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THE
COLUMBIA
COLLEGE

Chronicle



VOLUME 28 NUMBER 16

MARCH 6, 1995

**Columbia Combats
Republican Attacks
On Education**

By Mariano Torrespico
Copy Editor

Columbia College counters the Republican Congress's attack on student aid with organized student political action. The local Chapter of The Alliance to Save Student Aid was established in a March 1 meeting in Dr. Jean Lightfoot's office. The local ASSA chapter is part of a group of more than 30 national organizations representing every facet of education. Present at the meeting were Dr. Jean Lightfoot, dean of students; Carol Bryant, director of college relations; Sheila Carter, administrative assistant; Mark Kelly, associate assistant provost; John Olino, director of financial aid;

and the ASSA chapter co-chairmen, film senior Cazz Smith, and marketing communications senior Frank Kush. The Columbia ASSA chapter will fight the proposed elimination, over five years, of \$20 billion of education monies from the nation's budget. Under the guise of balancing the country's budget the Congress has targeted student aid for total privatization transferring control from the government to private banks. The \$20 billion break down so: \$9.6 billion, from eliminating interest exemptions; \$7.1 billion, from eliminating campus-based programs; and \$3.4 billion, from additional interest exemptions based on higher loan

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Photo by Cathy Paez
Cazz Smith, Columbia ASSA co-chairman, listens as Carol Bryant, director of college relations, explains An Open Letter to Congress form for students to protest Rebbublican cuts of education spending.

Townsend Speaks As Role Model

By Aliage Taqi
Staff Writer

Hollywood filmmaker Robert Townsend, one of Chicago's very own, took Columbia's center stage to rap about his adversity to drugs, growing up without a father but with a nurturing mother, his love affair with television and how he succeeded in the film industry. Townsend's appearance on Feb. 23 at the Getz Theater, 72 E. 11th Street, was to help culminate an eventful month of African-Heritage celebration at Columbia. "He is one of Chicago's very own," said Tim Densmore, a member of Columbia's television department. Townsend grew up on the city's West Side, acted in *Cooley High*, *A Soldier's Story*, and *The Mighty Quinn*. He produced, directed,

wrote, and starred in movies such as *Hollywood Shuffle*, *The Five Heartbeats*, and *Meteor Man*. He has his own television show, 'Townsend Town', and stars in WGN's television show 'The Parenthood.' The audience gave Townsend a standing ovation. Whistles came from the back of the theater. A couple of hurrahs and yells poured from different directions. Townsend thanked the audience for coming out. Flashes from cameras distract Townsend, who poses humorously for photographers by changing facial expressions and making different arm gestures. Born in Cook County Hospital, he jokes: "I know people in the audience are saying, I was born there too. How he'd get hooked up?" A graduate of Austin Public

High School, Townsend goes on to tell of his family life. His mother raised four children on her own. Speaking of his father: "My father passed on." With a serious expression, he pauses for a few minutes, and finishes the remark with "... to another family." The audience laughs. Townsend is the second eldest child of four siblings. He said his mother did not want him to associate with gangs. So she sat him in front of the television set. "My mother kept me indoors. TV became my best friend. Every time a movie came on, I became the movie," he said. He mentions his adversity to drugs, asking "What was exciting about being out of your mind." The actor is able to mimic any kind of language. He stands on the

stage and does an impression of an African; next he portrays a Frenchman. Townsend tells the public his mother's, advice by which he lives saying, "You can do anything you want, keep God first, pray, and it's yours." The Experimental Black Theater Guild on the South Side is where Townsend got his start. During that time, he auditioned and after many "thank yous," he decided to tell one of the people in charge, "I can do things." At that point his impressions helped him succeed in the American film industry. He traveled daily from the West Side to that theater on the South Side to say his two lines. Townsend said, "Take him out, it's going to be okay." His role is during a scene dealing with a crazy person. Townsend tells the spectators what his mentor advised him: "This is your Broadway. Always give 100 percent." He was a part of Second City Theater and attended John Robert Powers's Acting School. He also attended Illinois State University, where he actively worked in the theater department. At the university, a teacher remarked on his dreams for the future, "Robert, you'll never make it in New York!" That remark drove Townsend to make it there. During that time Townsend had a role in *Cooley High*, was an extra in the Diana Ross movie *Mahogany*, and for two years, worked as an extra and appeared in television commercials. In New York City, his first auditions were for a parts as a pimp; "This work gave me dignity," he explained sarcastically. Townsend financed *Hollywood Shuffle* with credit cards for two

