

Boost your Nonprofit Career!

Earn your Nonprofit Management Master's Degree



Join us for an Open House

Mondays at 6 pm
February 1 or March 1

Spertus College's **Master of Science in Nonprofit Management** program provides coursework to enhance critical skills that all nonprofit professionals need.

Spertus offers

- ◆ The lowest tuition in the Chicago Metro Area
- ◆ Classes that meet one night per week
- ◆ **Financial aid for those who qualify**
- ◆ Access to career opportunities
- ◆ A life-changing experience

Reservations required.

RSVP at eslott@spertus.edu or
call 312.322.1707 for more information.

We Also Offer a Series of Grantwriting Workshops

Introduction to Grant Writing
Wednesday, April 14, 6–9 pm

How To Write a Winning Grant
Wednesday, April 21, 6–9 pm

Understanding State & Federal Grants
Wednesday, April 28, 6–9 pm

\$59 per class or \$149 for all three.
Check out the website for more details.



610 S. Michigan Ave. | 312.322.1700
Chicago | www.spertus.edu/nonprofit

Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies is a partner in serving our community, supported by the Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation.

Contributing to the Community

Truth
in Numbers

87 options

Choose from 87 course options on a range of topics this spring and summer through Loyola's Continuum program—from language and culture to career and business development.

Continuum • 312.915.6501 • LUC.edu/continuum



Preparing people to lead extraordinary lives

SAIC

School of the Art Institute
of Chicago

SAICulture

Students at SAIC develop the creative skills needed to meet the challenges of tomorrow's world.

INNOVATIVE THINKING & MAKING

SAIC encourages investigation that is interdisciplinary, collaborative, and experimental. Undergraduate and graduate degree programs are available.

AN SAIC EDUCATION CREATES INFINITE POSSIBILITIES

ADMISSIONS

36 South Wabash Avenue | Chicago, IL 60603
800.232.7242 | admiss@saic.edu

Located in the heart of Chicago's Loop and at www.saic.edu



Joseph and Sarah Belknap (MFAs 2009), *Lean-to*, 2009

resto



JAMAICA COMES TO UKRAINIAN VILLAGE

Simmer Down at Mr. Brown’s Lounge

By Michael Nagrant

CAN YOU REALLY TRUST A JAMAICAN RESTAURANT that serves German chocolate cake? Then again, maybe that’s not really a good standard as you can’t really judge a German restaurant by that caramel-pecan-topped slice of goodness either. For

German chocolate cake was not born in Deutschland. Rather in 1852, an Englishman named Samuel German invented a chocolate bar for the Baker’s Chocolate Company which was eventually named “Baker’s German’s Sweet Chocolate” in his honor. Someone made a cake with the stuff, and in 1957, an American submitted the recipe for the cake to a Dallas newspaper and thus it’s more American than apple pie, which is actually English.

One might turn to the decorative reggae LPs hanging on the wall at the new Ukrainian Village island-influenced retreat Mr. Brown’s Lounge for a measure of the place. But, by that standard, you might run away, for there are far too many Maxi Priest and Shabba Ranks album covers on this wall to take the restaurant seriously. Yes, I know you reveled in “Mr. Loverman” between spins of Spin Doctors’ “Two Princes,” but Shabba also has the dubious honor of guesting on the Eddie Murphy track “I Was a King.”

Of course, we know Eddie Murphy’s girl likes to party all the time, and the sleek black couches and flickering candlelit confines here seem as fine a place to get your groove on as any. While slinking in for the night, you’ll likely be tempted to indulge in the many expensive boat drinks on offer. If the Jamaican Rum Punch featuring a throat-constricting back note is any indication of the rest of the cocktail offerings, you should probably stick to bottles of Red Stripe. The menu says the fruity concoction features “island juices.” Technically that’s true if they’re referring to the Danish Island of Zealand, for the shelf stable Rose’s Grenadine I saw the bartender tossing in the drink is distributed from Copenhagen.

With your whistle wetted, the mint-green walls might inspire you to conjure some ganja, but Chicago’s smoking ban and Illinois’ marijuana law (720 ILCS 550/4), which could land you thirty days in jail or lighten your wallet by about \$2,500, might discourage you.

