"Tom and I just looked each other in the eye at the last meeting, and we had a non-verbal understanding about what needed to be done." Ricketts was available for comment at the event. Ricketts said, "This was a necessary decision for the success of our club. I owe all of this to my new personal advisor Allen Sanderson." Allen Sanderson, the celebrated sports economist, called into the *Dealer* this morning asking if his comment was needed. Sanderson said, "Well last Sunday when Tom, Charlie Wheelan, President Obama's Economic Team, and I teed up for the first round of golf, I all of a sudden got the idea. I told Tom, 'Maybe you guys just aren't cut out for baseball.'"

General Manager Jed Hoyer detailed the changes to the organization. Wrigley Field is being renamed Wrigley Cricket Grounds — the pitch will be adjusted accordingly. All signed players will be converted to the ACL, and Spring Training will be moved to Quebec, Canada. Finally, while every effort to the contrary was made, season ticket prices will increase.

Players are being guided through the change of equipment and training schedules. Asked if he was concerned about how the change will impact the players, Theo

Epstein said he had no worries. "All the recent moves we've made have been in anticipation of this announcement. Manager Dale Sveum is already preparing for the adjustments of the new season. I also made sure to get rid of any players with the absurd 'I don't want to play cricket' mentality." When asked for comment on his recent trade, pitcher Carlos Zambrano replied, "I don't want to fucking play cricket."

However, several other players are looking forward to the season. Left Fielder Alfonso Soriano commented via his translator, "I'm excited. I mean, I'm proud of my consistent performances of perpetual injury and mediocrity as a baseball player. But I'm looking forward to taking my talents to the sport of cricket."

According to Dale Sveum, "We're adjusting our pitchers to a new throwing program -- our new trainer Nigel Bacon is showing the staff how to throw the ball into the dirt instead of toward the strike zone. It's a tough transition, but I'm confident we will be ready for opening day." Sveum added that "anyone caught with a farm animal or seen interfering with a ball in play will be executed for the greater good of the city."

NOT TO BE OUTDONE BY SELF, JAMES CAMERON TO RE-RELEASE AVATAR IN 4D

By Scott Mendelssohn

"Are you f---ing kidding me?!"

So began my discussion with James Cameron in his 24 bedroom loft in downtown Pandora, a small suburb of New York City that he recently purchased for himself. "He's seriously making *Titanic* in 3D? I can't believe that d---head James Cameron would do that to a perfectly good movie."

The whole art of cinema is changing and Cameron has no intentions of falling behind. What used to be an attempt to tell a beautiful story with complex characters and plot has now become an attempt to make the audience jump a little bit when a chunk of a sinking ship comes popping out of the screen, and Cameron knows just the movie if you're into falling ship chunks.

"I really don't have a choice here though," lamented James Cameron as we rode on his gigantic animatronic version of Leonardo DiCaprio, "If James Cameron is going to go ahead and release *Titanic* in 3D, how the hell am I, James Cameron, going to be able to top him?!" Despite higher costs to patrons

(movie theaters often add up to \$7.50 to see a movie in 3D), these movies are raking in tons of cash, but "audiences need more excitement," says the now-skydiving Cameron. There's only one way to beat 3D, and James Cameron knows how he can do it.

"Think about it," Cameron implored while ordering a cup of Mocha Unobtainium from the Starbucks he put under his bunk-bed that he has just for himself. "What's bigger than 3? Well, you'd respond, there are a lot of numbers; for instance 3789 (which happens to be the number of explosions I make sure to include in each movie I make). But I'm talking IMMEDIATELY after 3. I'm talking 4... and potentially 5 given enough time."

James Cameron therefore plans to re-release his hit 3D movie *Avatar* in 4D. This is the first time 4D technology has been used in the history of all mankind, but Cameron is confident he will succeed.

"We're not entirely sure how it works, per se, but we've put in the research and we're positive that this is going to be the coolest thing that's ever been put into your eyes.

Guaranteed. Fact. Truth.

"You're going to be seeing Na'vis like never before. It'll feel like you're an avatar, while being attacked by a thanator, while having hair-sex with the Hometree. Which, I'm going to just say here, is super motherf---ing awesome."

