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columbia chronicle

Volume 22 Number 8

Columbia Chronicle

March 27, 1989

Science scandal smolders

By Kelli Kirkpatrick

In a dispute likened in intensity to Watergate, college administrators lifted the suspensions of four students accused of assaulting an instructor.

Those suspended were senior Troy Ford, 25, sophomore James Howell, no age given, sophomore Mitch Goldman, 19, and junior Liza Suarez, 24.

A Dean's Committee spent two days investigating the incident and hedged on whether an assault actually occurred. However, the committee agreed that three of the students engaged in "completely objectionable" behavior towards science instructor Philip Miller.



Zafra Lerman

As a result, all suspensions were lifted. In addition, Ford, Goldman and Howell are required to submit written apologies to Miller, and Ford may not participate in extracurricular activities. Suarez was cleared of all wrongdoing.

Top administrative officials expressed pleasure that due process was scrupulously observed.

"We proceeded with 'due diligence,'" President Mirron Alexandroff said. "No influence was brought to bear on this committee. They were absolutely independent of pressure...anyone who says otherwise is lying through his teeth."

Executive Vice President Bert Gall agreed. "Collectively, we owe a debt of gratitude to the committee. Democracy within the college is indeed possible and does work."

However the controversy is still alive.

A statement by the Dean of Student Services office, expressing the committee's concern about the Science Department's management of the incident, has been vigorously protested by Science Department Chairperson Zafra Lerman.

In a letter to John Schultz, Chairperson of the Fiction Writing Department and of the Committee, Lerman wrote: "...A statement has been made criticizing the Science Department, and I find it odd that any such comment would be allowed to stand without a representative being given the opportunity to defend the department."

"As chairperson of the [American Chemical Society] Human Rights Committee, I have often witnessed the abrogation of an accused's right to testify on their own behalf; in my work I have seen this practice in Chile, Somalia, Turkey, the Soviet Union and South Africa. I am very surprised to see it happening at Columbia College."

Schultz said the statement was not meant to be an "accusation," but rather as an expression of concern. Moreover, a member of the department [Philip Miller] did indeed testify.

Dean of Student Services Hermann Conaway has a stronger response. He said the statement meant that "the Science Department did not handle the matter in the way the Dean's Committee determined it should have been handled."

Lerman says, however, that the situation was mismanaged outside her department.

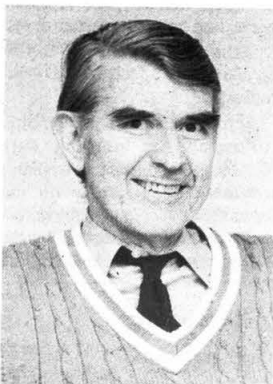
"All I wanted was for somebody in this school to pay attention to Phil Miller; to give him some moral and emotional support and to make Troy Ford, and only Troy Ford, write a letter of apology."

Lerman wrote Conaway prior to the suspension notices criticizing his involvement.

"I'm very dissatisfied with the manner in which your office is handling the situation," she wrote. "If you will not stop [a student] from harassing students, I will have to seek another cause of action."

Conaway countered that disciplinary matters are not vested in faculty members, but in the administration.

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John Schultz

College attains "Verses"

By Stuart Sudak

As copies of Salman Rushdie's 'The Satanic Verses' became available in wider distribution last week, Columbia College library and bookstore officials had mixed opinions over the censorship issues that periodically kept it off bookshelves since Rushdie's condemnation by Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Library Director Mary Schellhorn said she has received copies of the book last Tuesday and said it is in the public interest for all librarians and booksellers to make available Rushdie's book

no matter how unpopular that action would be with Khomeini and others in the Islamic world.

"It's every person's right to choose widely from conflicting opinions offered freely to them through books," Schellhorn said.

Follett's bookstore manager Mike Smith, who has not read the book but is familiar with the controversy, said that risk factors other than censorship will weigh heavily in his decision to order 'Satanic Verses.'

"Freedom of expression and the right of the individual to choose his own reading materials should be entitled to everybody," Smith said.

According to Smith, 'The Satanic Verses' is a hot topic off the campus but it has yet to generate much student interest.

"We haven't had many students asking for the book and if it's not popular at this time how can I realistically assume they will want to buy it a month down the line," he said.

Student Jeff Copeland echoes Smith's sentiments.

"I was never interested in reading 'Verses' since the beginning of the controversy, though I see no reason to ban it," Copeland, 21, a senior in journalism said.

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Chronicle/Douglas Holt

"We're not black. We're African-American," Jesse Jackson Jr. told a crowd during a speech at the Hoken Student Center March 16.

Jackson's son relays message

By Anne Marie Obiala

African-Americans must motivate themselves to take an active part in their political and school communities, Jesse Jackson Jr. said while speaking at the Hoken Student Center March 16.

Jackson's visit was sponsored by the African-American Alliance. He spoke before a standing room only crowd.

"Without a dream, Columbia College students, you're walking dead. You can't possibly amount

to much, you won't grow. It's not a calamity not to be with dreams unfulfilled. It is a calamity not to dream," Jackson said.

"We can be whatever we want to be," he added, referring to his father's 1988 presidential campaign. Jackson said race should not be a factor in one's success in life.

He said he travels around the city trying to convince students to get off drugs and to spend time studying to improve their chances of a better life.

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Gay club's debut meeting fails to draw membership

By Anne Marie Obiala

The first meeting of the gay and Lesbian Association March 22, which was intended to be a membership drive, had a "very poor turn out," President Erik Karas said.

Karas, a freshman, was surprised to find Columbia did not have a gay and lesbian club. "I think there are a great number of gays and lesbians at Columbia College," he said.

The club would be what the members want it to be. "It'll be a place to tell what it's like, to share information and make them feel like they're not alone," Karas said.

Don Bapst, who graduated in January, said he experienced a blatant example of discrimination at Columbia. "I screened a play at the Hoken that showed two men kissing. People started shouting slurs like, 'Get this s__t off.' About 50 percent were shouting 'Faggot -- kill him.'"

Bapst said there has to be "communication between homosexuals and people who fear them. The breaking point has al-

ready been reached. It's time not to tolerate that anymore.

"Not every gay and lesbian is ready to face the kind of violence I faced. It might drive some further into the closet," Bapst added, referring to the finger-pointing and shouting during his film. In his film one man goes home with another and strangles him. Bapst was an actor in the film.

Bobbie Stuart, director of the Hoken Student Center, said, "Some students were immature in their response."

Karas said the club could act as a support group or participate in activities such as raising money for AIDS research, participating in a "coming out" parade and a gay and lesbian pride parade, annual events in Chicago.

"We need leaders, but we also need people behind the leaders," Karas said. He added that students interested should not hesitate to come to the meeting.

They will have an open door policy. "We're not going to say if they walk in the door they're

Continued on page 2

Columbia Events

Wednesday, March 29

The Television Arts Society will hold a meeting in room 1509 of the Michigan building at noon.

