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Inside Journalism

Columbia College Chicago

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INSIDE JOURNALISM

NOVEMBER, 1990

A Newsletter Published by the Journalism Department of Columbia College

GREETINGS

We're happy to welcome journalism students for another year. Once again, we've grown — about 40% in the last three years, and from 320 declared J-students last year to 370 this year. Two important reasons for the growth are the relatively new magazine and broadcast segments of the J-department.

Don Gold, who directs the magazine program, reports that there are a number of students committed to magazine editing, and many of them have signed up for the department's new magazine, *Chicago: Arts and Communication*. This publication will be unique among college magazines: it will have full graphics, courtesy of our excellent Art and Photography departments, and it will have an experienced design advisor in art instructor Burton Winick. It will not be about college life, as so many college magazines are, but about the subjects we study as they are practiced in the city of Chicago —i.e., music, dance, theater, tv, etc. If anyone is interested in contributing material to the new magazine, please contact Don Gold in the Chronicle office.

The broadcast journalism program, which has been in operation for three years, has grown considerably, and in recognition of that, we've hired a talented and experienced person to coordinate our department's efforts with those of the television and radio departments. A full profile of coordinator Rose Economou appears in this issue of *IJ*.

While nurturing these new segments of the journalism department, we have not neglected our aspiring newspaper reporters and writers. The *Chronicle* continues to raise its standards, and the department continues to bring in experienced part-timers from area publi-

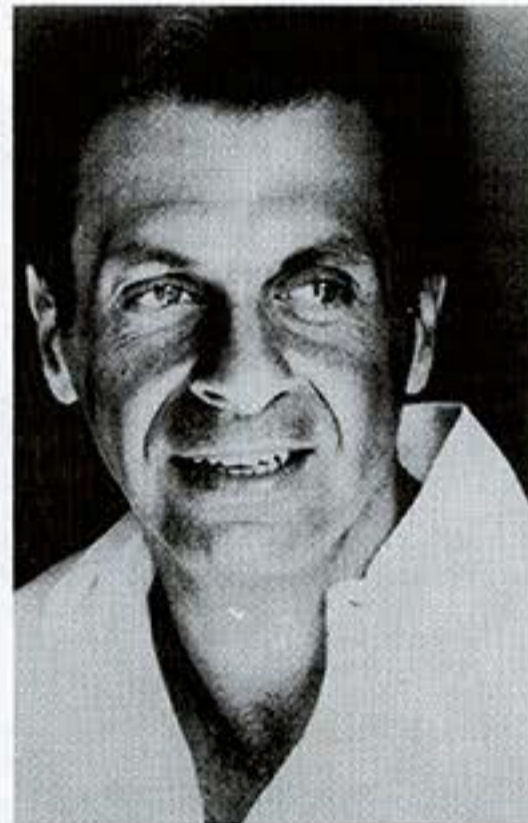
cations. An article about three new instructors, including a Pulitzer Prize-winner, appears in this issue, and, in addition, we will be fortunate to have Skip Myslenski, whose by-line appears frequently in the *Trib*, teaching sportswriting in the spring. Carolyn Hulse, director of news and reporting, has also introduced tutoring for journalism students. Jim Ylisela, one of our most able (and popular) instructors, is in charge.

Keep your eye on *Inside Journalism* for news about your department, and please contact us if you have any questions or suggestions.

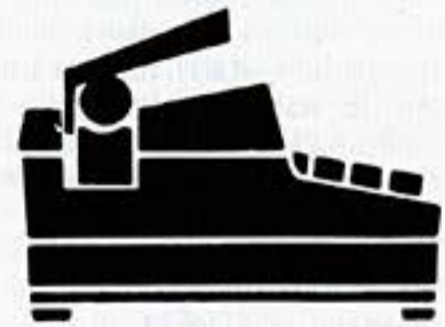
—Nat Lehrman

COMEDIAN SAHL TO HIGHLIGHT FISCHETTI BANQUET

Comedian Mort Sahl will draw on four decades of political satire when he



Comedian Mort Sahl



appears at the 10th annual John Fischetti Scholarship awards banquet. The banquet will honor the 21 Columbia College J-students awarded Fischetti scholarships this year, as well as the winner of the Fischetti national editorial cartoon competition. It will be held Tuesday, November 27, 1990, at the Chicago Hilton and Towers.

