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chicago CHICAGO MEDICAL SOCIETY THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF COOK COUNTY

medicine

Newsletter, October 2004, Vol. 107, No. 13

NEW MEMBER PROGRAMS UNDERWAY

CMS Insurance Agency--up and running to serve you

Join the many CMS members who have responded to our survey, and have chosen to be represented by our Agency.

BY NOW ALL CMS MEMBERS SHOULD



Ed Kuhn, VP, CMS Insurance Agency

have received a brief survey from your Society asking you to provide basic insurance and contact information.

If you have not completed the survey, please contact Ed Kuhn, vice president, CMS Insurance Agency, at (312) 329-7346 to receive a copy.

Why be represented by the CMS Insurance Agency? Because the Chicago Medical Society is committed to meeting the challenges facing physicians. Collaborating with doctors, the new agency will be able to:

- Provide straightforward answers to your medical liability insurance questions.
- Respond to members' requests for assistance with their insurance needs.
- Maintain the strength of ISMIE into the future, building on the Illinois-based company's long history of protecting physicians.
- Use commissions earned to support in-

creasingly important CMS grassroots legislative advocacy, educational seminars, and other membership events.

To learn more about the CMS Insurance Agency, contact Ed Kuhn at (312) 329-7346 or email ekuhn@cmsdocs.org.

There is no added cost to your liability premium.

Annual Midwest Clinical Conference revamped

REGISTER TODAY FOR THE CHICAGO MEDICAL Society's latest CME conference on Nov. 5 at the Embassy Suites Hotel--O'Hare in Rosemont, IL. Focusing on e-medicine, this is the first in a series of one-day conferences to be presented on a quarterly basis. Continuing into 2005, the conferences will take the place of the annual three-day Midwest Clinical Conference and be known as the Midwest Clinical Conference Series.

On Nov. 5, physicians of all specialties, including chief medical officers, can learn about an award-winning electronic patient record (EPR) system. Participants can also attend a session on the medical functionality of personal digital assistants (PDAs), also referred to as handheld technology. As an added bonus, participants will have the opportunity to gain two CME hours on bioterrorism preparedness.

Participants who attend the entire day (8:00 am --4:30 pm) can gain up to seven CME credits. CMS members are entitled to a special registration fee of \$59; non-members pay \$79. This registration includes a complimentary continental breakfast and lunch. Parking is only \$5.

The CMS Insurance Agency is a sponsor of this program. There will be no charge to clients of the Agency.

Look for your brochure and registration info in the mail, or call (312) 670-2550 (ext. 341 or 338) or visit www.cmsdocs.org.

GETTING THE WORD OUT

Meet your legislator over scrambled eggs

LEGISLATORS ARE GETTING TO KNOW CMS members better, and vice versa, thanks to the spate of legislative breakfasts the Society is hosting at Chicago-area hospitals.

Designed to complement CMS' advocacy efforts, and allow physicians to have a one-on-one exchange with political leaders, the breakfasts are being held in conjunction with CMS Branch meetings.

Breakfasts scheduled for October included: Rep. William Davis (30th District), Ingalls Hospital; Rep. Terry Parke (44th District), St. Alexius Medical Center; Rep. Elizabeth Coulson (17th District), Rush North Shore Medical Center; Rep. Robert Molaro (13th District), Loretto Hospital; Sen. John Cullerton (6th District), Lincoln Park Hospital.

CMS urges all members to consider holding a legislative breakfast at one of your Branch meetings. Your society can help you identify potential speakers and assist you in making invitations and all arrangements.

For information, please call Ted Kanellakes at (312) 670-2550, ext. 342.

Seeking meaningful solutions: CMS takes message to media

IN AN EFFORT TO REVIVE TALKS ON SOARING medical liability insurance rates, Gov. Rod Blagojevich has appointed former Cook County Circuit Court Chief Judge Donald O'Connell to mediate talks between lawmakers, physicians, trial lawyers and insurers.

The Illinois Legislature ended its spring over-

time session in July without passing any reforms to ease the medical liability crisis in Illinois.

