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June 25, 2004, Friday THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: TRADING DEEP-DISH FOR LOW-CARB, CHICAGO SEEKS TO SLIM DOWN

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk Globe Correspondent

BODY:

CHICAGO - The city's annual food fest, Taste of Chicago, opens along the shores of Lake Michigan today, but at the insistence of Mayor Richard M. Daley vendors will be offering healthy alternatives to the thick pan pizzas and giant rib slabs that the city of big shoulders has traditionally celebrated.

Stung by a fitness magazine's ranking of Chicago's population among the nation's most obese, Daley and the city's Fitness Council have been pushing city residents to exercise more and eat smarter. In addition to the cheesecake, corn on the cob slathered in butter, and the other high-caloric fare that attracts millions of visitors from around the country, this year's event also will include exercise classes and booths serving up low-carb dishes and fresh fruit.

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May 21, 2004, Friday THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: CHICAGO AIMS TO TRANSFORM SITE OF FORMER STEEL MILL DEVELOPMENT DEAL UNDERWAY AT LAKEFRONT

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk Globe Correspondent

BODY:

CHICAGO - The site of a former US Steel plant is up for sale, setting the stage for the redevelopment of a massive parcel on the shores of Lake Michigan and, city leaders hope, the rejuvenation of a long-neglected blue-collar neighborhood.

The asking price for South Works, where steel for warships and skyscrapers was produced for more than a century, is \$85 million. A team of developers who want to build a thriving neighborhood on the 573-acre site on Chicago's southeast side, is hammering out the final details of a purchase agreement with the city, according to a member of the team, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

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Copyright 2004 Globe Newspaper Company
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April 4, 2004, Sunday THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: WAGON MAKERS WATCH JOBS ROLL AWAY

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe Correspondent

BODY:

CHICAGO - The Radio Flyer wagons that for generations have seemed as American as apple pie will soon be made in China, a stark example of the trend toward shipping US jobs abroad that has become a much-debated issue this election year.

For the 90 workers of the small family-run company on the city's Near West Side, the 85-year-old company's decision to move its assembly operations to China, where wages are lower, means that nearly half of them will lose their jobs at the end of August.

"A Radio Flyer from China? It is hard for us to imagine and for most of us, the news is very sad," Emanuel Rodriguez, 52, a steel punch press operator, said at the close of his shift late Thursday afternoon. "And what about the workers, where will we all go?"

"We have an older work force," Rodriguez said. "Most of us are over 50 years old and where are we going to find other jobs? We love working here. The pay is good, the company treats us well. What happens afterwards? I have four children to support."

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Copyright 2004 Globe Newspaper Company The Boston Globe

March 21, 2004, Sunday THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: GAYS FIND WELCOMING ATMOSPHERE IN CHICAGO

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe Correspondent

BODY:

CHICAGO - San Francisco may be known as a kind of national hub for diverse lifestyles, and Boston has been at the center of the current debate over gay marriage. But the capital of the conservative Midwest has quietly become home to one of the country's largest gay populations.

"This is the country's best-kept secret!" said Bill Greaves, Mayor Richard M. Daley's liaison to the gay community, who counted off several reasons that gays call Chicago their home. "When people think of Chicago, they think of tough politics, the sports teams: da Bears, da Bulls, da Cubs. I ask, 'Why not da ballet, too?' "

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Copyright 2004 Globe Newspaper Company The Boston Globe

February 27, 2004, Friday THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: ON OSCAR NIGHT, SHE'LL HAVE IT MADE

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe Correspondent

BODY:

CHICAGO - When the Hollywood glitterati stride down the red carpet for the Academy Awards on Sunday, Barbara Cassata will walk right alongside them, honored for her role in creating the golden statuettes that every star covets.

"I don't think I will turn and wave to the paparazzi," she quipped.

Cassata, 60, isn't an aspiring actress or a hot producer. She is a longtime employee of R.S. Owens & Company Inc., the small family-owned trophy manufacturer that produces the gold-plated Oscars.

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February 20, 2004, Friday THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: NEW HIRES CLIMB ABOARD REVITALIZED RAIL INDUSTRY

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe Correspondent

BODY:

CHICAGO - Jeff Lee was working in sales for a Kansas City health club until he felt the romance of the rails calling to him, like whistles echoing along the tracks that crisscross America.

"I wasn't really happy in my career, and when I heard about the railroads hiring so many people it made me stop and think about my relatives who had worked the rails and how happy they had been," said Lee, a 24-year-old who studied communications at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. "It seemed right for me."

Lee, who lives with his wife in Lawrence, is among an estimated 80,000 new workers that the American Association of Railroads expects the nation's seven top freight haulers to bring aboard over the next six years.

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February 4, 2004, Wednesday THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: BUILDING'S NEIGHBORS SAY IT'S NOT EASY SEEING GREEN

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe Correspondent

BODY:

CHICAGO - At first glance, the sickly green hue cast throughout his friend's ninth-floor condominium made Michael Bonfiglio feel like a patron in Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec's

"At the Moulin Rouge."

"Every time I looked over at Andrew, I thought of the woman with the greenish complexion in the lower right-hand corner of Lautrec's painting," Bonfiglio said. "There's something alien about being up there. Something UFO-like."

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SLAVERY REPARATIONS LAWSUIT DISMISSED FAMILIES HAD ARGUED THAT FIRMS BENEFITED The Boston Globe January 27, 2004, Tuesday

Copyright 2004 Globe Newspaper Company The Boston Globe

January 27, 2004, Tuesday THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: SLAVERY REPARATIONS LAWSUIT DISMISSED FAMILIES HAD ARGUED THAT FIRMS BENEFITED

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe Correspondent

BODY:

CHICAGO - A federal judge dismissed a landmark lawsuit yesterday brought by slave descendants from six states seeking reparations from corporations they say benefited from their ancestors' labor.

In a 75-page opinion, US District Judge Charles Norgle said the plaintiffs had established no clear link to the 19 companies - some of the nation's largest banking, insurance, and tobacco firms - they targeted.