Fischetti Scholarships are awarded each year to J-students, including photojournalists and editorial cartoonists.

The scholarships are based on individual need, a student's grade point average and service to journalism, such as writing for school publications and internships.

The Fischetti Scholarship is named for Pulitzer Prize-winning political cartoonist John Fischetti. Fischetti, who died in 1980, drew cartoons for the *Chicago Daily News* and the *Chicago Sun-Times*.

Sahl, a post-World War II political satirist, debuted at the *Hungry I* in San Francisco in 1953. He was one of the first comedians to reflect the times with biting but humorous commentary on the political and social scenes.

On stage, in a v-neck sweater and open collar shirt, often carrying a rolled up newspaper, he has taken aim at four decades of presidents, as well as the CIA, the FBI and other government

officials. One of his favorite lines is, "Is there anyone in the room I haven't offended yet?"

Sahl's career took a downturn when he became associated with the efforts of Jim Garrison, a New Orleans district attorney, who tried to prove that President John F. Kennedy was assassinated by order of the CIA because he was trying to end the cold war.

Sahl says this hurt his career seriously, because producers and agents "wanted me to go away."

In the 1970s, after the Watergate scandal, Sahl's career picked up, but it never reached its original peak. Although he's nearly forty years older than he was at the time of his debut, Sahl is still full of pep and he still dresses like a 1950s grad student from Berkeley.

As long as he continues to look to the government for material, Sahl will never run out of jokes.

—Carolyn Denne

NEW HOME FOR J-DEPARTMENT

One month into the fall semester and you're still having problems locating your journalism classes? Don't lose hope! The J-Department has relocated to the eighth floor of the Wabash campus.

The move took place in August when all marketing classes were relocated to the Torco building, Columbia's newest campus.

The eighth floor suite is much more convenient than the former fifth floor offices for both students and faculty in terms of space, security and the ability to locate classes.

"It's less claustrophobic," says Nick Shuman, a J-department teacher. "Last year I had to look at a brick wall. Today I enjoy the view of the city and Wabash Avenue."

Work-aids in the J-department have also admired the spacious suite.

"Every time faculty members stepped out of their offices, they were literally in our faces. Now . . . we get a little more privacy," says J-Department work-aid Annesa Lacey, who assisted with the move.

"The work was extremely strenuous and time consuming," Lacey recalls. "The computer terminals that were located on the fifth floor last year had to be disconnected, reconnected and labeled. It was an experience that I would like to forget."

For now, the J-department can call the eighth floor home, but rumor has it that sometime in the future the J-department may once again relocate — this time to the Torco building.

—Timothy Bentevis

PULITZER WINNER AMONG NEW FACULTY

And then there were five. Columbia College has hired yet another Pulitzer Prize-winner to share knowledge of the

working journalism world, bringing the number of Pulitzer winners in the school to five.

William Crawford, a graduate of the University of Chicago with a degree in history, will be teaching Introduction to Mass Media students what he's learned in 17 years of reporting for the *Chicago Tribune*.

After a stint with the City News Bureau, Crawford became a general assignment reporter for the *Tribune*.

In 1976, he was part of an investigative reporting team that went undercover to investigate alleged misconduct at some Chicago area hospitals. The subsequent investigation eventually led to the shutting down of two major Chicago hospitals, and earned Crawford his share in the Pulitzer.

Crawford's experience doesn't stop at superb investigative reporting, however. From 1980 until 1987 he covered the Federal Building for the *Tribune*, a job he calls "the best beat in the city . . . you just know that every indictment that comes down is big news and is going to cause some big waves." Crawford is currently covering the Chicago Board of Trade and the Mercantile Exchange for the *Tribune*, keeping his eye on the trial of alleged fraudulent traders who were arrested after an undercover operation by federal agents.

Before coming to CC, Crawford taught at Northwestern's Medill School of Journalism. He says he prefers CC to Northwestern because, "by and large, Columbia students are more enthusiastic in their work and they know a little bit more about life at an earlier age."

Other new faces

Joining Crawford in this year's crop of new faculty are Suzanne Cozgrove and Jim Bowman, both of whom teach Introduction to Media Writing.

Cozgrove is a 1981 Medill graduate, and is currently working as a business reporter covering financial news for the Knight-Ridder business wire service.

