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Inside Journalism

Columbia College Chicago

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Inside Journalism

A Newsletter Published by the Journalism Department of Columbia College

March 1997

New teachers join j-department Columbia graduate returns as instructor

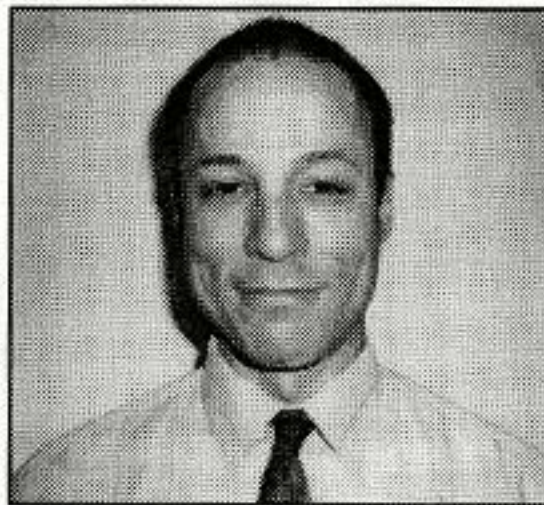
By Angeline J. Mitsis

Art Golab, a Columbia graduate, has been hired as a News Reporting I instructor. The *Chicago Sun-Times* city reporter of three and a half years is eager to convey his passion and enthusiasm for journalism.

An accomplished street reporter, in Chicago, he is now covering the suburbs. He has over 700 by-lines and covered the Million Man March story. He also made front page news by exposing a construction company that was responsible for homes sinking in the Bollingbrook area.

Golab wrote stories for *Crains* and *Rueters* and has experience at television and radio stations in Chicago. While a student at Columbia, he was editor of the *Chronicle* and a prep sports writer reporting high school basketball scores for Untied Press International. He did an internship at the *Sun-Times* and later was employed as a staff writer.

Looking forward to enhancing the talent and skills that Columbia students possess, he believes that teaching will



Art Golab

help him become a better journalist and communicator. It is Golab's hope to, "give something back to Columbia that

Columbia has given to me."

By the end of the semester Golab wants his students to, "know how to write a simple news story." In addition he wants his students to be self-confident as well as to demonstrate mastery of information gathering and present it with accuracy, completed by deadline.

"I was pleased with my students the first day of class. Their first in-class writing assignment demonstrated creativity, originality, and talent," said Golab.

Granger brings experience and history

By Peter M. Verniere

A war veteran, author, journalist, teacher, and Southside native are a few descriptions that sum up Bill Granger the newest member of Columbia's j-department staff.

Granger teaches Introduction to Media Writing on Mondays and Tuesdays, and spends the remaining time writing novels and freelancing to major publications throughout Chicago.

"I find teaching interesting. I like to teach people who are just starting without any preconceived notions about the busi-

ness," said Granger.

Granger has much to teach a class of any level. He has been in the business since 1963 and has covered IRA terrorists in Northern Ireland and has hidden away a Vietnam veteran for an exclusive story.

"He [Vietnam veteran] was a survivor of the My Lai Massacre and I had him hidden for two days while everyone was looking for him," said Granger.

The My Lai Massacre was when some American soldiers in Vietnam led by platoon

leader, Lt. William C. Calley, slaughtered innocent civilians in 1968. A scene in Oliver Stone's *Platoon* depicts the massacre. Calley was charged with the responsibility of the civilians' death and a military court found him guilty in 1971.

Granger has written 28 books focusing mainly on spy and police stories, and has three books in the works.

"One of the books is my memoirs of the Southside, another is a spy novel about spies who were riffed out of jobs and use their skills to make money, and the final book is a political novel based in Chicago."

In 1980, Granger won the Edgar award for best mystery novel. The award is given to the best mystery novel in honor of Edgar Allan Poe.

Granger has written for UPI, *Chicago Sun-Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Daily Herald*, and has



Bill Granger

freelanced since 1980.

Granger graduated from DePaul and attended DeLasalle High School on Chicago's Southside.

As for his future with Columbia and teaching he takes it day by day.

"I could be back teaching here next semester or could be somewhere else with a better offer. It's fun and it's always nice to be involved with kids."

Next Issue...

Bill Kurtis on TV

Internet on the way

New teachers in Magazine Program

25 years of history reaches Columbia

By Edwina Orange

On Feb. 20, the Community Media Workshop held a media forum on African-Americans in the media to recognize African-Americans and their contributions to society.

Thom Clark, president of the Community Media Workshop, opened the panel discussion with a brief background about the Workshop and its services to the Chicago's community and its role in the media.

