

Chicago: Things to know

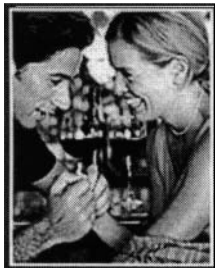
November 21, 2005



Suspect says U of C too hard

Julita Groszko waited 12 years to earn a degree from the University of Chicago. After an unusually long eight-year leave of absence, she and finished last spring with a degree in chemistry. This week, the 31-year-old allegedly returned, this time with a gas can. Police say she slipped in and out of classrooms and set small fires -- all because she'd found the work too hard at the university. Charged with aggravated arson, attempted aggravated arson and criminal damage to property, she being held on \$1 million bail. No one was injured in the four fires, set Monday and Tuesday in several campus buildings.

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Workers get behind on job

Three mid-level supervisors at the city Department of Transportation have completed 29-day suspensions for using their work computers to transmit rear-end shots of women dressed in bikinis that asked the recipient to decide, "Which is the best?" The suspended employees allegedly used their personal e-mail accounts to access downloaded pictures.

SIU avoids federal DOJ lawsuit

The U.S. Department of Justice, which has accused Southern Illinois of discriminating against whites, agreed not to file suit against the university, as it had threatened. Instead, University lawyers have scheduled a conference call with the department today to discuss the concerns raised last week. Justice alleged three SIU fellowship programs intentionally discriminated against "whites, nonpreferred minorities and males." All are aimed at increasing minority and female students in grad programs.

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ISU student's death a mystery

A second autopsy failed to pinpoint the cause of death of an Illinois State student whose charred body was found last month in a burned-out Mississippi chicken house. Investigators will seek another autopsy and further forensic tests to determine how Olamide Adeyooye, 21, died, Normal police said the condition of the body has made it impossible to even guess how she died. A 27-year-old suspect is being held on unrelated charges.

Cold causes building collapse

Part of a vacant hotel at 1454 N. Dearborn collapsed around 8 a.m. Saturday. Cold weather likely caused a water pipe to crack, flooding the foundation and making the building unstable. The building is being converted into condos, but a city stop-work order has been in place since July.

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Daley's Siadat prof of the year

Daley College math prof M. Vali Siadat has been named Illinois Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, City Colleges of Chicago said.