In a press release to area hospitals and health-related organizations, CMS President Peter E. Eupierre, MD, wrote that, "CMS is pleased that Governor Blagojevich has recognized the medical liability crisis in Illinois." He cautioned, however, that, "Any negotiations for true reform must address the issues of frivolous lawsuits and protection of physicians' personal assets....We hope all parties will look closely at and learn from the experiences of other states with non-economic caps."

The first negotiating session was scheduled for Sept. 29.

CMS disputes Crain's

THE SEPT. 20 ISSUE OF *CRAIN'S CHICAGO Business* reports that during the first eight months of 2004, malpractice lawsuits declined 24% to 814 cases. And in an editorial commenting on those findings, the paper claimed that, "having fewer lawsuits doesn't begin to prove" the existence of a liability insurance crisis.

CMS President Peter E. Eupierre, MD, responded to that charge: "It's not the total number of cases filed, but the dramatic increase in dollar amount of awards that is driving the crisis. Medical liability cases are very costly. ISMIE Mutual Insurance Co. (ISMIE) reports that the average indemnity payment made to plaintiffs in 2003 was \$590,000, and that figure has increased 25% since 2001. The number of medical liability claims reported to ISMIE Mutual has increased 45% from 2001 to 2003."

Find us online at CMS Internet address www.cmsdocs.org

NEWS FOR CHICAGO PHYSICIANS

chicago
CHICAGO MEDICAL SOCIETY
THE MEDICAL SOCIETY
OF COOK COUNTY
medicine

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Chicago Medicine (ISSN 0009-3637) is published monthly with one additional issue published each winter, spring, summer and fall for \$20 per year for members; \$30 per year for nonmembers, by the Chicago Medical Society, 515 N. Dearborn St. Chicago, Ill. 60610. Periodicals postage paid at Chicago, Ill. Postmaster: Send address changes to *Chicago Medicine*, 515 N. Dearborn St., Chicago, IL 60610. Telephone: (312) 670-2550. Copyright 2004, *Chicago Medicine*. All rights reserved.



The Chicago Medical Society

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www.cmsdocs.org

President's response to members' political concerns

Dear Members:

This letter is in response to your letter concerning the Chicago Medical Society's "support" for political candidates. **We emphasize that the Chicago Medical Society does not endorse any candidates for office.** Our goal is twofold: to engage physicians in the political process; and to provide information for physician-members to consider and, we hope, share with family, friends, employees and most importantly, patients.

Why are we doing this?

When asked to join CMS, physicians often respond, "What is the medical society doing for me? Why aren't you taking action to fix reimbursement and ease the liability crisis that is driving us out of practice?"

We need physician participation.

Why is the AARP such a force in political issues? Why are trial attorneys able to block tort reform? Because they are able to mobilize their members into action. Physicians, on the other hand, are busy taking care of patients, hoping someone else will fix the political problems for them. We need all physicians to join us in the fight for change.

The Illinois Supreme Court has twice overturned tort reform as unconstitutional. Politicians say they have tried to solve the liability crisis but if tort reform were passed, "it would just be overturned by the Court again." This attitude emphasizes the need for physicians to be involved in future Supreme Court races. We can be hopeful that if the "physician-friendly" candidate indeed wins in the Fifth Judicial District this fall, the Court composition will change from 5-2 to 4-3, making it more likely that tort reform could be enacted.

CMS has been criticized for "endorsing" President Bush over Senator Kerry. CMS has *not* endorsed any candidates. CMS only provided information from various websites to highlight their positions on the *number one* priority of the AMA, ISMS and CMS, *tort reform*.

The CMS leadership is pleased that several of our members have taken time to contact us with their concerns. We only hope that our members will voice these concerns to our elected representatives, candidates for office, and to the 5.4 million patients in Cook County.

Unless we share our concerns and problems with patients to gain public support, we will be out-financed and out-talked in the media and legislative arenas.

The issues facing medicine today are critical, and your Society has taken steps to represent our members and engage them in the political process.

Thank you for expressing your thoughts. We hope you will share our concerns over the future of medicine with others.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter E. Eupierre".

Peter E. Eupierre, MD
President

Cook County candidates

IN THIS PIVOTAL ELECTION YEAR, CMS encourages all physicians to support candidates who share their concerns on preserving and improving patient access to care in Cook County.

