

10-31-1994

Columbia Chronicle (10/31/1994)

Columbia College Chicago

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THE COLUMBIA COLLEGE

Chronicle

VOLUME 28 NUMBER 6

OCTOBER 31, 1994



Columbia student Teresa Goodwin is immunized at a Board of Health clinic located on the North side. See story page 2.

Probation policy explained

By Joseph Schrank
Editorial Page Editor

A look into Columbia's academic probation policy opens a wide range of issues: there is no strict definition for academic probation; no concrete numbers to define it; and no readily available records for past years.

Columbia prides itself on serving its diverse population and the academic progress of students is handled in much the same manner. All students are evaluated by a complex set of regulations called the Academic Progress Policy, which is outlined in the Student Handbook.

This policy requires students to maintain a 2.0 grade point average and comply with the college's completion rate. Full-time students must complete 10 credit hours a semester, and part time students must complete six.

For example, a full-time student taking 12 credit hours must complete 10 to stay in compliance. If the student only completes six hours, he or she will be four hours out of compliance. The next semester, he or she will have to complete 14 hours to reach compliance.

Students taking only a few credit hours are evaluated separately.

The academic advising office evaluates students' grades at the end of each semester, and notifies those out of compliance by mail. Janet Talbot, director of academic advising, estimates 1,800-1,900 letters are sent out each semester.

"It's important to remember that each student is evaluated differently and a letter is an early warning," Talbot said. This, however, does not mean all students receiving letters are in serious academic trouble.

Steven Russell-Thomas, associate academic dean, estimates 200-250 students each semester are in academic probation. Russell-Thomas defines a student on probation as one who is in his or her third consecutive semester with a cumulative GPA 2.0 or an unsatisfactory completion rate, which is also cumulative.

One setback for students on academic probation is that they are ineligible to receive financial aid due to federal and state guidelines.

Russell-Thomas doesn't see probation as a negative for students. "Probation isn't punishment. It should be of academic assistance to a student," he said. Thomas sees probation as a time for a student to take full advantage of his or her academic advisor, the dean's office, bursar and teachers.

"Many of our students have full-time and part-time jobs," Thomas-Russell said. "Many have dependent children or other family responsibilities. College is just part of the big picture."

Talbot also emphasized this fact, and urged all students to talk with their advisors. "We can help students balance their school, work

See Probation
page 2

Faculty Prepares For 2001

By Tracey Robinson
Chronicle Faculty Advisor

East Troy, Wis. - In rustic Alpine Valley, where the green serves as a golf course in the summer and ski grounds in the winter, more than 300 members of Columbia's faculty, artists-in-residence and administrators retreated from the city college to design its future.

The annual faculty event, held Oct. 21 and 22 at the Alpine Valley Resort, focused on developing the first phase of a 10-year college-wide plan to address many educational and management issues facing Columbia.

Among the top issues were rising student enrollment, tougher course requirements, recruitment and retention, the changing complexion of the student minority community and preparing students for the high-tech job market of the 21st Century.

"This (the plan) is not an attempt to change the traditional mission...," said John Duff, the college president. "Our goal is still to maintain diversity and open access to all students who want to attend."

At the heart of many discussions was the challenge of maintaining academic standards while meeting the needs of students who enroll under the open admissions policy with a wide range of language and math skills.

"We have to make the open admissions policy more effective," said Pangratios Papacosta, a full-time faculty instructor of the science/math department. "While we invite students to Columbia, we must not abandon them. We must provide academic and other services to make sure they succeed at

Columbia."

According to a recent college report, "Designing the Future," Columbia is enjoying impressive growth and achievements. Since 1984, student enrollment has leaped by 59 percent. Today, more than 7,000 students attend.

While the college recruits the majority of students from the Chicago area, an increasing number of students are enrolling from throughout the region and the world, the report showed.

The report also shows:

*In the fall of 1993, 35 percent of students and 21 percent of full-time faculty were minorities.

*More than 180 full-time faculty and 680 part-time faculty work here, an increase of more than 150 percent since 1984.

*In the last two years, new facilities opened to include the Audio Technology Center, the Residence Hall, and the Center for Book and Paper Arts.

*Since 1984, the budget has grown by more than 214 percent and now totals \$48 million.

*About 68 percent of students return to Columbia after their freshman year. Another 32 percent do not.

*In the coming years, minorities, particularly Hispanics and Asian-Americans, working-age adults, and out-of-state students will make up a major portion of potential enrollment for the college while white and African-American enrollment will decline, according to changes in population growth.

During group discussions, faculty members at the retreat tackled the report's findings, expressed concerns and began to identify strategies to help the college chart

a new course.

Mark Kelly, associate provost of planning, said the suggestions of faculty will be summarized and compiled into a report to be sent out to the college community. He said the suggestions will serve as a framework to help the planning committee develop recommendations to move the college forward.

"It is always positive when faculty are included in the decision-making process," said Carolyn Hulse, director of news writing and reporting in the journalism department. "Only when we see results will we be able to measure the effectiveness of the process."

In his group, Papacosta said faculty members suggested that the college develop a better way to identify early students who are not prepared to handle academic demands.

The group also suggested strengthening the math and writing learning centers, expanding the freshmen seminars, hiring more advisors and enhancing the quality of instruction and facilities across the college.

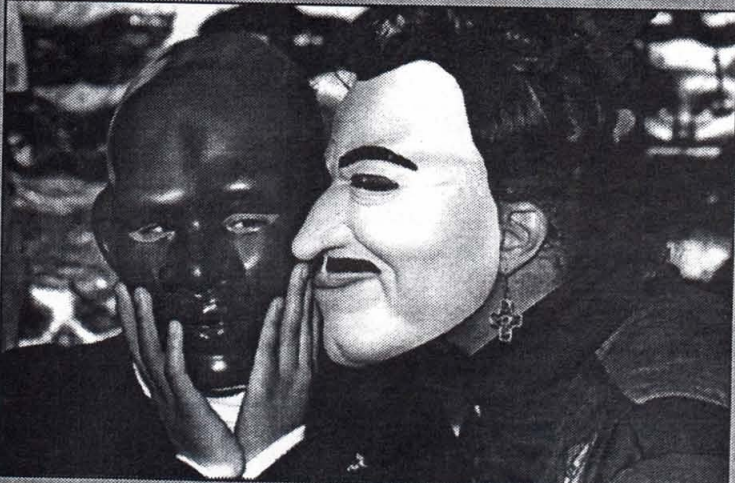
"It makes good economic sense," Papacosta said. "Once the students are here. We can't afford to lose them."

Recruitment and retention were on the minds of many faculty members, said John Moore, associate dean of student affairs. To plan for the future, Columbia must do a better job, he said.

