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## Columbia Chronicle (05/13/1991)

Columbia College Chicago

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# The Columbia Chronicle

VOLUME 24 NUMBER 20

COLUMBIA COLLEGE, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

MAY 13, 1991

## Harrison garage ablaze

By Leslie Roller  
& Nancy Thart  
Staff Writers

The Harrison Parking Garage was once again the center of attention Thursday when a fire broke out on the 17th floor of the building, bringing two fire battalions to the scene.

None of the salvage company employees working in the building were injured. The building has been closed for repairs for more than a month.

The fire began at approximately 2:30 p.m., and was put out in about 30 minutes, said Chicago Fire Commissioner Raymond Orozco.

Three cars ignited as salvage company workers used acetylene torches to cut up abandoned cars for removal from the premises, fire officials said.

The salvage company, not identified by the fire department, was hired by the Harrison Garage to remove the automobiles, said Lt. Robert Maslow of the Fire Prevention Bureau.

"In order to get them out, they had to cut up the cars," Maslow said. "In the process, the fire started."

According to Orozco, the fire spread because salvage company workers did not have hand-held fire extinguishers nearby while they used torches on the cars.

"Their are two fire extinguishers on each floor, located at each side of garage," Maslow said. Apparently the workers weren't able to get to an extinguisher in time to prevent the fire from spreading, he said.

Common sense would dictate having fire extinguishers present, but their absence did not violate city codes, Maslow said. The garage recently installed a new sprinkling system, he added.

"The fire department was able to hook up a hose to the sprinkling system, and douse the fire quickly," Maslow said.

According to Battalion Chief Gerald Page, "The building structure is very sound, so there was no danger in our going up there."

The fire department is investigating whether the salvage company was working without a permit or a license, thereby violating city code.

The Harrison parking garage was cited by the City of Chicago for 28 violations of the city's building code in March. The court case against the Harrison has been continued until May 28. Garage owners have not been fined for violations, but could be when they return to court. The garage cannot re-open until the issue of code violations has been resolved.



Fire fighters pack up their gear. Jill S. Dolan for *The Chronicle*



Do you have a ticket to ride? (Ticket shown is not valid.)

Omar Castillo for *The Chronicle*

## SOC charts 'Love Boat' for 400

By Cynthia T. Dopke  
Staff Writer

The 400 Columbia students fortunate enough to get tickets are getting ready to set sail and party on Lake Michigan. On Wed., May 22 they will take a three-hour, end-of-the-year cruise on a new luxury boat, the *Anita Dee II*.

"We're responding to the desires of a lot of different parties, including the dean and the Hokin, to have a big event at the end of the year," said Marla Shone, vice-chairperson of the Student Organizations Council (SOC).

The *Anita Dee II* has three decks—two indoors—and a maximum capacity of 400 people. One deck will hold a food buffet and soft drinks, provided by the yacht club's catering group, *Elegant Edge II*. The SOC will also provide two DJs to spin the party tunes.

"I'm optimistic that this event will be the catalyst for a lot of good student energy," said SOC Chairman Ryan Eugene Daniels. "We have a commuter school, but we can work hard to do some-

thing at the end of the year to mark the year as the 'big bang.'"

Columbia's executive vice-president, Bert Gall and dean of students, Herman Conaway are planning to attend, Daniels said.

But only the 400 students who were fast enough to get tickets will be a part of the big bash. Tickets for the boat were distributed in the lobby of the Wabash building over a four-day period in an attempt to give every student a fair chance to get one. They went fast. All the tickets were gone within the first half hour of each giveaway.

"I saw the poster saying there was going to be a boat trip, and I was going to get tickets, but Thursday was the last day," said freshman Patrick Manley. "Now it's too late."

"It's unfortunate that we can't put all the students on the boat, but we know the reality of the situation. We tried to give everybody the opportunity to come—the afternoon classes, the evening classes," Daniels said.

The SOC held an emergency meeting when it learned that the

Annex was too small for an MTV college tour, the original idea for a year-end event. It voted to rent the *Anita Dee II* through Yacht Charters. The Hokin board had supported SOC in its decision to host MTV, and had to approve the change of plans. An emergency Hokin board meeting (that drew only seven members) listened to the boat proposal, and voted to support the event.

Shone said the total cost of the evening will be a little more than \$10,000; \$6,500 from SOC funds and up to \$3,000 from the Hokin board, whose budget comes from student activity fees. The Student Life office will contribute the remainder.

Tickets were free to any student with a valid Columbia ID, a last minute change from the original plan to charge five dollars each, as a way to ensure that students would show up for the trip. But, according to assistant dean of student life and SOC advisor, Irene Conley, it was decided that charging for the tickets might

See Boat, page 2

## Radio major chosen 1991 valedictorian

By Julie Sachi Moriki  
Staff Writer

When valedictorian Jay Elliot approaches the podium at Columbia's commencement ceremony this year, his speech, he has promised, will be anything but "long, tedious, and boring."

That just wouldn't be his style.

Of course, this is Columbia College we're talking about - the school with a reputation for creative students. Surely, Columbia wouldn't choose a dull or uninteresting fellow to represent the 1991 graduating class.

Columbia's valedictorian is selected by its' associate academic dean, Steven Russell Thomas, and dean of students, Hermann Conaway. Thomas and Conaway met in early April to review the transcripts of graduating seniors, who have a 3.95 to 4.0 grade point averages. This

year 30 students met that requirement, according to Thomas.

In addition to a student's GPA, the second factor taken into consideration when given the opportunity to be the center of attention, can keep people entertained with his sassy, comedic style and quick wit.

"Some people think I'm just going to go nuts or something in my speech," Elliot said grinning.

He refused to hint at what his consideration is the number of credit hours each qualified student has completed at Columbia, Thomas said.

Thomas and Conaway submit their choice to Columbia's academic dean of student affairs, Samuel Floyd, Jr. Their recommendation has never been rejected, Thomas said.

After Floyd approves the recommendation, a letter is sent from his office to the student who's been chosen to be valedic-

torian. Elliot said he received his letter about 5 weeks ago.

Radio department chairman Al Parker said he's happy, of course, that the valedictorian is a radio major for the second year in a row.

Elliot is the kind of guy who, might say in his speech other than "it'll be a surprise."

As a radio major, entertaining people is what Elliot does best. But he hasn't depended solely upon that talent. For the past four years, Elliot has put in a lot of hard work in his classes at Columbia, maintaining a nearly perfect grade point average. He used what was taught in his classes to help nurture his talents. His secret to good grades is to treat school like a job.