For your convenience, we have prepared a listing of federal and state races, excluding judge-ships, in the Cook County region. The names of candidates supported by IMPAC for their physician- and patient-friendly platforms appear in boldface. (Recommendations are based on prior legislative records and responses to the IMPAC 2004 General Election questionnaire. Incumbents are noted with an (*).

Illinois House of Representatives

<i>DISTRICT</i>	<i>DEMOCRAT</i>	<i>REPUBLICAN</i>
5	Ken Dunkin*	Robert Vaughn
8	Calvin Giles*	Glenn Harris
10	Annazette Collins*	Thomas Swiss
11	John Fritchey*	Doug Nelson
12	Sara Feigenholtz*	Marie-Elena Leone
15	John D'Amico	William Miceli
16	Louis Lang*	Thomas Morris
17	Michele Blomberg	Elizabeth Coulson*
18	Julie Hamos*	Julianne Curtis
19	Joseph Lyons*	Roman Wiewiora
20	Ralph Capperelli	Michael McAuliffe*
21	Robert S. Molaro*	Martin Ryan
22	Michael Madigan*	Darleen Connors
24	Michael Chavez	Frank Aguilar*
28	Robert "Bob" Rita*	Michael Fredette
35	Kevin Joyce*	Richard Madonia
36	James Brosnahan*	Jason Tabour
38	Robin Kelly*	Jack McInerney
40	Richard Bradley*	Thomas Czachorowski
46	Joe Vosicky	Lee Daniels*
47	James Cavallo	Patricia Bellock*
48	Guy Rosenthal	James Meyer*
50	Michael Logan	Patricia Lindner*
52	Larry Feigen	Mark Beaubien*
53	Nicohlas Chrisos	Sidney Mathias*
54	R. Scott Bludorn	Suzanne Bassi*
57	Elaine Nekriz*	Steven Szayevicz
58	Karen May*	Marc Brown
59	Kathleen A. Ryg*	Paul Tully
65	Michael Tashman	Rosemary Mulligan*
82	Kim Savage	Eileen Lyons*

The two closest and most important races in Cook County are for state representative in the 17th and 20th Districts.

District 17--**Elizabeth Coulson**, Republican

from Glenview--As the daughter of a physician, Rep. Coulson is committed to reforming Illinois' litigation system. As a member on the Health Care, Human Services, and Registration and Regulation (professional licensure) Committees, she has proven to be a staunch friend of physicians.

District 20--**Mike McAuliffe**, Republican from Chicago--As a member of the House Registration and Regulation Committee, Rep. McAuliffe has consistently stood for the interests of physicians and protected access to quality health care. He also supports meaningful medical liability reform, including capping non-economic damages.

Illinois State Senate

<i>District</i>	<i>Democrat</i>	<i>Republican</i>
5	Rickey Hendon*	David J. Warren
8	Ira Silverstein*	Joseph Hedrick
11	Louis Viverito*	Jeffrey Malinowski
26	Nancy Peterson	William Peterson*
29	Susan Garrett*	Daniel Bryant

AMPAC-supported federal candidates with districts including Cook County:

<i>District</i>	<i>Name</i>
10	Mark Kirk (R-10, Highland Park)
13	Judy Biggert (R-13, Hinsdale)
6	Henry Hyde (R-6, Wood Dale)



Protect physicians and patients by contributing to IMPAC--the unified voice of Illinois physicians. Contributions can be made online at www.isms.org or sent to IMPAC, 20 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 700, Chicago, IL 60602.

UPDATING

We can update you on judicial races

Check your e-mail later this month for recommendations on Cook County judicial candidates. (We will also post this information on-line.) CMS is collaborating with the Chicago Bar Association to get the ratings to you soon.

To receive your updates, please send your e-mail address to: askcms@cmsdocs.org

Where do they stand?



Obama (Dem.)



Keyes (Rep.)

How do the U.S. Senate candidates stand on issues affecting health care? Read what Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Alan Keyes have to say in response to key questions. Go to the CMS web site: www.cmsdocs.org

Help us keep lines of communication open

CMS ASKS YOU TO FILL OUT AND RETURN THE ATTACHED FORM GRANTING CMS PERMISSION to continue sending important fax and e-mail communications to members. These include promotions for meetings, dues statements, applications, invoices—any communication that concerns a commercial transaction.