"We need to take a wholistic approach to retain the students that we have. Students must feel like they have a place to come when they have problems so they can graduate."

See Future
page 3

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



The Columbia College Chronicle gets in the Halloween spirit. See special section, pages 6 and 7.

Chris Swada / Chronicle

Councils bring power to students

By Mi'Chaela Mills
Correspondent

Ever wonder who pays for and comes up with the ideas for elaborate campus events such as Dance Africa, Fashion Columbia and the Columbia Cares Toy Drive?

Students do, for the most part.

Three student-run councils create and coordinate many of the special events on campus to boost student morale and to promote Columbia. They are: the Hokin Student Advisory Board (HSAB), the Residence Community Council (RCC) and the Student Organization Council (SOC).

The RCC governs the residence center, helps establish resident policies and holds special events such as an annual trip to Six Flags in St. Louis, a Halloween party, a Thanksgiving dinner for the homeless, and a community project called Adopt-a-Block.

"We help to create an environment that is positive," said RCC Chairman Tyrone Green about the RCC.

The RCC meets every Tuesday at 10 p.m. at the Residence Center. The Student Organization

Council, 1,000 students strong, is the umbrella for 20 active clubs, with memberships ranging from 20 to 165 students.

According to Assistant Dean of Student Life Madeline Roman-Vargas, the SOC recognizes and funds the clubs, and makes many resources and much equipment available to the clubs.

Each year, the college allocates \$50,000 to the SOC to support club activities and programs. For a club to gain SOC standing, it must have a minimum of 15 student members and an agenda that promotes student morale and achievement.

Many students hang out in the Hokin Center and Annex in the Wabash Building, where a cup of coffee and a jumbo cookie go a long way to wake up creative minds.

Opened in September 1987, the Hokin is the brainchild of students who wanted a spot to exhibit their artwork, perform on stage, watch films and enjoy live entertainment.

The group that makes the events happen is the Hokin Student Advisory Board. The board, made up of 16 members, is chaired by one student from each academic department, one undeclared student and

one advisor. To join, students must fill out applications to be reviewed by members of the board.

HSAB Chair Michael Wojcik said the board operates a \$70,000 annual budget, a large portion of which comes from student activity fees. The board sponsors two major events: the Columbia Cares Toy Drive and the Spring Fest. It also offers \$500 a year for one student project.

Getting students involved, however, is sometimes a difficult feat at Columbia because the majority of students commute, say student leaders who must plaster the campus with fliers, hold club orientations and spread the word to get good turnouts.

Still, many students interviewed said they were unaware that the councils and clubs existed.

"I don't know much about the councils," said Senior Scott Steinberg, a liberal arts student. "All I do is go to school, go home and go to work."

For more information about club memberships, contact the Office of Student Life in room 301 of the Wabash Building.

Columbia says: get your shots

By Tina Wagner
Staff Photographer

Just because many students have failed to fulfill Columbia's immunization requirement does not necessarily mean an epidemic will break out on campus. However, some students will be walking around with empty pockets.

Students who are unable to prove they took the required shots will be charged \$50. Bursar Bob Paasch said students will be fined on or after Nov. 11.

Debra McGrath, assistant provost of students affairs, said Columbia will use the money from the student fines to bring in nurses from Grant Hospital in Lincoln Park.

The nurses will administer shots to students from Nov. 29 to Dec. 1 in the Torco Building's faculty lounge. McGrath said this is a sincere effort to provide students with another opportunity to fulfill their immunization requirements.

Although the number of unimmunized students has not been compiled yet, McGrath said she expects positive results. "My feeling is that most of the students are

in compliance or close to it," McGrath said. Many students have received at least one of their required shots.

She said students have been extremely cooperative. "The school does realize that this is an inconvenience for students, especially those who are from out of state and are trying to track down their records from their home state," McGrath said.

In 1989, Illinois passed a law requiring every college to submit a report to the Department of Health's Immunization Section accounting for the number of students who are immunized for measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria and tetanus.

Columbia is required to send this report to the state showing how many students have not complied with the law.

Many students have not had diphtheria, tetanus and measles boosters in the last 10 years. The law was passed to catch that population.

Students who are pregnant, have religious objections, or have special medical conditions can be exempt from the immunization requirement.



STUDENT MOVEMENT

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Probation from page 1

and family life," she said. "We are here and all students are welcome, especially those with academic problems, but those without are strongly encouraged to take advantage of academic advising."

She feels there are many students whose higher GPA and completion rate allow them to slip by advising while career focus and planning suffer.

"We can't help students that don't come and see us," Talbot said. Thomas-Russell said students should maintain a strong sense of responsibility for their educations.

Even with the assistance of student services, some students are expelled from Columbia for poor grades or completion rate. "About 80-90 students per year are dismissed for poor scholarship," Thomas-Russell said. 85 students were dismissed prior to this school year. Students are eligible to reapply to Columbia one year after dismissal.

Students are dismissed after they maintain a cumulative GPA below 2.0 or a serious completion rate deficiency for four consecutive semesters.

Columbia, unlike many colleges and universities, does not accept new students who are on probation at other schools. This is a spinoff of the open admissions policy.

The actual number of Columbia students on academic probation is much smaller than the number listed in a study done by Institutional Research. The study reports the number of undergraduates on academic probation for the fall 1993 is approximately 540. The actual number is between 200 and 250.

Anne Foley, director of institutional research, said the study just considered students with a cumulative GPA below 2.0. She said the intent of the study is for administrators to evaluate trends and make policy, and the Academic Progress Policy takes much more into consideration when computing academic probation.

"Below 2.0 is the clearest quantifiable factor for students in academic trouble we came up with," Foley said.

Russell-Thomas believes students on academic probation are distributed evenly among racial and ethnic categories in the college.

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Donaldson hosts Columbia event

By Chris McGathey
Correspondent

Sam Donaldson, investigative reporter and co-host of ABC's "PrimeTime Live," will be in town next month to help celebrate the 20th anniversary of Chicago's communication industry.

Donaldson will be the keynote speaker at the Chicago Communications luncheon on Wednesday, Nov. 16, at the Chicago Marriott Hotel.

The luncheon will also benefit the Al Weisman fund for the advancement of Communications Education at Columbia. The fund, originated in 1974, has raised \$400,000 in the past to assist close to 400 Chicago communication students.

Donaldson's appearance will also feature a luncheon to benefit the Al Weisman Fund for the Advancement of Communications Education at Columbia. The fund,

which originated in 1974, has raised \$400,000 in the past for nearly 400 Chicago communication students. Weisman was known as one of the most noted communicators.

Newton Minow, chairman of the FCC during the Kennedy administration, will introduce Donaldson. Chicago Sun-Times columnist Irv Kupcinet will serve as Honorary Chair.