"If you think of going to school like it's work and treat it

See Radio, page 4



Valedictorian Jay Michael Elliot

Keith Strickland for *The Chronicle*

**Boat**  
from page 1

leave out some budget-conscious students.

Though tickets were free, many students who say they wanted to, still won't board. One frequently heard criticism of the cruise as an end-of-the-year celebration is the limited number of students allowed to attend.

"I would have liked to see a year-end event that a larger percentage of the student body would have been able to participate in, instead of a select 400 students," said Carol Ann Brown, assistant director of the Hokin Center.

"I know there are a lot of mixed feelings between the students and the advisory board about whether it was a good thing to do or not, but there are only 400 people allowed to go, and obviously our enrollment is a lot larger than that," Brown said.

Michael Gold, chairman of the Hokin board, explained how other ideas for a year-end event, including a picnic, the MTV

dance party, and Springfest, didn't work, and the boat was the only feasible plan.

"As good as each of those ideas was, each one fell through for some reason and this one (*Anita Dee II*) was the only one that didn't fall through. That's why the Hokin backed it," Gold said.

The SOC considered the limited number of passengers, but a majority agreed that the boat idea—originally suggested last year—was the best idea they had.

"One of the main issues we had to address was finding a space that was big enough. We tried to move the MTV party, but hotels were either booked or too expensive," Shone said.

The boat will leave Navy Pier at 7p.m., cruise north to Evanston, turn around and sail to McCormick Place, then finally return to Navy Pier, at 10pm. The SOC will provide two shuttle buses from in front of the Wabash building to Navy Pier, and will add a third if necessary. The first shuttle is scheduled to leave the school at 6:15p.m. Boarding begins at 6:30.



Advisor Gary Johnson, fiction writer Wanda Welch, photographer Alice Q. Hargrave and director of printing services Gordon Bieblerle, collaborated on fiction anthology, *Hair Trigger 12*. Omar Castillo for *The Chronicle*

**Hair Trigger takes two firsts and a second**

By Nancy Thart  
Staff Writer

The image came through a series of dreams. It was so clear. She kept seeing the knife going into his heart, and his hand reaching up to pull it out so matter-of-factly. He was a vampire...or was he?

These may sound like the images of Anne Rice, but they're not. They are, in fact, those of Wanda Welch, a former Columbia student whose fiction story *Vampires* took first place in the Columbia Scholastic Press Association's Gold Circle Awards Program, sponsored by Columbia University in New York.

This year the annual competition received over 13,000 entries from colleges, universities and high schools throughout the United States. Awards were given in more than 70 categories, ranging from fiction writing to health reporting.

Welch's story appeared in *Hair Trigger 12*, the anthology put out by Columbia's fiction department.

That publication falls under the category of literary magazine and took three awards, including a first place Golden Crown for traditional fiction and one for cover design, and a second place silver crown for the book as a whole.

Welch works as a sales clerk at Kroch's & Brentano's, and was there when Gary Johnson, fiction department faculty member and faculty advisor for *Hair Trigger 12*, called to tell her about the award. "It was a nice surprise in the middle of the day," Welch said.

*Vampires* is about three sisters living with their mother in Baton Rouge, and is told through the eyes of one of the sisters—Ruthie.

The story begins when the women are visited by two cousins who show up unannounced. The mother believes the cousins are vampires, and is apprehensive over their arrival. The sisters, though, have never met the cousins, and know nothing of their mother's suspicions.

As the story progresses, the mother confides her suspicions to her daughters, and it's she who plots and eventually carries out the attempted murder of the cousins.

Welch originally wrote the story for an advanced fiction class taught by Betty Shiftlett.

Shiftlett submitted it to the *Hair Trigger* staff for consideration, and Welch ended up having three stories accepted for publication, as well as being one of the eight student editors for the book.

"I was writing down a lot of dreams when the idea for the story came to me," Welch said. "As I was going over my notes, I had the feeling there was a story to tell."

Welch credits Shiftlett for helping her give the piece more direction. The original ending of the story "was different than the one that appeared in the book," according to Welch. "It wasn't as focused, it just sort of left the reader hanging."

The Ruthie character in *Vampires* has also appeared in a number of other stories by Welch, who said she hopes to someday turn the series into a novel.

Like Ruthie, Welch has two sisters, but she says that's where the similarities end.

"I try not to put myself in the story, but, I sometimes play off relationships and experiences I've had," Welch said.

Photographer Alice Q. Hargrave, who shot the cover of *Hair Trigger 12*, was also surprised to find out she had won a first place award.

Hargrave works as a freelance photographer out of her near-North side studio. She grew up in Chicago and graduated from Tulane University in New Orleans. After graduating she spent three years in Paris working as a photographers assistant and doing free-lance. Her work has appeared in *Time*, *Newsweek*, and most recently on the cover of the April issue of *Chicago Magazine*.

Hargrave got involved with

*Hair Trigger* through the recommendation of a friend, who knew Johnson was looking for someone to design the cover.

"I came in to see Gary with a portfolio of about 20 prints," Hargrave said. "The picture we went with was what I thought was the strongest so I put it on the first page of my portfolio."

"When I opened the portfolio, it was the first picture I saw," Johnson said. "I put it aside and I don't even think I really saw the other ones, I kept going back to that same one."

The photo, originally taken in 1987, is actually two negatives put together. The first negative, of a man standing on a stairs, was taken in Paris. The second negative, appearing towards the bottom of the photo, is of a spiral staircase in the Sagrada Famiglia Cathedral in Barcelona, Spain.

"I try to re-create the mood of the space in which the picture was taken in the darkroom," Hargrave said. "I like to force the viewer to come up and really see the details in the photo."

Once the photo was chosen the printing that also appears on the cover was selected by the fiction department and Gordon Bieblerle, director of printing services for Columbia. They said they wanted a look to compliment the photo.

Each semester *Hair Trigger* is turned over to a different faculty advisor within the fiction department. Although Johnson has acted as advisor before, this is the first time the publication has won under his direction.

"It's a real sense of accomplishment. It takes a lot of effort on everybody's part to produce the book," Johnson said. "And when you're recognized like this it makes all the effort you put into it worthwhile."

*Hair Trigger* has taken first place in competitions twice before. In 1979 and again in 1985, it was recognized as the best college literary magazine from the Council of Literary Magazines.

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## Columbia mag 'does' Chicago; set to debut this summer

By Julie Sacharski  
Staff Writer

Take two semesters, add a few dozen hard-working bodies, mix well with determination and sprinkle with good luck. When the members of Columbia's Magazine Workshop class followed this recipe, the results were a delicious new addition to the college.