Speaking of drugs, the name of the place comes from the Lee “Scratch” Perry-produced Wailers track, “Mr. Brown,” which with the lyric “From Mandeville to slide-a-ville, coffin runnin’ around, upsetting, upsetting, upsetting the town asking for Mr. Brown,” is either about a ghost, or duppy if you speak Rasta, rolling around Jamaica on a coffin, or it’s about the spread of heroin, which thanks to W. Axl Rose, some of you might also recognize by its alternate name, “Mr. Brownstone.” It’s likely that Mayor Daley and his administration, whose progressive liberal dictatorship has influenced, err witnessed, the closing of hundreds of neighborhood beer halls wouldn’t take too kindly to any growth in the use of a relatively harder substance like heroin.

If you insist on stirring it up, though, might I suggest the homemade Island Style Chicken Soup speckled with shiny golden droplets of chicken fat and filled with tender dumplings and toothsome sweet hunks of pumpkin and carrot. While I don’t want Mr. Brown’s Lounge to become quarantined for swine flu, if you’re sick, I can think of few bowls of chicken soup in the city that would salve better than this one.

The “patties,” aka Jamaican empanadas, have a nice chili-tinged beef filling that would feed a fever quite nicely if they weren’t wrapped in a suspiciously uniform dusty-tasting wrapper reminiscent of cheap Hot Pockets freezer-style pastry. Note, though I’ve expressed a fondness for Hot Pockets in the past, this is not an endorsement.

One dish I do endorse is the jerk chicken. Over the years, the Chicago form of jerk chicken has evolved to a hybrid of braised or stewed chicken parts touched with a bit of smoke and finished with a burn-your-head-off allspice-and-Scotch-bonnet-pepper-sauced skin. The lack of integrity and supreme spice is a turnoff for anyone who appreciates textural contrast and nuance. Mr. Brown’s version is a more authentic form featuring a deep charcoal-kissed crispy skin, smoky rose-hued flesh and a spicy though well-flavored and relatively balanced sauce served on the side. Some might quibble about the heavy Worcestershire sauce notes, but as one who likes to filch a swig of the stuff straight from the bottle on occasion, I’m down with it. In fact, this might be my favorite jerk chicken in the city, especially on Tuesday nights when it’s on special for half price. On the other six nights, I’d more likely drive down to D’s Irie Kitchen at 11137 S. Vincennes where you’ll pay half as much.

Though you might pay half as much for curried goat elsewhere, you’ll likely get either a mixture of grand-ma-denture-friendly mush or SuperBall-tough rubbery flesh. Mr. Brown’s has a balanced noshable integrity and is nestled in a rich clove and black pepper gravy.

As for that German Chocolate cake, the gooey frosting and moist light dark crumb, which disappeared in about two minutes amidst our table’s greedy forks, suggests that maybe you really can judge a Jamaican spot by it.

Mr. Brown’s Lounge, 2301 West Chicago, (773)278-4445

words

READINGS

THU/7

→Deck the Hall

The Chicago Writers Association holds a benefit for the Chicago Literary Hall of Fame, with readings by Bayo Ojikutu, Marcus Sakey and Don De Grazia. *Sheffield’s Wine and Beer Garden, 3258 N. Sheffield, 773-281-4989. 6:30pm. \$30-\$35.*

→Jasper Fforde

The author discusses “Shades of Grey.” **See Tip of the Week.** *Barnes & Noble, 1441 W. Webster, (773)871-3610. 7:30pm. Free.*

→Ytasha L. Womack

The local author discusses her new book, “Post Black: How a Generation is Redefining African American Identity.” *Dream Boutique Lounge, 1750 N. Clark. 6pm. Free.*

FRI/8

Rod Blagojevich

The former governor discusses his memoir, “The Governor.” *Barnes & Noble, 1441 W. Webster, (773)871-3610. 2pm. Free.*

SAT/9

Dvarim

A blend of spoken and written word, performed by Kevin Coval, Yuri Lane, Menachem Cohen and more. *Chopin Theatre, 1543 W. Division, (773)278-1500. 8pm. \$12-\$15.*

→Second City/Third Person

Featuring Brian Costello plus a handful of local authors. *The Book Cellar, 4736 N. Lincoln, (773)293-2665. 6pm. Free.*

→Uncalled-For Readings Chicago

Featuring M. Shelly Conner, Megan Milks and Mecca Sullivan. *Las Manos, 5220 N. Clark, (773)728-8910. 7pm. Free.*

SUN/10

→The Show ‘n Tell Show

Mike Renaud and Zach Dodson’s guests for this week include Audrey Niffenegger and graphic designer Stephen Ferrell. *Schubas, 3159 N. Southport, (773)525-2508. 8pm.*

TUE/12

→Quickies!