Friday, March 31

Visiting artist Ann McCoy will lecture in the Ferguson Theatre at 4 p.m. All Welcome.

Career Opportunities

The 5 steps to recruitment readiness

As undergraduates, seniors and alumni prepare for summer positions, career placements and freelance positions, some pointers on successful "protocol" and interview strategies need to be reinforced.

1) ALWAYS DRESS FOR SUCCESS: Employers respond on a very human level when it comes to first impressions. No matter what clothing style you may ultimately wear "on the job", remember candidates in the initial stages of interviewing should dress in a very basic, professional manner. Neutral colors, uniform suit and tie approach will keep the attention away from your appearance and allow you to make a more positive impression.

2) PREPARATION MEETS OPPORTUNITY: Without a written, formal method of communicating your skills, abilities and educational background, recruiters will not deal with you. The professional process of resume and cover letter preparation is essential. You must have a "system" of maintaining files on contacts and follow-up as well.

3) RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH: The competition for the media arts/communications positions may involve research of the "hidden job market". By attending Career Fairs, Trade association meetings and reaching out to the professional networks that already exist, you will have an advantage in already knowing the "current" trends in employment in your field and can address your job search in a more efficient manner.

4) ALWAYS FOLLOW-UP: A phone call placed in a timely manner can re-enforce your interest and availability after you have mailed out resumes. It is important for you to script an appropriate inquiry and practice your phone manner before you call. A thank you note after your interview can also be that extra step that impresses the employer enough to hire you.

5) REPEAT YOUR WINNING BEHAVIOR: Evaluate your actions after you interview. Be honest with yourself and attempt to clarify what is working for you and stop repeating behavior that gets you nowhere. For example, if you mail out 10 "blind" inquiries and get no response, learn from this experience. You may have to research harder, follow-up more and hit the pavement to hand deliver some resumes, but if you care about your own success and have planned for your application strategy, you will not be a "victim" of a job market but an active participant. Job search and career planning can be a fun, exciting conclusion to your academic career.

(The above information has been provided by the Office of Career Services. For further details concerning the internships and opportunities list, contact Monica Weber Grayless in the Career Services office, Room 607, main building.)

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The Columbia Chronicle is the official student-run newspaper of Columbia College. It is published weekly 21 times throughout the school year and released every Monday.

Views expressed in this newspaper are not necessarily those of the advisor or the college.

All opinions meant for publication should be sent to the Chronicle in the form of a typewritten letter-to-the-editor.

Activist struggles for reform

By Shari Mannery

Social activist Kwame Toure formerly Stokely Carmichael, told an overflowing crowd in Columbia's Ferguson Theater on March 20, that the problems of African-Americans can only be solved through revolution.

Toure, co-founder of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, or SNCC, promoted the widespread use of the term "black power" in the '60s. He said, "We are the only people to shed blood for reform. And anytime you have to shed blood for reform, it becomes a revolutionary struggle."

The co-author of *Black Power, The Politics of Liberation*, added "We must destroy capitalism. It is our task to wipe out all of the conditions that create a class of people made irresponsible through centuries of oppression."

Toure said that as a member of the African based All-African People's Revolutionary Party, which has chapters in the United States, Canada, Europe, and the Caribbean, he works to educate and organize the masses of exploited and oppressed Africans living throughout the world.

"We must organize. There is no African-American in this country who makes any individual advancement based on their own individual works or talents. Every advancement in this country is a result of mass struggle. As a matter of fact, we in this country, as Africans, get

nothing without struggle. That is why I get so confused when we say we are Americans like everybody else. The rest of Americans don't have to go through what we do to be called Americans," Toure said.

"Just to sit in a filthy five and ten cent store, we have to shed out blood. To ride on a bus when we pay the same fare, we have to shed our blood. When we send our children to state schools where we pay our taxes like everybody else, we must shed blood. To get the vote, we shed blood. There is no progress that we as people have made in this country where we have not shed our blood," he added.

Toure said that the most important gain made from the struggles of African-Americans in the '60s was the "rising consciousness of our people." African-Americans are more conscious today than they were in the '60s, but less organized.

Toure added that if the government could construct giant screens to stop missiles, they could surely stop drugs from entering African-American communities. "The Chinese fought an opium war. African-Americans can beat crack."

Toure also said that African-Americans who seek change through revolutionary tactics should not be considered racists.

"One cannot be racist until one has power. If a white man wants to lynch me, that's his problem. If

he has the power to lynch me, that's my problem. Racism is simply a matter of power."

In conclusion, Toure told the students, "There is no person who is free of cultural values. And as communication majors, you must do everything in your power to fight injustices. Whether it is the story of Botha or Mandela, the PLO or Israel, the Ku Klux Klan or whatever, you must take the just side. That is your responsibility."

At a reception for Toure in the faculty lounge, Carla Jones, president of the African-American Alliance said that she was pleased by the huge turnout of students.

Jones added that the Alliance will continue to celebrate black history throughout the year.

Dennis Henry, a senior television major said that Toure raised the level of consciousness among African-American students. "We need more positive images."

Rachael Morrow, a sophomore journalism major said, "Kwame Toure was inspiring. It's nice to hear someone tell the truth about African-Americans instead of sweeping those issues under the rug."

Mary Fleming, a junior journalism major said that the most important part of Toure's message was "African-Americans must realize that we cannot survive as individuals. We are only here because of mass organized struggle. And we must continue that struggle."

Science

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"I'm glad the students had an opportunity to be heard by such an impartial body," he adds.

Alexandroff met with the principal faculty and administrative members and says he has their agreement to put the matter to rest.

"I'm sure Dr. Lerman accepts the committee's decisions as final," Gall said.

Lerman talked to this reporter following her meeting with Alexandroff and said she wouldn't comment specifically on the committee's recommendations because she fears censorship by the student newspaper. However, she

did say that the incident has made the environment anti-Science Department.

"Everywhere I've been ... I was always the best. This is an outstanding department, and this causes jealousy," Lerman says. "Nothing will affect the Science Department ... As chairperson of the Science Department, we don't care about what the committee says."

But the students do. The suspensions have been a topic of heated discussion for weeks.

Ford, who received the harshest punishment, says he feels "singled out." Howell says he put the "rough" incident behind him; while Goldman still recalls the "mess" vividly. Suarez says she was "innocent from the beginning."

said when he spoke at her school made a difference in her life.

She said told him that she's a better person today. She told him she has her high school diploma and two children.

Jackson stressed the importance of African-Americans taking the opportunities available to them.

"Every time a Kennedy is born that child is in *People Weekly* magazine." Whenever a Kennedy is born, there's a general perception that potential president coming, he said. "Blacks

Science Department workaide, Kim Johnson, who admitted telling students to smear Miller with lipstick, was named by the committee as a fifth student whose conduct was objectionable. She says she feels treated unfairly.

Miller, who could not be reached for comment, is resigning at the end of the semester.