A few years ago, members of the journalism department's faculty came up with a new idea for Columbia: Why not start a student-produced annual magazine with a focus not on the school, but on the city itself? Columbia's first magazine, Chicago Arts and Communication, is the product of this concept; and those involved with its creation said they are quite pleased with the final product.

"The work is of excellent quality," said faculty advisor Don Gold. "We've all worked extremely hard at making this a successful project. This should be better than any other college magazine in America."

Due out on newsstands in early June, CAC is chock full of different samples of life in Chicago, including music, theater, photography, dance, film, art and mass media. Highlights

from the first issue include articles on Chicago's ethnic art, Chicago theater companies, local musicians and Chicago-area bookstores.

Gold set up a workshop course in the fall of 1990 that was devised to convene for two consecutive semesters. The first semester focused on writing and editing, and the current semester has been dedicated to proofreading galleys, creating art work and general production.

About half the articles in CAC were written by students in the workshop class, while the others were the contributions of students in other departments. Writers received a stipend for each article written for CAC.

"We conducted a search for the best writers at Columbia, regardless of department," Gold said. "We tried to behave professionally, and to really help the writers with their stories. The process worked so well that I think the end product—the writing—is going to impress a lot of people."

Gold said that he thinks that writer's who get a byline in CAC will have a leg up in getting other writing assignments.

"Magazines have staying power," Gold said. "Because



CAC Faculty Advisor Don Gold and Editor Muriel Whetstone

Omar Castillo for The Chronicle

they tend to be saved, they end up being showcases for a writer's ability. Writer's can use their published work to represent their talent to other editors. And an annual magazine has particular staying power. This magazine will be around for a year before it's replaced."

Art advisor Burton Winick said the year-long process was necessary to produce as high quality a magazine as CAC is.

"Most people don't realize that the production of the magazine is the most time consuming," Winick said. "I think students underestimate the lon-

gevity of such an endeavor."

CAC was created by the collective efforts of the art, journalism and photography departments. Associate copy editor Steve Crescenzo felt that the interdisciplinary approach to producing a college magazine worked well for Columbia.

"With an arts-based school like Columbia, it makes sense to utilize as many of the different departments as possible," Crescenzo said. "It was interesting to watch the magazine go through different phases of production as we worked."

Outside contributions also allowed CAC to take on a more

professional look. Paper was donated by Playboy magazine and Howard Zuker, a paper broker. The color-separation process will be done by Brown Printing, a company specializing in high-quality printing. CAC will be printed by Ringier America, the fourth largest printer in the United States.

CAC will be available for \$2 at newsstands and bookstores all across Chicago in early June. Additional copies will be sold to students in the fall. A total of 10,000 copies will be printed.

Denise Nelson contributed to this story.

## CC rebates state funds

By Leslie Roller  
Staff Writer

President Mirron Alexandroff gave one percent of Columbia's annual state grant back to the state, making Columbia the only private school to do so, according to the Federation of Independent Colleges and Universities.

Mike DeSalle, vice president of finance at Columbia, said the contribution was meant to ease "a very severe financial crisis within the state of Illinois."

The original grant from the state was for 1.5 million dollars, making Columbia's contribution \$12,000.

Illinois Aid to Private Colleges is a grant from the state which provides aid to colleges based on the number of Illinois residents and the amount of credit hours they are enrolled in each year.

"The state had asked for all public schools within Illinois to reduce their budgets by one percent," DeSalle said. "With that call from the state government, we felt obligated to contribute to the state."

Although Alexandroff didn't care to comment to the *Chronicle*, he was quoted in the

*Sun-Times* as saying that the state's request was "legitimate" and he feels that private schools that contribute will show the "fraternity of all higher education, including public higher education."

Alexandroff also said the relations between public and private institutions have suffered in recent years because of their competition for scarce resources, according to the *Sun-Times*.

DeSalle said the contribution would not hurt the school's budget.

One student agreed: "Education in this state is at an all time low," Lisa Pingatore said. "I don't know if \$12,000 is going to make things better, but at least Columbia is showing some effort."

The grant is the only unrestricted contribution from the state and federal governments and is normally used to support the operations of the college, along with tuition. Columbia does get other governmental grants, yet they are used for specific programs and must be applied for and submitted to both the state and federal government for approval.

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# SOC should torpedo *Das Boot*

By Joyce A. Littleton  
Senior Editor

**DON'T MISS THE BOAT!** Of the 6,535 students enrolled at Columbia who pay good money to go here, 6,135 of them have already missed the boat, and it's not even set to cruise until May 22.

How can so many have already missed the boat if it hasn't even left the dock yet, you ask? It's a combination of a bad idea, a bad way of spending student money and a bad way of distributing tickets.

For those who have no idea what I'm talking about, I'm referring to the end-of-the-year extravaganza that the Student Organizations Council (SOC) has put together with our money.

Here's what they've done. They are spending \$10,000 to rent the *Anita Dee II*, a triple-deck yacht, for a three-hour cruise. The price includes music, food, a look at the Chicago skyline from the lake—and no alcohol, even for those older than 21. Only 400 Columbia students will be allowed on the boat.

The tickets were distributed in the lobby of the Wabash building. The distribution was supposed to be convenient to all. But it was anything but convenient. And that's coming from someone who practically lives in the Wabash building.

Here's how the tickets were distributed. On Monday and Tuesday, May 6 and 7, tickets were available from 11:00 to 1:00, and again from 5:00 to 6:30. On Wednesday and Thursday, May 8 and 9, tickets were only available from 11:00 to 1:00.

I went Tuesday, at 11:25, and the tickets were gone. They said come back at 5:00. I couldn't make it back at five because I had a class, but I did go back at 11:30 on Wednesday, and again I was too late. On Thursday, I finally got my ticket.

That's right folks, all of us are paying for only 400 of us (6 percent of the entire student body) to take a luxurious cruise to Evanston and back. So 400 Columbia students, and *only* 400 Columbia students, will get back their activity fee.

I think it would have been more appropriate to have a celebration suitable for a majority of the student body. Something like renting a hotel ballroom or having a huge barbeque or picnic in the forest preserve.

Originally, a street festival was planned, but that fell through because the city wouldn't grant a permit to block off the street. That was a great idea. But to go from an event suitable for almost the entire student body to one only suitable for 6 percent is outrageous. So please, SOC, give students their money's worth next time.