"This is going to be a really big seller," said Assistant Director for the Development of Special Events and Marketing Services Gilliane Moore. "The luncheon has already sold 500 tickets." They are coming in fast and furiously and reservations for tables are being made early.

Donaldson also appears on "This Week With David Brinkley." Donaldson was named Best Television Correspondent in Business in 1986, 1987, 1988, and 1989 by the Washington Journalism Re-

view. Donaldson has investigated everything from corrupt judges to the truths behind smoking. His reporting has earned him three Emmy Awards and a George Peabody Award. As a 25-year veteran of the journalism field Donaldson will be a unique contributor to this year's celebration luncheon.

The reception will begin at 11:30 a.m. and be followed by the luncheon at 12:15 p.m. Individual tickets can be purchased for \$40 a person, if reserved, and \$45 on the day of the event. Tables of 10 are \$350 and Scholar tables are priced at \$600.

Reservations must be made by November 4, 1994. Checks should be made out to Chicago Communications/20 and then sent to Columbia College. For more information and to make reservations call Columbia at (312) 663-1600 ext. 287

Future from page 1

To help relieve the problem, Dr. Jean Lightfoot, dean of students, is proposing several measures that include expanding mentoring programs, peer tutoring, a series of straight talk sessions between faculty and students and student leadership projects.

Among other concerns were rising tuition costs. At Columbia, the gap between a semester's tuition and federal grants has widened from \$0 in 1983 to \$2,003 in 1993,

the report showed.

Eric May, an instructor in the fiction writing department posed this question:

"How are we going to make sure that we don't wind up pricing ourselves away from the students we are trying to reach?"

"That includes people from the inner city, the working class and the poor. We want to continue to serve them," he said.

May also said Columbia has to start thinking bigger. In fact, globally. Since colleges must compete for a shrinking pool of college-age students, they must recruit beyond

the city or region.

"We have to make contacts with an international market of students," he said. "Our future will depend on it."

The two-day retreat ended with many renewed friendships, a feeling of contribution among faculty and a vision for a better Columbia. By most accounts, it was a positive first step. Now the work begins.

People YOU should KNOW



Vanessa Cross

Who she is:

Vanessa Cross is a senior pursuing a degree in journalism. Cross recently published her first book, *An Anthology of Black Folk Wit, Wisdom, and Sayings*. It is a collection of African, Caribbean and African-American proverbs and is currently available at most major bookstores. For the past three years, Cross has been freelancing for the *Chicago Sun-Times*, *Vegetarian Times*, *Afrique* and *In Sinc*.

Favorite proverb in the book:

Cross thinks this Ashanti proverb is the most poignant: "The ruin of a nation begins in the homes of its people."

Upcoming projects:

Cross is starting research on her new book about the Chicago Renaissance, an African-American arts movement that occurred in Chicago from 1935-1950.

Her Columbia experience:

"Columbia's strength is the teachers who work in the field and who are very willing to help you make connections. That's invaluable."

Advice to students:

"Don't feel that just because you're in school you can't get your feet wet."

By Andrew Holland
News Editor

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M & H CLUB MEDITATION & HEALING ARTS

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DATE: Mon, October 31
TIME: 2:30 p.m.

PLACE: Rm. 1004, Torco Bldg.
624 S. Michigan

Faculty Advisor: Louis Silverstein

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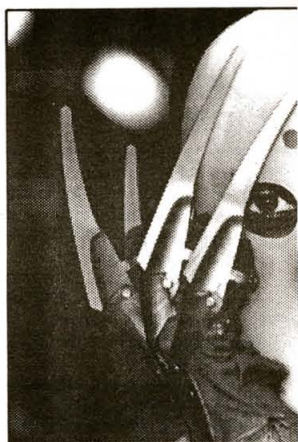
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Penny Lawrence



Where to find costumes

By John Harris
Staff Writer

Every October, the search for originality sends people foraging for new ideas. Everyone's looking for that certain something that will set them apart from the crowd, and Jim Fuenfle's no different.

He's a big Nirvana fan, and wanted to dress as Chris Novaselic, the bassist for the band. "Last year at the MTV music awards, he accidentally hit himself in the head with his bass when he was throwing it around," Fuenfle said. "He nearly knocked himself out. It was great. What I need is some facial hair and a cheap plastic guitar that I can cut up a little bit and glue to my head."

Dressing as controversial public figures seems to be a popular trend. Last year it was the Lorena and John Wayne Bobbit story that captured the public's imagination. Bloody knives and a rubber penis were popular props among women, while many men wore blood-soaked sweatpants.

This year, the O.J. and Nicole Simpson story seems to capture every headline, with everyone trying to get in on the action. Costume and mask makers are no exception. The likeness of O.J.'s poorly shaven mug shot is popping up in costume shops all around the country in the form of a rubber mask. In light of making fun of such a macabre subject, some stores refuse to carry the mask or anything related to the O.J. trial.

Mary Hickey, an employee at the Chicago Costume Company, 1120 W. Fullerton Ave., said her store refuses to carry such items. "We don't carry any mask, look or merchandising for O.J. If that's what customers want, I'll give them my opinion and tell them they can go somewhere else."

John Kaufmann, owner of Kaufmann Costumes, located at

5065 N. Lincoln, echoes Hickey's sentiments. "As far as the O.J. stuff goes, we don't want to touch something like that. There are plenty of other things out there that you can be."

So the question is, what else is hot? The immediate reply from the costume shops is: the one and only Mighty Morphin Power Rangers. Chuck Giovencio, an employee of Fantasy Headquarters costume shop, 4065 N. Milwaukee Ave., said his store can hardly keep Power Rangers costumes in stock. "We've sold thousands of them, and the demand hasn't slowed down. Kids are nuts for those guys."

For the adults, the standard fare of Dracula, Frankenstein and the mummy are still popular, but there are some other new entrants on the best seller list. Once again appealing to the dark side, the recent death of actor Raul Julia has sparked an interest in Gomez Addams. According to Giovencio, it seems to be a popular costume if people are going out as couples. "You can pair it up with Morticia, which makes the perfect pair," he said.

Another popular and less expensive costume is the mask from none other than the movie *The Mask*. "It's been real popular with the adults, and you can do it for a more reasonable price," Giovencio said. "Just buy the mask and wear weird clothing."

If you believe that Halloween is about calling back the spirits, you may be in luck this year. Elvis is back with a vengeance due to the Lisa-Marie and Michael Jackson wedding. "Elvis always seems popular, but this year the demand seem to be greater than ever," said Hickey. "You have so many options with him; you can go out as the early and slender Elvis or you can try look of his heavier late years. Customer demand seems to be split down the middle."



