

# Amid the clutter – art

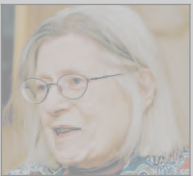
Public guardian’s office finds scores of works by American impressionist Alfred Juergens in the home of Margaret Tikalsky (right)

By **Ofelia Casillas**  
Tribune staff reporter

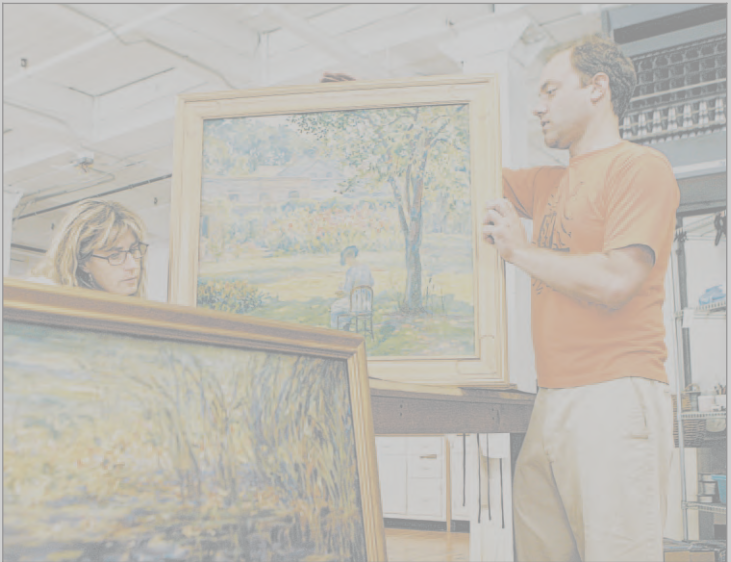
As officials from the Cook County public guardian’s office sorted through decades of accumulated belongings in an elderly woman’s house last year, amid dusty towers of newspapers and junk mail, they be-

gan to find paintings. Paintings under beds. Paintings in boxes and crates and closets. Paintings in the sweltering, leaky attic. And, of course, the paintings that covered the walls. By the time they had an expert look at them, they had collected 85 watercolors, sketches,

and oils on canvas and wood, all by American impressionist Alfred Juergens—an unprecedented and unexpected collection with a value that would start, conservatively, in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Juergens, born in Chicago in 1866 and trained in Europe, spent most of his career in Oak



Park, growing in fame and popularity until he was regularly shown at the Art Institute. After his death, his fame slipped, in part because few of his works were in circulation. Richard Norton of the Richard Norton Gallery, which specializes in American art from that era, said he would value Juergens oil paintings between \$2,500 and \$15,000, but said they could go higher, depending on the individual work and the interest created by a new find. “One of the issues has been,



Tribune photo by Nancy Stone  
Elizabeth Kendall and John Salhus of Parma Conservation assess and catalog some of Alfred Juergens’ paintings.

PLEASE SEE **TREASURE**, PAGE 22

## Rep. Rush front and center on hearings

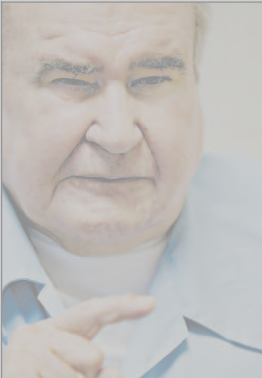
Democrats waited years to lead oversight in Congress

By **Jim Tankersley**  
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON—Back when Republicans still ruled Congress, Rep. Bobby Rush started inviting colleagues over to watch the NBA draft live on television, to “sit and eat and tell lies about what we used to do” on the court, he says. Rush’s beloved NBA hit a rough patch this month as federal investigators alleged a referee bet on games and may have deliberately influenced point spreads with his calls. Rush reacted like any “basketball junkie” would if he found himself in the Chicago Democrat’s shoes, which is to say, in charge of a House subcommittee with some of the widest jurisdiction in Washington. “Dear Commissioner Stern,” Rush wrote in a letter Wednesday to the National Basketball Association’s top executive, David Stern. “I have been following recent news reports about the ongoing [FBI] investigation” of NBA referee Tim Donaghy. A few lines down, he continued: “I am requesting a briefing on your investigation at the earliest appropriate time. I am also considering a hearing on this matter should the facts warrant public scrutiny.” Hearings on a wide variety of subjects are proving to be Rush’s specialty this year since he took over as chair-



Rush



Tribune photo by Charles Osgood  
An angry William Heirens makes a point.

