A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE CHICAGO MAROON BY JULIANA PINO AND GEORGE L. ANESI
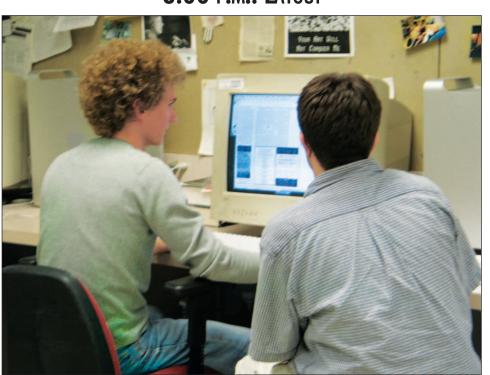
5:00 P.M.: WRITING THE NEWS

For most articles, the writing process begins when the previous issue is released. Exceptions are larger articles, which are planned out further in advance, and breaking news stories, which are written when they break. Writing is done by a large team of writers and editors. Articles for the next day's issue come into the office the evening before publication for editing. Around this time, editors in the newsroom (above) begin to assemble the article list for the night's section.

6:30 P.M.: EDITING THE SECTIONS

Section editors are responsible for editing their articles, deciding which articles are printed, and in their order of prominance. Editing can take the form of fact checking, organizing, or re-writing.

8:00 P.M.: LAYOUT

Production begins when the Managing Editor hands out "dummies" to each section designer. The dummy shows how many pages each section has and where ads should be placed. The section editors tell the designers where different articles should go, and the designers put it all on the page, including ads and photos.

10:30 P.M.: THE EDITORS' MEETING

When the news editors are finished editing, the Editor in Chief holds the editors' meeting, which takes place in the central conference room. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the day's news and to choose a topic to write the staff editorial about. The staff editorial, found in the Viewpoints section, is often called the "unsigned" because no particular editor signs it—it is supposed to be the view of the paper as a whole. Usually 2 to 3 editors take part in the writing process.

12:00 A.M.: COPYEDITING

There are two rounds of copyediting on a given production night. The first round occurs before articles are given to the designers, and is called "on screen" because the editing is done on a computer. The second round occurs when layout is complete and is called "on page" because the editing is done on a physical printout of the paper (above). A large team of copy editors staff four shifts over the course of one night.

2:00 A.M.: HEADLINES AND FINAL CHECKS

When everything else is done, the section editors write headlines for all of their articles. The Editor in Chief checks all headlines and does a final check of the whole paper, paying closest attention to the front page. At this point, the paper is complete and is handed over to the Managing Editor, who coverts the production files into Adobe PDF documents which are sent to the printer. It takes another hour to put the issue online and to get the final OK from the printer. The Editor in Chief and Managing Editor leave the office between 3 and 6 A.M.