Chris Sweda

Chronicle se

By Victoria Sheridan
Advertising Manager

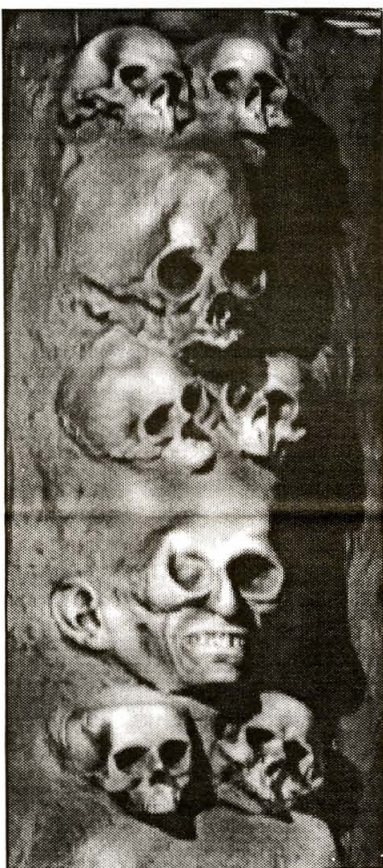
Maybe some people have seen Mary Bregovy; she's a pretty girl, bordering on her early twenties. Mary's claim to fame is her fetish for hitchhiking on Archer Avenue in Justice, Illinois. When Mary's not thumbing for a ride, a side sport she enjoys is checking drivers' reflexes by running in front of speeding cars.

In this day and age, taking rides from strangers and darting out in front of moving cars has a low ranking on the personal safety scale. One would assume that Mary is either a dare-devil, or she doesn't value her life. On the contrary, Mary does value her life. That is why she returned from the dead to react the last few moments of her life for eternity.

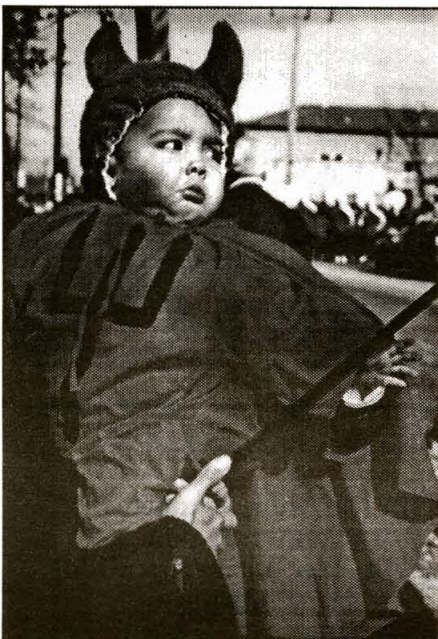
Mary Bregovy, more commonly known as Resurrection Mary, was coming home from a party downtown in a car full of people, when the driver lost control. The car crashed into one of the poles holding up the train, causing Mary to hit her head. She was laid to rest in Resurrection Cemetery in 1934 in her favorite party dress. She died one month before her twenty-first birthday.

Resurrection Mary is Chicago's most famous ghost. She's had more television coverage than your average ghost. Her credits range from the now defunct *That's Incredible*, to CNN, to *Unsolved Mysteries*.

Mary does things normal ghosts



Penny Lawrence



Penny Lawrence





Chris Sweda



Searches for Resurrection Mary



Penny Lawrence

don't. Instead of the door-slamming, moaning, and stairwalking, common ghost activities, Mary faces with her public. Mary comes up to car windows, asks for a ride, then chats with her driver for a while. She then asks to be dropped off in front of Resurrection Cemetery. As she leaves the car, she turns into mist and vanishes.

"She's a very attractive girl. She's very pleasant and has a magnetic personality," said Richard Crow, a Chicago full-time ghost hunter.

In August, 1976, a local police officer noticed that the bars to the cemetery gates had burned hand prints in them. Apparently, during one of Mary's grand exits from a car, the driver ran after her. Making her escape, Mary grabbed a hold of the Cemetery bars, leaving her hand print melted in the gates behind her. Even after ongoing minor repairs were made, the gates were finally rewelded in December, 1978. All that remains are two black spots where the gates were rewelded, but never painted.

Another habit Mary has is running out in front of moving cars, putting the driver in cardiac arrest. Upon impact, the young girl the driver thought he/she hit turns out to be nothing more than mist.

More recently, Mary has been seen floating down Archer Avenue with no feet and no face. Joe Esposito was coming home late one night with a bunch of friends when he saw a faceless and footless Mary. "She was floating really fast up the

hill," Esposito said. "We were scared, but we turned the car around and followed her anyway. We could barely keep up with her."

According to Crow, the last recorded sighting of a Mary without a face was last August. "She wasn't completely faceless; it was more like her face wasn't fully formed," Crow said. He added that Mary had been seen floating along with no face in the rain, yet she remains perfectly dry.

"It's an urban folktale and those are very popular," Crow said, "but at the same time, people have seen her since the '40s and '50s. People who have never met each other are describing the same person, with the same details; the buttons on her dress, the curls of her hair. It's not people's imagination; it's not a hoax."

The local police have a different version of the tale of Resurrection Mary.

"Yeah, we get sightings," said Sergeant Malek of the Justice police department, which is down the street from the cemetery, "but they're usually from people who are intoxicated." None of the officers have ever seen Mary. The one that found the hand prints on the cemetery gates in 1976 was transferred to a different department in the police system. To the officers of Justice, Mary is a hindrance that draws tourists and cemetery gate hoppers.

"There's a bus that tours alleged haunted," said Corporal Shriner of the Justice police department.

Crow is responsible for one of those bus tours. His ghost tours are very popular throughout

Chicagoland. At the same time, Crow sympathizes with the Justice police department, "They do a lot of extra hard work around Halloween," Crow said.

"Every year they line up to see her. They usually end up doing something on television and that brings them out," Shriner said. "But most of them are sightseers from Chicago."

The people who run Resurrection Cemetery aren't thrilled about all the hype Mary gets. "No, we're not really happy about it," said Ray Pawalak, the office manager of Resurrection Cemetery.

"Every year this happens, and there's nothing we can do," Pawalak said. "The whole thing is blown out of proportion."

The general consensus of cemetery staff is that no one has ever seen Mary. "We haven't witnessed anything. We know nothing about it," Pawalak said.

The *Chronicle's* own investigation for Resurrection Mary turned out to be Mary-less. As a matter of fact, at around midnight, while the *Chronicle* was at Resurrection Cemetery, so were two other carloads of people. The biggest attraction in lieu of Mary was the handprinted bars on the cemetery gates. Sure enough, the bars had no trace of any handprints, but there was no paint where the handprints should have been. One girl in the caravan explained that each time the cemetery paints over it, the paint just burns off. Richard Crow says that's not true. "They just didn't bother painting it. It would be impossible to match the original color of the gate."