"Plaintiffs' attempt to bring these claims more than a century after the end of the Civil War and the formal abolition of slavery fails; this determination is consistent with the position taken by numerous courts which have considered the issue over the last century," Norgle wrote.

In his ruling, however, Norgle said the dismissal was "without prejudice," which allows the 12 plaintiffs to file an amended complaint.

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Copyright 2003 Globe Newspaper Company
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December 27, 2003, Saturday THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: OUT AT PLATE: OWNERS OF EATERIES TO DESTROY BALL THAT DOOMED CUBS

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe Correspondent

BODY:

CHICAGO - The baseball that broke Chicago's heart will soon be destroyed.

The owners of a local restaurant chain have vowed to get rid of the infamous ball - the latest symbol of the Cubs' futile quest for the World Series - they purchased Dec. 19 at auction for \$106,600 after several hours of Internet bidding. The price climbed far above the \$40,000 the group had expected.

But that's nothing, many contend, compared to what the so-called Bartman Ball cost the Cubs.

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December 22, 2003, Monday THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: CHICAGO POLICE OFFICERS RETURNED TO THE STREETS 200 BACK ON BEAT; NEW SUPERINTENDENT TARGETS DRUG SALES

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe Correspondent

BODY:

CHICAGO - Officer Bernadette Foley jammed her hands into the pockets of her jacket, its collar turned up against the brisk Chicago morning. It's been more than three years since she last walked a beat. Her eyes carefully combed the neighborhood, and she shivered in the cold.

Until the first week of December, the 38-year-old spent her days working at headquarters, opening mail and attending to details for Superintendent Philip Cline. A steaming cup of coffee was always nearby.

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Copyright 2003 Globe Newspaper Company The Boston Globe

November 1, 2003, Saturday THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: ARCHDIOCESE THREATENS SUIT IN CHICAGO LANDMARK DEBATE

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe Correspondent

BODY:

CHICAGO - The Archdiocese of Chicago has announced it will sue to protect the value of its real estate should the city designate a shuttered Catholic church as a local landmark.

This is the first time that the city of Chicago has attempted to declare a closed church a landmark, a move that the archdiocese regards as potential violation of the separation of church and state. Nationally, many active churches have been designated landmarks because of their architectural history and beauty, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Washington, D.C., recently placed churches among its top priorities.

During an eight-hour public hearing last month, attorneys for the archdiocese appeared before the Commission on Chicago Landmarks to argue against granting the designation to St. Gelasius Catholic Church, which was closed last year after attendance dwindled to fewer than 100 parishioners. When the church in the South Side neighborhood of Woodlawn was built 80 years ago, more than 4,000 families worshiped within the cavernous interior of the Renaissance-revival building.

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September 28, 2003, Sunday THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: CHICAGO STADIUM FUMBLING WITH PUBLIC

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe Correspondent

BODY:

CHICAGO - Not since 1967, when Picasso's sculpture was unveiled in the Loop, has there been so much controversy about design in this city. Back then, residents recoiled at the rust-hued mass of steel curves and rods, christened it daily with gobs of spit, and wondered what kind of gift the famed artist had made.

These days, the public sculpture in Daley Plaza is a respected city treasure. But the new Soldier Field, which opens tomorrow night when the Chicago Bears and Green Bay Packers play a professional football game in the stadium, is another matter.

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September 19, 2003, Friday THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: AUTO PARTS INDUSTRY STALLS, COSTING JOBS OVERSEAS COMPETITION, HIGH STEEL PRICES CITED

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe Correspondent

BODY:

CHICAGO - The automotive parts industry once meant job security for the thousands of workers who toiled in plants in the Midwest and South. Employment was plentiful, and workers in places such as Plymouth, Mich., and Gordonville, Tenn., lived relatively comfortable lives, laboring with an eye on retirement and a decent pension.

That peace of mind, however, has vanished for many of those workers as auto parts plants have closed or moved overseas since early 2002 because of rising prices for US steel and competition from products made in China.

"I was a [steel] presser and now I'm a handyman," said Lewis Wood, who was laid off by Arvin Meritor Manufacturing Corp. in Gordonville a year ago. This summer, the plant shut down, leaving more than 300 workers jobless.

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August 24, 2003, Sunday THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: A STERN JUDGE PRESIDES AS REPARATIONS FIGHT BEGINS 19 FIRMS ALLEGED TO HAVE BENEFITED FROM US SLAVERY

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe Correspondent

BODY:

CHICAGO - The next chapter in the legal battle for slave reparations is unfolding away from the spotlight, on the 24th floor of a federal building downtown under the guidance of a veteran judge known as "No Nonsense Norgle."

Lawsuits brought by a dozen plaintiffs in six states alleging that 19 blue-chip businesses benefited from slave labor in the 19th century have been consolidated for a single trial before US District Judge Charles Norgle.

While media have focused on Iraq and the California governor's race, 400 people have been packing into Norgle's courtroom to follow the preliminary phase of the landmark case.

"The real legacy of our nation's slave past is something most Americans seek to deny or repress," said Diane Sammons, a New Jersey lawyer who represents the plaintiffs. "It's not one of our proudest moments."

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The Boston Globe

June 10, 2003, Tuesday THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: CHICAGO BLUES CLUB POISED FOR REBIRTH

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe Correspondent

BODY:

CHICAGO - At first glance, theirs seems an unlikely courtship.

The tattered blues club known as the Checkerboard Lounge, whose stage was once home to Muddy Waters, Willie Dixon, the Rolling Stones, and other musicians, is being wooed by the University of Chicago, which has produced 74 Nobel laureates.

However, in the eyes of L.C. Thurman, the 65-year-old owner of the Checkerboard, and Hank Webber, the university's vice president of community and government affairs, the partnership, though odd, could be a lovely fit.