If asked again to chair a similar committee, Schultz says he would be "very reluctant."

"The committee had but one life to give to its college," Schultz says. "If the students are unhappy with the results and the Science Department is unhappy with the results, then we must have done something right."

ought to start aiming high. We ought not have to start at the bottom of the pole and work our way up.

"That is the challenge of Columbia College. Grab our young people, get their minds off drugs for that one moment and challenge them to be forth-right, to never turn around," Jackson said.

Jackson handed out copies of a poem by Dr. Benjamin Elijah Mays, his favorite, which he autographed after his speech.

there should be a club for gays and lesbians.

Bapst said homophobic graffiti in school washrooms is another example of discrimination. "It's looked at more as an act of damaging property instead of an act of violence," he said.

A second meeting will be held Wednesday, March 29 in the Michigan building, room 401, at 12:30 p.m.

Jackson

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Ryan Eugene Daniels, vice president of the African-American Alliance, invited Jackson to speak to students in the Hokin Center during February, in celebration of Black History Month. However, due to a full schedule, Jackson came during March.

"One of the biggest problems in our community is that too many of us complain about what we don't have and don't stop for a minute and think about what we have," Jackson said.

He told a story about how, while on the 1983 presidential campaign trail one woman approached the Rev. Jesse Jackson crying. She said that she remembered his speaking at her high school 15 years ago. At that time she was in a gang and was using drugs; however, something he

Club

Continued from page 1

gay," Karas said. The club will be open to all students.

Columbia offers classes exploring African-American and women's issues and the African-American Alliance and Hispanic Alliance have become well-established. Bapst and Karas say

verses

Continued from page 1

"As a liberal arts college I'm sure the students will form solid opinions on how tasteful the book was done," she said.

The subject matter of 'Satanic Verses' has many students eager to read it.

"I like to see 'Verses' just for the sake of seeing what all the hoopla is about," Pete Stenson, 22, a senior in advertising said. "Then I'll be able to make my own decision."

Gayle Mitchell, 22, a senior in journalism said she would also read 'Verses' because of the controversy.

Schellhorn and Smith agree the initial banning of Rushdie's book in many bookstores such as Waldenbooks went against public interest. They contend that these booksellers established a potential conflict between their jobs and their political views.

"We serve the educational process by helping to make available knowledge and ideas for the students," Schellhorn said. "They used their own position to voice their personal opinions about Rushdie's book."

In the bookstore, Smith comes across many books which he personally objects to, but orders them with the needs of the students in mind.

"I try not to force my own opinions on the bookstore because there may be a great need of the students for that one book I didn't like in particular," Smith said. "By doing this I try to tailor the books specifically to the school, and more importantly, the students."

He contends the bookstores that chose to remove 'Satanic Verses' judged the work more on political affiliations of Rushdie and not as art or literature.

"The art or literature potential of 'Satanic Verses' probably will never be known as long as it's overshadowed by religious overtones," he said. "If it wasn't for the Ayatollah imposing a death warrant on

Rushdie, the art potential could be realized, but it wouldn't have mattered because nobody would've heard of the book."

Schellhorn believes that, like other controversial books, movies or plays (The Last Temptation of Christ or The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, for example) the public may have many prejudices on Rushdie's book even before reading it.

As a one-time board member for a public library, Schellhorn saw the willingness of the community to ban books they had never read because of the suggestive titles of some of them.

"There was an active moral majority minister who was always

concerned with what he called, 'the immoral books in the library,'" she said. "He was trying to pre-determine the reading habits of a community that could have done that easily for themselves."

Both the bookstore and the library, according to Smith and Schellhorn, have only had a few minor incidents where students objected to books. To their recollections no incidents have occurred involving faculty or administrators.

However, the bookstore has recently come under fire from some students who were offended by the selling of two nude photography books.

"We've had a few complaints

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columbia chronicle

Classics stir controversy

By the time students graduate from college, they should know the difference in the literary quality of a TV soap opera script and a film script such as "War and Peace." The conventional foundations for such instruction were taught through classic works including Homer, Sophocles, Plato and Aristotle. But time and cultures evolve, and as such, the core humanity requirements in colleges and universities should, as well.

Stanford University, up until the late '60s, required its freshman to take a course titled Western Culture. The course was discontinued allowing students to fulfill their humanities credits with electives. However, in 1980, Stanford reinstated Western Culture under its old precepts.

Controversy raged within the university, pitting faculty against one another, over what pieces of literature the class would include. Works from Plato and John Locke were among the 15 books on the reading list.

In the mid-80s Stanford's Black Student Union said the required readings did not include literature

from minority groups. They contended that, though women and minorities were not allowed to create literary works until late in civilization's time line, their inclusion was necessary in a course called Western Culture, so as to understand the problems of the past in order to provoke thoughts on solutions for problems of the present and future.

Debate continued until it was declared that six traditional classical books would be required. In addition, works devoted to literature authored by "women, minorities and persons of color" would be part of the course.

As time goes on and civilization's time line grows longer, so too must the diversity of literary works, as prescribed by highly regarded learning institutions such as Stanford University.

Courses which include the works of minorities and women are vital to education and must remain. Without learning of problems and social stigmas overcome in the past we cannot be prepared to deal with those the future holds.

Disputes over suspension

Now that "Zafragate" is nearing its dubious end, the worst thing the Columbia student body can do is allow the whole fiasco to pass without demanding an explanation for the Science Department's inept disciplinary procedure.

The students who were initially suspended for allegedly assaulting science instructor Phillip Miller with a tube of lipstick, have now been told by the Dean's Committee that letters of apology to Miller will suffice. Apparently, a mere verbal scolding and paying for the dry-cleaning of Miller's soiled clothing were deemed too light a sentence for these perpetrators of adolescent crime.

One student, Troy Ford was mysteriously singled out by the committee and received a harsher punishment than the others. Ford has been banned from participating in the various clubs and committees he has involved himself in this past year. This seems an obvious attempt to appease the anger welling up in certain members of the Science Department. Seeing that Ford was the president of the Science Club, banning him is certainly a sweet form of vindication.

While the action of these aforementioned students should in no way be condoned, it seems that their horseplay has earned an undue amount of disciplinary process. The students were notified of the lift on their suspensions March 13, almost three

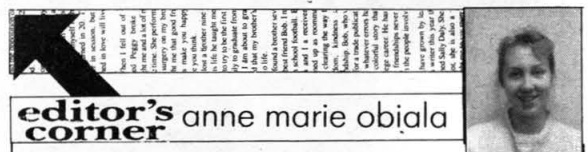
months after the incident. So much for the right to speedy trial.

Reasons for the Dean's Committee's decision to overturn the "conviction" have not yet been revealed but it's safe to assume there was something desperately wrong with the way the situation was initially handled. Science Department Chairperson Zafra Lerman, in particular, seems guilty of manipulating the situation in demanding the suspensions without a thorough investigation, and by suggesting that the students' behavior was caused by the intake of mind-altering substances. The suspects were treated like children who grabbed lipstick out of their mothers' purses and scribbled obscenities on their bedroom walls. What this situation clearly demonstrates is the need for some type of disciplinary procedure, one that cannot be easily altered to suit a particular faculty member's own bias.