With Tim Jones-Yelvington, Goldie Goldbloom, Byron Flitsch and more. *Innertown Pub, 1935 W. Thomas. 7:30pm. Free.*

WED/13

Marc Falkoff

The author discusses “Poems from Guantanamo: The Detainees Speak.” *Revolution Books, 1103 N. Ashland. 7pm. Free.*

TIP OF THE WEEK
JASPER FFORDE



We live in a colorful world. If viewed from the outside, the Earth is a breathtaking blue. In Jasper Fforde’s world that he creates for his new novel, “Shades of Grey,” color, and your perception of it, dictates your social status. A Colortocracy, it’s called. The higher the color spectrum you can see, the more advanced your status becomes. Our narrator, Eddie Russett, is a Red who’s content with the social hierarchy and its limitations, until he meets Jane, a stunning Grey, and he begins to question the nature of things. Fforde peppers his breezy tale with fine-tuned humorous observation and charming wit—he begins each chapter with one of the world’s “laws,” such as “All children are to attend school until the age of sixteen or until they have learned everything, whichever be the sooner.” Fforde’s quirky work could easily fly by in a weekend. It’s reported to be the first book of a planned trilogy. With a world like Chromatacia, as it’s blessed, Fforde could easily keep going and going. *(Tom Lynch)*

Jasper Fforde discusses “Shades of Grey” January 7 at Barnes & Noble, 55 Old Orchard Center, Skokie, (847)676-2230, at 7:30pm. Free.

FLU

GET THE FLUESHOT THAT'S BETTER THAN A VACCINE. SIDE EFFECTS INCLUDE: INSTANT JUBILATION, CHRONIC BUTTERFLIES, AND DIZZINESS CAUSED BY INCREASED LEVELS OF COMPLIMENT RECEPTION.

EVOG SALE UP TO 60% OFF



JOHN FLUEVOG SHOES
1539-41 N. MILWAUKEE AVE. | 773.772.1983
www.FLUEVOG.COM



PUT YOUR IMAGINATION TO WORK

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARY ELLEN MARK, ACROBATS REHEARSING THEIR ACT AT GREAT GOLDEN CIRCUS, AHMEDABAD, 1989

FICTION WRITING & PLAYWRITING DEGREE PROGRAMS

Develop your creativity, tell your stories, and gain skills essential for personal and professional development in the **FICTION WRITING DEPARTMENT** AT COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO.

UNDERGRADUATE BA/BFA degrees in **FICTION WRITING**, with specializations in *Fiction*, *Creative Nonfiction*, *Playwriting*, *Electronic Applications*, *Publishing*, and *Story Workshop® Teaching*; and **BA/BFA** degrees in **PLAYWRITING**, interdisciplinary with the Theater Department.

GRADUATE MFA in **CREATIVE WRITING-FICTION**, with specializations in *Fiction*, *Creative Nonfiction*, *Playwriting*, and *Teaching*; **MA** in the **TEACHING OF WRITING**; and **COMBINED MFA/MA** degrees.

Our renowned Story Workshop approach emphasizes voice, imagery, audience, and positive reinforcement of your strengths as a writer. For more information about our diverse study programs, extensive course listings, award-winning student anthology *Hair Trigger*, and visiting writers series, check out colum.edu/fiction, or call **312 369 7611**.

YOUR STORIES. YOUR FUTURE.

STUDENTS-AT-LARGE WELCOME

Columbia College Chicago admits students without regard to age, race, color, creed, sex, religion, handicap, disability, sexual orientation, and national or ethnic origin.

Columbia

COLLEGE CHICAGO



1.7.10 NEWCITY 9 CHOW