The men are in negotiations to move the Checkerboard from its longtime home at 423 East 43d St. as a way to bring "vitality to the [university] community's night life," Webber said. Under the agreement, if finalized, the University of Chicago will purchase the existing lease for the club and reopen it in a former health spa in Hyde Park, the Chicago lakefront neighborhood south of downtown that is home to the university.

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The Boston Globe

May 31, 2003, Saturday, THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: FOR CHICAGO'S DALEY, HIS KIND OF TOWN WOULD INCLUDE A CASINO

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe Correspondent

BODY:

CHICAGO - At numerous breakfasts and luncheons at home and abroad, Mayor Richard M. Daley has tirelessly pitched this city as "world class."

His mission, the mayor says, is to blot out the old image of Chicago as the crime-infested gangster haunt of yesteryear and present the town of today. The Windy City: A place with flowering boulevards, river walks, compelling architecture, and gourmet shops. Especially ones with pungent cheeses of which he is so fond.

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May 19, 2003, Monday, THIRD EDITION

MOTHER OF MURDERED BOY IN CUSTODY FIGHT IN ILL. JUDGE'S RULING RETURNS OTHER SON TO FOSTER CARE All Rights ReservedThe Boston Globe May 19, 2003, Monday

HEADLINE: MOTHER OF MURDERED BOY IN CUSTODY FIGHT IN ILL. JUDGE'S RULING RETURNS OTHER SON TO FOSTER CARE

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe Correspondent

BODY:

CHICAGO - Randy Hardy fell in love with Sheryl McGee at the Jerseyville, Ill., grocery store where they both worked.

When she became pregnant in 1999 he married her. Now, if he wants to get custody of Billy, their 2-year-old son, from state officials, he will have to say goodbye to Sheryl.

Last week, an Illinois judge overturned a 2001 decision that returned Billy to his parents, and once again the youngster is in foster care, pending a May 28 custody hearing. Randy Hardy has less than 10 days to come to a decision.

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May 3, 2003, Saturday ,THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: CHICAGO CONTROLLERS REPORT SAFETY RISK

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe Correspondent

BODY:

CHICAGO - Air traffic controllers in the Chicago area, complaining of insufficient staffing and increasing traffic at the world's busiest airport, are asking the National Transportation Safety Board to investigate their working conditions and warning of a risk to public safety.

Ray Gibbons, president of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association local chapter at Chicago Terminal Radar Approach Control in Elgin, Ill., said he contacted the safety board this week after 12 errors in two facilities serving O'Hare International Airport in the past 15 days.

Controllers at TRACON in Elgin oversee a 40-mile radius around the airport while the Chicago Air Route Traffic Control Center in Aurora, Ill., oversees 109 square miles around O'Hare. Both centers are affected when one has difficulties.

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April 29, 2003, Tuesday, THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: HISTORIC HOSPITAL BUILDING IS ON DEATHBED ACTIVISTS CHALLENGE DALEY, COOK COUNTY TO HELP SAVE A LEGACY

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe Correspondent

BODY:

HISTORIC HOSPITAL BUILDING IS ON DEATHBED ACTIVISTS CHALLENGE DALEY, COOK COUNTY TO HELP SAVE A LEGACY All Rights Reserved The Boston Globe April 29, 2003, Tuesday

CHICAGO - Known merely as County, the huge brick and terra cotta classical revival hospital building on West Harrison Street was, for nearly a century, the breath of hope between life and death for the city's downtrodden and under privileged.

Built in 1913, Cook County Hospital quickly became one of the most esteemed institutions of its kind. For more than 80 years, doctors and nurses from around the globe clamored to work in its overburdened wards and emergency room.

Now, some current and former medical staff members are clamoring to save the vacant building, slated for demolition at year's end. The movement has set off a battle between city and county officials on one side and preservationists on the other.

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The Boston Globe

April 5, 2003, Saturday ,THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: ORDER HALTS ALTERING OF AIRFIELD BY CHICAGO MAYOR

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe Correspondent

BODY:

CHICAGO - A group supporting Chicago's lakefront airport won a temporary restraining order yesterday prohibiting Mayor Richard M. Daley from further dismantling Meigs Field.

Cook County Circuit Court Judge William Maki issued the injunction after Friends of Meigs filed a lawsuit against the city and Daley in the morning. The order is set to stay in effect until another court hearing on May 16.

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January 17, 2002, Thursday ,THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: TRIED AND TRUE HOUSEWARES SHOW EMPHASIZES FAMILIAR ITEMS WITH NEW FEATURES

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe Correspondent

BODY:

CHICAGO- Soft-hued items geared to making life more healthy and simple and keeping consumers cozy by hearth and in their homes prevailed at the International Housewares Show held here last week.

Despite concerns that attendance at the 2002 show earlier this week at McCormick Place would be light, show executives said they expected figures to slightly surpass last year's, which was one of the highest on record.

Perry Reynolds, marketing director for the event, said there was an estimated 24 percent turnover among manufacturers this year as "many companies consolidated and others chose not to use their marketing dollars on a trade show."

Unlike other areas of retail, show officials said, housewares are almost recession-proof. That's even more true this year as Americans turn toward their homes for comfort and security.

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January 17, 2002, Thursday ,THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: SHOW IS ALSO A DISPLAY OF IMAGINATION

BYLINE: BY LORI ROTENBERK

BODY:

CHICAGO - The most captivating thing annually on display at the Housewares Show is not a product, but rather the human knack for invention.

A handful of this year's new vendors were escapees from the corporate world, either by choice or by economic shifts. Whether their numbers will increase from the corporate layoffs now underway won't been seen for at least two years. Fresh ideas and new products are what make the show fun. Here are a few such items and how they were were invented.

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The Boston Globe

January 13, 2002, Sunday ,THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: HARRODS CONSIDERS A FORAY NEAR CHICAGO'S OLD FIELD'S

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe Correspondent

BODY:

CHICAGO - Though loyal to their traditions, many Chicagoans are expressing an almost joyous sense of revenge when the words "Harrods of Knightsbridge" are uttered.