The movie has already gained popularity and hundreds of fans have posted on the film's website, avatarin4dbecausewhynot.com. Some glowing comments include, "Dude, this is so sick. I totally loved the first one with Kevin Costner, when it was filmed in South Dakota," "I'm almost positive this one will have a different story than other movies do," and "Do they WANT me to shoot myself, because I will, and I don't think they know that -- Love, Roger Ebert."

As I left his mansion in the clouds in a flying elevator, Cameron told me one last thing: "That piece of f---ing batsh-t. He's going to go and make a 4D movie like that? What a c---sucker. I'm going to have to go f---ing monstrously big on this next one."

Meanwhile, James Cameron plans to re-release *Titanic* in 34DD.



NATURAL EXPLORATIONS WITH NIGEL PENNINGTON

This issue's topic: The Majestic House Cat

Welcome back, my naturalist friends. In this week's installment of Natural Explorations, we cover one of my favorite animals: the Majestic House Cat.

The house cat is a part of the larger family of felines known as residential cats. Other species include the Lazy Apartment Cat and the Disgruntled Condo Cat. Of these, however, the Majestic House Cat is by far the most common as well as the most interesting.

Majestic House Cats have been revered for thousands of years. The ancient Egyptians worshipped them as gods. The pyramids were actually gigantic napping beds for the cats so that they could comfortably lay out in the sun without being bothered. Cats continued to hold a special place in society in Roman times. They were seen as defenders of the Republic. In fact, it was a cat, Brutus Purrius Furrius, who orchestrated the assassination of Julius Caesar in an attempt to restore power to the Senate.

During the Middle Ages, Majestic House Cats played an important role in monastic life. The celebrated illuminated manuscripts produced by monks were actually intended as litterbox linings. Later, cats were used by the Puritans as a form of punishment. When one of their community members sinned, for instance by looking at a member of the opposite sex, he would be given a cat. The cat would then tear up the Puritan's furniture and leaves hairballs all over his house.

Today, Majestic House Cats can be found all over the

world. They are still, however, an under-represented minority in the United States Congress. A mere 15% of senators and congressmen are cats, as opposed to 35% who are dogs. In time, however, CAT-PAC, an influential feline lobbying group, believes that cats will soon have equal representation to dogs.

Majestic House Cats are very temperamental creatures. One moment they may be lying on your lap, purring happily, and the next thing you know, you're tied up to a chair with a ball-gag in your mouth, matching black eyes.

The diet of Majestic House Cats consists mainly of dry food, though they do enjoy the occasional wet food. They also enjoy eating the leaves of house plants, throwing them up, and then eating their own vomit, in the futile belief that the leaves will be digestible the second time around.

Majestic House Cats are particularly partial to nepeta cataria, better known as catnip. This substance is illegal in quantities over 5 grams, and is not allowed within 10 blocks of a school. Most catnip is grown in the jungles of Colombia and mountains of Afghanistan. The catnip trade has cost thousands of lives and is considered by the United Nations to be one of the biggest threats in the modern world, next to global warming and the end of the world predicted by the Mayan calendar.

All in all, the Majestic House Cat is one of nature's finest creations. Be sure to tune in next time for the next installment of Natural Explorations with Nigel Pennington!



KEANU REEVES NOMINATED FOR BEST ACTOR ACADEMY AWARD

By Barry Ravioli

Confusingly, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences recently announced that Keanu Reeves, 47, has been nominated for the Academy Award for Best Actor. This comes as a shock to many, as the award-nominated role is Reeves' appearance in 1996's *Feeling Minnesota*, a little-known and even less-loved cinematic flop whose commercial failure was so extreme that it is credited by economists as having severely dampened the budget surplus of the Clinton Era. Despite the agreement among critics that Reeves' performance in the film was, in the words of Roger Ebert, "worse than Vietnam," the Academy insists that this breach in its usual nominating protocol is warranted.

In response to the announcement, Mr. Reeves' numerous detractors took to the streets around the nation, an unsurprising development considering the general consensus that his acting really blows. Protesters hurled insults at the famed actor, sporting signs decrying Reeves and demanding that the Academy "Reev-amp" its slate of nominations. Though the star has provoked considerable admiration for his on-screen abilities among fans of the *Speed* franchise and other slop, these admirers' counter-rallies have terminated, as the "What Would Keanu Do?" bracelets failed to produce new supporters for the embattled actor.

Reeves himself had no comment, but did announce his intentions to ride a flying pig to the Awards Ceremony and his inevitable victory.