The idea of going on a three-hour cruise is not a bad one, it's just a bad idea for a student body of 6,535. The *Queen Mary* would have been more appropriate. But maybe they didn't go with the *Queen Mary* because it's permanently docked in Long Beach, California.

I wonder if the students at the Dance Center, on Sheridan, are aware that this event even exists. I'm sure it would have been really convenient for them to get tickets, aren't you?

Another question that comes to mind: Did SOC members have to wait in lines, or did they get their tickets handed to them in advance? Even if they did have to wait in line, they had an unfair advantage because they knew exactly when to get tickets.

To the 400 of you that did get tickets, congratulations! The other 94 percent of you who may have wanted tickets, but didn't get them, pray for rain!



## Radio from page 1

like a job," Elliot said, "then it's going to pay off in the end. Like anything in life, school's what you make of it. If you want to take the easy way out, you can do it. But it's not going to make any lasting impression on you."

Elliot believes every student at Columbia has the opportunity to do well. There are always teachers willing to help students who are having problems in their classes, he said.

Elliot's grades and talents earned him the school's Academic Excellence Scholarship. While it's obvious Elliot does his homework, he says he is "by no means a geek."

With his long, wavy, jet black hair, pierced left ear, leather jacket, and Air Jordans, Elliot seems more likely to blend in at a rock concert than a library.

He works as a video DJ at Arlington Heights Trackside, an off-track betting establishment and restaurant, for 20 to 24 hours a week.

He spends a lot of his free time listening to the radio because "it never goes off the air. When I'm at home listening to the radio, I'm always thinking of ways to change it," he said.

When he came to Columbia in 1987, he says he was "bitten by the radio bug."

For the most part, radio is his life. He spends a lot of time preparing for his radio show, which "involves a lot of thinking, writing, and performing."

His first semester here, Elliot wasn't sure whether he wanted to go into radio or television. Originally he wanted to write commercials or sitcoms for one of the two media but now he says he wants to be a radio program director. He chose radio over television because he wants to be

the person who does everything and believes there is more opportunity for that in radio.

Unlike other radio students, who have found jobs through internships, he got paid radio jobs on his own. He started working at a radio station his freshman year, at age 18, after he had been encouraged by a teacher to send letters to radio stations requesting employment.

"My first radio teacher, Sid Roberts, encouraged everyone in the class to go to some radio stations begging for jobs. Everyone laughed, even I kinda laughed at him, he said.

"I sent out one letter, which was just completely ridiculous. I said I'd clean out their urinals and feed them donuts. Sure enough, they hired me at WSEX in Arlington Heights."

Elliot started out operating a control board and segueing commercials. Eventually, he worked his way up by doing production work and commercial tags - messages spoken at the end of a commercial. Soon, he was writing commercials and speaking in them.

But just as he settled into the job, they fired him. Being fired wasn't all that bad, he said. According to Elliot, you're not truly a radio person until you've been fired. "And, I want the record to show that I'm a radio person," he said.

He went on to work at WJZQ (rock 95) in Kenosha, Wisconsin for a while. Until he graduates, he'll work at Columbia's radio station. Like many other graduating seniors, he's searching for employment.

"I have resume tapes out all over," he said. "I want to stay in the Midwest, but am willing to relocate."

"Realistically, I think I'll get in as a disk jockey and work my way up to program director. My overall goal is to get enough money to own a radio station."

## Pay fines with food and help the mission

By Julie Sacharski  
Staff Writer

Columbia students who owe the library overdue book fines can now reach into their cupboards instead of their pocketbooks to pay the fees.

From May 13 through June 1, the library will launch its first "Food for Fine" program, in which anyone with overdue book fines may "trade" non-perishable food items for the money they owe.

"We have overdue book fines dating back to when we first began using our computer system, and that was in 1986!" said Veyshon Edmond, the library's Circulation Coordinator. "With that many people owing money, we're hoping to get a really good response."

Collection bins will be located under the staircase of the library's first level. All food collected will be donated to the Pacific Garden Mission, 646 S. State Street. In addition to those owing book fines, the college at large is also invited to participate in the food collection.

Edmond said that the library instituted the program during the spring because she felt many charity contributions were overlooked following the traditional holiday fundraisers.

"Now is a good time for people to get involved," Edmond said, "especially since they can take care of a fine costing a few dollars with a 79-cent can of food."

The Columbia Chronicle  
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The Columbia Chronicle is the official student-run newspaper of Columbia College. It is published weekly during the school year, and distributed on Monday. Views expressed in this newspaper are not necessarily those of the advisor or the college.

## This is your last chance!

If you have something on your mind, if there's something burning in your soul, get it off your chest. Write a letter to *The Chronicle*. The final issue of the semester will be out on Mon., May 20. The deadline for letters to be considered for publication is Wed., May 15.

## Grad named Sun-Times television critic

By Karen Sobus  
Staff Writer

Lon Grahne, 1972 Columbia graduate who's now a TV critic for the Chicago Sun-Times, said he was four years old when he started complaining to his mother about the fake sets used on "The Lone Ranger."

Now, Grahne says he's on a mission to inform Chicagoans about the best and the worst on television.

"I expect a lot out of TV," Grahne said. "When it's good, it's as good as the theater or movies." But, he added, reviewers shouldn't settle for mediocre television.

Grahne, 41, was previously entertainment editor at the Sun-Times, a job that now belongs to P.J. Bednarski, a part-time journalism instructor at Columbia, and former business writer for the paper.

"Grahne is really into TV," Bednarski said. "If enthusiasm and excitement count, he's great. He also has a good, critical eye."

Grahne said he sought the job of TV critic aggressively, because he's "not getting any younger," and he always wanted to do it.

"Popular culture is extremely important to the average person," Grahne said. "They cling to it, and develop a strong attachment to the characters they see on TV." He added that he doesn't necessarily think that's good—just

reality.

"Harry Hamlin leaving 'L.A. Law' is more important to some people than who is in the White House," Grahne said.

Grahne joins Ginny Holbert, who has been a TV critic at the Sun-Times since February.

"He knows an incredible amount about pop culture," Holbert said. "We both have a different approach, and I think we will complement each other."

Grahne said his favorite current show is "Shannon's Deal."

"The show reflects the Reagan era, the self-centered values of the '80s," Grahne said.

Other shows Grahne said he liked included "L.A. Law" and "Cheers." "The Simpsons" are amusing, he said, but "not a must watch."

Grahne said that bad television insults a person's intelligence. "America's Funniest Home Videos" is an "awful" series, Grahne added.