"Harrods!" exclaims Margaret Kelly, a 62-year-old schoolteacher, as she learns of the renowned British department store's growing interest in setting up shop here on State Street. "I'm wearing a suit I bought there 14 years ago. I want to go back there again and buy another one!"

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January 11, 2002, Friday , THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: FIGHTING TERROR / THE VICTIMS Material from the Associated Press was used for this report.; A DEATH UNDERLINES WOMEN'S COMBAT ROLE

BYLINE: By Tatsha Robertson, Globe Staff, and Lori Rotenberk, Globe correspondent

FIGHTING TERROR / THE VICTIMS Material from the Associated Press was used for this report.; A DEATH UNDERLINES WOMEN'S COMBAT ROLE All Rights Reserved The Boston Globe January 11, 2002, Friday

BODY:

GARY, Ind. - She always admired her big brother. Like her brother, who would come home in his well-pressed military uniform, Jeannette L. Winters joined the Marine Corps. And that led to her death in the mountains of Pakistan this week

"She joined to follow in the footsteps of her brother," said Lisa Winters, a sister, "and she was proud to serve her country."

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Copyright 2001 Globe Newspaper Company All Rights Reserved
The Boston Globe

November 22, 2001, Thursday, THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: Rotenberk reported from Chicago; Lewis from Boston. Globe correspondent Jill Elizabeth Westfall contributed from Atlanta. Material from the Associated Press was also included.; FOR TRAVELERS, A SMOOTHER PASSAGE MORE STAFF OFFSETS STRICTER SECURITY

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe correspondent, and Raphael Lewis, Globe staff

BODY:

CHICAGO - People moved smoothly through the nation's airports yesterday, as bigger airport staffs and a smaller number of Thanksgiving passengers offset the tight security measures in effect for one of the busiest travel days since the Sept. 11 attacks.

Crowds were heavy in the morning and evening at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, but at times during the day, no more than a dozen people were waiting in the cordoned off check-in lines.

"Can you believe this is O'Hare?" asked Jennifer Ames, a 39-year-old real estate agent who was traveling to Los Angeles. "Remember the days when the place was packed for Thanksgiving travel and the lines were out to here?"

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November 4, 2001, Sunday ,THIRD EDITION Correction Appended

HEADLINE: FIGHTING TERROR / FINANCING EFFORTS THE OPPOSITION; SLAIN LEADER'S ALLIES SEEK US AID PLEDGE

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe correspondent

BODY:

CHICAGO - The American financiers of Abdul Haq, the Afghan opposition leader captured and executed by the Taliban last month, will be in Washington this week urging the US government to support an effort by anti-Taliban groups to unite Afghanistan.

Chicagoans James Ritchie and his brother, Joseph, worked for more than two years with Haq, an ethnic Pashtun who had been waging a campaign with no government's support to unify anti-Taliban factions and return the exiled former king, Mohammed Zahir Shah, to power.

FIGHTING TERROR / FINANCING EFFORTS THE OPPOSITION; SLAIN LEADER'S ALLIES SEEK US AID PLEDGE All Rights ReservedThe Boston Globe November 4, 2001, Sunday

After much frustration with the US government, the Ritchie brothers' campaign may be paying off. Joseph Ritchie said in an interview that a US official assured him that the Pashtun commanders seeking to oust the Taliban will soon receive support from the US government. Ritchie declined to provide details of the assistance, but said they would be made public this week. / The Washington lobbying is the latest episode in a concerted effort by the brothers, who have a long attachment to Afghanistan and have spent part of their fortune to try to shape events there.

CORRECTION-DATE: November 11, 2001, Sunday

CORRECTION:

Because of an editing error, a story last Sunday about Chicagoans James and Joseph Ritchie incorrectly said that details about US aid to ethnic Pashtuns opposed to the Taliban would be made public last week. There was no such announcement.

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October 19, 2001, Friday ,THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: FIGHTING TERROR ON EDGE IN CHICAGO / SEARS TOWER; RUMORS TEST NERVES IN NATION'S TALLEST BUILDING

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe correpsondent

BODY:

CHICAGO - It's 5 p.m., and workers are pouring out the doors of the Sears Tower. They clog Wacker Drive and spill onto Franklin Street, not bothering to shop, grab a bite to eat, or take a stroll along the river.

Instead, they head straight for parking lots, trains, and buses, relieved to be heading home after a workday in the nation's tallest building.

"Even the cigarette breaks are shorter, so people can get out of work on time," says Nick Covello, as he leans against the building and hastily draws a last puff. "The faster they can get away from the city and the building, the better."

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October 10, 2001, Wednesday ,THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: AMERICA ATTACKS / DOMESTIC IMPACT AIRLINES; MIDFLIGHT RUCKUS FURTHER HIGHLIGHTS SECURITY FAILINGS

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe correspondent

BODY:

CHICAGO - Even before a passenger charged into the cockpit of American Airlines Flight 1238 Monday, the crew had begun warning passengers there could be trouble.

AMERICA ATTACKS / DOMESTIC IMPACT AIRLINES; MIDFLIGHT RUCKUS FURTHER HIGHLIGHTS SECURITY FAILINGS All Rights ReservedThe Boston Globe October 10, 2001, Wednesday

After the passenger's father said his son was acting oddly, the crew seated an off-duty pilot near him to keep watch. That wasn't enough to stop Edward Coburn from rushing into the cockpit. But according to witnesses, every male passenger tried to help, and Coburn was subdued without doing significant damage.

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August 13, 2001, Monday, THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: CHICAGO MAYOR LIFTS A NOVEL IDEA TO BIND THE CITY

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe correspondent

BODY:

CHICAGO - In a city where the residents have a hard time staying on the same page in politics, sports, or even the weather, Mayor Richard M. Daley has an ambitious plan to get everyone to read the same book.