years. The script is based on his experiences, dreams, and auditions. By the time the movie was completed, Townsend had charged \$40,000 to his credit cards. Producer Samuel Goldman loved the film and paid Townsend well for his work. Townsend explains how powerful images can be, as when in Paris, a journalist showed him how images stand out to people. The French reporter said, "In films, they call you nigger. But you never say anything back. But you claim that you do not want to be called a nigger." Townsend says, "The perceptions of people in movies show how powerful movies are." A fan approached him on the set of *Meteor Man*, telling Townsend how the church scene in *The Five Heartbeats* touched him. The man said, "The scene in the church, when the junkie is singing, it helped me. I used to be a junkie too. That scene made me go on." After his talk, Townsend answered questions from the audience. He ends with a positive message. "A lot of brothers and sisters use the white man as an escape. The other side is we don't help each other." Cerise Hunter, an interior decorating major, said, "Public appearances like this gives us a chance to see Robert Townsend in three dimensions. We're not just looking at Townsend the comedian, the actor, the director, and the writer, but Robert Townsend the motivator and role model. What he did with this audience, should be taken into the elementary and high schools as often as time allows," she said. "Kids today need to hear his message."



Photo by Nobuko Oyabu
Comedian and filmmaker Robert Townsend speaks to Columbia students in the Getz Theatre, 72 E. 11th St. on Thursday, Feb. 23.

Open Admissions: Imperfect But Necessary

By Steve Courcy
Correspondent

The open admissions policy for prospective students who may be considered unacceptable at most four-year universities is according to Columbia College President John B. Duff, "a hallmark at Columbia College that has been in place for over 30 years." Head Bursar Peggy O'Grady thinks "it's exactly the policy needed for students to reach their potential."

Open admissions policies solve a social problem, equal educational opportunity for all, by offering students with inferior or un-traditional academic backgrounds a fair chance at life however a vital question must be asked. Does the open admissions policy have the upper hand on traditional test-score-based admissions policies? Columbia College's Director of Admissions Terry Miller thinks so. He says that when measuring academic ability, facts such as social, economic, and cultural background determine relative success in being prepared for college.

Academic opportunities, creativity, personal work ethic, motivation, intellectual energy and latent artistic skills are subject to the cultural biases of "standardized" tests such as the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and the American College Test (ACT), which generally determine acceptance to most universities. These tests measure skills such as rote memorization and the use of academic subject formulas, i.e. grammar; chemistry; reading, etc. These skills are not all that constitutes intelligence. Any student classed as non-standard will be at a disadvantage.

Admissions Director Miller says, "Columbia allows students who did very poorly in high school an opportunity to explore their intellectual potential by letting them go at their pace." He adds, "their pace may be faster than everyone

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volume and interest rates.

Currently, qualified low- and middle-income students may obtain tuition money through one, or a combination of, the three major federal student aid programs: Pell Grants, Subsidized Stafford Loans, and the campus-based programs.

According to ASSA data most Pell Grant recipients are from poor families. They are classified as dependent and independent. Dependent students comprise 41 percent of Pell Grants. It goes mostly to families with an annual income inferior to \$12,000; 91 percent of the money goes to families earning less than \$30,000. Among financially independent Pell Grant recipients, 73 percent have an income of less than \$12,000 per year.

The second types of aid threatened are the Federal Subsidized Stafford Loans and the Direct Student Loans which primarily benefit middle class families. State data bases reveal that 72 percent of such loans are awarded to students still dependent on their parents; such families average approximately \$35,000 per year. Students who receive such loans average \$14,000 per year, and more than 69 percent have annual incomes superior to \$6,000.

Campus-based student aid is the third category threatened. Fifty-percent of students awarded

else's once they've been given a chance to study something in which they are legitimately interested." This kind of opportunity is granted at Columbia College using the hands-on, see-do approach.

Miller also thinks that Columbia students often see their grade for a particular class as a secondary consideration. Instead, the opportunity to utilize one's creativity

Federal Perkins Loans, for 1994, had annual family incomes below \$30,000. In the Federal Work Study program, 18 percent of families had incomes below \$12,000, and 56 percent had incomes below \$30,000.

In the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) program, families with incomes under \$12,000 per year represent 27 percent of the recipients, while 77 percent had incomes below \$30,000.

The financial impact of politically motivated cuts in education is two-fold. First, students would pay an average of approximately \$3,000 more for a loan; this explains the elimination of subsidized loans of which the interest is not paid until graduation. Second, the Congress proposes legislation to convert student aid programs into private, profit-oriented enterprises. Consequently, the student will be indentured as the debt's size increases and is extended by years.