Notorious triple murderer William Heirens seeks parole yet again

## Is 61 years in prison enough retribution?



United Press International file photo  
William Heirens peers out of his cell at the Cook County Jail in 1946. He pleaded guilty to killing two women in their homes and strangling Suzanne Degnan, 6, whose body was dismembered and disposed of in Chicago sewers.

By **Michael Higgins**  
Tribune staff reporter

DIXON, ILL.—William Heirens, his legs swollen from diabetes, pushes himself slowly in his wheelchair toward his visitors at the state prison. “I figure I’ll be getting out this year,” he predicted last week in a Tribune interview. “It’s a bad thing on the reputation of Illinois that they lock people up forever.” Heirens has served more than six decades in prison—longer than any other inmate in Illinois history—for one of the most shocking murder sprees in Chicago annals. With the Illinois Prisoner Review Board set to rule Thursday on yet another parole bid by Heirens, the case raises fundamental questions about justice and punishment, rehabilitation and retribution. Heirens has spent a virtual lifetime, from age 17 to 78, as a model prisoner. He was even the first Illinois inmate to earn a college degree behind bars. Now Heirens’ advancing age is forcing the state to decide what his efforts at rehabilitation are ultimately worth. Has he earned a measure of mercy in his final years, or do his crimes carry a price that can never be paid? While his lawyers argue that Heirens should be freed because

PLEASE SEE **PRISONER**, PAGE 21

## Roll, roll, roll the ball roughly down the hill

... merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily, life is but a scream. Itching to feel like a hamster? Try zorbing.

By **Josh Noel**  
Tribune staff reporter

MT. BRIGHTON, Mich. — If you throw up, you get a free T-shirt. But that was little consolation to Pam Wood, 58, as she was about to roll down a hill while strapped to the inside wall of a large plastic ball last weekend. Up and down, left and right, round and round, she would tumble, like clothes in the dryer. Beside her grandchildren at the bottom of the hill, Wood had

been the picture of bravery. But at the top, she began to doubt. “Boy, it seems a lot shorter looking up than down,” she said. Thirty scream-filled seconds later, Wood was back where she started, her family waiting. She climbed out of the ball, dazed, her forehead glistening. “Was that fun, Nana?” her 14-year-old granddaughter asked. “No, that was not,” said Wood, who did not qualify for a T-shirt. “But we’ll talk about this for years to come.” Started by two friends who met as options traders in Chicago eight years ago, Sphere USA offers the only opportunity in this country to experience the extreme adventure called “sphereing” or “zorbing”: rolling down a 700-foot slope in a clear, inflatable PVC ball at



Tribune photo by Charles Osgood  
Scott Craig instructs Lisa Schindler (left) and Melissa Schultz before their ride earlier this month in Michigan.

PLEASE SEE **BALL**, PAGE 19

## In minority neighborhood, kids’ risk of cancer soars

By **Howard Witt**  
Tribune senior correspondent

HOUSTON—Like so many of their poor and working-class Hispanic neighbors, Rosario Marroquin’s family settled in the southeast Houston neighborhood of Manchester a generation ago because the clapboard houses were cheap, the streets were safe, transportation was convenient and downtown was only 20 minutes away. It was an ideal neighborhood, except for the coughing spells, the nosebleeds, the burning odors and the acrid smoke. Marroquin’s family, like most everyone else in the neighbor-

hood, did their best to ignore all that, because few could afford to move anywhere else. And they tried not to notice the dozens of oil refineries, petrochemical plants and waste disposal sites expanding all around them, their towering smokestacks and huge storage tanks lining the Houston Ship Channel, the city’s principal outlet to the sea. But then the cancers started to appear. First the neighbor in back, then another across the street, then a boy down the block. And finally, in 2003, Marroquin’s son, Valentin, came down with leukemia at age 6.

PLEASE SEE **POLLUTE**, PAGE 8



Having a great rate.

Having a great rate with a short wait.

Citibank 7-month CD

5.35%<sub>APY</sub>

Earn more money in less time with a Citibank 7-month CD.

With a Citibank checking account, you can get a short-term CD and a great rate without the long wait. It's time to let your money start working harder for you.

To learn more, stop by a Citibank branch, or call 866.443.9749.