The panel included African-American men and women who have been in journalism for the past 25 years: Terry Wilson, Urban Affairs Reporter for the Chicago Tribune; Salim Wuwakkil, Chicago Sun-Times columnist; Monroe Anderson, Community Affairs Director at WBBM; and Laura Washington, Chicago Reporter and Board Chair of the Community Media Workshop.

More than 400 flyers went out about this panel but less than half of the seats were taken up by Columbia's j-students.

"The primary reason for the Workshop is to help Chicago journalists be aware that there are more than sensationalist stories to cover when reporting our city," said Clark when the lack



Photo by Edwina Orange

Pictured above (L-R) Terry Wilson, Monroe Anderson, Salim Wuwakkil, and Laura Washington.

of support from the j-students was mentioned.

The panel discussed their personal stories on how they got started in the business and how "blacks are considered experts when it comes to the urban communities," said Washington.

Some of the topics mentioned were the progress of African-Americans in the media since the 60's and what's ahead for the future journalist and the lack of support from the general public. The topics discussed included AIDS, The Million Man March, and the number of African-American males in prison vs. the number in universities.

Another topic was if any progress has been made in the numbers of African-American journalists since the 1960's.

Wilson said how hard it is to get a job in journalism and how most students become interns in hope of getting a job.

The media forums are free and open to the public. They are held from noon to 1:30 p.m., on the third Thursday of each month in Columbia's Hokin

Hall, first floor at 623 S. Wabash.

The workshop encourages j-students to come out and be

part of their upcoming events. If you have any questions or concerns call Thom Clark at x599 or 312-663-3225.

Thank You!

Hey, thanks for your contributions to the newsletter. We appreciate your story ideas. Keep them coming. Put them in the Inside Journalism mailbox in the J-Dept.

Inside Journalism

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Inside Journalism is a student publication. It is published three times a semester during the fall and spring terms.

The role women play in the media

By Jennifer N. Channer

Women in the media. Women and the media. Where is the women's place in the world of journalism? How can the media affect a woman, professionally, socially, economically and privately? All this and more is being discussed this semester in **Topic** in Journalism: Women and the Media.

The class, taught by j-department's Director of Newsreporting and Writing, Carolyn Hulse, is an exploration of female roles in the media through the years and how the media **has** treated women.

Subjects for the course change every semester according to the issues that are of contemporary interest at that time.

"This just seemed like the time to look at this course, and part of the reason is that everybody has noticed that the overwhelming number of the journalism students at Columbia College are women. That is part of a national trend in journalism," explained Hulse.

Education, discrimination, equal salary, access to jobs, lack of role models, family and harassment are just a few of the obstacle that women journalists face today. Female journalists have to constantly fight the stereotypes that are placed upon them.

Caryl Rivers points out in her book, *Slick Spins and Fractured Facts, How Cultural Myths*



No Place for a Nice Girl is a portrait by Dean Cornwell depicting a women's role back in the 50's.

Distort the News it only has been in the past 20 years that women really have started to move ahead in this male dominated field. Women still have to prove themselves, they have to fight to be heard. "The women's word seemed simply to be inaudible. A lot of men grew up learning to 'tune out' women, and it still goes on in newrooms across the country," Rivers says in her book.

Rivers book is one of the two texts that are used in the topics class. **Carolyn** Hulse explains,

"This book is of social and cultural criticism, which is half if not more of the class...I think it has a very strong point of view. It provides a good jumping off point for cultural and social criticism as we look at the mythology and stereotypes that have forged the female identity in the twentieth century."

The other book used is *Taking their place: A Documentary History of Women and Journalism*, by Maurine Beasley and Shelia Gibbons. "I wanted a book that would cover the

traditions of women in the field and this is a classic book in the field. Maurine **Beasley** is one of the leaders of the history of women in journalism," Hulse said when commenting on her choice of text.

Along with text and lecture, Hulse hopes to bring in speakers so her students can get a wide perspective on the subject. Speakers who have already spoken to her class are, Norma Green, Director of j-graduate Program and Ed Planer, Chair Person of the j-department.

Magazine classes reflect growing trend in journalism

By Rui Kaneya

The magazine business has long been the source of many opportunities for journalists. It has been growing steadily in the last few decades while newspaper jobs have declined. But male j-students don't seem to be as interested in taking advan-

tage of this opportunity as female students do.

Classes in the magazine program reflect the trend. There are only two male students taking College Magazine Workshop along with 18 female students. Special Interest Magazines also has only two male students

along with 17 female students. In last semester's Introduction to Magazine Editing, there was only one male student.

The j-department in general attracts more women than men when compared to other departments. About 70 percent of students who declared as journal-

ism major are women, while the number drops down to slightly over 50 percent as a whole school.