Possible Post-Cut Scenarios

First example: Student A, in a four-year degree program borrows the maximum available through the Federal Family Education Loan Program. Upon graduation the debt would be \$17,125. If the interest were not deferred, and billed to the student during the school years, an additional \$3,407 would be added to the debt, resulting in a bill of

becomes the motivator and creates a higher personal investment than could be expected at other academic institutions. Acting Academic Dean Caroline Latta says, "Columbia leaves its doors open to self-motivated students to expand their capabilities and experiences."

While college administrators

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\$20,532 to be repaid; this translates into an extra 20 percent of debt. The monthly loan payment would increase from \$205 to \$246; the extra cost of the loan would be about \$5,000.

Such an increase would tax most borrowers beyond the capacity of their post-graduation incomes. The average recent graduate has an income of \$24,000, after federal, state, and local taxes, \$16,800, in disposable income, remain; or \$1,400 per month on which to live. The increased debt would consume about 18 percent of the current 14 percent of disposable after-tax dollars, or 1 of every 5 dollars.

Second example: Student B, after earning a bachelor's degree, seeks a master's degree, and upon graduation owes \$34,125. If the interest exemption is eliminated, the student would owe an additional \$9,167, thus increasing the indebtedness to \$43,292. The monthly loan payment would increase from \$400 to \$520 representing an extra cost of \$14,000 over the life of the loan.

Third example: Student C receives a B.A. degree and then continues studying for six more years to earn a Ph.D. in engineering. Said student would owe \$68,125 in the cost of the loan, and an additional \$33,028 if the interest is charged monthly during schooling. The 48 percent increase in debt is an impressive

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New Health Reforms Will Aid Young Workers

By James V. Geluso
College Press Service

The Clinton Administration will make another attempt at health reform that will include insurance designed specifically for young adults, said Donna Shalala, Secretary of Health and Human Services, in a recent interview.

"We need to get young adults the coverage they need," Shalala said, describing a low-cost, high deductible plan for healthy workers.

"Health reform is very much a young adults' issue," she said. "Given a choice, most young people will take salary over benefits."

According to The Urban Institute, more than one in four men and women between the ages of 18 and 24 don't have health insurance.

Most health insurance is too expensive for workers just out of college, who consider themselves healthy enough to go without insurance, but then may be faced with a catastrophic illness or accident, Shalala said.

Despite the death of health reform in Congress last year and a new Republican majority this year, Shalala was optimistic about reform. "I think we will write a bipartisan bill to deal with issues like portability and low-income workers," she said. "What we won't do is have it be on the backs of the elderly and poor. We want real cost-containment."

Over the past 20 years, total health spending in the U.S. jumped an astronomical 817 percent. Last year, nearly one out of every six dollars in the federal budget went to health care. That left fewer resources for education (one out of 50 dollars) and other needs, say economists.

Yet despite her concern for young adults, Shalala ruled out any changes or reform to the Social Security system, which will break away from her department to become an independent agency next month. "We shouldn't touch our compact with the American people, and Social Security is the firmest part of that compact," she said.

"It's a social insurance program, not a social service program," she said, rejecting means testing, which would reduce benefits for wealthy retirees.

Shalala also criticized Republican efforts at welfare reform. "What Republicans are doing is not welfare reform," she said.

"The Republican welfare reform has lower work requirements than Reagan's welfare bill had in 1988," she said. "Welfare reform is when you move people from welfare to work. They're just interested in throwing people off."

A former university administrator, Shalala said that working in government is easier than running a university. "You're not in control when you run a university," she said. "The students think they run the place. The faculty think they run the place. The alumni think they run the place."

"Accountability is clearer in government. The lines or responsibility are clearer."

Shalala made her remarks while in Houston for a conference hosted by the University of Houston Health Law and Policy Institute, which released a study on "Nonfinancial Barriers to Health Care." She praised the study, citing problems in America's present health care system.

"We have to do right and risk the consequences," she said.



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A WORKSHOP ON COVERING CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT STORIES



THURS., MARCH 9, 1995
10:30 A.M.-NOON
Room 1305/TORCO

624 S. Michigan Ave.

FEATURING

Patrick Murphy, Public Guardian
Andy Shaw, WLS-TV

Michael Lev, CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Joy Byers, National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse
Dolores Shoemate, Chicago Health Department

Ethnic African Groups Discuss Cooperation

By Dayo Shodipo
Staff Writer

Coming together to better relations was the focus of several organizations celebrating African-American History Month.