Along with Robert Feder, who writes a TV and radio news column at the Sun-Times, Grahne and Holbert will try to add more insight to what Grahne said is one of the most important beats in journalism.

Grahne will critique upcoming TV programs, documentaries and specials. He will also attend concerts, movies and theater openings for vacationing critics. Grahne, who will view two to six hours of TV daily, said he loves the job, but it isn't all fun

and game shows.

"I have to watch programs in a different way," Grahne said. "I can't relax my mind. I have to analyze it, point out important ideas or statements and justify them."

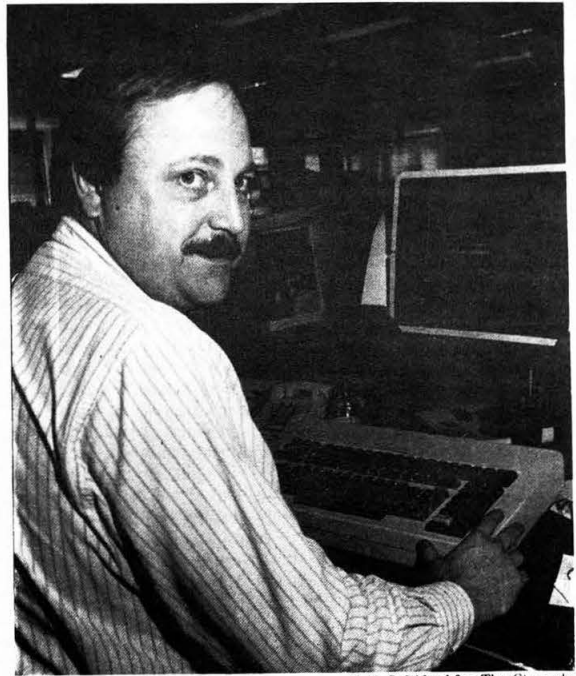
Mary Gillespie, a cultural affairs writer for the Sun-Times who has worked with Grahne for more than 10 years, said Grahne is a perfectionist who demands the highest standards.

"He has an encyclopedic knowledge of TV and movies," Gillespie said. "He appeals to everyone. He doesn't pull any punches, he just tells you what you need to know, and quickly."

Like a lot of journalists, Grahne started out at the bottom. He said he expected to find a job immediately after graduating from Columbia, as valedictorian, with a bachelor's degree in communication art. Grahne said that teachers brainwashed him into believing hard work in school would guarantee him a great job. That, he said, was a "hollow lie."

But struggling, Grahne said, may have been a good thing after all. Otherwise, Grahne conceded, he might not appreciate where he is today. Not being able to quickly climb the newspaper ladder, Grahne said, helped him remember some of what he learned at Columbia.

"I didn't forget the social and liberal ideas from Columbia," Grahne said.



Keith Strickland for The Chronicle

Alumnus Lon Grahne, the Sun-Times' TV critic, works diligently at a terminal.

According to Grahne, his big break came from the late Bob Zonka, who taught advanced journalism courses at Columbia, and was the feature editor at the Sun-Times. Grahne said Zonka kept a story Grahne wrote for a class, and later asked Grahne if he could publish it in the Sunday edition of the Sun-Times.

After learning the ropes at Suburban Week, Grahne moved to the Sun-Times in 1982 and

worked as a copy editor in the features department. He edited the Weekender, Weekend Plus and Sunday Arts & Show sections. In 1985, he became entertainment editor.

Grahne also said he has viewed at least 100 movies a year since he was seven, but doesn't think becoming a TV critic is a stepping stone to becoming a film critic. "Besides, I'm perfectly happy where I am," Grahne said.

## The war on alcoholism comes to Columbia

By Julie Sacharski  
Staff Writer

Alcohol, the most commonly used drug on college campuses nationwide, is responsible for approximately two-thirds of all violent behavior and almost one third of all academic problems for students, according to a study by the National Council on Alcoholism.

Medical professionals have long associated alcohol abuse with increased risk of heart attacks and strokes, brain damage, liver and muscle disease, pancreatitis, phlebitis and gastrointestinal problems, as well as numerous types of cancers. These statistics, coupled with a growing interest by staff and students for information, has led Columbia to take a hard look at the disease of alcoholism.

In the fall of 1990, Columbia established its own chapters of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA) in response to suggestions and inquiries by students. Both groups are nationally recognized self-help organizations.

Columbia's policy on alcoholic beverages at college functions, according to the student handbook, notes that the serving and consumption of alcohol is strictly prohibited at college functions or informal school gatherings when students are present. Violation of this rule may result in the immediate suspension or expulsion of students.

Students Helping Students, an umbrella group which meets at the beginning of each semester to

determine which self-help groups would be most beneficial to Columbia, helped to form Columbia's chapters. Ed Connor, Columbia's director of security, acts as staff advisor to the group. He says that other such groups could be formed next semester.

"We've already had inquiries about a Narcotics Anonymous chapter, but it's up to the interested students to get it started," Connor said. "The groups are run completely by the members themselves. Students Helping Students can get the meeting rooms and schedules coordinated, but the students make it happen."

Connor, a graduate of the Grant Clinical Training Programs for Addiction Counselors, was willing to volunteer his services as advisor to Students Helping Students when asked by the school.

"I am 100 percent behind the programs," Connor said. "They are tremendous and have helped millions of people, because you just can't do it yourself. Sure, you'll hear of that one person who says, 'I kicked alcoholism alone,' but what about those millions of others who haven't? The sooner you realize you have a problem, the quicker the road to recovery begins."

In addition to the support groups, Columbia is currently in the process of compiling a reference book that contains information on where students can go for help. The book is available to students in the Academic Advising office. Cookie Baucum, one of Columbia's academic advisors, is working on the project and hopes

to complete the book within a few months.

"Academic Advising has always been a 'heavy traffic' area for us," Baucum said. "I'd estimate that five to ten percent of all our students come to us seeking different types of referrals. We're hoping our reference binder will assist students looking for referral help, whether it be related to alcohol, drugs or any other problem."

Columbia is also involved with 13 commuter schools in The Chicagoland Consortium for Drug Prevention in Commuter Institutions, which works toward informing students about substance abuse and prevention. Sponsored by a U.S. Department of Education grant, the schools work together on programs and support one another in idea exchanges, says Irene Conley, Columbia's assistant dean of student life and consortium representative.

"In the past, there has been very little success or very little effort in commuter institutions to provide students with effective substance abuse programs," Conley said. "Cookie, Ed and myself all like to think of ourselves as a team, making sure that information is available to students in different locations. I think it's the activities where students are helping other students, such as the alcohol-related groups here, where the success is really happening."