**citibank**® let's get it done™

Available in Citibank Financial Centers located in Illinois, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Texas, New York, Connecticut and New Jersey. Annual Percentage Yield ("APY") is based on an interest rate of 5.21%, applies only to new Citibank 7-month Certificates of Deposit (CDs), and is current as of 7/10/07. You earn the APY in effect on the day your CD is opened. Minimum opening deposit is \$500 which cannot be transferred from an existing Citibank account. Penalties apply for early withdrawal. A checking account is required to open a 7-month CD. Fees may apply to the checking account.  
© 2007 Citibank. Citibank, N.A. Member FDIC. Citibank with Arc Design is a registered service mark of Citigroup Inc. Let's get it done is a service mark of Citigroup Inc.



Tribune photo by Nancy Stone

Rosario Marroquin's 10-year-old son, Valentin, came down with leukemia four years ago. "We have to get out," she said.

## POLLUTE: Study finds 56% greater leukemia risk

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The reality of living in the city's most toxic industrial zone—in the middle of the largest concentration of petrochemical plants in the United States—grew inescapable.

"The factories say they were here first, and I understand that," said Marroquin, 27, an apartment leasing agent who has lived in Manchester her whole life. "I understand that we need all this industry for our nation's economy. But when you look at the pain of a child in the hospital, why can't these plants do something better, invest more money in pollution controls?"

That is a question that Houston officials, environmental activists and neighborhood residents are grappling with in the wake of an alarming public health study released this year by the University of Texas School of Public Health. The study showed that children living within 2 miles of the heavily industrialized Houston Ship Channel, like Valentin Marroquin, have a 56 percent greater risk of contracting acute lymphocytic leukemia than children living farther away—a risk that epidemiologists found was associated with some of the toxic pollutants released by petrochemical plants in the area.

### A national trend

But such health risks are not just a local issue. Some environmental experts say the affected Houston neighborhoods, which are more than 90 percent Hispanic, illustrate a discriminatory national trend they call "environmental racism" in which hazardous polluting industries are routinely located closer to minority neighborhoods than to white ones.

"All communities are not created equal," said Robert Bullard, director of the Environmental Justice Resource Center at Clark Atlanta University, who has been documenting racial and environmental disparities for more than 20 years. "If a community is low-income and comprised mostly of people of color, it generally gets more

than its fair share of those things that people don't want."

For example, one analysis of data collected by the federal Environmental Protection Agency, conducted by The Associated Press in 2005, found that blacks are 79 percent more likely than whites to live in neighborhoods where industrial pollution is suspected of posing the greatest health danger.

Another study, released by Bullard in March, showed 10 metropolitan areas in the U.S. with the largest number of minorities living in neighborhoods that contain hazardous waste facilities. Houston featured 10 such neighborhoods where the total population is more than 78 percent minority. (Chicago showed nine neighborhoods containing hazardous waste facilities where the total minority population is nearly 72 percent.)

The very concept of environmental racism is vigorously disputed by officials of the petrochemical industry, who say that in many cases, the plants were there long before residential neighborhoods grew up around them.

"The petrochemical facilities in the Houston Ship Channel region were established during World War II in areas that were very unpopulated at that time," said Christina Wisdom, general counsel for the Texas Chemical Council, an industry trade association. "There is no evidence that industry has intentionally targeted those neighborhoods, and frankly, it's not true."

But environmental justice activists say that communities like Manchester end up hosting so many refineries, petrochemical plants and other hazardous industries largely as a function of economics and politics.

The presence of such industrial sites in a neighborhood sharply depresses residential property values, which attracts families earning the lowest incomes. And the presence of low-income families, many of them minorities who often lack political clout, in turn makes it easier for hazardous industries to locate or expand nearby without opposition.

That is particularly true in Manchester, which the Census Bureau puts at 25,174, but which local residents say is larger because of the presence of uncounted illegal immigrants.

"It's very easy for industry and the politicians to wear down these communities because they don't believe they

PLEASE SEE **POLLUTE**, FOLLOWING PAGE

Find the right car for you.



A BETTER JOB AWAITS.

Chicago Tribune  
**careerbuilder**  
www.careerbuilder.com

#1 VINYL REPLACEMENT WINDOW COMPANY IN THE COUNTRY.\*

ANY SIZE White Double Hung Vinyl Replacement Windows

ANY SIZE  
**\$189\***  
INSTALLED

\*4 Window Minimum  
Complete At Store Or More

Energy Bills are Rising. Replacement Windows are the Answer!

**CALL NOW!**

**50% OFF**

All Upgrade Options  
Includes Grids, Wood Grains,  
with Value Plus Package.  
Good thru 8/31/07  
Not good on any prior sales.