In recognition, Columbia celebrated on Fri., Feb. 24 with the Africa International House, The African Heritage Committee and Window the Africa, by organizing a public forum called the Africa-Diaspora Round Table.

The Round Table will hold monthly forums to advance communication, cooperation and joint projects between all peoples of Chicago. Carlos Flores, of the Black Music Research Center of Columbia College is a member of the planning committee says the primary role of the Africa-Diaspora Round Table is to promote exchanges between peoples of African descent or people who claim an African heritage as their cultural identity.

Flores added, "The concept of exchange, we believe, precedes cooperation, direction and even education. We also believe that because the African world is multicultural, exchange through communication allows us to move towards cooperation and the identification of area where together we can work on specific goals and common interests."

The discussion centered on how "our diversity can benefit us." It

featured a panel of academics, activists and leaders from Africa and African-American Organizations.

"There is growing sentiment among peoples of African descent that building permanent ties with Africans worldwide would serve our common interests," says Dee Woodtor Lof the African Festival of the Arts. "We feel that a public forum to provide accurate first hand information on issues as they develop is a necessity," she said.

Dr. Sam Enyia, president of Nigerian National Alliance, spoke about similarities in experiences among people of African descent and how similarities can be channeled towards positive goals.

"Tolerance," he said, "must be a tool employed in bridging the gap between people of African descent, as well as towards policies made in the culture in which we find ourselves."

Pa Joof, of Senegambian origin and a Pan-African activist, spoke of the current threat that is neocolonialism. He stated that it threatens the progress and stability of Africa politically, socially, and economically as a continent and as a people.

Mr. Harry Fourche, a Haitian economist, addressed the audience about the need to allow "our similarities to prevail over our differences when dealing with each other. That understanding will give us

new appreciation of ourselves."

Professor Victor Benoit echoed Fouché's call. Benoit, is secretary general of the Konakom party of current Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The general was in Chicago to raise awareness of the continuing political problems facing Haiti and to elicit support from African-American communities for the coming April elections.

"With your help Haiti will continue to strive for freedom and justice for all," he said. Mr. Benoit also seized the opportunity to invite everyone to Haiti to help supervise and thus ensure a free and fair election.

Dr. Thubi Kolobe, President of the Forum for South Africans and a teacher at the University of Illinois Medical Center, stressed education.

"Mistrust and misunderstanding are often a result of a lack of education about ourselves, among ourselves, we need to project positive images of ourselves, our cultural heritage, and our values through patronage." This discussion educated those who attended with open minds and a willingness to learn about people of African descent without making judgements.

The evening closed with the music of French jazz artist Mantuila Nyomo, and a reception in the Hokin Annex catered by Restaurante Puerto Rico.

COLUMBIA COLLEGE LIBRARY
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commonly use words such as opportunity and hands-on experience, prospective students recognize that this type of subjective and practical education provides the tangible skills needed to compete successfully in today's professionally challenging society. Once admitted, students face another challenge: the cultural diversity of Columbia's student body. That makes teamwork and open, civil communication an absolute must in the open admissions classroom, according to Latta.

Yet, the impression lingers that instructors in schools with open admissions, must teach to the level of the least academically able student in a class. That is not the case in this college.

All of Columbia's faculty are working professionals in the fields they teach. They are trained to be sensitive to the needs of outstanding students as well as to the needs of students with limited capabilities. Latta says that this, in turn, creates a mutual responsibility between student and teacher. It ensures that each teacher challenge students and that each student rise to that scholastic challenge in order to realize his or her potential.

With students given the chance to work at a pace comfortable to them while exercising their inherent intellectual abilities, Columbia opens its doors to students with lives waiting to happen. Latta says, "Columbia College is doing what every other college in the country should be doing but won't."

Education is a process of development through different styles of studying. Ironically, President Duff says that the college's success and popularity are its biggest threats. A growing student population must be met by an expanded faculty, more class offerings, and technical and work facilities. According to President Duff, that conception poses an interesting question: Where do you draw the line? As Columbia College gains notoriety because of its practical hands-on education methods, may its policy of open admissions not be maligned but celebrated.

Summer Jobs Coming

Karen Andreas
Correspondent

Armed with resumes and many questions, more than 150 student job seekers attended Columbia's part-time summer jobs fair looking for just about anything from waiting tables to internships.

The Fourth annual event, sponsored by the Career Planning and Placement, Office, was held Wed. 22 Feb. in the Wabash Campus.

Sixteen local employers came to campus to look for a few good hires. Communications student Chris Hagen said, "The job fair helped me squeeze a jobs search into my busy schedule." Like many students, she already works. "Between waiting on tables and school I don't have time to do the leg work to look for another job," said Hagen.