Penny Lawrence



Chris Sweda



Penny Lawrence



Bigness ignores domestic violence

To the Editor:

October is Domestic violence awareness month. Yet the silent treatment is given to the national epidemic. Even after all the press this topic has been issued it remains many are not aware of the problem that faces women today. That problem is domestic abuse. I am not happy in the fact that a progressive institution such as Columbia has failed to recognize the situation. I would think that the school that tries to be free thinking would make an effort to include education on this problem.

I read Jon Bigness' column in the 10-10-94 *Chronicle*. I thought finally someone would address the O.J. issue with intelligence. I hoped to read a viewpoint from an open minded college student who did research on the topic. Instead, I read a poorly written article where the author couldn't come up with a different outlook. His conscience grappled with him throughout and in the end he came to the conclusion he could kill the jury on which he resided and become famous like O.J. To Jon's credit, he decided that wouldn't be the way to handle the spotlight. I think the Simpson trial should be addressed on the matter on which this all started. O.J. was a hero but also an abuser of women. Here are a few facts students should be aware of before passing judgement.

An estimated 3 to 4 million Ameri-

can women are battered each year by their husbands or partners.

The FBI reports that 30 percent of female homicide victims by their husbands or boyfriends. Six percent of male homicide victims are killed by their wives or girlfriends.

One out of four women have been or are currently in an abusive relationship.

Domestic violence is not limited to hitting. It ranges from verbal and controlling abuse. If someone forces you to do something that you would rather not do, that is abuse. An insult is the base of abuse.

It is not limited to the lower income, uneducated set. It can occur in any home to anyone. One of the most ignored groups is the college student. I am a college student. I have a steady job and I am far from illiterate. I am white and from an upper class family. I had everything when I was a child. I am a victim of domestic violence.

I've learned over the past year that I am not alone. I hope other women come forward to face their dilemma. I hoped that since the national incident more educational outreach programs would become available. Through counseling and group support I have overcome this problem and learned to move ahead. I am involved in helping obtain a grant for a program that would allow more victims to get immediate help and shelter (if necessary). Work-

ing along with the hospitals and police departments, this program hopes that women who were once afraid to get out of the relationship will now be able to leave. This program will also include help for children who are abused.

Look around you. Look at your girlfriend. Look at your mother. Look at your sister. One of these is a victim of domestic abuse.

I think the subject of abuse needs to be addressed in a serious manner, not in the manner that Mr. Bigness chose. I understand that maybe he didn't want to write about O.J. like the tabloids have. Jon wanted to look at the incident in a different way. Well I'll tell you how one can address this topic like no other. Write an intelligent column on the abuse epidemic. Maybe Columbia could develop a program that could help victims. I would like it to come to a point where we at Columbia could be more aware of the situation and be pro-active. It would be a shame to lose a student to such a heinous crime.

Jon, you probably don't know what I look like but next time you are on the elevator or in the Hokin Cafeteria, find me. You may not be able to spot me right away. I am the one out of four who is a victim of domestic violence. Open your eyes, I am all around.

Deborah Shnay

Feminists aren't against motherhood

To the Editor:

The following statements are regarding Marsha L. Bowie's comments about feminist views on child rearing, published in the *Chronicle*.

While she seems sincere in her beliefs, I would like to know where she obtained her "facts." Ms. Bowie quotes the Bible as being factual. I am sorry, while I can respect the Christian view point, I do not subscribe to it myself. For me, and I assume for others, this is not factual.

This feminist does not believe that "children are oppressive to women." One of the unique parts of being a woman is being able to have a child. When someone threatens a woman's right to raise her child, that is oppressive.

Ms. Bowie states in her article that it is unfair that taxpayers should have to pay for child care for women who have to work. What are their other options: to not allow that woman to work and to force her to raise her family on a welfare check in an environment that could be unhealthy for her and her child? Even worse, that child may be forced to stay home unsupervised or with inadequate care.

Obviously a woman who chooses to work but does not need to can afford to place her child in an adequate child care facility. All women, regardless of their income bracket, need access to child care resources.

We need to remember that it takes two to make a child. Every child has a father, and we often forget that they too need to be held accountable. The amount of money owed by dead beat dads would more than cover the cost of child care for most single moms. Ms. Bowie addresses this issue by placing the blame on the mother, as if it was her fault because she chose motherhood. Sacrifices are part of being a parent, not just a mother.

Ms. Bowie also states that "feminists are against motherhood." She goes on to say that we resent the tasks involved with motherhood like: changing diapers, feeding our children and staying up late at night with crying babies. These tasks are not limited to mothers alone. Maybe we should spend less time teaching our daughters that these responsibilities are theirs exclusively and more time teaching our sons that they too can partake in the not-so-pleasant parts of parenting.

Since when are feminists against

motherhood? Mothers by choice and lesbian mothers aren't getting pregnant by accident. Why would they resent motherhood? When you plan a pregnancy, you take into account that you're going to have to take some time off work or find adequate care for your child.

Feminists don't resent motherhood. They believe that being a full-time mom is just as respectable as being president of a Fortune 500 company except moms don't get paid. Fifty-three percent of working women don't receive any maternity benefits from their employers. Living with these conditions, a woman has a right to feel trapped and denied her right fulfillment.

Ms. Bowie sounds like a woman who respects motherhood. It is frustrating that she finds it necessary to criticize the feminist community, a community of support for women and their children. It is especially frustrating that she, as many young women have today, has lost sight of what feminism represents: equality between men and women, equality in the workplace and equality as parents.

Sincerely,
Sarah Probst

BIG & small of it

By Jon Bigness
Correspondent

As I pound out this week's column, there are other things that I really should be doing. After all, I'm not getting any credit hours for writing for the *Chronicle*. Nor do I need more column clips for my file; so, why bother?

What would people have to whine about, if not for my weekly column? I fill a void in the lives of people who might otherwise be complaining about long lines at McDonald's or about the poor programming on cable TV. It's my job to be here for those people.

Anyway, what I should be doing is homework. Unless you're a physical education major, you have homework, too. Most people hate it; they'd rather be doing things like spending time with their families or friends. Or maybe they have time-consuming jobs. All of those things are surely as important to good social development as homework.

That's the position of a couple of school board officials in the San Francisco area. According to a recent Associated Press article that appeared in the *Chicago Tribune*, both officials cite the need for children to spend more time with their families. That can also be said for college students.

"[Homework is] inherently unfair, and I think we should abolish it," Garrett Redmond, of the Cabrillo Unified School District, told the AP.

Coincidentally, the *Tribune* ran a story the same day about how the state does a poor job of funding its schools. Illinois ranks 22nd or lower, according to the article. The gist of the story is that if the state has bad schools, it will not only turn out bad students, but it will lose businesses that attract jobs. If businesses leave, the state economy goes to hell.