- Energy Efficient
- Maintenance Free
- Easy to Clean
- Adds Value to the Home

**WIN 2 TICKETS** TO SEE THE 2007-08 BEARS PLAY AT SOLDIERS FIELDS!  
NO PURCHASE NECESSARY!

SCHEDULE A FREE, NO OBLIGATION ESTIMATE AND YOU WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO WIN!  
HURRY! ONLY THE FIRST 100 HOUSEHOLDS TO CALL & SCHEDULE WILL BE ENTERED IN THE DRAWING.  
(SEE STORE FOR COMPLETE RULES & DETAILS)

**GUARANTEED LOW PRICE OR DOUBLE THE DIFFERENCE BACK!**  
(SEE DEALER FOR DETAILS)

Nobody Beats Window World in Vinyl Replacement Windows!  
Over 850,000 windows sold Nationwide in 2006!



**CALL FOR A FREE ESTIMATE**  
600 Industrial Drive, Suite 403, Naperville, IL  
**1-800-NEXT WINDOW** (1-800-639-8946)  
630-778-7189  
www.windowworldchicago.com



Summer Sale!



Save \$4,000\*  
up to 4,000\*

On a Sunroom, Solarium or Conservatory!

\*Not valid with other offers or prior sales. Discount varies based on room size. Offer expires 30 days from publication. See your independent franchise for their pricing and terms.

- Add additional living space at an affordable price.
- Provide a relaxing and entertaining space — rain or shine.
- Increase resale value of your home.
- Designed to complement your home, lifestyle and budget.

Experience The Edge-To-Edge Advantage™ In A Sunroom Of Floor To Ceiling Glass

Great Financing Available & Always Competitively Priced! Call for a FREE In-Home Design Consultation!

**Chicago North**  
1415 West Fullerton  
Addison, IL  
630-268-1697

**Chicago South**  
8901 W. 192nd St., Suite A  
Mokena, IL  
708-478-6844

**Toll Free 1-800-686-2629**  
Rockford 815-968-1966 Joliet 815-724-9666

Serving An 80 Mile Radius Of Chicago

Patio Enclosures, Inc. Franchise  
Michiana Area 1-800-523-9730



www.patioenc.com





# POLLUTE

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

have a right to anything better, and many people are afraid to come forward and complain,” said Rosalia Guerrero-Luera, community outreach coordinator for Mothers for Clean Air, a Houston environmental group. “But it isn’t like this is a normal problem and it will just smell for a little while. This will affect these children living here for their whole lives.”

“Normal” for children in Manchester means an elementary school where the principal routinely locks the children inside to “shelter in place” when the air outside grows too foul, and a new neighborhood high school built a few hundred yards from the flaming smokestacks of a petrochemical plant.

Yet fighting the toxic health

threats along the Houston Ship Channel is made even harder by the fact that most of the industrial plants are not breaking any state or federal pollution laws. Neither the federal EPA nor the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has established overall emissions limits for many of the toxic air pollutants, such as benzene and butadiene, that are released by the refineries and chemical plants in the area and that epidemiologists suspect are causing the increased cancer rates.

“In the absence of federal ambient air standards for toxics, states are allowed to set their own,” said Elena Marks, director of health and environmental policy for the city of Houston. “Many states have done that. Texas has not.”

Frustrated by the state’s refusal to set and enforce new pollution limits, Houston Mayor Bill White wants to fill the void

IN THE WEB EDITION



Watch a video of Rosario Marroquin, who lives along the Houston Ship Channel, discussing her son’s struggle with leukemia at [chicagotribune.com/pollute](http://chicagotribune.com/pollute)

by expanding the city’s nuisance laws to impose stiff fines on industrial plants that do not reduce their toxic emissions.

“Nobody should have the right to chemically alter air they don’t own, breathed by other people, in a way that poses significant health risks,” said White, a popular Democrat who is running uncontested for his third 2-year term.

### Industries fight back

But White faces strong opposition from the petrochemical industry, whose leaders point to progress they have made in recent years in voluntarily reducing emissions of some carcinogens. And state and regional officials question Houston’s jurisdictional right to regulate the plants, some located just outside the city’s borders.

As a compromise—and a way to avoid what would likely be years of legal challenges to any new ordinance—White agreed to the formation of an industry-government commission to study more voluntary emissions reductions. The commission is due to issue its report soon, but White warns that he will resurrect his proposed ordinance if the voluntary plan lacks teeth.