Like Crawford, she has also taught elsewhere, but decided to move to Columbia because of the larger J-program and the wider variety of classes.

So far she hasn't been disappointed. "The people here are really enthusiastic, and the classes are lively."

The third new J-teacher is Jim Bowman. In addition to earning a Masters Degree in English from Loyola University, Bowman spent eighteen years in a

TUTORING CENTER OPENS

For J-students Only

Feeling depressed?

Journalism got you down?

Do your leads have that tired, run-down feeling?

Come to the Journalism Tutoring Center and we can fix what ails you.

The center is right where it should be—in the J-department, Suite 800. Stop by on Tuesdays from 1 to 4 p.m., or Wednesdays from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. If these hours cannot accommodate you, call 663-1600, ext. 671, to make an appointment.

We'll check your style and clean your copy. Check it out.

—Jim Ylisela

Jesuit training program, studying Latin and Greek as well as theology and philosophy.

During this training period he taught at St. Ignatius High School, where he discovered a love for teaching.

Bowman's background in religion, coupled with a talent for writing, led him to a position as religion editor for the *Chicago Daily News* for nine years. When the *Daily News* folded, Bowman strode out on his own as a freelance journalist. Since then he has started a column on Chicago's history entitled "The Way We Were" for the *Chicago Tribune Sunday Magazine*. His current field of expertise is researching and writing corporate histories and, of course, teaching.

"I'm very glad to be teaching again . . . I don't want to budge for a while. The atmosphere at Columbia is great, and the students are very responsive."

It looks as if all three of our new faculty members will help Columbia take another giant step in preparing students for the real journalism world.

—Steve Crescenzo

BROADCAST COORDINATOR JOINS J-DEPARTMENT

Rose Economou, CC's first broadcast journalism coordinator, brings a vivacious breeze coupled with 20 years of broadcasting experience to the J-department.



Columbia College's new coordinator of Broadcast Journalism, Rose Economou

As broadcast coordinator and artist-in-residence, Economou serves as a liaison between the television, radio and J-departments, assisting with course work and in finding internships. "I will be a catalyst, facilitator and resource person for students," she says.

Economou, winner of seven Emmy awards, is currently teaching TV News Practicum, the production class for "600 South," CC's cable newsmagazine.

This is Economou's first teaching experience and she says, "It feels wonderful! There is nothing like having your first full-time teaching experience, and then to have the perfect class."

Besides being the broadcast coordinator and teaching, Economou is an independent film maker, and is currently working on the documentary, "Armed in America." It focuses on the history and culture of firearms, and is circulating at PBS.

In professional circles, she is best known for her reporting of environmental, occupational and health problems, including the Agent Orange defoliation contamination story, which she broke with the help of colleagues at WBBM-TV in 1977.

In 1980, she was awarded the distinguished Nieman Fellowship at Harvard University, where she studied International Relations, Latin American history and politics.

Economou originally planned to work in Chicago politics, but a trip to the Soviet Union changed her mind. Seeing a nation without free and inde-

pendent media made her realize how lucky we are in America, so she decided to pursue a career in film instead of politics.

She hopes her students will graduate with this same appreciation of the American free press. They should strive to be good journalists first, Economou says, and then good producers.

There are four goals that she hopes to accomplish at CC: Making sure there are sufficient broadcast scholarships; encouraging students to get to know each other so they can establish a lifetime contact list; bringing in well-known television professionals as role models; and expanding "600 South" from community access cable to suburban cable and eventually to a national cable audience.

Economou can be reached directly at 663-5375, and encourages students to stop by her office, 800-P, anytime.

—Denise Nelson

J-STUDENT INTERNS IN ROMANIA

"I have been a longtime critic of [American] education. But only now do I admit how productive my education has been," says former J-student Vesna Bozic, who just returned from a three-month internship in Romania.

Bozic, 22, obtained her internship in February when she saw an advertisement in *The Reader* for a journalism teacher in Romania. After ironing out some technical problems, Bozic left for Romania and began teaching a journalism course at the Polytechnical Institute of Timisoara.

It is "an institute consisting of five different departments: Electrical, Mechanical, Agricultural, Chemical and Civil Engineering," Bozic says. "The basic journalism course was the first of its kind."