However, the imbalance is even more significant in the magazine program. About 76 percent of students in the

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Stodghill completes a perfect 3

By Anissa L. Miller

In keeping with the tradition of hiring instructors currently working in their field, the j-department has added Ron Stodghill to its staff.

Stodghill, correspondent in the Chicago Bureau of *Business Week* brings to the classroom several years of experience as well as the knowledge of what it takes to be successful as a journalist. During his undergraduate studies at the University of Missouri-Columbia, Stodghill interned for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, *Dallas Times Herald* and the *Columbia Missourian*. After graduation he began working



Ron Stodghill

at the *Oakland Press* in Pontiac Michigan. Stodghill has also worked for the *Charlotte Observer*, the Washington Bureau of *Business Week* and the *Detroit Free Press*. Stodghill later left the Washington Bureau of *Business Week* to work for

the *Detroit Free Press*, covering the automobile industry. *Business Week* then called him back to work in their New York Bureau. "They made me an offer I couldn't refuse," he said.

While working at the New York Bureau of *Business Week*, Stodghill took a 6 month book leave to work with Kwesi Mfume, president of the

NAACP, on his [Mfume] autobiography. It's titled *No Free Ride: From the Mean Streets to the Main Stream*, published in 1996 by Ballantine Books. He then returned to work at *Business Week* at the Chicago Bureau.

This semester, Stodghill joined the j-department as an

instructor for Intro to Mass Media Writing and News Reporting I. When asked what he hoped to bring to the classroom, Stodghill replied, "At this time I hope to pass on the skills I have attained to make it [journalism] all less confusing and provide real life examples. I want to inspire them as well as instruct them."

Stodghill is originally from Detroit, Michigan. He is a husband and soon to be father and has a lot to offer j-students in terms of education and real life experiences.

He is excited about his students and passing on to them what he has learned. If you haven't met him already, take the time to do so now and welcome him into the Columbia family.

Magazine

Continued from page 3

magazine program — 34 out of 45 — are women.

"I'm not surprised that a lot of women want to learn about magazines," says Scott Fosdick, director of magazine program. "But I don't quite understand why we have so few male students."

One aspect that may draw many female students into the magazine program is the well-crafted writing that magazines feature. Many students who come into the magazine program "think of themselves primarily as writers, as opposed to reporters," says Fosdick. "If you are a writer who will like the literary side of writing, really like to take time to craft an article, then you will be much more satisfied with a career in magazines than you are in newspapers."

This is not to say that men are not interested in producing well-crafted stories. But it's possible that men are more

attracted to the excitement of being in the midst of a live newsroom and covering the events as they develop—the reporting aspect of journalism. "Maybe what attracts [men] to journalism more is the idea of scooping the competition, getting to the bottom of corruption, breaking big stories," says Fosdick.

Another characteristic of magazines that may attract many women is design, which magazines feature much more elaborately than newspapers do. "I think women tend to be more artistic, or think of themselves as more artistic. Maybe that side will appeal to them more," says Fosdick.

If there is any possibility that more male students start coming into magazine programs, it will probably relate to the computers. Today, 23 of 50 largest circulation U.S. magazines provide on-line service. "The reason behind [the growth of on-line service] is that Internet is about narrow-casting," explains Fosdick. "It's about serving

information to very narrowly defined audience."

Narrow casting is what magazines have been doing all along. And since the magazine business is set to serve the specific audience, many more magazines are expected to go online. Fosdick says that magazine embraces more opportunities for men because they tend to be computer geeks more than women are.

That may have been true about a few years ago. The very question of whether women would come to the Web was considered, by some, silly. It was a male domain: techie, well-to-do and vaguely sexist. The proof was in the sites that were heavily trafficked and the absence of female visitors.

But today's on-line climate is changing; more women are becoming computer geeks. Many web sites that are targeted specifically for women started to appear in great numbers. Among those new web sites is *Women's Wire*, which covers any subject that concerns

women, reflected in seven channels: News, Style, Work, Body, Buzz (entertainment), Cash and the Web. Since its launch in 1995, it has grown to attract almost million visitors a month.

Considering the ever-changing nature of today's magazine business, nobody can tell for sure how it will be shaped 10 years from now. But one thing is certain: There's more money to be made.

Huge amount of advertising dollars is flowing into the magazine business. The latest issue of *Elle*, for example, carries 438 pages, most of which are advertisements. And it is not just women's magazines that are making a profit. The market is also expanding for men's magazines such as *Men's Health* and *Men's Journal*.

For many journalism students, all these growths are a very encouraging sign. Opportunities are there for both men and women if they can realize that the magazine business is booming.