Dan Wolterman, president of Houston’s Memorial Hermann Hospital and chairman of the commission, said the group has discovered through its research that reducing toxic emissions, though expensive, is well within the technological capabilities of the plants.

“It’s very clear if you look at best practices by these same or-



Tribune photo by Nancy Stone

Industrial plants tower close over homes in the largely low-income Manchester neighborhood by the Houston Ship Channel, home to the biggest concentration of petrochemical plants in the U.S.

ganizations that they have some better emissions results elsewhere in other states,” Wolterman said. “So we asked them, what would it take to get the Houston region to the place where you would do here what you do elsewhere?”

Rosario Marroquin, for one, says she’s not going to wait around to find out.

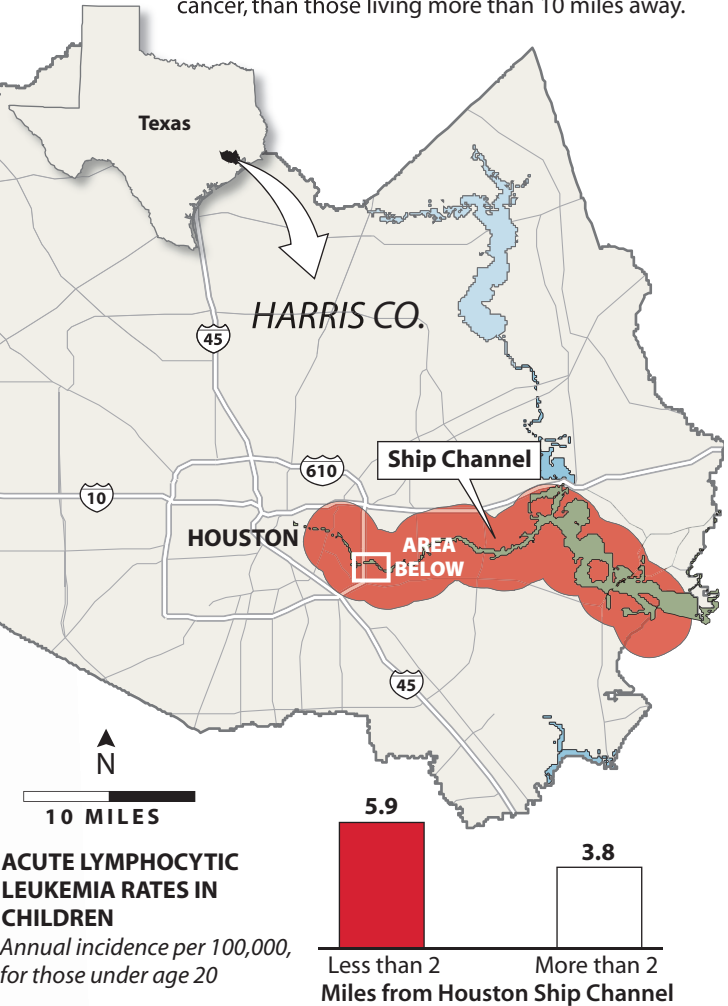
Valentin, who is now 10, is in remission after intensive chemotherapy for his leukemia. But his mother worries that every time the boy and his young siblings drink water from a tap in their home or breathe the air outside, they face dire risks.

“We have to get out,” said Marroquin. “We are not going to be able to afford it, but we have to leave. I don’t want the tiniest particle triggering his leukemia again.”


*hwitt@tribune.com*

### Leukemia rates higher near plants

A study found that children living within 2 miles of the Houston Ship Channel industrial area had a 56 percent greater risk of contracting acute lymphocytic leukemia, the most common type of childhood cancer, than those living more than 10 miles away.



Sources: University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, Mayo Clinic, ESRI, TeleAtlas, Google Earth Pro  
Chicago Tribune/Adam Zoll and Phil Geib



Coming Soon!

Ogden Hill of Montgomery

in Montgomery, Illinois.  
Located at US 30 and US 34.

and

North Aurora Towne Centre

in N. Aurora, Illinois.  
Located at I-88 and Orchard Rd.

Doors Open  
Friday, August  
3 at 9 am.

Join us for the  
ribbon cutting ceremony,  
plus great giveaways!

JCPenney®

jcp.com

JCPenney® Salon  
jcpsalon.com

JCPenney® Portraits  
jcportraits.com

JCPenney® Custom Decorating  
jcp.com/customdecorating

SEPHORA  
THE BEAUTY AUTHORITY  
MAKEUP SKINCARE FRAGRANCE