Information on the companies that participated in the part-time summer job fair is still available at the Career Planning and Placement Office (CP&P), room 300 of the Wabash Campus. It has a list of job fair participants, as well as a job board listing many openings in the Chicago area; many employers offer internships as well as paid positions.

Keith Lussion, of the CP&P, es-

timates that one or two dozen students will find employment through the job fair, but added that students should continually check the job board for current openings.

The Art Institute of Chicago, for example, offers internships in its various art and business departments, and paid service positions in its retail shops and cafeterias. Another opportunity for Columbia College students is with Highland Park's Post-Newsweek Cable. This cable television company offers part-time positions as production assistant or service representative, or a production internship.

Scott Cooper, a Post-Newsweek representative and Columbia alum, who is now working for Post-Newsweek Cable, praised the quality of the work of CCC students who have worked there.

"As far as we're concerned, the people from Columbia are top rate," said Cooper, "They always know what they're doing."

Less technical jobs were offered by the Brookfield Zoo. The zoo will hold several job fairs during March, to inform students the available positions, which range from selling stuffed animals to running tram tours of the Brookfield, Illinois zoo.

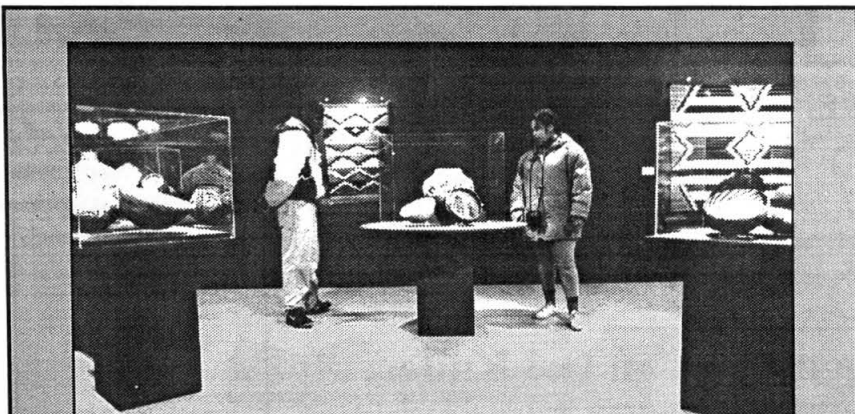


Photo by Scott A. Buxtin
Two students admire work displayed at the Sign, Symbol, Image exhibit which is being held at the Columbia College Art Gallery on 72 E. 11th St.

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\$106,153 at the start of repayment. The student's monthly payment would increase from \$818 to \$1,214; the extra cost would be approximately \$48,000.

The elimination of campus-based financial aid proposes low-paying, private industry service jobs as an alternative form of school financing. In 1994 the government provided students with \$1.4 billion in campus-based aid. The Federal Perkins Loan program lent money for school to 697,000 American students. Thanks to the Federal Work Study program program employed 713,000 students, and 991,000 received grants through the SEOG program.

The average sum awarded by said programs varied greatly; SEOG was \$745.00; the average Work Study award was \$1,065.00; and the average Federal Perkins Loan was of \$41,342.00. Consequent to the proposed cuts a student, receiving an average sum from all three programs, would lose an average of \$3,152.

Federal aid to students is based on the ideals that a stable highly educated population is indispensable for the effective functioning of a democracy. A growing economy and the opportunity

to advance through a superior education embody such traditional American values as social progress and equality.

Direct financial aid to students was the G.I. Bill of 1944, expanded in the 1958 National Defense Education Act. A college education is how the country upheld its end of the social contract between governed and governors. The contemporary student aid system is based on The Higher Education Act of 1965. Its essential principle is that all qualified students should attend college regardless of their financial means. Without which only the upper class would be able to afford a collegiate education. In fact, almost half of all freshmen came from homes earning less than \$40,000 per year.

College educated men and women average \$12,000 and \$9,200 more, respectively, than those without a degree. An educated and flexible work force is unemployed less and demands less of the public purse. To this end, the currently demonized social support system of public services, provides the nation with 75 percent of all available monies for education. That is, \$31.4 billion out of \$42 billion in the 1993-1994 academic year. Grants from philanthropic institutions and private sources account for 19 percent (\$8.2 billion), and state grants cover the remaining 6 percent (\$2.4 billion).

According to 1990 data, the last year for which complete information is available, 5 million students received federal financial aid under one or more of the aforementioned programs. In 1976 loans represented only 20 percent of federal assistance. However, since Pell, SEOG, and Federal Work Study funds have been cut, students have had to borrow from private banks. In the 1993-1994 school year, 51 percent of all available aid was from federal loans; an alarming increase of 31 percent in the 18 years since 1976.

