Give a cheer! Spring is here!

A museum ... and hardsell carnival

By Adam Simon

RISING LIKE some Greek temple to the gods of commerce and technology, the Museum of Science and Industry, situated along Hyde Park's lake front, presents an awesome monument to Western civilization and the capitalism which founded it.

To the rational mind, the Museum appears as one giant corporate advertisement. U.S. Steel explains steel production. Standard Oil teaches the wonders of oil. The Museum can be seen as a shrine to Our Lady of the Multinationals.

But once past the entrance, you enter a world more like a pinball alley than a museum. Any mature political reservations are trampled by the childhood obsession with pushing buttons, pulling levers and turning wheels. Flashing lights, moving ramps, hysterical ping pong balls assault the senses.

Gadgets, gadgets and more gadgets.

Welcome to the wonderful world of Thomas Edison, Henry Ford and Donald Duck. Where free enterprise and sheer imagination combine to give a kaleidoscopic tour of the technological wonders of America.

No giant dead animals or "life-like" dioramas like the pedestrian Field Museum. Just good old American knowhow. And a little bit of magic.

Don't ask me for an objective description of this industrial freak show. As a kid I spent every single summer day in these anything-but-hallowed halls. My dreams were filled with the images witnessed there: Bottled fetuses, slices of human flesh between glass, and the miracle of birth repeated every 11 minutes in the chick hatchery.

It's all still there. Still free. 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. weekdays, 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. weekends. Every day of the year except Christmas.

By Steve Taylor

THE AGE-OLD STRUGGLE between man and beast continues in microcosm at Lincoln Park Zoo on Fullerton Avenue just west of the Outer Drive. Personally, I couldn't help siding with the animals. The zoo welcomes uninitiated observers and the spectacle is well worth watching. It is live, spontaneous entertainment, goes on all day and costs nothing.

From the parking lot, the zoo appears as a grimy red brick village standing rooted in defiance to the nearby skyscrapers looming overhead.

I walked through the main gate sensing danger. The scarcity of animals in their cages worried me. Surely, the cold, dark weather couldn't have caused such an exodus. The poor beasts had simply been unable to stand up to the crowd's constant barrage of popcorn missiles and witty comments about their personal hygiene and had retreated to the safety of their inner cabins. Striding past the refreshment center that cruelly means she's in heat," I thought. "But perhaps the girl would respond in kind to this open-hearted display of life's basic connection. And perhaps we, the four of us, could create a new land where all animals could live together in peace and mutual respect."

"Where have you been all my life?"

She gave me a surprised look and fled.

By David Hyman

BUSTLING RUSH between Delaware and Elm is a bustling center of North Side night life which features a mixture of fast and fancy restaurants, movie theaters, bars and pornography shops.

But these are just the props. Because one of the more interesting characteristics for which Rush street is famous is the people who frequent its attractions.

It is twilight on a mid-March evening and my nose is filled with the aroma of pizza. Everyone is playing roles. A Baretta stands at a corner, while Clint Eastwood struts out of a nearby pub. Several brown and brunette Blondies dressed in sleek Florence slacks jog by.

As a tiny basting man wearing a long leather jacket enters an X-rated theater, I ask, "Why are you going in there?" The man turns, embarrassed, and replies, "Got nothin' else to do.

Up and down the street, a collage of lights and music emits from a number of sleazy and seamy bars, one with a female couple kissing in the entrance.

Four sailors jauntwalk through the congested traffic in amazement at the craziness and disorder about them. Suddenly, a militant youth from a passing car screams out to me, "Just make sure you take notes of all the fruits around here."

Then he plugs his mouth with a fat marijuana cigarette.
Opinion

'Being There': A simply complicated film

SIMPLICITY OF CONTENT and complexity of intention are as simple as a Biblical parable (with additional dialog by Harpo Marx) in Hal Ashby's film "Being There." Peter Sellers stars as Chance, a gardener in a Washington, D.C., mansion, who is typified as the film's only truly relevant character — his garden and his television — when his boss dies. After emerging into a reality beyond the control of his remote control T.V. channel selector, Chance is adopted by the gangly girl (Shirley MacLaine) of a dying industrialist (Mylion Douglas). Chance, unable to read or write, replies to any questions with simple, often meaningful, garden aphorisms like "after winter comes spring." Douglas interprets Chance's aphorisms as great wisdom and introduces him to Washington society, where Chance becomes the hit of the season. From there Chance goes on national television and is quickly on his way to international prominence. The film, at once totally simple and yet somehow impenetrable, recalls some biblical parables which defy ordinary, analytical interpretations.