This information is needed so we can comply with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations scheduled to take effect Jan. 1, 2005.

The FCC rules mandate written consent in order to send any fax that contains an “unsolicited advertisement.” The rules broadly define an advertisement as “any material advertising the commercial availability of any property, goods, or services.”

There is concern that FCC will later apply this rule to e-mail.

In the meantime, an association coalition will work toward changing the law in Congress so that more favorable fax marketing legislation is in place.

Remember, the rules apply to physicians’ offices as well.

By providing the fax number and e-mail below, the person agrees to receive fax advertisements from the Chicago Medical Society. The form requires a **signature** and **printed name**.

Fax

Signature

E-mail

Printed name

*Fax this form to: (312) 670-3646 or mail to:
The Chicago Medical Society, 515 N. Dearborn St., Chicago, IL 60610*

COLLABORATING FOR CAUSES

Chris Sienko, CMS



Golf outing participants have a ball

Kanti Chandarana, MD, (pictured) takes a swing at the annual Chicago Medical Society Golf Outing. In addition to enjoying golf at one of the finest golf courses in the area, participants automatically qualified for raffles worth more than \$5000 in cash and prizes, including an all-expense-paid weekend at the Ritz Carlton Hotel, gift certificates to the hottest restaurants in Chicago, a winner-take-all putting contest, and a variety of golf equipment donated by several generous sponsors. The outing was held Sept. 8, at Ruffled Feathers Golf Course in Lemont, IL. Thirty-five golfers attended. (Full coverage will appear in the fall issue of *Chicago Medicine*.) Next year's event will take place Sept. 14, 2005 -- hope to see you there!

CMS, OSHA, Chicago Dental Society join safety/health alliance

THE CHICAGO MEDICAL SOCIETY AND the Chicago Dental Society have joined with the U.S. Labor Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration to reduce and eliminate worker exposure to blood-borne pathogens. Both groups have signed an agreement to work cooperatively with OSHA and develop training and educational programs, participate in conferences and forums, and share best practices.

CMS endorses Treatment on Demand Initiative

THIS FALL ILLINOIS VOTERS WILL HAVE THE chance to weigh in on whether the state should ensure that all residents have access to comprehensive addiction treatment.

The "Treatment on Demand Initiative" will ask whether Illinois should provide adequate funding for effective substance abuse treatment to residents requesting services from a licensed provider, community-based organization or medical care facility within the state.

Over 100,000 Cook County voters signed and submitted petitions in support of this ballot initiative.

Regardless of whether it passes, "people will be talking and thinking about this issue," said Dr. Bradley Olson, chairman of Citizens Activated to Change Healthcare. It's a common goal that will bring together the largest treatment providers with the smallest halfway houses, anyone in recovery and anyone else who thought this problem was an important issue of social justice that needs to be addressed."

The CMS Council passed a resolution last spring in favor of the initiative. Look for articles on substance abuse and treatment in the winter issue of *Chicago Medicine*.

Now is the time to contact your state lawmakers and urge them to support meaningful liability reform by voting for Amendment 5 to SB 2239 when the General Assembly reconvenes in November. Ask your patients to call their legislators today. Tell them access to quality medical care depends on it.

*To locate your state legislator, go to:
www.cmsdocs.org or www.isms.org.*

Medical leaders promote smoke-free policies in prisons

CITING RECENT COURT DECISIONS HOLDING there is no constitutional right to smoke in jail or prison, and that a restriction on smoking protects the rights and health of non-smoking guards and inmates, CMS, ISMS and AMA have passed resolutions this year urging local, state and federal jails and prisons to adopt tobacco-free policies in their facilities.

CMS drafted a letter to Cook County Sheriff Michael Sheahan offering to assist in the development of policies for a smoke-free environment in Cook County Jail. The letter points out that many major metropolitan correctional facilities have enacted smoke-free policies. The letter was signed jointly by Peter E. Eupierre, MD, CMS president, Richard A. Geline, MD, chairman of the board, ISMS, and Michael D Maves, MD, executive vice president, AMA.