The Dean's Committee is perhaps the only straight thinking body on campus involved in discipline, and maybe it should lay down some guidelines so problems such as "Zafragate" don't happen again.

It also wouldn't be a bad idea to look into the conduct of some faculty members of the Science Department involved in this case. It's possible that the students shouldn't be the only ones writing letters of apology.

Mitch Hurst



editor's corner anne marie obiala

Success blossoms from grace under pressure

I promised myself I would get this column done by Monday.

But over the weekend things came up that seemed more important at the time, like work, homework, parties, laundry and even the worst chore of all, washing dishes.

It always ends up that way-- I say, "Okay, now I'm gonna get this stuff done ahead of time or on time, but I won't be late again." Yet there's always something more pressing that needs tending to immediately.

That's the excuse we procrastinators use.

Monday came and homework I put off for a while had to be done first. Then I had classes and interviews to take care of. I thought, "I'll get it done Monday evening when everyone goes home and the newsroom is quiet." But alas, it never got quiet. I left early to work on it at home but when I got home I fell asleep.

Such is the life of a chronic procrastinator.

In this business deadlines rule. Miss a deadline and you're dead meat with your editor. Which brings to mind the art of excuses and persuasion, but that's another column.

When I complete a story before deadline, or a homework assignment, or any chore, I feel somehow incomplete when I hand it in. If I spend 40 hours on a project, finish early and hand it in I don't feel like I worked as hard on it as if I finished it in a mad rush in four hours. Sound odd? That's what people tell me.

But there's a truth there. I'm addicted to the mad rush, the quick job, the flying fingers over a keyboard, the screeches of several phones ringing, the melody in arguments over how to do something at the last minute.

Now my colleagues will say, "Not her, she says she hates late things. She likes things done early."

Foiled you!

If I complete something early, instead of resting, I take on other responsibilities. So, it is, in fact, better to wait to the last minute, feel like I've accomplished something in the nick-of-time and take on only those responsibilities I think I can handle, rather than taking the time to accept more jobs and responsibilities than I can handle.

Sound like twisted logic? Possibly.

No, probably. But you see, burn-out generally does that to me. After experiencing such cases twice in my relatively short life, I've decided 'tis better to accomplish an average amount of work, do it well, and live to see the results rather than do more than what's expected to prove myself, finish it fairly well and collapse or get an ulcer before I see the results.

There's a difference between overload and mad rushes, the difference being that after the mad rush, there's time to relax and admire you're work and ponder how to improve the next bit of work based on your abilities. Overload means as soon as one job is finished, another must begin immediately.

Someone once told me the human brain is like a computer in all the information it can store. Well, the computer in my head experiences overload every once in a while and believe it or not, the mad rush keeps me from going mad!

The *Chronicle* will reserve space each week for reader commentary. Letters should be less than 250 words and be typed. Letters to the Editor can be delivered to the *Chronicle* office W802 between 12 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

I want to highly commend you and your staff for the excellent job on the article "Students suspended after science club outing," which appeared in the March 13 issue of the *Columbia Chronicle*.

The task of editing out every comment made by students and faculty pertaining to the Dean of Students and to the college's administration was carried out with absolute perfection.

I am glad to see that you are preparing students with useful experience they will need to become reporters for many papers in this country, as well as for the papers of many other countries.

Keep up the good work
Zafra Lerman, Ph.D.
Chairperson

Editor's Note: This was received by Nat Lehrman, chairperson of the Journalism Department.

Frankly Speaking: Renee Ferguson

Persistence pays off for students and professionals

By Charlotte Jackson

"Salary to charity," is what Renee Ferguson calls her way of astounding the world with a magnitude of giving. She is one of Columbia's latest additions to the Television Department.

Renee Ferguson worked as a CBS Network correspondent in New York and Atlanta before joining the Channel 5 news team in March, 1987. Prior to joining CBS Network news, she was a reporter for Chicago's WBBM-TV and host of the station's "Common Ground" public affairs program.

During her career she has won numerous awards, including five Chicago Emmys. In 1987-88 she won a UPI Award for "Best Feature", a two-part series on the pros and cons of school desegregation. She was also cited for her report on "Children Awaiting Adoption" where 100 children were placed in homes.

Ferguson teaches "Writing TV News I and said, "I wish I had more time to do it. The hardest part of it for me is holding down my job which has tremendous time demands in addition to trying to do the very best that I can for my students and so the time problem is very, very, difficult.

How do you like teaching?
I wish I had more time to do it. The hardest part for me is holding down my job which has tremendous time demands in addition to trying to do the very best that I can for my students, and so the time problem is very, very difficult.

Students are so smart. It gives me a chance to test what I know. Students test what I know, to see if what I know really works. It's wonderful because I think my students have been able to learn what I know and I have been able to show them, to just break it down. Students at Columbia College are so smart and bright, and I enjoy it tremendously.

After winning five Emmys, what are you working towards now?

I think I'm always working towards doing better stories, to bring more accurate information to the people. I'm not trying to win awards I just do my work and if I happen to win an award then that's just great. The end I'm looking at is to do a good job. What we are about is informing the public and I want to make sure my information is always accurate and correct and I'm doing the best I can possibly do.

Do you learn anything from the students?

I certainly have. Students are in fact excellent teachers. One thing I've learned is students these days are serious. When I was in college we spent a lot of time protesting and demonstrating and that was very serious for us and important for us to do it. I've noticed my students work, they are very, very serious in what they are doing. As a person now I really appreciate that, because it makes my job in terms of teaching so easy. I'm there for a purpose and they are there for a purpose and there is no "fibiology" and that's great.

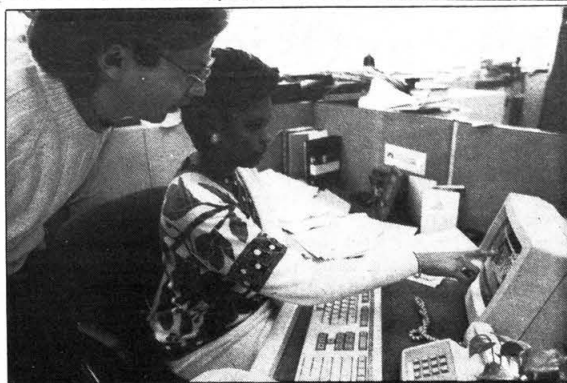
Are there any misconceptions students have about TV?

Oh yes, I think that most people don't understand television at all. They think that it's a very glamorous and easy job. For a couple of hours I run around all day and it's that way all day. I mean you really never stop.