Bozic, a native of Yugoslavia, thought she was well-trained in journalism, until her first day of class. She found teaching in Romania to be difficult because of key differences in each country's definition of journalism.

"It's so different from America," she says. "There is no concept of objectivity. All of their news articles are subjective, opinionated and editorialized."

The 300 students who enrolled in her

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND

Even though fall is barely underway, it's not too early for J-students to start thinking about 1991 summer internships.

Most major newspapers, including the Chicago Tribune and Chicago Sun-Times, are only accepting summer internship applications through December, so start gathering your clips and polishing your resume today.

Other internship possibilities include: The Milwaukee Sentinel, The Baltimore Sun, The Detroit Free Press and The Louisville Courier-Journal. For details on these and other opportunities, see Carolyn Hulse, J-department internship coordinator.
—Jacqui Podzius

class had trouble understanding English, so she used a translator.

Bozic first introduced the class to what news is and from there went into the five Ws and lead writing.

But Bozic did more than just teach—she also learned about a culture that contrasts starkly from our own. For instance, hot showers are allowed only at certain times of the day and there is no laundry detergent, so everything looks dirty.

One of the most disturbing cultural differences, she says, is the lack of candy. "It's sad to see the kids not growing up with candy. Most of them have never seen a piece of gum."

As a foreigner, Bozic feared harassment from police who arrested political activists while she was there.

"I was a little scared that they might have tried to tap my phones because I'm from another country," she says.

When things got too hectic for her, she says, "I drank a lot of cheap wine," since entertainment was scarce.

None of these inconveniences will deter her from going abroad again, she says, and she plans to go back to Yugoslavia this spring to finish her major in political science.

Look for more details about Bozic's trip in an upcoming issue of *The Reader*.

—Stacy Manglaras

IJ BITS

Congratulations to "Inside Journalism's" editor Jacqui Podzius for her work this summer as an intern at the World Information Net-

work, a company which produces two daily business software reports in Washington D.C. For six weeks, Jacqui used her writing and editing skills to report on Europe and agriculture. At the close of the summer, Jacqui was presented with the John Chamberlain Outstanding Student Award, finishing first among students from both the U.S. and abroad . . . J-students *Sheridan Chaney* and *Anita Padilla* are both interning at WBBM this semester. *Sheridan* is working as *Walter Jacobson's* assistant, checking story leads and writing story proposals. *Anita* is working as an assistant to *Bill Curtis* and is busy researching and developing story ideas. In addition, *Anita* anchors the weekend news at WKRS/WXLC in Lake County. Both *Sheridan* and *Anita* are working 40 hours per week and looking forward to graduating in May . . . There's almost no time for *Brenda Hermann* ('89) to relax! Since October 1, *Brenda* has been working full-time for the Chicago Tribune, where she is an editorial assistant. *Brenda* also writes for the Tribune's *Tempo*, *Tempo Woman*, *Style* and record review sections. Besides the Tribune, *Brenda* writes for *Bass Player* and *Guitar* magazines, and does editing for *Downbeat Magazine* . . . *Bravo* to former J-teacher *Dan Swanson*, who recently received a \$20,000 MacArthur Foundation grant to complete his book (authored under the name *James North*) about Third World debt . . . *Mary Stockover* ('90) is thrilled to be on staff at the American School of Professional Psychology, with its

central office based here in Chicago. *Mary* is currently involved in the marketing, public relations and advertising departments. She also puts together the national newsletter, "Profile," and tracks alumni from the schools . . . *Editor and publisher of the Bingo Bugle, Debra Matei* ('89), is looking forward to two new editions of the *Bugle* which will serve the southwest suburbs and northwest Indiana. *Debra* is also currently working as a news analyst with *Burrell's Wire Service*, based in New Jersey . . . And now for the bad news: A recent survey conducted by the College Placement Council Inc. says salaries for graduates in nearly every field have risen in the past year, except offers for J-grads: they have declined to an average of \$19,488. So maybe you won't be making that first million by your 30th birthday.

What exciting J-news do you have? We're always looking for story ideas and news bits here at *Inside Journalism*, so drop us a line in the J-department or call 663-1600, ext. 672.

—Julie Sacharski

INSIDE JOURNALISM

A newsletter produced by and for students of the journalism department

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