Focus group participants wanted

CDC WANTS YOUR OPINION ABOUT CHILD vaccinations. If one of the categories below describes you, your colleagues, or your patients, the Centers for Disease Control is interested in hearing your point of view.

- Married or unmarried white (non-Hispanic) American women, with or without children between the ages of newborn and six years of age, and employed in the area of the physical sciences (medicine, chemistry, biology, physics, etc.).
- Married Hispanic women currently with no children but planning to have children in the near future.

If selected, participants will attend one, 90-minute focus group in Chicago before year-end 2004. Participants must provide their own transportation. Participants will receive \$75 for their time.

For information, please contact: Monica Lewers of DLM Corp. at (773) 288-8499 or e-mail cdcfocusgroup@sbcglobal.net.



Institute director discusses anger management for youthful ex-prisoners

Phyllis Low Berning (left), president, Abraham Low Institute, meets with Jim Tarrant, executive director, Chicago Medical Society; Shastri Swaminathan, MD, vice-chairman, medical director, Dept. of Psychiatry, Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center, and chair of the CMS Council; and Joel Gratch, coordinator of Social Work at the hospital. During the hospital meeting, Ms. Berning described the work of her Institute in training youthful ex-prisoners in new cognitive and behavioral habits that can free them from the cycle of recidivism as they learn to manage their anger. The program uses a peer-to-peer group process, developed by Mrs. Berning's late father, Abraham Low, MD, and used by Recovery Inc., a self-help system also founded by Dr. Low in 1937. Dr. Low was a prominent psychiatrist and member of CMS. *For more information on the work of the Abraham A. Low Institute, and Recovery, Inc., call: (847) 441-0445; e-mail, lowinstitute@aol.com; website, www.lowinstitute.org.*

AT YOUR LEISURE

Dine with NY Chef Michael Lomonaco, enjoy gourmet cruise

All CMS members are considered members of ChicaGourmets, and will receive the ChicaGourmets discount for all events. Luncheon and dinner prices include tax, tip and wines.

CHICAGO GOURMETS, THE FINE-DINING ORGANIZATION endorsed by the Chicago Medical Society Service Bureau, Inc., announces upcoming dining events and programs.

● **Ristorante We -- "Luncheon honoring Chef-author Michael Lomonaco"**

SATURDAY, NOV. 13, 12:30 P.M., W CHICAGO-CITY CENTER HOTEL, 172 W. ADAMS ST., CHICAGO.

Chef Lomonaco's tours of duty in New York restaurants read like a Who's Who list, including such notables as Windows on the World in the World Trade Center and Le Cirque. He has made many national TV appearances, including "In Julia's Kitchen with Master Chefs." His latest book is "Nightly Specials," which he will be signing. We's Chef Charlie Brown will serve a six-course lunch adapted from Chef Lomonaco's book, along with his own signature dishes, including hors d'oeuvres, striped bass with clams, sweet potato ravioli, and venison ossobucco and paired wines. CMS member's price, \$65

● **Cousin's -- "Turkish Feast" SUNDAY, NOV. 21, 5 P.M., RE-**

CEPTION, 6:30 P.M., DINNER; 3038 W. IRVING PARK RD., CHICAGO. Enjoy a feast that captures all the flavors, spices and scents of a Turkish marketplace at this charming storefront restaurant. The reception features a "meze plate" with wine, followed by red lentil soup, salad with feta cheese, portabella mushrooms, marinated, grilled chicken breast with vegetables over rice and chocolate baklava. CMS member's price, \$44.

● **TRAVEL:**

VALENTINE CRUISE ABOARD THE CUNARD QUEEN MARY 2, Feb. 12-19, 2005 (departs from Ft. Lauderdale). Itinerary includes San Juan, Puerto Rico, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, St. Marteen. Included on the cruise are gourmet meals created by celebrity chefs Daniel Boulud and Todd English. For more information, contact ChicaGourmets.

To reserve for ChicaGourmets events, please prepay by sending in your check, and identify yourself as a CMS member. (Memberships will be verified.)

Send checks to: ChicaGourmets, Mail Boxes, Etc. PMB 347, 47 W. Division St., Chicago, IL 60610-2220.