On Aug. 25, Daley and the Chicago Public Library will launch "One Book, One Chicago," urging everyone to read Harper Lee's book "To Kill a Mockingbird." The 1960 novel, which received the Pulitzer Prize, tells the story of a black man who is falsely accused of a rape in Alabama and is defended by a white lawyer.

It is the mayor's hope that all Chicagoans - not only those who gather in small book clubs, he said, but "the type that meet in kitchens" - will participate.

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April 29, 2001, Sunday ,THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: MILWAUKEE REDISCOVERS ZEST ARCHITECT'S DARING SPARKS RENAISSANCE

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe Correspondent

BODY:

MILWAUKEE - To much of the country, this city is little more than the home of TV's Laverne and Shirley, a Rust Belt enclave of cheeseheads, bratwurst, and beer.

"That was our identity to outsiders. And if you heard and saw those things about Milwaukee enough times, you began to believe it," said a lifelong resident, Barbara Stein.

Though home to a symphony and a ballet company, both excellent, Milwaukee's downtown was all but lifeless. Factories and homes on Brewer's Hill, where the city's rich used to live, had been dormant and decaying since the late 1960s. Lethargy had set in.

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April 5, 2001, Thursday ,THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: MUTE TESTIMONY LEADS TO CONVICTION IN BRUTAL RAPE CASE

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe correspondent

BODY:

CHICAGO - A 29-year-old man was convicted yesterday of brutally attacking a 9-year-old girl, in a trial indelibly marked by the victim's dramatic, mute testimony.

After two days of deliberation, the seven-man, five-woman jury found Patrick Sykes guilty of four counts of predatory criminal sexual assault and one count each of aggravated kidnapping and attempted murder. He is to be sentenced on May 2, and faces up to 30 years in prison for each of the counts.

Since the January 1997 assault, Chicagoans have followed the fate of the victim, identified only as Girl X, who was left blind, paralyzed, and unable to speak from the attack. Her plight became a symbol of the troubles plaguing gangand drug-infested public housing, and prompted calls for swift retribution.

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March 29, 2001, Thursday, THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: DISCORD ALOFT AT AIRPORT FOES VOW TO FIGHT CHICAGO PARK PLAN FOR MEIGS FIELD

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe correspondent

BODY:

CHICAGO - When not in his presence, some high-level city employees refer to the leader of this city as Mayor Richard M. Daylily.

A passion for planting by Mayor Daley has spread greenery from service stations to old industrial buildings to the roof of City Hall. His latest, most ambitious project is designed to bring campgrounds, snorkeling lagoons, bird sanctuaries even sand dunes - to the current site of a small, lakefront airport called Meigs Field.

The 10-year-long transformation is to begin with the closing of the airstrip next February. Daley says the end product will be an urban reprieve in the spirit of Daniel Burnham, the city planner whose 1909 blueprint is credited with making modern Chicago a habitable city. But the mayor's plan has also stirred up a controversy that reveals Meigs Field as a Windy City landmark

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The Boston Globe

March 12, 2001, Monday, THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: THE NATION;

AT 88, TERKEL CONFRONTS THE END

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe Correspondent

BODY:

CHICAGO - Studs Terkel points toward the front door of his home and yells at an imagined visitor he hopes will never make it up the stoop.

"Death, stay away from my door!" shouts the 88-year-old oral historian, as strands of white hair stand on end.

It's a fitting day for such a warning. The howling wind rattles the windows, and a book that Terkel thinks could be his last has just been completed and sits in rubber band-bound stacks on a table.

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The Boston Globe

March 3, 2001, Saturday, THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: CHURCH BLESSES A COFFEE ICON

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe correspondent

BODY:

MUNSTER, Ind. - Outside the huge Family Christian Center stands a life-sized model of the Last Supper. Inside, members can partake of coffee and dessert near a modern-day icon: the round, green-and-white logo of Starbucks.

The Seattle-based coffee conglomerate, which has become ubiquitous on street corners, in shopping malls, and in airports around the country, has made its first foothold in a church.

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The Boston Globe

February 4, 2001, Sunday ,THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: FORMER FOOTBALL PLAYER ACQUITTED OF SEX ASSAULT

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe correspondent

BODY:

WAUKESHA, Wis. - Former Green Bay Packer Mark Chmura was acquitted yesterday of sexual-assault charges, ending a trial in which the sordid details and the defendant's celebrity status turned the case into a sensation in southern Wisconsin.

The seven-man, five-woman jury voted late last night to acquit Chmura, a South Deefield native and standout at Boston College, after 2 hours of deliberation. In doing so, they apparently accepted the arguments of defense attorney Gerald Boyle, who called Chmura's accuser "a fraud."

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February 4, 2001, Sunday ,FIRST EDITION

HEADLINE: WIS. RIVETED BY SEX ASSAULT TRIAL OF EX-PACKER

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe correspondent

BODY:

WAUKESHA, Wis. - The sexual assault trial of former Green Bay Packer Mark Chmura went to the jury yesterday, as lawyers for both sides recounted the sordid details in the case that, along with its celebrity nature, have caused a sensation in southern Wisconsin.

"We always come to two questions," said District Attorney Paul Bucher. "What was [Chmura] doing in that bathroom with a young girl? What was he doing in a hot tub wearing his underwear, drunk, with nine high school girls in the tub?

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December 30, 2000, Saturday , THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: MILWAUKEE DIVIDED OVER MAYOR'S ILLICIT AFFAIR EX-LOVER NOW ALLEGES SEXUAL HARASSMENT

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe Correspondent

BODY:

MILWAUKEE - Jesus Estrada and Sal Gomez, two residents of this town's south side Latino community, looked carefully over their shoulders before expressing their thoughts on the story that had the neighborhood abuzz only weeks ago.

On Dec. 2, with his wife standing by his side, Milwaukee's mayor, John Norquist, admitted to a 5-year-long affair with Marilyn Figueroa, a former aide who is now alleging sexual harassment in a federal discrimination complaint.