So, you might be asking, what's the point?

The point is that students of every economic level cannot totally rely on their schools to give them good educations. It's a mistake to trust your school to give you all the tools you'll need to be a successful student because schools don't always act in the best interests of all their students.

Take Columbia College, for example. It's a fine institution that opens its doors to everyone. No matter what your background, whether you were your high school valedictorian or a GED recipient, Columbia welcomes you with open arms.

Yet open enrollment is not necessarily a good thing. In my experience here, I've shared classes with more GED recipients than valedictorians. I'm exaggerating, of course, but what I'm saying is that slower students keep brighter students from getting further ahead.

When 90 percent of the class is bored with the day's lesson because 10 percent of the class doesn't get it (whatever "it" might be), that's not good schooling. The 10 percent who don't get it should be in classes that are more their level and speed so that the 90 percent can get on with a valuable learning experience.

I'm sorry if that offends anyone. God knows I wouldn't want that to happen. That's the way of the world: if you can't keep up, get the hell out of the way.

That's why it is so imperative that you do everything to stay ahead in the game. Don't just do your homework because that will keep you average. Go above and beyond what you're asked to do. If your teacher tells you to read one chapter in your book, then read two. If you're told to write a one-page paper, write two pages.

Do your best at everything. Don't be a lukewarm learner. Lukewarm is good if you're talking about coffee or pizza. Get hot for education. Hit those books like it means something to you.

Well, that's my pep talk for the semester. I trust everyone will now head to the library now to get that extra edge on education. Don't worry, your families and friends will still be there when you get out.

Bigness: Don't Generalize

Dear Jon Bigness,

I wish to respond to your article that appeared in the *Chronicle* on October 24. I can understand why you objected to the no smoking or alcohol rules, and even the absence of coffee at the Class Bash. I can relate to your dislike of rap and what you call "B-96 dance music." You certainly have a right to your opinion since I, an 18-year-old black woman, do not necessarily like some rap and dance music that is out today. Still it seems to me that if you somewhat expected to hear rap and hip-hop music at the Bash, it was up to you whether or not you attended. I'm sure no one forced you to go.

Perhaps you felt it was alright to hear this music as long as it was not played all night; this I can understand. It certainly was not fair that some of the music played was only for two groups of people, (though you seem to have failed to realize that people

other than blacks and Latinos may have appreciated at least some of the music). I agree that if Columbia has a multi-cultural student body, when functions like this one are held, the committee should hire a deejay that will cater to EVERYONE'S listening preference.

What is the point of my response? This article makes generalizations of three groups: blacks, Latinos and whites. Yet, in my opinion, it wasn't that bad until, of course, I got to the end of your article. The last two lines really offended me. It was almost as if you were trying to say that those who listen to rap or dance music or even dress a certain way are either drug dealers or criminals. Even though I was offended, I am not a person who lets too many things get to me. So no hard feelings, O.K.?

Tasha Lynette Clopton



Premarital Sex Defended

By John Biederman
Correspondent

Somebody has to do it.

Somebody has to defend premarital sex. Despite this century's "sexual revolution," HIV has paved the way for "anti-premarital-sex" groups to thrive on public paranoia. Organizations, like Project Reality and True Love Waits, spout dogmatic slogans like "Pet your dog, not your date," attracting up to 1,000 youths at rallies. Meanwhile, the majority of people are for premarital sex. (You want stats? Open your eyes! Do you even know a virgin?)

Is this why "pro-sex" opinion is silent? That sheer numbers justify no need to extol its merits? No -- while premarital sex is "accepted" by the majority, celibacy is touted in attitude. Anti-sex ideas arose from outdated religious ideals. Even among "non-followers," celibacy is seen as commendable -- an unquestioned virtue. People are more than willing to place standards on others they themselves would never follow. The result is that someone looking for guidance in his or her own sexual decisions has nowhere to turn (other than the good feelings in their own groin) for the pro-sex platform ... until now.

Okay, before you start sending the mail bombs, let me clarify what I'm not advocating. I'm not advocating sex between youngsters. (notice I didn't write minors for that implies a legal age, and such a boundary is impossible to place.) Premarital assumes emotional maturity. Nor am I advocating promiscuity or unsafe sex.

I am advocating and encouraging premarital sex. At the same time, I believe premarital abstinence is not a "virtue" but just plain stupid.

Yes, you read it right. I maintain that not only is premarital sex a wise decision, but that premarital celibacy is stupid.

First of all, not everybody is going to get married. As time goes on, more and more people are opting against marriage. For these people, premarital means forever. And divorce, coupled with an inherent difficulty finding that "special per-

son," adds to a large slice of our population spending great amounts of time single.

An adult life without sex is unhealthy. We go out of our way for the sake of nutritional, physical, and emotional health, and -- like it or not, you fundamentalists -- human beings are sexual animals with sexual health needs.

Secondly, for those of you who haven't tried it, good sex is one of the greatest (if not the greatest) pleasures. I'd give anything for some right now (Keep in mind that my definition of "good sex" has some principles involved.) We all deserve life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness -- and to me, and most, that includes good sex.

Lastly, I'll discuss the chief reason in favor of pre-marital sex, on the rare occasions it's defended: You've gotta test drive the car before you buy it. Okay, the wording lacks tact, but the essential truth behind it oozes wisdom. In fact, concerning sex and marriage, it's an immense understatement.

Who would argue against test driving a car before buying it? And who, in their right mind, would argue that your spouse is not more important than an automobile?

Before choosing a spouse, you should know them inside and out -- everything from morning habits to dearest dreams -- so why the hell shouldn't his or her sexual habits be scrutinized? Like it or not, sex is nature's reason for marriage. Sure, it's trendy to say "Sex isn't all that important, personality is so much more," and to a large extent I agree. You shouldn't be choosing mates on the basis of sexuality alone, but it is a critical factor.

Imagine you and your spouse abstaining until marriage only to find after the honeymoon that you possess a nearly insatiable drive while your spouse is indifferent to the whole thing. Or unwilling to try kinky little things you crave exploring.

I'm sure there've been millions of marriages that avoided premarital sex and still came up wonderful but I'm not taking that risk and I strongly urge everyone to have sex with any potential spouse before you plan that wedding.

Anybody wanna rally with me?

By Chris Jorgensen
Correspondent

Somebody please explain this to me because I think I got lost somewhere in the shuffle.

If I were to go out and shoot someone dead on the spot for little no reason, I would be put away for a very long time, possibly even get the death penalty. All the while I would be pinned down by my new boyfriend Mike, who is doing 10 to 20 for armed robbery, fight for the last roach in the potato salad, learn the proper ways for pissing in the sink and become a novice at making license plates.