To date, \$7.6 billion have been appropriated for the 1995 fiscal year. This includes \$6.2 billion for Pell Grants; \$583 million for SEOGs; \$617 million for the Federal Work Study program; \$158 million for capital contributions to the Federal Perkins Loan program; and \$63 million for State Student Incentive Grants. Additionally, the federal government will spend \$2.2 billion to cover interest payments of the Stafford Loans; the last one is the main target of Republicans.

Kush and Smith, co-chairmen of the Columbia Chapter of the ASSA, noted that the programs are unjustly identified as welfare for students, "The threat is real. We must act," said Smith. Kush added, "full-time school and full-time work would be followed

by dropping out, and wasting the effort expended."

Olino said, "If the balanced budget amendment passes, these cuts--which are part of that effort--would create the paradox of those who pay more need the loans." Olino added, "If all goes contrary to rational thought, the effects would be felt by the First of July; the start of the financial aid award year. I honestly don't know because I don't like to think abnormally."

To this end, under the advice of Dr. Lightfoot, Bryant, Kelly, and Olino, student leaders Smith and Kush will mobilize the student body through its student organizations and embark on a letter-writing campaign and the petitioning of the appropriate local and national committees and politicians. Kelly said, "It is important that the entire student body mobilize, through this committee, to defend its financial interests, its future." Student activism in the classical 1960s tradition is needed, "a rally with the relevant politicians should be held in the Hokin to discuss the cuts," Kelly added.

If not, the monies will be lost to the military, which is protected with proposed legislation forbidding the rechanneling of defense funds to social programs. Bryant observed, "Then state funds will be cut and the

MAP [Monetary Award Program] funds will follow. With that, the opportunity and access provided will be out of reach for most. Every student will be affected, not just those who depend on financial aid."

Olino said if the cuts occur, Columbia's tuition may be increased beyond the financial capabilities of the majority of students. To join the ASSA contact the Student Services Office at extension 459, or any Columbia student organization. The deadline for the letter-writing and petitioning is March 15.

The
Chronicle
Salutes
Women's
History Month.

Diversity and Your Sock Drawer

By Jon Bigness
Correspondent

The Career Planning and Placement Office sponsored a "Diversity in Journalism Job Fair" (formerly the "Minority Job Fair") on Feb. 4, inviting Latinos, blacks, Asians, Native-Americans, gays and lesbians and disabled journalism students. This event was engineered to assist minorities in landing their first media job.

Diversity, however, does not extend to white students. Those who attended -- and there were a few -- were not asked to vacate the premises, but they were not specifically invited to participate in the job fair, either. Maybe the Placement Office thinks there are enough whites in the media.

Maybe they think whites have an unfair advantage over minorities in starting a media career. Or maybe it's a case of reverse discrimination.

But I don't want to litigate, I'd rather illuminate. I planned on telling recruiters that I am a minority if they look at things from a global perspective. I've heard black activists say that there are more blacks, Latinos and Asians on this planet than whites. If that didn't work, I could say that as a Scotch-Irish, English, French-Canadian, German, Italian-American, I am a true minority. There aren't that

many of us around.

Better yet, I would say: "Look, I'm the most qualified candidate for the job. My grades are excellent, I've had a couple of internships and I'm ready to go. Hire me." I figured that would be my best bet. After all, I would rather get a job based on my qualifications than based on my skin color.

Minorities who get jobs out of this fair will always have to wonder whether they were hired because they were deserving or because of their race. They'll have to deal with the suspicions of their white co-workers, who are wondering the same thing. They'll never know whether they could have succeeded on a level playing field.

Another problem with the current focus on diversity in the newsroom is that the media lose sight of the fact that news is news, no matter if you're black, white or whatever. An earthquake is an earthquake, a gang-shooting is a gang-shooting and a political campaign is just a political campaign.

This is supported by a Feb. 13 U.S. News & World Report cover story, "Does Affirmative Action Mean No White Men Need Apply?," which addresses the insignificant impact of diversity at *The Los Angeles Times*.

The *Times* hired more minorities in the past two years than ever before, and an observer noted that

the news coverage has not changed.

Why should it? Diversity in the newsroom is about as important as diversity in your sock drawer. Whether your socks are black, brown, white, purple or green, they all get balled up or folded into the sock drawer. They all share the same experience of sitting in the drawer until they're needed. Some socks, of course, are better than others, and those are the ones we rely on.