AA meets on Tuesdays at 11:00 am and Thursdays at 4:00 pm. ACOA meets Thursdays at 2:00 pm; both meet in Room W202.

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# Evolving TV industry presents challenges, opportunities

By Denise Nelson  
Staff Writer

The future of the television industry is plagued by a reduction in the work force and shrinking salaries for entry-level positions, according to Michael Pratt, engineer at NBC.

Despite this challenging news, Pratt said students will expand their horizons will be rewarded. "Spend a few years learning the technology, because it will be those people who will get the job," he said.

Pratt was one of six participants in a recent Columbia College panel discussion concerning the future of the television industry. Other members of the panel included Pat Byrne, technical director at Post Effects, a post-production company; William Campbell, director of community services for WLS-TV; Richard Navarro, producer and director at Mercy Hospital and Medical Center; Mark Stencil, a free-lance technician for Sports Channel; and Don Weiss, director of community relations for the Village of Addison.

Although WLS-TV and the other networks recently have laid off employees, Campbell encourages students to be tenacious. "During that same period, we hired four graduates from Columbia," said Campbell. "Realize you are facing a challenge. You will never succeed, if you go in with a defeated view."

Campbell's advice reassured Kenneth Hayes, a junior television major. "I expected it to be a better opportunity to get into the job market," he said. "It is a little bleak, but there are some jobs out there."

Byrne said that students will need more than determination because technology is changing rapidly and eliminating some jobs.

"The reporter started out with a four-man crew, then three, now it's two," he said. "Tomorrow it will be a reporter with a camera

on his shoulder."

Byrne said that it could take some students up to two decades to become successful in the business.

"You're going to have to sit around for 20 years. You can't expect to cash in after five years," he said.

Technological change may create a problem for women who intend to start families and their careers simultaneously. If women on maternity leave do not follow technology, it will be detrimental to their career. "I have been working for 20 years and I watch women [on maternity leave] move up to a point and drop out," Byrne said.

This information served as an eye-opener for Lishune Mahone, a freshman broadcast journalism major. "I'm surprised the industry moved so quickly," she said. Mahone empathizes with women who want to start families, but she believes they should divert more effort to their careers. "Women have to take

the initiative to keep up with modern technology," she said.

Free-lance work is another avenue that students can explore. Stencil, a 1988 Columbia graduate, said hiring free-lancers is profitable for some companies. "It's a lot cheaper to pay someone without benefits," he said. Patience is a virtue for some free-lance graduates, but "eventually you will be known and called every day," he said.

The panelists agreed that Columbia students were on the right track. Navarro explained that "a degree from Columbia is no different from any other" and urged students to learn how to market themselves. If two people with, virtually, the same skills apply for the same position, "I would hire the person I get along with," Navarro said.

The panelists also urged students to pursue other cities and not limit themselves to Chicago. "You hear your instructor say go and take the job at the small

market first," said Weiss. "Be around the people, learn everything and work your way up," he said.

This inspiration was just what the doctor ordered for Michael Blaustein, a senior television major. "I went in expecting general information, on the job outlook, for television majors," he said. "What I got was a realistic view of how to get a job, not just in Chicago, but around the country," Blaustein said.

Weiss, a 1986 Columbia graduate, said that cable will play a prominent role in the future of the television industry. He recommends that students consider starting in cable television. "Cable is a good place to get work under your belt," he said. Weiss also encouraged students to utilize the facilities provided by Columbia. "Take advantage of everything available to you," he said. "Don't just stop after you leave the building at 5:00."

## Workshop gives tips on auditions, demo tapes

By Cynthia T. Dopke  
Staff Writer

A panel of 10 radio professionals told of their experiences and gave tips on the music world to the students who packed the Classic Studio in the 11th St. campus building April 26 for the experimental Music Industry Workshop.

Phil Morehead, an evaluator for the Lyric Opera, was one of panelists who stressed the importance of first impressions, preparation and the secrets for a successful audition.

"It's got to be perfect from the beginning, because it will be less than perfect in an audition," Morehead said. "The most important thing to remember for auditions and interviews is that the evaluators' decisions are made very quickly. Within the first 30 seconds you've made up your mind whether this person is of any interest to you or not."

Morehead explained how dress, and stage presence are of the most vital elements of a successful audition or interview, but he especially emphasized the time spent beforehand studying what you are trying out for.

"What you do before the interview is critical," he said, "You need to do your research and know what you're auditioning for."

The workshop was organized by Debra Rodgers, internship coordinator in the placement office, after a call from Bill Russo. Russo, a teacher in the Music department, said that students could use suggestions on putting together a demo tape. The panelists who spoke about demo tapes agreed that the tape should be brief with the best music in the beginning, and every demo should have a specific purpose in mind.

Danon Bolden, a sophomore majoring in the performing arts, was one student who needed to hear just that.

"I'm glad they had this workshop because I'm working

on a demo tape and I'm in three bands. I didn't know what my focus point was. There was so much I needed to know," he said. "I didn't know who to ask or what to do. But then I saw this - it was like love."

Rodgers equated the event to "a bridge for students between the classroom and when they start working." She said that the placement office was using this workshop as a gauge for future workshops. If it was successful, they'd try to do for each department, she said.

The panel spoke for two hours, and each speaker had practical experience to share with the crowd. One element they all recognized is that success in the music industry doesn't come easy, and that it takes a lot of hard work to establish a solid career, whether as a manager, producer, agent or performer.

Vocal performer Joannie Pallatto talked about how to get started as a performer with little money or experience.

"First of all, you have to get a gig," Pallotto said. "You have to make a demo - but keep the tapes brief and put your best foot forward."

She also suggested becoming "part of the scene" by hanging around and getting to know the owner of a club where you'd like to perform. Another way to get stage experience is "jobbing," or performing at events such as weddings, benefits and schools; she considers these jobs a good opportunity to experiment and develop a style. Pallotto also echoed Morehead's message of preparation before the audition.

"Be rehearsed. Even if it is a small gig, you never know who is going to be in the audience," she said. "Presentation is very important. Be professional whether it's a dive or a hot club. Have an image."

Panelist Kimo Williams, owner of Beck Records, spoke from experience about signing with an independent record label as a new artist.

Guitarist Matt Smith, a transfer student from the University of Illinois-Champaign, said he got some good ideas for his band from the workshop, especially from Williams.

"Right now I've got a tape, but we're not on any label. An independent record label is a realistic goal. Having a label promote you is a lot better than just promoting yourself," Smith said.