For more details, view the ChicaGourmets website: www.chicagourmet.com/. Or, go to the Chicago Medical Society website: www.cmsdocs.org/ and click on "links," then go to the ChicaGourmets website. For further information, contact: Don Newcomb, founder, ChicaGourmets, (708) 383-7543; or e-mail donaldnewcomb@comcast.net

What you get from CMS -- Your Society is working for:

- Patient Access to Care
- Tort Reform
- Reimbursement
- Local Physician/Hospital Rallies
- Access to Legislative Forums/Political Leaders
- CMS Insurance Agency

*It's up to you to make sure your membership is current, and that CMS advocacy efforts continue.
Encourage your colleagues to join CMS.*

*For information on CMS membership, contact:
Silvia Salinas, (312) 670-2550, ext. 331; e-mail, ssalinas@cmsdocs.org*

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Office/building for sale/rent

GENERAL INTERNIST WITH ESTABLISHED (25 year) practice looking to share office space with others. Chicago-city, north side. Paul Lorensen, DO, 2073 N. Lincoln; (773) 929-1664.

LARGE AND SPACIOUS MEDICAL BUILDING in near southwest Chicago (Morgan Park area) has available medical suites of varying sizes for lease. Great building in a highly visible location, comes with huge parking lot for customers. These suites are ideal for medical doctors, chiropractors, podiatrists, dentists, optometrists and physical therapists. If interested call, (773) 264-1400.

FAMILY PRACTICE FOR SALE. CHICAGO Uptown, 20 years old, well-established family practice for sale. Good price. Call Albert: (773) 934-4980.

Personnel wanted

HOME PHYSICIANS, A MEDICAL GROUP located in Chicago/Northwest Indiana and specializing in house calls, seeks physicians. Individuals trained in primary care/surgical debridement. Phone (773) 292-4800/(219) 864-9900; fax (773) 486-3548; www.homephysicians.com.

MOBILE DOCTORS SEEKS FT AND PT physicians to make house calls to the elderly and disabled. No on-call, night or weekend

work. Transportation and an MA provided. Practice "hands-on" medicine. Fax CV to Michele at (312) 640-4496; or call (312) 939-5090.

PSYCHIATRISTS WANTED--PART-TIME, TO do social security disability evaluations. Flexible schedule. Available offices are located in Chicago, Oak Park, and Justice/Hickory Hills. Call (708) 928-0811.

CHICAGO: ANESTHESIOLOGIST WANTED for gyn family planning surgical outpatient facilities in Chicago and suburbs. Full- and part-time shifts available. Residents welcome. Malpractice insurance available. Please send CV to: attn: Administrator, 1640 N. Arlington Heights Rd., Suite 110, Arlington Heights, IL 60004.

Medical equipment for sale

SAVE \$\$\$, NEW AND PRE-OWNED. EXAM tables, office and waiting room furniture, EKGs, sterilizers. Call for list and info: (800) 553-8367 or (815) 678-4657.

PLASTIC SURGERY INSTRUMENTS. Rhinoplasty, Autoplasty, Micro. M. R. Jayasanker (312) 804-2146.

FOR SALE, THREE EXAM TABLES WITH drop foot leaf and cabinets below. Infant scale exam table measures length, centrifuge, micro-centrifuge; Welch Allan audiometer, otoscope, hemocytometer, binocular micro-

scope. All in excellent condition. Call (847) 977-2326. 2192

FOR SALE--BURDICK ELECTROCARDIO- graph--12-lead model #EK5A. Also Pelton and Crane autoclave for office use; (773) 685-3999.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT FOR SALE: HUGE savings on refurbished or new medical/surgical equipment for all specialties. One-year warranties, training, delivery installation, supplies. One stop shopping. **WE BUY UNWANTED EQUIPMENT.** Call for complete inventory list or schedule a face-to-face meeting with Alexia Smith, MESA Medical, Inc., (800) 989-4909.

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CMS members:

Do we have your e-mail address?

We want to keep you updated on the latest news concerning legislation, public health alerts and bioterrorism.

Please send us your address by e-mailing:

askcms@cmsdocs.org or by faxing: (312) 670-3646.

**FOR INFORMATION ON PLACING A CLASSIFIED AD,
CONTACT CHRIS SIENKO (312) 670-2550.**