The pool of aspiring journalists is similar to a sock drawer. Whether we're black, brown, white, purple or green (if you're purple or green, please see a doctor), we all take the same journalism classes and we all have the opportunity to write for our school papers. Some journalism students are better than others, but in these politically correct times, that doesn't matter.

Proponents of diversity say more minorities need to be in the media to provide a different perspective on the news. Are we to believe that we're getting biased news reporting because the reporter happens to be of a certain race? Are the white meteorologists keeping the real weather report from people of color? Are the black meteorologists giving a different weather report for blacks? Isn't the weather the same for everybody?

No Sympathy For Smokers

To the editor,

For the first time in nearly four years I was able to breathe when I walked through the Wabash campus this semester. What a novel concept! I've been used to holding my breath until I get to an elevator where I can gasp some semi-smokeless air.

In response to John Henry Biederman's commentary, *Where's My Ashtray?*, I am one of the two people here at Columbia who don't smoke and don't find smoking a necessary prerequisite to being an artist. When well over 350,000 people die every year from cigarette smoking, I find no link between it and common sense. Common sense tells me that there is no such thing as an intelligent smoker. Why would anyone want to knowingly subject themselves to a substance that has the potential to cause them cancer of the lungs, larynx, esophagus, pancreas and kidneys? Where is the logic in this?

I have sympathy for the smokers of the fifties and earlier who are now physiologically dependent on nicotine, but for my generation who continues to take up smoking nearly 20 years after it has been proven that smoking causes cancer. I have only one question... Why?

As Mr. Biederman pointed out,

we should have the right to decide what we put in our bodies, but if we return to a "smoker friendly" campus, how am I deciding? It would seem to me that my decision has been made for me. In Mr. Biederman's experience, he has never heard of anyone dying from secondhand smoke. I wonder, has he ever researched the possibility? Does he know, for example, that most substances contained in sidestream smoke (the smoke that us nonsmokers are subjected to) contain higher concentrations of known carcinogens such as carbon monoxide, nicotine, nitrosamine, quinoline, benzopyrene, cadmium, ammonia, nitrogen dioxide, formaldehyde, hydrogen cyanide, arsenic and hydrogen sulfide than mainstream smoke?

"...there is no such thing as an intelligent smoker..."

Perhaps I won't die from secondhand smoke, but I do know that it causes my eyes to burn, my throat to dry up, headaches and a stuffy nose. Why should I have to unwittingly subject myself to this? There is endless research to be done on the effects of secondhand smoke, but I for one don't want to wait around for the results. Given the above list of chemicals, I have reason enough to want to avoid smoke, and to me, preventing cancer is a real problem.

-Janine Bell Subia



That O.J. Vibe: "... No, a Bigger One, an O.J Knife. . ."

By John Henry Biederman
Correspondent

As much as I try ignoring it, the O.J. Simpson trial still affects me. I've found myself using O.J. vocabulary: "Pass me the knife - no, a bigger one: an 'O.J.' knife."

"That O.J. Vibe" is omnipresent. In fact, I've recently been a victim of "That O.J. Vibe." In the following story, names and identities of real persons have been disguised.

Early last semester, I started a conversation with an attractive female classmate - we'll call her Nicole. Nicole and I got along immediately, but she soon informed

me she had a boyfriend. We'll call him... let's see... how about, O.J.

When I learned of O.J., a yellow light went on in my head. I continued talking, perhaps flirting, with Nicole. I figured I'd test the ties that bound the young lovers. We exchanged numbers and chatted about school and life a couple times a week.

We really hit it off; with similar thinking and similar hang-ups, we made each other laugh. But as wonderful as it sounds, my viewpoint shifted.

I fell into friendship. I charged in, lust in my loins, and became infatuated with her as a confidant. I'm not saying that

the sexual attraction went away, but the yellow light shone for different reasons - I didn't want to lose her as a friend.

One night, I came home from work and there as a message from O.J. on my answering machine. He told me not to associate with Nicole, and mused of ripping my arms off.

As romantic as the concept of fighting for a woman may seem, I'm not playing. What do I have to gain? Nicole? If a woman is going to fall for a man because he beats up a boyfriend, keep her away from me. I don't see women as property.

Note, that the phone call came from none other than the Juicer. I'd

never met the guy, nor had I bad-rapped him or tried convincing Nicole to dump him. My relationship with Nicole was between her and I, yet O.J. had to do the talking. He had to keep me away. As if Nicole couldn't care for herself, powerless over any man showing her affection.