Figueroa, who is Puerto Rican, has been a powerful force in bringing improved services to this neighborhood known as Walker Square. But to Estrada and Gomez, the relationship that Norquist explained in a full-page newspaper ad Tuesday is just more news of politicians at play.

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October 8, 2000, Sunday , THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: 'JUMPERS' NOW FIGHT BEETLES, NOT FIRES

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe Correspondent

BODY:

CHICAGO - Across the city every morning, 54 firefighters from the West awake at dawn, climb into vans, and grab a cup of coffee on the run as they head out on yet another 12-hour day.

But rather than spilling out of aircraft and into forested mountain terrain, these elite smokejumpers known as "hot shots" make their way to urban neighborhoods, where trees have been infested by a hungry, and extremely ugly, bug known as the Asian long-horned beetle.

The city's anti-beetle force, headed by Joseph Schafer, has

begged for the jumpers, who excel at climbing, in hopes of curbing the spread of the insect from its quarantined Ravenswood neighborhood on the West Side.

The troublesome insect began devouring large old maples, moutain ash, elms, buckeye, and horse chestnuts a couple of years ago. Now, Schafer says he believes the worst of the beetle scare is over, but the program won't go out of business until there have been no beetle sightings for two years.

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October 1, 2000, Sunday , THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: COLD TO WHITE SOX FEVER FIRST-PLACE TEAM IS LAST IN HEARTS

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe correspondent

BODY:

CHICAGO - The great divide between the city's North Side and South Side - symbolized by two hard-luck baseball teams and their stadiums - has rarely been more apparent than in the last couple of weeks.

As the White Sox clinched the American League's Central Division championship, there has been barely any hoopla to be heard in this town known for sports mania. While the Cubs are entrenched in last place in their division, they are still a tough ticket; the Sox often play before 30,000 empty seats at home.

Newspaper columnists have noted the lack of enthusiasm for the Sox, as have fans of the South Side team that calls Comiskey Park its home. If this were the Cubs, many fans say, the town would be drenched in delight.

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September 13, 2000, Wednesday, THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: CITY STEPS IN TO SAVE CHICAGO 'CURIOSITY'

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe correspondent

BODY:

CHICAGO - Trapeze artists used to fly beneath the building's ornate dome, while Shriners took a spin around the center ring on their motorized flying carpets. But soon, Chicago's Medinah Temple will become the first site of a Bloomingdale's home store.

Located on Wabash Avenue on the North Side, Medinah Temple, which is really an auditorium, has been the home of the Shriners since 1913. While their numbers have shrunk to 5,500 from 20,000, the price of their prime real estate has soared as a once-seedy neighborhood has been transformed into an area of high-rise apartments and posh restaurants.

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July 30, 2000, Sunday, THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: CHICAGO RIVER GETS VENETIAN FLAIR GONDOLA RIDES, SERENADES BECOME LATEST CRAZE OF CITY'S WATERWAY

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe Correspondent

BODY:

CHICAGO - The Chicago River has been many things. Polluted. Dyed green. Engineered to flow backwards through the heart of the city bearing its name.

These days, it's a little bit of Venice.

A few weeks ago, Mayor Richard M. Daley announced that a gondola from Venice would ply the Chicago River as one small part in his multimillion-dollar river renovation project. And before anyone could fully grasp the idea, a \$55,000 gentle-riding, ink-black boat was making waves.

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June 22, 2000, Thursday ,THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: PAIN AT THE PUMP IS HITTING ESPECIALLY HARD IN NATION'S HEARTLAND

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe Correspondent

BODY:

CHICAGO - When the price of gasoline hit \$1.89 a gallon this spring, Chicago-area customers talked of rebellion.

" 'What's this? Almost \$1.90 a gallon?' they'd holler," said Mike Kaiser as he served customers at Warren's Shell in Evanston. "They'd warn me that if it got any higher, they'd drive 50 or 60 miles to go buy their fuel in Indiana.

"But they're still coming in," Kaiser continued, as he rang up sales yesterday at \$2.31 a gallon, "complaining less, but wondering out loud if the price will ever drop."

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CROSS-COUNTRY JOURNAL / LORI ROTENBERK; Lori Rotenberk is a Globe correspondent.; PUTTING PLANTS INTO MOUTHS OF CARNIVORES All Rights Reserved The Boston Globe May 29, 2000, Monday

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May 29, 2000, Monday, THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: CROSS-COUNTRY JOURNAL / LORI ROTENBERK; Lori Rotenberk is a Globe correspondent.; PUTTING PLANTS INTO MOUTHS OF CARNIVORES

BYLINE: BY LORI ROTENBERK

BODY:

BURLINGTON, Wis. - A cloud of bee pollen, chickweed, and 62 other plants and herbs formed a haze around Rose Estes.

Ignoring the storm of dust, Estes and daughter Lydia set about the task of mixing those ingredients into a 1,000-pound batch of pet food. In the old days, this job might have been done with four toddler-sized swimming pools and a handheld mixer. Neighbors and friends might arrive with shovels and hoes to mix the herbs, helping the wee business get on its legs.

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May 20, 2000, Saturday ,THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: ILLINOIS TOWN GOES RAGGEDY GALA REKINDLES FRENZY OVER RED-HAIRED DOLLS

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe Correspondent

BODY:

ACOLA, Ill. - Surrounded by the flat landscape of southern Illinois, this town once was known for its quaint Amish community, where the hum of tractors, pickups, and autos blended with the clippity-clop of horse-drawn buggies.

Even today, the crisp dresses of bright blue or orange worn by Amish women stand out among the patches of broomcorn, which explains why Arcola was also known as the broom-making capital of the world. On top of that, this town of 2,700 has the nation's only official hippie memorial. But all that was overshadowed when the flat-faced, doughy-bodied, rumpled brother and sister hit town with atomic force.