Forget about trying to get lunch. Sometimes you don't have time to go to the bathroom. It's really a very, very busy schedule and we have a lot of pressure on us, because the deadlines are constant and we're working against the clock. You have to go on whether you are prepared or not. If you are not prepared, then you may not perform as well, you may miss something. People think you just walk in and sit down and someone else has done the work for you and it's just not true. If you want to be in television, I think it's a very good job and I recommend it, but you have to be prepared to work.

Do you have a hard time as a minority?

I think that women and minorities are coming along in this business. We aren't nearly where I would like for us to be and as a minority woman it's doubly difficult. I have never dwelled on the difficulties. When I first started in



Chronicle/Russ Phillips

WMAQ, Channel 5 weekend anchor Renee Ferguson prepares a story at her VDT. Ferguson, a five time Emmy winner during her tenure at WBBM, Channel 2, said people should not be discouraged if they are discriminated against.

television in Indianapolis, Ind. and I was the first black woman they had ever hired and many of the places I have been, I've been the first black or the first woman or the first black woman. So I have been pioneering since I started. That isn't always fun. There are some problems.

There certainly are people who have prejudices and there certainly are people who are biased against women and there certainly are people who are prejudiced against blacks. Some of them find their ways into positions where they can hurt you, but for most of my career I have found that people are people wherever they are and that if you do a good job, if you know your stuff, people will respect you. Race and sex become factors that are not as important. Yes I have had some problems because I am a black woman, but I have not allowed it to make me angry or cripple me. I just go on and I think that's what everyone has to do.

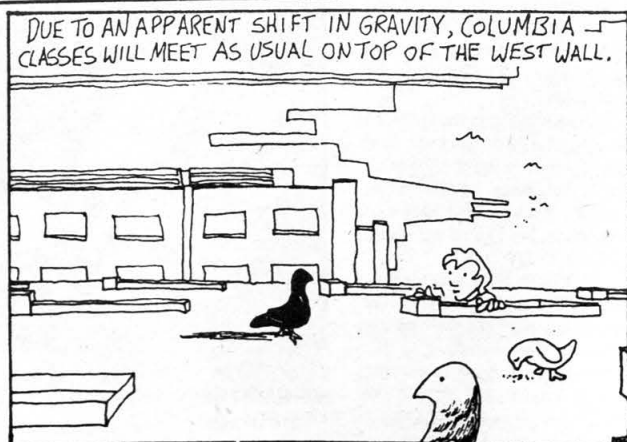
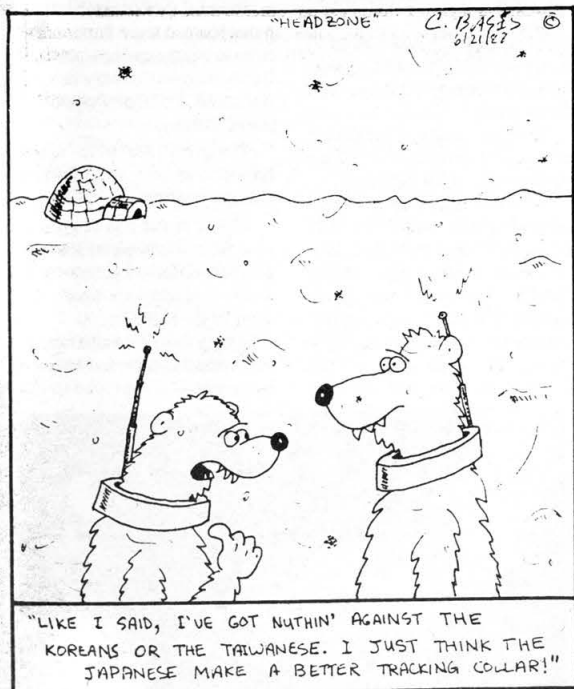
Do you have advice for minorities interested in television careers?

The first thing they must do is

realize that hard work and conscientiousness will get them places. There's never anyway to be prepared for prejudice, you can never really know how to handle it. When you see it or encounter it, don't let it break your spirit. Don't let it cripple you. Keep on pushing.

By the very definition of being a minority in this society, you don't always get the things that are due you. You may not always get the fairest treatment, but other people don't get fair treatment too, and so you cannot allow it to stop you, or allow it to hang you up. Go on. Especially in the media. It's a very competitive business, and so if people realize that you are sensitive about being a minority they might use it against you, because they want your job or want to do an assignment that you got.

Know your stuff. Know how to write, read and perform and work hard at it and you'll be in the position to demand respect of everybody. That's all you really want. You don't have to have them like you, but you do need to have them have your respect.



Dubious Oscar night approaches

By Jeff Cunningham

Being an avid film-goer, I always look forward to the yearly announcements of the Academy Awards, and, of course, to Oscar night, when the envelopes are opened and the winners revealed.

Although the Academy Award is considered to be the ultimate symbol of excellence in the film industry, there still exists some unfortunate discrepancies with how and why the nominees and winners are selected. The following are four problems I have with the Academy Awards, I'm sure there are more.

First, academy voters seem to have an incredibly short memory. Case in point: This year's Best Picture nominations were all released in December. Granted, a couple of the films were worthy of selection, but it is doubtful that "Working Girl" would have been considered had it been released during the summer.

Furthermore, "Bull Durham" or "The Unbearable Lightness of Being," two critically acclaimed films released early in the year

would have been likely nominees had they been released in November or December.

Another problem is the so-called "career compensation award," often given to a respected actor or actress who has been in the business for many years but has never won an Oscar. I'm all for honoring an outstanding career, but please make it a special award, not a regular acting award for a performance in a recent film. Paul Newman may have won Best Actor for "The Color of Money," but declaring his performance to be the best of 1984 is highly disputable.

Third is the undeniable fact that the awards are often a popularity contest. A glaring example is the career of Steven Spielberg. Spielberg, the director of "Jaws," "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," "Raiders of the Lost Ark" and "E.T.," is not appreciated by the academy. None of his films have won Best Picture, nor has he won an Oscar for Best Director.

In 1985 Spielberg's "The Color Purple" garnered a stagger-

ing 11 nominations, but Best Director was not among them. Still, the film held the odds to win Best Picture.

It didn't.

Apparently, Spielberg is regarded as too successful and too arrogant. Too bad some voters judge him and not what he puts up on the screen.

A fourth problem is the intended strategy of having actors wrongly nominated in the supporting categories in order to increase their chances of winning. Even though the actors may have lead performances, they sometimes end up in the supporting category where the competition is easier, and it's more likely they will win since they have the most screen time.