Most people don't think of lawyers when it comes to music, but the legal side is one of the most confusing aspects of the music business. Record contracts can be especially difficult to decipher, and there are plenty of people out there who will con young artists, according to Tim Kelly, of Lawyers for the Creative Arts.

"If you don't understand it, don't sign it," Kelly said.

He told students of the legal problems that might arise, such as copyright infringement. But before seeking legal advice, he also warned that all attorneys in the entertainment business should be checked out as well.

"Don't trust anybody - that's my bottom line," Kelly said.

Other topics the panel discussed were choosing a recording studio, joining unions and establishing relationships with the right people. Fred Nelson of Hershel Commercial, a company that produces commercial jingles, said the business is more competitive now than ever before. But he ended the discussion with some encouraging words.

"You have to keep knocking on the door. Keep going and eventually you'll get called."

The panel was followed by a catered lunch and an informal "networking" session, where students talked to the panelists one on one.

Also featured on the panel were Ava Berman, APB Management; Ric Bracamontes, American Famous Talent; Bradley Parker-Sparrow, Sparrow Sound Design; and Cathy Struzynski, Screen Actors Guild.

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# Contraband: Whips, slips, hats and bongos

By Art Golab  
Staff Writer

Those of you who have seen the 1967 rock documentary "Monterey Pop," will recall the dazed and stunned expressions on the clean-cut faces of the audience as they witnessed The Who smash their instruments at the end of their set.

Similar expressions were evident among many of those who beheld Contraband. The rowdy, revolutionary and thoroughly enjoyable San-Franciscan dance/music/performance art company appeared at the Dance Center of Columbia College last weekend.

Contraband, like The Who, is slightly ahead of its time. What do you say to a man dressed in a slip brandishing a whip? Wearing a bowler hat, no less!

The eight-member troupe, led by founder Sara Shelton Mann, consistently combined the outrageous with the innovative, breaking down the barriers between dance, poetry and music with high style.

Their dancing was strong, original, athletic and sexy, sometimes resembling the moves of powerful, world-class figure skaters. The women frequently lifted the men. Their physical exertion was all the more impressive because many of them sang, recited poetry, or played musical instruments as they danced.

The only modern dance fad displayed during the evening was the womens' periodic grabbing of their breasts.

The costumes displayed an imagination more at home in opera than modern dance. Frock coats, Chinese robes, Victorian dresses and swimsuits out of *Sports Illustrated* adorned the women. The men wore stylish baggy pants, G-strings and suit jackets with the arms cut out. Much of the changing was done in full view of the audience.

Contraband's performance, entitled "Mira, Cycle 1," intertwined the stories of an abandoned girl from Tennessee and Mirabai, a princess and poet who

lived in 16th-century India. During the performance some of

the dancers would recite or sing English translations of Mirabai's poetry.

Most of the dancers took turns playing instruments, each one more bizarre than the last. Among the musical inventory: harmonicas, jew's harps, a Chinese cello, numerous drums and percussion instruments, an electric slide guitar, and a modern-day version of a Czech shepherd's flute made out of plastic tubing that looked like the world's largest bong.

If the instruments were strange, the way in which they were played was even stranger. One member of the troupe played a bass clarinet without a reed. This enabled him to speak through the instrument at the same time he was playing it. The words came out like Popeye and Bluto mumbling insults at one another.

This live, original music was a welcome and refreshing change from the normal fare at modern dance performances, which too often consist of tired electronic and new-age recordings.



Janet Van Ham for *The Chronicle*  
Jess Curtis, Kim Epifano and Keith Hennessy of Contraband perform "Mira, Cycle 1."

Contraband's novel approach to music combined flawlessly with talented dancing, costuming, poetry and other effects to create a whole performance which exceeded the sum of its

parts.  
I got the feeling I was present at the creation of a new art form. I may have missed The Who at Monterey, but seeing Contraband almost makes up for it.

## Mother-daughter team strives for musical goal

By Cynthia Horvath  
Staff Writer

Wake up Columbia. Right under your noses is a mother-daughter duo that could give the Judds a run for their money.

So you ask, what's so special about that? Melvena Cooke and her daughter Deborah say they are the first African-American mother-daughter country music group. They were formed even before the Judds were crooning on stage.

Cooke and her daughter have always had a special relationship, due in part to the fact that they've had no one else but each other to

rely on over the years.

As a young mother, Melvena was always there for Deborah, supporting her and pushing her to pursue her interests. Deborah did the same for her mother.

Both mother and daughter have always had a fascination with music; they started writing songs together when Deb was just a small girl.

To date, Mel and Deb have written 82 songs and though none have been published yet, they have every confidence their day will come. The duo plans to record a demo album this summer.

Recently, a Nashville

producer was interested in buying the rights to a country song Deb had written, but the duo declined the offer. Melvena said that they felt the song was so special they couldn't sell it for someone else to perform and record.

While they wait for opportunity to knock, Melvena is a full-time student at Columbia. However, she hasn't declared a definite major yet. She's in the process of writing a novel and has formed a theater company called "D-Vena."

Deborah is a pre-law student at DePaul University and works full-time at the Field Museum.

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Meetings, Music and Miscellanea

By Laura Ramirez, Calendar Editor

**MUSIC:** The Cabaret Metro and radio station 93-XRT will welcome **Kitchens Of Distinction** on Wed., May 15 for a 7:30 p.m. budget show. Originally from London, the band is touring to promote the release of their major label debut, "Strange Free World." Alias recording artist, Hypnolovewheel, will open the show. Later, the Metro will feature **The Burning Giraffes, Blue Nimbus, and Lime Credo** as part of their weekly "Rock Against Depression."

The Avalon will present **The Junkies Exquisite Fashion, Almost Blue and Public Servants** on Thurs., May 16. Show time is 9:30 p.m. Ladies get in free.

Performance artist **Maggie Brown** will take the stage at the Annex on Tues., May 14 at 12:30 p.m.

The science and mathematics department will present "A Concert for New Works for Computers, Instruments and Voice," on Wed., May 15 at 7:30 p.m. in the Hokin Student Center. The concert will feature

guest artists **John Bruce Yeh** on clarinet and **Abraham Stokan** on piano.

**THEATRE:** The theater department will present **Top Girls**, a satirical play about the challenges women encounter on their way up the ladder of success. The production is directed by Cecille O'Reilly and it opens on Fri., May 17 at 7 p.m. in the Studio Theatre, 72 E. 11th St. For reservations and information call (312) 663-9465.