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Copyright 2000 Globe Newspaper Company All Rights Reserved The Boston Globe

March 2, 2000, Thursday ,THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: Material from the Associated Press was used in this report.; KILLER, 6, SEEN AS FILLED WITH ANGER, DEVOID OF HOMELIFE

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe Correspondent

Material from the Associated Press was used in this report.; KILLER, 6, SEEN AS FILLED WITH ANGER, DEVOID OF HOMELIFE All Rights ReservedThe Boston Globe March 2, 2000, Thursday

BODY:

MOUNT MORRIS TOWNSHIP, Mich. - Amid the mourning over the death of a 6-year-old girl, the residents of this tattered town also paused yesterday to note the troubled life of the 6-year-old boy who shot her.

"Kayla was shot down, but the boy who pulled the trigger lost his youth, some of his life, and his innocence," said Randy Ostrander, who had rushed to pick up her niece Tuesday after hearing about the shooting. "It's hard to be angry at that boy. My anger is with his family or whoever left those guns in the house." Kayla Rolland, a thin, brown-haired pupil at Buell Elementary School, was shot by a classmate who pulled a .32-caliber handgun from his pants, aimed it at another boy, then turned, and fired one bullet at Kayla. She died minutes later at a hospital.

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The Boston Globe

February 7, 2000, Monday ,THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: CROSS-COUNTRY JOURNAL / LORI ROTENBERK;

Lori Rotenberk is a Globe correspondent.; TAKE A BAD SONG, MAKE IT ANNOYING

BYLINE: BY LORI ROTENBERK

BODY:

CHICAGO - This is dirty work. That's evident as Jim Nayder pats his pockets, looking for a towelette while he searches for the jackpot.

"Cheapos!" he cries out, now on his knees as he paws though the 49-cent bin at 2nd Hand Tunes. Within one minute, four awful record albums have been plucked from the bin, one titled "George Burns Sings" that features the departed king of the stogic doing a cover of the Rolling Stones' "Satisfaction."

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The Boston Globe

January 2, 2000, Sunday , THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: MILLENNIUM 2000 / GETTING BACK TO BUSINESS; CHEERS, JEERS FOR NEW YEAR ACROSS THE NATION, REVELERS CELEBRATE IN BIG AND SMALL WAYS

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, and Diedtra Henderson, GLOBE CORRESPONDENTS

BODY:

CHICAGO - As the quest for parties turned into hunger for breakfast yesterday morning, Diane Betten tied an apron around her flannel pajamas and went to work.

It's a New Year's Day tradition to roll out of bed and go right to work, said Betten, who described her age only as "old enough to know better." Her pink flannel top and bottom are patterned with fried eggs, coffee pots, and skillets. At Ann Sathers restaurant, a homey North Side spot where the elevated trains rattle the silverware as they rumble overhead, the customers stared at Betten's ensemble in slight disbelief.

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November 29, 1999, Monday , THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: CROSS-COUNTRY JOURNAL / LORI ROTENBERK Lori Rotenberk is a Globe correspondent.; MUSEUM GIVES GADGETS PLACE AMONG HISTORY

BYLINE: BY LORI ROTENBERK

BODY:

CHICAGO - "Let me demonstrate," Tim Samuelson says as he casts a fishing line from a catwalk within the hallowed halls of the Chicago Historical Society.

The thin fishing line with a wine cork dangles at head height in the entrance of this museum. "If timed right," he adds, "I might be able to bop someone on the head." It's an odd sight. For this is a museum that houses some important artifacts. Abe Lincoln's tall hat, for example. Hugh Hefner's satin smoking jacket. Blackened remnants from the Great Chicago Fire.

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November 18, 1999, Thursday ,THIRD EDITION

HEADLINE: TOWN IS SHARPLY DIVIDED OVER EXPULSIONS, JACKSON SOME BLACKS SEE THE PROTEST AS ESSENTIAL, AS SOME WHITES WARN OF A BOOST TO RACISM

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe correspondent

BODY:

DECATUR, Ill. - Until last week, this town's chief claim to fame was being the soybean capital of America.

That changed when the Rev. Jesse Jackson came to town protesting the two-year expulsion of seven African-American males from three Decatur high schools for starting a brawl at a football game. Overnight, Decatur became a national symbol as Jackson and his Chicago-based Operation Push led marches and prayer meetings to pressure the school board to reinstate the students in January.

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October 31, 1999, Sunday ,City Edition

HEADLINE: Alleged school shooting plot stuns Cleveland neighborhood

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe correspondent

BODY:

CLEVELAND - The sign outside reads "Slavic Coffee House," but the teenagers in this neighborhood call it the "Fleet Street Coffee Shop," and it's one of the few places to gather in the southern reach of this city.

A few blocks away, at the light-brick, two-story South High School, students were supposed to celebrate Homecoming Friday. But those plans were put on hold when Cleveland Mayor Michael White said late Thursday that police had uncovered plans for a massacre at the school Friday, not unlike that at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo.

By Friday, South High was officially closed as police and bomb teams swept through halls and student lockers. When classes resume tomorrow, four 9th-graders will be in police custody, and seven other students will be suspended for allegedly participating in a plot.

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October 25, 1999, Monday ,City Edition

HEADLINE: Birdwatchers flock to scene of wonder; CROSS-COUNTRY JOURNAL / LORI ROTENBERK; Lori Rotenberk is a Globe correspondent.

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk

BODY:

HORICON, Wis. - How strange it is to drive along Highway 49 in this small farming town and see people splayed across the hoods and roofs of their cars or prone in the tall prairie grass, all with their eyes skyward.

Hundreds of people actually, sometimes thousands by dusk, many with binoculars pressed to their faces or thick hats pulled over their ears. To the 5,500 townfolk of Horicon, this gaggle of visitors who converge along the back roads and main arteries are known as Goosers.

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September 24, 1999, Friday ,City Edition

HEADLINE: Sports stars feed Chicago's ever-changing tastes;

Michael Jordan may pass eatery on to Sammy Sosa

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe Correspondent

BODY:

CHICAGO - There should be a saying in this town that continually sprouts restaurants by local sports heroes: The joint is only as good as the star is hot.