It may seem a copout to simply throw out these heavy questions in lieu of a nutshell explanation of the film. But "Being There" doesn't answer those questions. It doesn't even ask them. "Being There" demonstrates them simply by being a film in itself.

State of the Arts

By Adam Simon, Midway critic

Mailbox

Principal criticizes editorial

From principal Geoff Jones:
I find myself in the unhappy position of having to respond to what I believe was poor coverage by the Midway in regards to the health education issue. The lead article, given the space allotment, was not sufficient to convey all the concerns of the staff. I would have loved to discuss Chance's aphorisms as great wisdom and introducing him to Washington society, where Chance becomes the hit of the season. From there Chance goes on national television and is quickly on his way to international prominence. The film, at once totally simple and yet somehow impenetrable, recalls some biblical parables which defy ordinary, analytical interpretations.

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It's time for U-High to make senior year something special

By Matt Gerow

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SEVERAL freshmen and sophomores have complained about their course load. Mr. Ron Drodz says that the Midway's editors felt their focus was on long-range and short-range goals and objectives. Mr. Drodz says that the Midway's editors felt their focus was on long-range and short-range goals and objectives. Mr. Drodz says that the Midway's editors felt their focus was on long-range and short-range goals and objectives. Mr. Drodz says that the Midway's editors felt their focus was on long-range and short-range goals and objectives. Mr. Drodz says that the Midway's editors felt their focus was on long-range and short-range goals and objectives.

SEVERAL freshmen and sophomores have complained about the problems of the school that overemphasizes academics, making the only reason for being here just getting good grades to get into the right college? Who knows, maybe if the fun side of high school were stressed a little more here, we wouldn't even have to accept the fact that seniors will slump. They'd probably be having too good a time to think about it.

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**Sports program gets high marks from grads**

**By John Naisbit**

This year, as in previous years, U-High's sports program has received high marks from both the students and the faculty. The program has been praised for its variety of sports and for the skills and attitudes that it instills in the students.

U-High graduates, in particular, have been impressed with the program's offerings. They have noted that the program provides opportunities for students to develop skills and for them to enjoy the social aspects of being part of a team.

**NEARLY TWICE as many girls this year**

The number of girls participating in U-High's sports program this year has doubled, with two girls playing on the basketball team and one on the softball team. This increase in participation is due in part to the efforts of the female coaches, who have been working to encourage more girls to join the program.

**Girls shine in sports spotlight**

The girls' basketball team has been particularly successful, with a record of 16-2. The team is now in the state tournament, where it will be hoping to win its first state championship.

**DAVID ROTHBLATT, '79, who played baseball here and now attends the University of Chicago, said,**

"As far as U-High's basketball program, I feel that it has been good for me. It has taught me about teamwork and has helped me develop my skills."
Choirs go on the road

By Jennifer Lim

Competing against 10 other schools, the Concert and Chamber Choirs will combine to participate in the Illinois High School Association State Choral Contest Saturday at Provost High School in New Lenox.

Schools entering the contest compete against other schools with a comparable number of students in the same geographical region. The U-High choirs, competing in the contest for the first time in eight years, will enter the full chorus event, one of the six events in the contest.

"WE'RE NOT as interested in getting awards as getting rated by the judges," said music teacher Richard Walsh, choir director.

Since the beginning of January, the Chamber Choir has given performances at area churches and universities. The Concert and Chamber Choirs have performed six times at area churches, colleges and junior high schools. In May, the Chamber Choir will travel to Joliet to perform at the church Mr. Walsh attended as a child.

Choir MEMBERS say they enjoy their performances. "It's more fun and the group closer together when we bicycle outside of school," said Chamber Choir member Wendy Rostoker.

"Most of our performances come into the music. When we perform at schools, their choirs sometimes join us so everyone sings together."