That's a fact, right? We all agree on that.

Now let's suppose I am ten years old and for my school science project I decide to test the theory of gravity by dropping a five year old kid out of a fourteenth floor window. I mean hey, he ratted on me because I tried to get him to steal some candy. Boy am I in trouble.

Actually not, because according to Illinois law, they can't put me away for any longer than 30 days, so my punishment would most likely be home confinement. Man is that rough or what?

I just took away a human life (Hey, remember you snitched) and here I am now, stuck at home playing Sega, scarfing down Twinkies and never missing an evening of "T.G.I.F." on ABC.

What did I learn? Not only that I have no regard for human life but neither does the Illinois government. It is quite evident that the state judicial system is in need of a complete overhaul but no one seems to have the money to put up for a facility for children who are violent offenders.

Yeah, I may get a little taste of boarding school but what's that going to teach me? Just how to go

back into the world a meaner person.

I have a couple of ideas to cure this problem and save the state millions of dollars in court costs and jail time.

There is the infamous "three strikes and you're out" rule but my idea is a little more efficient. If you have a kid that commits such a hideous and immoral crime, shoot him dead on the spot.

This may seem harsh to you but it will work. Think about it, if some kid kills someone and you shoot him dead on the spot he will never have the chance to do it again plus it will give some cops a chance to use his gun for something besides a clever uniform accessory that just collects stains from those dastardly leaky jelly doughnuts.

Don't think this will work? Well just imagine if you were a kid considering killing someone for whatever reason it may be and you knew that if you did and you were caught and witnesses identified you at the scene you wouldn't have that option of being "grounded." It would be nothing more than Police Officer Joe emptying a round into the back of your head. No last requests, not even a Twinkie.

Sure, it may seem cruel but does a murderer have rights? What about the kid who will never have the chance to do the things that other kids get to do, like live?

I have one more idea but this concerns only the gangbangers. If you didn't like the last idea, then maybe you'll learn to appreciate this one.

There is all this worry about these gangbangers having guns and how we can get those guns away from them. Like that really cool "Swap your piece for some new sneakers." It's pretty sad when we have to resort to bribing by sucking up to these guys and sweeten-

ing the pot with gifts.

How did that one end up? Well, some kids got some really cool new shoes but deaths due to gang violence still rose to epic proportions. Sadly enough, most of those deaths were innocent victims who were in the wrong place at the wrong time.

This is where my idea would work. Instead of trying to get these guns away from them, which will never happen, let's show them the proper way of using their guns.

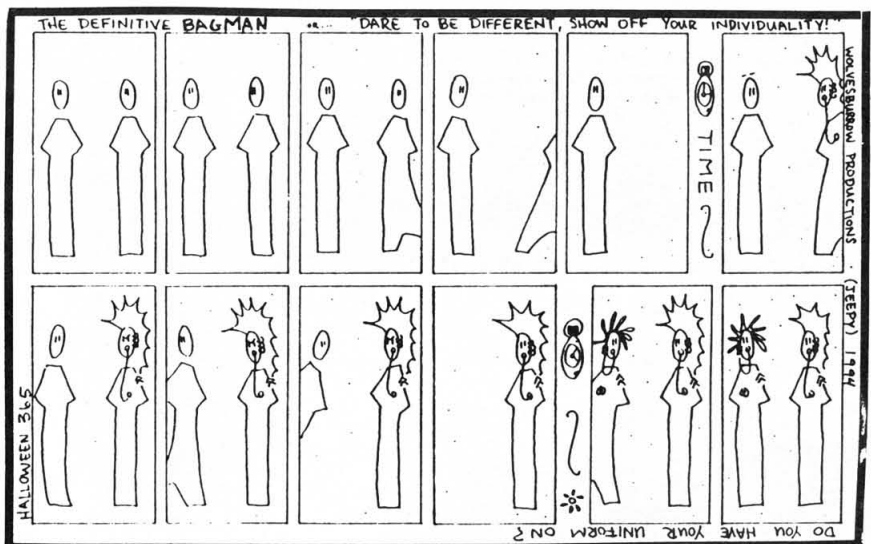
You can schedule workshops where the gangbangers can go to the Goldcoast Gun Club or some military firing range and take some practice shots. This will teach them how to hold it properly and line up the target (rival gangbangers) between the two slots and fire once and only once.

This way we are not worrying about the task of getting the guns away but instead showing them the intricacies of actually hitting their planned targets.

This plan would save so many innocent lives because they would actually know how to use the damn thing and get the job done right. Instead of watching so many innocent fall we would finally see results of the opposite and an eventual lessening of the gang community.

The first year or so would be bloody but at least they would be hitting the right guys this time. Sooner or later the gang community would weaken because they would finally be afraid of their rivals. And those who would have joined a gang before would know better now and possibly pursue a safer means of extracurricular activities.

It is evident that the system we are dealing with right now just isn't working and maybe my ideas seem a little drastic but desperate times call for desperate measures.



THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ON THE OP-ED PAGE OF THE CHRONICLE DO NOT REFLECT THOSE OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE, THE JOURNALISM DEPARTMENT OR THE CHRONICLE.

Submit your letter to the editor today! Bring submissions to room 802 of the Wabash building before 5 p.m. on Tuesday for the next week's issue. The length limit is one typed page.

Dates To Remember

Monday, October 31

Anatomy Halloween Costumes Contest. In room 509 of the Wabash Building, 623 S. Wabash. 11 a.m.
 Massage & Meditation Club meeting. In room 1004 of the Torco Building, 624 S. Michigan. 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 1

Muna Tseng Master Classes. At the Dance Center of Columbia College, 4730 N. Sheridan Rd. 10:30 a.m. - noon.

Wednesday, November 2

Theater Career Day. At the New Studio, 72 E. 11th St. 1 p.m.
 How to Prepare for Grad School Workshop. At the 3rd floor of the Wabash Building. 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.
 Interdisciplinary Forum on the Creativity Environment. In the Ferguson Theater, 600 S. Michigan. Ave. 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Thursday, November 3

Muna Tseng Master Classes. 10:30 a.m. - noon. (see Nov. 1).
 Student Organizations Day. All day in the Hokin Center, Wabash Building.
 1st Thursdays at the Residence Hall. Live entertainment, pastries and coffee provided. At the Residence Center, 731 S. Plymouth Ct.
 Best of "Film Techniques I" screening. In the Ferguson Theater, 600 S. Michigan Ave.
 Ego Corum Paribus Performance. In the Hokin Center, 623 S. Wabash Ave.

Friday, November 4

"My Neighborhood: Photography by Young Photographers and Their Mentors." An exhibition of photography by children and the adult photographers they learned from. At the Illinois Art Gallery in the Thompson Center, 100 W. Randolph St. Through Jan. 6, 1995.