This year, Geena Davis is said to have been placed into this situation with her Best Supporting Actress nomination in "The Accidental Tourist." The film studios are responsible for this type of maneuver, and though those actors with legitimate supporting performances are unfairly hurt by this scheming, it is a judg-

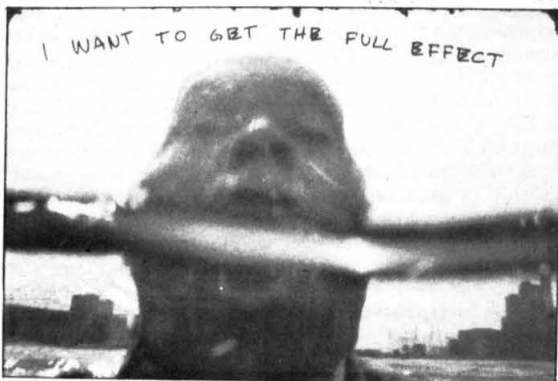


"Bull Durham" starring Kevin Costner and Susan Sarandon, was an early release snubbed by the Academy.

ment call which unfortunately cannot be altered by any attempt to measure one's screen time.

For all of its flaws, the Academy Awards still attract enormous attention from around the globe. Oscar night is the big-

gest night of the year for the film industry. This year's presentation will be on Wednesday, March 29, and I, for one, (despite my complaints) will tune in with my fingers crossed for Dustin Hoffman for Best Actor and Jodie Foster for Best Actress.



Columbia graduate Juan Valdivia's film stretches the imagination of a man fantasizing about drowning.

'Drowning' evokes imagination

By Mitch Hurst

In his first film since graduating from Columbia in 1987, Director Juan Valdivia creates a disturbing world where twisted characters lose control of their involvement with death, corporate America and self-indulgent video art.

Singular moments have the tendency to be oddly complex and, perhaps, death is the most complex moment of all. "The Drowning" takes that moment and gives the viewer a cinematic description of the surrounding events, a bizarre series of happenings involving a real estate developer's desire to see his own drowning on screen.

Drowning is an awful way to die and the director reminds the audience constantly by using underwater scenes depicting the struggle to live. The idea of the serenity of death is destroyed by the whirl of activity generated by the surrounding events.

Not surprising is the fact that Valdivia lists David Lynch as one of his favorite directors. "The Drowning" looks deeper into a seemingly forgetful event and finds an undiscovered, complicated world, a film making style put to use frequently by Lynch. However, where Lynch tends to

provide his viewers with a clear picture of reality, Valdivia tows the line between fact and fiction, not necessarily giving way to which is which.

The methods used in "The Drowning" lure the viewer into a position where he must use his own imagination and somehow reconcile it with that of the film makers.

Valdivia drew inspiration for the film from works by science-fiction author J.G. Ballard, and a 1957 poem by Stevie Smith titled, Not Waving, But Drowning. Calling the film a "marriage" of these two influences, Valdivia even uses the words of the two authors up on screen to complement or introduce his scenes. He also wanted to pay tribute in the film to the sources that inspired him.

"The Drowning" certainly won't set the film world on fire, but its ambition, more than anything, makes seeing it a good, mind-bending experience. If you can leave at home the basic human need to understand everything, you will happily experience the benefits of a creative imagination.

"The Drowning" is showing with three other independent short films Friday, March 31 at The Music Box Theater.

Fresh new album bears fruit

By Chris Langrill

The British band, XTC, has always found itself on the edge of pop music.

Since its inception in the late '70s, XTC has been faced with the predicament of combining its catchy melodies with a whimsical attitude, and singer Andy Partridge's odd, yet alluring voice.

On "Oranges and Lemons," the band's ninth album, listeners are once again invited to reap the rewards of XTC's predicament.

The album's first song is called "Garden of Earthly Delights" and showcases XTC's talent from the start, with guitarist Dave Gregory fitting in as a powerful force. We're spared overbearing guitar parts.

That song is followed by "The Mayor of Simpleton," which is being released as the first single from the album. If this is not the best song on the album, it is certainly refreshing.

The song, written by Partridge, includes lyrics such as "I'm not proud of the fact that I never learned much, just feel I should say. What you get is all real, I can't out on an act, it takes brains to do that anyway."

With so many bands out there today following U2's lead and trying to put out "The Grand Message," it's nice to hear an honest song like "The Mayor of Simpleton."

Later in the song the lyrics go on to say, "Well I don't know how many pounds make up a ton of all the Nobel prizes that I've never won and I may be the Mayor of Simpleton, but I know one thing, and that's I love you."

With these lines it is obvious that XTC is not out to change the world. It's good that the song appears at the beginning of the album because it serves a warning to the listener not to take the music too seriously (or anyone else's music, for that matter).

This is not to say that the band does not have anything worthy to say. Further into the album the song "Scarecrow People" warns of the destruction of the human race: "Hope you enjoyed you meal its only gas and chemicals, we thought you'd prefer something not nature made. Now while you're here, can you advise us on a war we'd like to start, against some scarecrows over there, a different shade?"

Over the course of the double album, XTC continues to deliver its own style of off-beat pop.

Some of the music on the album borrows stylistically from other musicians when you hear "King for a Day," you tend to think of Tears for Fears. "Here Comes President Kill Again" sounds a little like latter-day Pink Floyd. The beginning of "The Loving" borrows directly from

the Beatles. But in the end there is no denying that all of the music is distinctly XTC's, primarily because of Partridge's unique voice.

If there is a fault in the album it is that some of the music, especially "King for a Day" which was written by percussionist Colin Moulding, comes dangerously close to being standard, pop fluff. But then again, I'd rather hear pop fluff from XTC than Debbie Gibson or Tiffany.

The overall feel of the album, however, is of a well-produced musical triumph.

XTC's music has to grow on you. After a while you'll start to pick up different pieces of the music and start to agree with some of the melodies.

After a few listens the music is guaranteed to stick and keep you humming.



XTC members David Gregory, Andy Partridge and Colin Moulding remain on the lookout for more pop on the edge.

'Verses'

Continued from page 1

but I feel I'm providing the students with what they want," Smith said. "Some students have come up to me saying that these books are pornographic but to the photography student the books are a helpful source that they have said is tastefully done."

He added that Rushdie's book can be considered no more controversial than the photography books.

"When putting any book into perspective, if you look long and hard enough there is going to be something that's going to offend someone," he said. "The trick is overlooking the little things and focusing on the big picture."

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The ant jumped upon my roof, giving me quite a scare as I sat and watched the antelopes play an awesome game of baseball, while Bon Jovi was combing his hair and I was eating a lime.

HALO RECORDS announces its debut release, a Chicago Music Compilation, **Light Into Dark**. The album features six Chicago progressive rock bands: Ghost Swami, Gold September, Price of Priesthood, Poster Children, The Smashing Pumpkins, and Seven Letters. Look for it in stores April 21!

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Local Events

Monday, March 27

Noted Jazz singer Geraldine de Hass will perform at the Chicago Public Library Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington, 12:15 p.m. Admission is free.

Tuesday, March 28

The Chicago Public Library Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington, will show 'The Accused' starring Jodi Foster and Kelli McGillis, 5:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Wednesday, March 29

The Veil, Galaxy 500 and Mystery Girls will perform in Cabaret Metro's "Rock Against Depression." Tickets \$4 at the door and in advance. Women free. 10 p.m. show, 21 and over.