Sports stars feed Chicago's ever-changing tastes; Michael Jordan may pass eatery on to Sammy Sosa The Boston Globe September 24, 1999, Friday

The latest gastronomic casualty was claimed yesterday when the news hit that Michael Jordan's Restaurant will become Sammy Sosa's Restaurant by April.

True, Jordan is, in the eyes of many, the greatest basketball player of all time, while Sosa has been a megastar for only a couple of years. And true, Jordan's Chicago Bulls won six championships in the '90s, while the Sosa's Chicago Cubs have never made it past the first round of the playoffs and are mired in last place in their division.

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September 12, 1999, Sunday ,City Edition

HEADLINE: Mad for a hatter: A milliner struts his stuff

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe Correspondent

BODY:

CHICAGO - This city's tony Lincoln Park neighborhood can accept just about any fashion statement, but foot traffic often comes to a halt before the show windows of Raymond Hudd Millinery.

"Who would wear two cantaloupes on their head?" a young woman exclaimed outside the shop.

Inside was Janice Koerber, a member of a group called CHIC, or Charming Hats In Chicago, women who wear hats and who meet and dine in their millinery favorites.

Placing a coif of jutting asparagus stalks and winding pearls atop her red hair, Koerber gushed, "Now this is a hat I could wear."

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August 14, 1999, Saturday ,City Edition

HEADLINE: Weather dampens spirits of Illinois farmers;

Lack of rain skews routines, tempers

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe Correspondent

BODY:

JACKSONVILLE, Ill. - In the days before the drought, this was a sensible kind of place where farmers went about their long day's work with satisfaction. Now some go about their routines with dashes of superstition. Things such as leaving their trucks out of the shed with the all the windows down, daring it to rain and soak the upholstery.

And when the Hadden family held a meeting this week at their 3,000-acre farm on the fringe of town, fellow farmers suggested that a predicted rain could come down in buckets if they cut their alfalfa the night before.

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August 6, 1999, Friday ,City Edition

HEADLINE: Pride, poverty take toll in heat; Chicago elderly found to shun air conditioning

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe Correspondent

BODY:

CHICAGO - Irene Nelson was out in her backyard yesterday picking butter beans and enjoying a cool breeze being offered up in a city still reeling from the past week's deadly heat.

Nelson, 76, who lives on the South Side, said she's not surprised that Chicago has had the highest heat-related death toll in the nation this summer.

"Most of those who died were senior citizens who don't have the income to pay for air conditioning," Nelson said.

"And if some one checks up on them in the hot weather to ask if they are doing OK and if their place is cool, most will say they are fine before they would tell the truth."

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Copyright 1999 Globe Newspaper Company The Boston Globe

July 19, 1999, Monday ,City Edition

HEADLINE: A family's pain is felt across nation;

In pulpits, cafes, thoughts, prayers dwell on Kennedys;

THE KENNEDY PLANE CRASH / CONNECTION RECALLED;

Rotenberk reported from Chicago and Koh from Arlington, Va. Material was also included from Stephanie Ebbert of the Globe staff in Hyannis, Globe correspondent Jane Meredith Adams in San Francisco, and C.J. Karamargin of States News Service in Washington, D.C.

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk and Eun Lee Koh, Globe correspondents

BODY:

CHICAGO - At Old St. Patrick's Church just outside the Loop, the Rev. John Cusick had just begun recounting his first meeting with John F. Kennedy Jr.

At the mention of Kennedy's name yesterday morning, some members of the congregation of 200 moaned. Others lowered their heads in sadness. But all seemed to want to hear more.

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July 12, 1999, Monday ,City Edition

Motorman is rare man who loves his job; CROSS-COUNTRY JOURNAL / LORI ROTENBERK; Lori Rotenberk is a Globe correspondent. The Boston Globe July 12, 1999, Monday

HEADLINE: Motorman is rare man who loves his job; CROSS-COUNTRY JOURNAL / LORI ROTENBERK; Lori Rotenberk is a Globe correspondent.

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk

BODY:

CHICAGO - The train rumbling along the elevated tracks is on the Howard Red Line, but it might as well be called the Blue Streak, for that's what Victor Johnson is talking up right now.

"Hello, everyone. It's Thursday night, Friday eve. The weekend is almost here. . . . "

A motorman for the Chicago Transit Authority, Johnson is running the 6:19 p.m. line from the northern outskirts of town, into the Loop downtown, and straight out to the South Side. It's a ride that cuts through the extremes of wealth and poverty, not to mention the polar opposite of sports fans, as it hurtles past the Cubs' Wrigley Field on the North Side and the White Sox's Comiskey Park on the South.

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June 5, 1999, Saturday ,City Edition

HEADLINE: Quick as guest's fists, Springer takes on Chicago;

Fighting is real, the talk show host tells City Council

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe Correspondent

BODY:

CHICAGO - In the end, it became the "Jerry Springer Show."

No chairs went flying though the audience, and no one admitted cheating on his wife. But what the Chicago City Council intended as a grilling of Springer quickly became a soap box for the talk show host.

When asked by his chief inquisitor, Alderman Edward Burke, if Springer was trying to to boost ratings with his appearance at the council's Police and Fire Commission, Springer gestured to the council.

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June 1, 1999, Tuesday ,City Edition

HEADLINE: It's show time for Springer Host to testify on truthfulness of stage strife

BYLINE: By Lori Rotenberk, Globe correspondent

BODY:

CHICAGO - The council chambers in Chicago's City Hall, notorious for political drama often turned comedic, is about to stage a hearing with all the makings of a tell-all television talk show.

At noon Friday, Jerry Springer is to testify before this city's aldermen on whether the punch-throwing, chair-heaving, obscenity-strewn brawls on his syndicated program are indeed the fodder of real life. Or is it the stuff of cheesy theater, not unlike its full-of-bluster relative, the World Wrestling Federation?

"Jerry doesn't want to make any comments until the hearing," said his spokeswoman, Linda Shafran.