The Building Company is currently presenting **Steamship Quanza**, the story of a husband-wife attorney team in Virginia that fought to save 82 refugees fleeing Hitler. The production runs through June 23 at the Chicago Dramatist Workshop, 1105 West Chicago Ave. For more information call (312) 281-9341.

City Lit Theatre Company is currently

presenting their adaptation of Robert Ferro's critically acclaimed novel, **Second Son**, a contemporary parable of the painful ties of kinship and the joyous bonds of love. The production runs through June 9 at the Live Bait Theatre, 3914 N. Clark. For reservations call (312) 271-1100.

**MEETINGS:** A performance and discussion entitled "Gay and Lesbian Sensibilities in the Arts," is scheduled for May 13 at 5 p.m. in the Hokin Student Center. Featured performers include **Jeff Abel, Donna Rose, Doug Stapleton, and Beth Tanner.**

The American Society of Interior Designers (student chapter) will meet on Tues., May 14 at 12:45 p.m. in room 1203-M.

The Student Alliance for Higher Consciousness will meet on Thurs., May 16 at

12:30 p.m. in room 217-W. Alcoholics Anonymous will meet on Tuesday at 11 a.m., and again on Thursday at 4 p.m., in room 202-W.

Students in Design, a new group, will hold their first meeting on Tues. at 12:30 and will meet again at 5:30 in room 901-W. All are welcome.

**MISC:** If you have any library fines, now is the time to clear them. The library is accepting canned goods as payment for fines on overdue books. Bring at least two cans of food for every book you have overdue. Of course, you don't have to have a fine to donate canned goods.

Don't miss your chance to be talent judge. Join Soup-Line Productions on Fri., May 17 at 7 p.m. for the "Talent Show-Off," where the winners for the '91 talent show will be selected by YOU, the audience. Featured performances include **Andre the Comic, Connection** and **The Serious Crew.**

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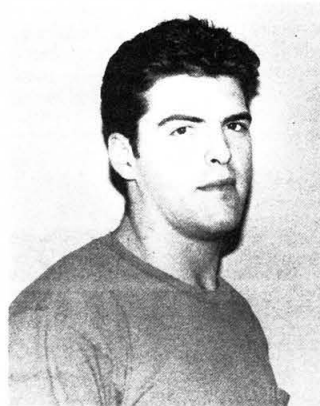
By Laura J. Novak  
Staff Photographer

What phrase is over-used by your family or friends?



Vicky Kanas  
Senior  
Interior Design

My family always says to me, "When I was your age,..." or "When you get to be my age,..." And my parents' and older sisters' excuse for everything is "I'm older."



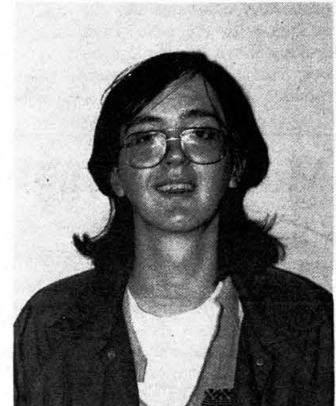
J. Johnston  
Junior  
Undeclared

Don't touch me. Don't ever touch me again.



Yolunda Coleman  
Sophomore  
Television

Mom: I'm sorry, I didn't hear you, because I wasn't listening.



Clark Kent  
Junior  
Music

My mom always tells me to "Watch out for crazy drivers" even when I am going around the corner to mail a letter.

Science/Health Update

Pap smears completely safe—almost

By Kathleen Troher  
Science Writer

Although approximately 4,500 women will die of cervical cancer in 1991, the American Cancer Society says the number of deaths has decreased 70 percent over the past 40 years, primarily due to regular checkups, and the consequent early detection of the disease.

Cervical cancer progresses through stages. According to Arthur Herbst, a gynecologic oncologist, and Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Chicago Hospitals, the disease usually begins as cancer cells form on the surface of the cervix. Left untreated, cells then invade deeper layers, and the disease progresses.

Because the cervix contains no nerve endings that sense pain, the disease may be well advanced before the appearance of any symptoms. Early detection, however, is possible with a Pap smear, a routine test recommended annually for women who are sexually active or who have reached age 18.

During a Pap smear, a small sample of cells is swabbed from the cervix and uterus. The procedure is nearly always quick and painless, producing no ill effects. But caution is still advised.

On April 17, a woman at Illinois Masonic Hospital was

possibly exposed to AIDS, when a cotton swab previously used to treat a patient infected with the HIV virus was reused on her, during a Pap smear.

Medical experts said such an occurrence is extremely rare, and Herbst noted that most women have nothing to fear obtaining a Pap smear, because acquiring AIDS or any other disease through the procedure is "virtually impossible."

If the Pap smear indicates the presence of cancer cells on the surface of the cervix, the disease can be cured with laser surgery or cryotherapy, the destruction of cells by extreme cold. If the cancer has progressed, a hysterectomy may be recommended.

Although cervical cancer can strike a woman of any age or socioeconomic group, the American Cancer Society warns that risk factors increase for women who have sex at an early age, have sex with multiple partners, or who have acquired a sexually transmitted disease. The disease may also be triggered by cigarette smoking.

It's nearly here. The day seniors have been waiting a lifetime for is almost within single-digit-counting distance. So, why do so many seniors feel anxious and stressed-out, rather than wildly happy about graduation?

"This is a transitional time for seniors," said Bob Padjen,

the coordinator of counseling services at Columbia College. "It's very normal for them to feel sadness right now because they're leaving something comfortable behind, or to feel fear because they will be starting something new."

According to the Mental Health Association of Greater Chicago, when a person has ambiguous feelings, stress often develops. The association warns that stress can lead to depression and anxiety.

In order to avoid these complications, talking with friends, parents or counselors is recommended. However, this is not always as simple as it sounds.

"It's not easy for many students to take that first step in seeking help," Padjen said. "But they need to know that if their stomach is tight or their throat is dry when they come in to talk, that's okay. The scary feeling probably won't go away. They just have to go on in spite of their fear."

Those who find it difficult to cope with the upcoming changes, and who are unable to muster the courage to speak with a counselor, may find support in Padjen's advice. He recommended that students realize that their feelings are normal and that they try to remember other changes they've endured, such as the initial day of kindergarten or the final day of high school. Padjen said that although those events might have seemed traumatic at the time, students lived through them, and they will survive this transition, and others in the future.

"It really never ends," Padjen noted. "I don't care how old you are, you will still have to deal with transitions. They may be struggles, but that's just a part of a healthy life."