Sculptor Jackie Winsor will present a slide lecture on her work at The School of the Art Institute at 4:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Thursday, March 30

Skid Row will take the stage at Cabaret Metro, 3730 N. Clark, at 7:30 p.m. tickets \$10 advance and at the door. All ages.

Friday, March 31

Drawings from 15 animated films made in Germany will be displayed at Chicago Filmmaker, 1229 W. Belmont, at 5:30 p.m. For information and gallery hours call 281-8788.

Saturday, April 1

Blues legend B.B. King will be at Holiday Star, 165 at U.S. 30, Merrillville. Showtime 7:30 p.m., tickets \$18. For more information call 734-7266.

The Go-Betweens with A House and The Pedalyets will be at Cabaret Metro. 7:30 show, 3730 N. Clark, tickets \$13.50, all ages.

The Illinois Chamber Symphony will perform at Norris Cultural Arts Center, 1040 Dunham Road, St. Charles at 8 p.m. tickets \$10 and \$12. Discounts for students, seniors and groups. Call 377-6423.

Monday, April 3

Scottish painter, Steven Campbell will present a slide lecture on his work at the School of the Art Institute. Admission \$3 for general public and free for students and staff of area colleges and senior citizens.

Monday, April 10

The Hokin Student Center presents Grateful Dead drummer Mickey Hart in person.

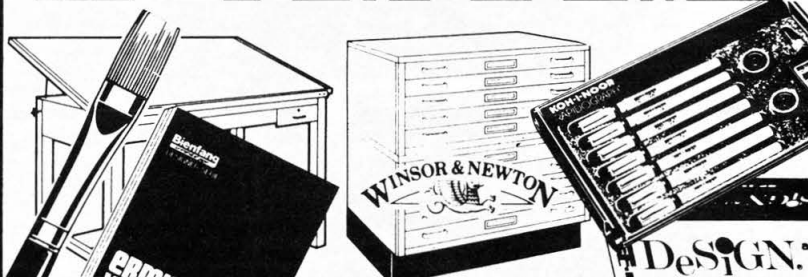
Wednesday, April 12

The Cabaret Metro, 3730 N. Clark, presents the Blind Venetians with 13 Engines and the Overtones. For free tickets, call 654-4352. No cover for the women.

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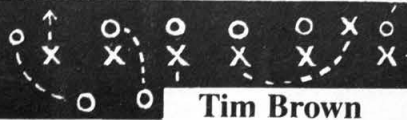
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Tim Brown

Locker room lines

Tourney thrills fans

Thoughts of the NCAA Tournament.

In the past week, the NCAA Tournament has unfolded some stories that have put excitement to the basketball fan.. In this column, I have combined some thoughts of the tournament that have happened so far.

- How about the Michigan Wolverines, advancing to the third round without coach Bill Frieder, who left on the spur of the moment, to take on the coaching job at Arizona.

- Isn't it about time the Big Ten make a respectable showing. For teams have advanced to the third round. Wouldn't it be something if there were an All-Big Ten final four... I'm only dreaming.

- How many people thought that the Princeton Tigers should of beaten the Georgetown Hoyas in round one of the tournament.

- Talk about a team on the rebound, Oklahoma won by one point in the first round to East Tennessee St., 72-71, and then beat Louisiana Tech 124-81. How about that for a team who was almost eliminated.

- Among all the controversy, how about this one. J.R. Reid of North Carolina didn't play in the second round game against UCLA, because he missed the curfew. You gotta give credit, where credit is due, and Dean Smith deserves all of the credit here for having the guts to sit out his star player.

- The one team that grabbed the press spotlight was Ball State. Ball State, under the direction of coach Rick Majerus advanced to the second round by defeating favored Pittsburgh, 68-64, and later falling to Illinois 72-60. Just remember that Ball State has everybody will be returning next year.

- De Paul shocked everybody, by advancing to the second round, not bad for a team that can only get better.

- Digger Phelps, with their teams new green colors, coached the Irish in a respectable fashion. The Irish beat Vanderbilt, 81-65, but lost to Georgetown 81-74. If you have wondered, Georgetown has had a tough time in the tournament so far.

- Okay, how many people predicted that Minnesota would make the sweet sixteen. The Golden Gophers beat Kansas St. 86-75, and then went on to beat Siena (who) 80-67. The Big Ten must be a tough conference.

- How about the floor at the University of Boise. That bright blue outside of the three-point-range is wild. It has to be one of the brightest floors in college basketball, if not the brightest. It sure woke me up when I was watching the games that were played there.

Although there were a couple of upsets in the first round, most of the favorites advance to the third round. But one must admit these first round games proved to be pretty exciting.

NCAA experts want to narrow the tournament to 32 teams, but if they only realized that these underdogs add spice to the tournament. It wouldn't be the same if only the favorites were in the tournament,....now would it?

AL West gets competitive

by Joe Gilleran

Baseball preview of the 1989 American League West.

After winning last year's All-Star Game and finishing with a record of 104-58, the best record in all of baseball, the Oakland A's were picked by many to win the World Series. The Los Angeles Dodgers dropped the mighty A's in five games. Since 1980, the American League has won the World Series four times.

The Texas Rangers have not won their division in 16 years. However, they have acquired strike-out king, Nolan Ryan, as well as .307 ex-Cub outfielder Rafael Palmeiro, the NL's No. 2 hitter of 1988. The Rangers also added another .300 hitter in second baseman Julio Franco, formerly with the Cleveland Indians.

Manager Bobby Valentine is looking for the Rangers to rise from last year's sixth place finish with a 70-91 record. In addition to Ryan, the Rangers have Bobby Witt and Charlie Hough in the rotation that led the league in complete games.

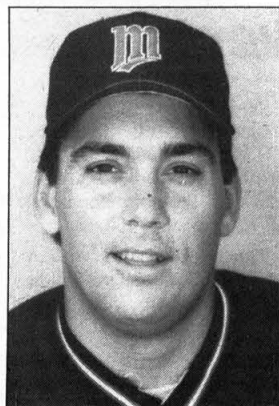
All-star Jeff Russell will replace new Cub Mitch Williams as bullpen closer. A big year from outfielders Ruben Sierra, Pete Incaviglia and Cecil Epps, along with veteran catcher Jim Sunberg, the Rangers may turn some heads in 1989.

As for the rest of the American League West, the Oakland A's have MVP Jose Canseco, baseball's first 40-40 player, and Fireman of the Year Dennis Eckersley. In addition, the A's have AL Rookie of the Year Walt Weiss and Mark McQuire, who hit .260 last year while hitting 32 home runs and driving in 99 runs.

With some strong pitching from Storm Davis, Rick Honeycutt, Dave Stewart, Bob Welch, Eric Punk and Mike

Moore, Manager Tony LaRussa has a balanced pitching attack to go with the A's awesome hitting power. With the best record in baseball last year, 104-58, many experts see the A's as the division again.