Saturday, November 5

Invitation to the Internet. Free workshop, explanation of general tools for modern telecommunications: TCP/IP, Gopher, ftp, Mosaic, AOL, Eudora. In room 401 of the Wabash Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave. 1:30 p.m.

Destination MBA. A free educational seminar for minority college students and graduates interested in pursuing an MBA or obtaining information about management career opportunities. At the Palmer House Hilton Hotel, 17 E. Monroe St. 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. No advance registration required, sign-in begins at 8:30 a.m.

Skyway Jazz Festival. Performances by jazz groups from Waubesa Community College, Oakton Community College, the College of Lake County and Elgin Community College. At the College of Lake County auditorium, 19351 W. Washington, Grayslake. 9 a.m. - noon.

Monday, November 7

"Artistic Expressions of Science and Math." Exhibit of art projects that combine science or math with art. At the Hokin Annex, 623 S. Wabash Ave. Free. Through Nov. 25.

Thursday, November 10

The Pink. Performance by Muna Tseng Dance Projects. At the Dance Center, 4730 N. Sheridan Rd. 8 p.m. \$14.

Friday, November 11

The Pink. (see Nov. 10). \$16.

Saturday, November 12

Interactive Media in Europe. Free workshop, first-hand account of major arts/graphics festivals with videotapes and CD-ROM demonstrations. In room 411 of the Wabash Building. 1:30 p.m.

The Pink. (see Nov. 12).

Continuing Events:

"Abstracting Technology, Science and Nature." Retrospective on Los Angeles artist Susan Rastakis. At the Museum of Contemporary Photography, 600 S. Michigan Ave. Through Nov. 12.

"Words Against the Shifting Seasons: Drawings by Hollis Sigler." An extension of Sigler's exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art. Sigler is a Columbia art department staff member and a breast cancer survivor. At the 11th Street Campus Gallery, 72 E. 11th St. Through Nov. 18.

"Workbook: Journals and Ideas." An exhibition of books containing thoughts, impressions, and materials of 40 national artists in a variety of disciplines. At the Center for the Book and Paper Arts, 218 S. Wabash Ave. Through Nov. 18.

Graduation application and audit for January, June or August 1995 graduates. Deadline is Dec. 31, 1994. Apply at the Records Office in room 611 of the 600 S. Michigan Building.



Jean Reno (l.) stars as a hitman and Natalie Portman is his young protege in *THE PROFESSIONAL*.

The Introspective Professional

By Mariano Torrespico
 Copy Editor

The Professional is an excitingly preposterous parody of the couple-on-the-run thriller.

Based loosely on Graham Greene's (1904-1991) early novel *This Gun For Hire*, the movie recounts the re-humanization of a professional killer and the waif he reluctantly takes in after her drug-dealing family is executed by the Drug Enforcement Administration (D.E.A.).

Leon is a Cleaner, an assassin on retainer with Tony, a local Mafia boss. He is an ascetic, illiterate man emotionally hermetic to the point of autism. Despite this, he has a healthy unexpressed relationship with a potted plant; there is some life beneath the coolness.

Mathilda, is a pretty, precocious and sagacious adolescent wary of human contact because of the continual abuse to which her family subjects her. When she asks Leon to educate and train her as a Cleaner, she unwittingly feeds the starved flame of humanity still extant in him; thus begins their story.

These characters live in the same decrepit building in New York City's Little Italy village, yet know each other only by sight and through nods.

One day, Leon witness, through

the spy-hole of his apartment door, the butchering of the girl's family by psychotic Gary Stansfield and his D.E.A. gang. Coincidentally, he had asked Mathilda to fetch his groceries and so saved her. With her thrust irrevocably into his life, we enter the heart of the matter. Given the Roman Catholic philosophy of Mr. Greene's story, their physical and spiritual escape will be tortuous and purifying.

The continual addition of telling character details pushes the story into parody and favors the thriller element of the movie.

The intellectual and visceral elements of this story lay and fit together uneasily. The examination of these very European characters, in a singularly American milieu, often plunges the viewer into a misanthropic sentimentality reminiscent of Robert Bresson's 1950 film *The Diary of a Country Priest*.

The Professional is director Luc Besson's first American production, and as such, the emotional and physical violence is ferocious. Enough hurt is shown to convey the essential nastiness of the world Leon and Mathilda inhabit; consequently, the sentimentality is a respite.

Director Besson parodies this subgenre by pointedly humanizing the men who practice expert killing for a living. Wisely, he does not glamorize the knuckle-dragging emo-

tional cripples as do Sylvester Stallone and his Zen-clone Steven Seagal. Said lack of glossiness lifts the film out of mediocrity.

Despite the heavy Catholic philosophizing about life, existence and redemption, the film strikes a relative balance between content and style. This is evident in the subdued acting of Gary Oldman and Danny Aiello as, respectively, the cultured psychotic and the ambiguous Mafioso. They allow the protagonist a measure of depth usually unavailable in this genre.

Overall, this uneven production, written and directed by Luc Besson, succeeds because it entertains despite its heady mixture of French existentialism and American crime melodrama.

As a parable of the damned, *The Professional* gives pause as it details the lives of people living in a Manichean world where killing is quotidian and exciting - exactly as intended by Graham Greene.

THE PROFESSIONAL

a Columbia Pictures release

Directed by Luc Besson

THE CAST

Jean Reno (Leon)

Mathilda (Natalie Portman)

Gary Oldman (Gary Stansfield)

Danny Aiello (Tony)

Running Time: 115 minutes.

Rated: R

FACE VALUE

Do you believe in ghosts?

Photos by Chris Sweda



Claudette Baroud
 Broadcast
 Communications
 Freshman

Yes, they all haunt me late at night while I'm watching the *Jon Stewart Show*.



William Lee
 Marketing
 Freshman

Yes, because one time, while playing with a Ouija board, I asked if any evil spirits were in the house. The candles then blew out and the planchette flew off the Ouija board.



Candace Myrickes
 Fiction Writing
 Freshman

I do believe in ghosts. I used to live on Saginaw. We had a live-in ghost: a tall Indian that lived in our attic. There are many ghost stories that exist around South Chicago. Many houses are built on Indian burial grounds there.



Erik L. Jones
 Television
 Sophomore

Yes, but as far as goblins, ghouls, no. I believe spirits roam the earth in search of something.



Cherelle George
 Television
 Senior

Yes, I've encountered two ghosts in my life. The first was my grandma's ghost when I was 8 years old. The second was a boyfriend when I was 19 years old.



David Bornstein
 Television
 Senior

I definitely believe in ghosts. They are souls who have passed away with unresolved issues. Sometimes, they appear to help people they loved in their lifetimes to work through conflicts.