The other powerhouse in the West is the Minnesota Twins. With a middle lineup of Kirby Puckett (.365 average, 121 RBIs), Kent Hrbek (.312, 25 HRs 76 RBIs), and a healthy Gary Gaetti (.301, 28, 88), the Twins show enormous hitting power. Lead-off man Dan Gladden posted a .269 average and had 28 steals in 1988.



Kent Hrbek

The Twins also led the major leagues in total defense for two years in a row. The Twins need at least one more good starting pitcher to complement Cy Young winner Frank Viola, who was 24-7 last year, and Allen Anderson, the AL's earned-run average leader at 1.26.

Minnesota also has one of the best relievers in the game, Jeff Reardon, who posted 42 saves last year. Juan Berenguer was 8-4 with a 3.41 earned-run average. The Twins added veteran Shane Rawley, 8-16 last year from the Phillies in exchange for disappointing second baseman Tommy Herr.

As for the Kansas City Royals,

it's now or never for many of their veterans including George Brett, Frank White, Willie Wilson, Charlie Leibrandt, Floyd Bannister and Bill Buckner.

Ex-Royal manager John Wathan must keep the bickering veterans to provide leadership qualities to young stars Danny Tartabull, Bo Jackson, Kurt Stillwell and Kevin Seitzer.

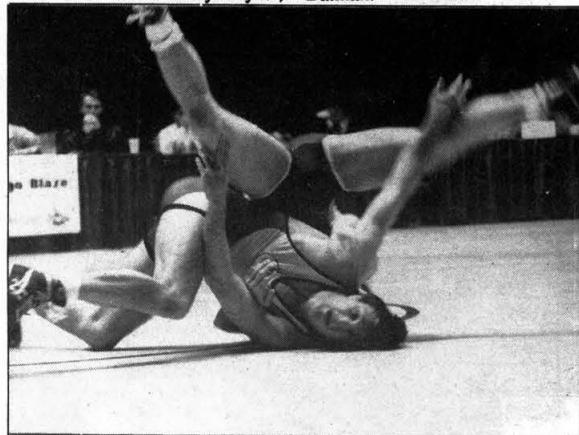
As for the California Angels, they need strong pitching from newly acquired Bert Blyleven, Willie Fraser, Mike Witt and Dan Petry. The infield has potential, but needs more run production. Wally Joyner, Mark McLemore, Dick Schofield and Jack Howell anchor the infield.

The outfield led by Chili Davis, Johnny Ray and Claudell Washington must cut down on errors in their defensive play to keep the team in the game.

The White Sox have young players that blend well with veterans Carlton Fisk, Harold Baines and Ron Kittle. If Kittle has a big year as well as Dan Pasqua, and more fine play from Ozzie Guillen and strong pitching performances from Jerry Reuss, Jack McDowell, Shawn Hillegas and Melido Perez, the White Sox will improve their 71-90 record.

The Sox have an underrated reliever in Bobby Thigpen and a possible sophomore sensation in Dave Gallagher. Also look to Greg Walker to have a big season, if he can stay healthy.

As for the Seattle Mariners, well, they have never been a .500 ballclub since joining the league in 1977. Their bright spots are few. Alvin Davis anchors the weak offense and Mark Langston anchors the pitching. The Mariners lost pitcher Mike Moore to free agency. Steve Trout is a bigger question mark than the one on Frank Gorshen's chest on "Batman."



Chronicle/Doug Merwin

Scott Hinkle (top) of the NWL's Chicago Blaze works his way to a 6-0 victory in the opening bout of the season opener.

in the 160-pound bout. John Johnson outpointed Jeff Jordan 7-3.

National Wrestling League rules allow for the final two bouts to be wrestled at any weight class. The 160 pound and 185 pound bouts were held at the end of the match. The best was yet to come when Chicago's Todd Yde clashed with Minnesota's Tim Manning. Yde took the early lead on points. Manning sustained a knee injury in the second period. In came John Johnson, the victor in the previous bout to replace Manning.

NWL rules allow one substitution a team each match. Yde continued to lead the bout on points in the third period when Chicago coach Randy Conrad replaced Yde with Bob Gruner, who wrestled aggressively. The 6-2 win gave the Blaze three points to tie the match at 15-15.

"I don't mind coming back," Conrad said to summarize the first night of NWL action. He thought that Mike Jones should have won his bout, but nonetheless Conrad said, "I felt we deserved to win."

Grapplers go pro in new league

By Andy Rabinowitz

On Tuesday March 21 sports history was made at the Rosemont Horizon. The National Wrestling League made its debut as the Chicago Blaze overcame a three-point deficit in the final bout to tie the Minnesota Grizzlies 15-15.

The NWL is the first league of its kind. Now former college and international wrestlers can further

their wrestling careers on a professional basis. No, this is not Hulk Hogan vs. the Iron Sheik.

The wrestlers on both teams represented a vast cross section of collegiate wrestling. Some had earned All-American status at major schools like Wisconsin and Illinois. The others earned recognition by competing at smaller schools on the Division II, Division III and at NAIA level

schools.

Nonetheless, the athletes provided a thrilling first night for the estimated 2,000 fans in attendance.

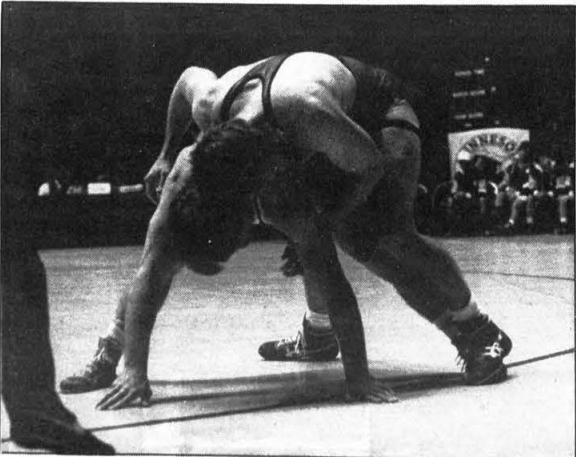
Chicago took an early 6-0 lead when Scott Hinkle pinned Jim Jackson at 1:17 of the second period in the 130-pound weight class.

At 140 pounds, Chicago's Bill Kelly edged Gary Lefebvre 5-4 to make the score 9-0. Chicago's 150 pound Kirk Azinger rolled the score up to 12-0 with a 10-5 victory over Dalen Wasmund.

The Blaze was on its way to dominating the match when the Grizzlies' Jim Zalesky beat Bob Gruner 12-8 at 170 pounds. Minnesota staged successful comeback. Two hundred pound Rod Sande outpointed the Blaze's Mike Jones 10-7. Jones had an early lead, but couldn't maintain it.

Minnesota trailed 12-6 going into the heavyweight bout. The Grizzlies' Chuck Vavrowski pinned Brad Kohler at 1:23 of the second period to tie the score at 12-12.

Minnesota took a 15-12 lead



Minnesota's Gary Lefebvre (on the mat) falls to Bill Kelly of the Blaze in the 140-pound weight class.