Things about Nicole make more sense now. She once told me that she didn't have a lot of friends. Obviously, "That O.J. Vibe" is not helping the situation. But hey, it's a choice one makes to play into ancient stereotypes and allow oneself to be locked in a cave.

And it's my choice to refuse "That O.J. Vibe."

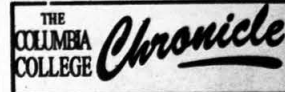
Like Beans in a Grinder....



Justin C. Gordon



Melby



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HOROSCOPE

By Mistress Kim
Star Correspondent

Greetings, I'm Mistress Kim, Taurus Extraordinaire. If you were looking for Vick, sorry, kids. Vick was having the life sucked out of her by all the fixed signs in her life that I warned her to stay away from.

The poor girl just couldn't muster the strength to be with you today. I'm sure you'll send you love. She'll see you next month.

You know, after Valentines Day I was bombarded with so much Astrological love advice: Aries are loving and playful. They are adventurous, fun-loving, and highly energetic. Gemini will be ten people rolled into one. You'll never be lonely with your Gemini around. You'll never be bored with a Gemini by your side.

WRETCH!!!!!! Where's my bucket?

Does no one have a flaw? What the hell. Nobody mentioned Aries' sporadic pant-wetting temper fits that emerge with little to no provocation. You'll never be lonely with a Gemini by your side? Sure, that's if you can find the little Mercurial verbal assailant. Almost everything I laid my Venusian eyes upon reeked of some sort of goody-two shoes aura that would even push the purest Virgo into a puking frenzy. It's unrealistic! What happens when you snag the sign of your dreams, and suddenly you discover that all the neat things that Astro-love advice never warned you about.

So here is the goddamned other side. The stuff you'll never read about. These are all the things about your special someone that SUCK! Enjoy and heed your warning. Don't say six months from now that

I didn't tell you so.

Aries: Stock up on Pampers. As mentioned before, Aries are infamous for infantile temper fits that arise on any occasion. Not getting their way is one of the most popular. Not having all the attention runs a close second.

Taurus: Oh no. Woolly Bully, would you like some Brie and water crackers with your WHINE? Taurus is too reluctant to change, so instead of doing something about a crappy situation, they find it's much more productive to drone on and on and on and on ... It makes for great dinner conversation.

Gemini: Okay, okay, so they keep Ginsu alive by trademarking their knives as the puppies they shove in your back. Is that so bad? At least they are witty conversationalists, even if it at your expense.

Cancer: Crabs are leeches in disguise. They find what is yours, attach themselves to it, and never let go. End of story.

Leo: Me! Let's talk about me! Mememememe! It's almost operatic. Once you're done talking about Leo, you can switch to Leos' other favorite subject, Themselves.

Virgo: Neurotic, neurotic, neurotic. There is no way to keep track of the hours wasted on worrying about stupid little things that have no relevance to the big picture. For Virgos, getting themselves into a tizzy isn't enough; the fun begins when they decide to drag *vous* into it. Hours of fun for all.

Libra: The poor Scales got the rep for being wishy-washy deluxe due to the fact that these are the ones who sit there on dates and spurt "I don't know, what do you want to do?" back to you like a

scratched CD.

Scorpio: Unless you would get off on spending the rest of your days defending yourself against crimes you've never committed, avoid Scorpios like a blue light special. Everything you do may be construed as an injustice to them, and that includes breathing. Enjoy.

Sagittarius: Sags do nothing wrong except fill your head with dreams, wishes, and promises that they have no intention of ever keeping or fulfilling. There's another word for that, and it's called lying. Don't take what Sag says with a grain of salt, try the entire salt lick.

Capricorn: This stupid minor personality flaw will begin to grate your nerves like French-manicured nails on a chalkboard: Capricorns would rather take a bullet than admit they've done a good job. After they've denied themselves any sort of congratulations, they get pissy because no one gave them any credit. It's a vicious circle, stay out of it.

Aquarius: Save the world. ZZZZZZZZZ. This routine becomes stale with each incident of not eating at "this" restaurant because the grapes are brought in from California, or not shopping at "that" store because they buy their pens from some company that is affiliated with another company that is affiliated with the restaurant that buys their grapes from Califas.

Pisces: Maybe Pisces could duke it out with Libra for that Wishy-Washy award. The only difference is "I don't know, what do you want to do?" is replaced with "I don't care, whatever makes you happy." Pisces are now taking collections to buy a mind of their own.

Columbia's WCRX Rediscovered Disco

By April M. Knox
Staff Writer

"If disco were toast, I'd put lot's of butter on it," is just one of the slogans on flyers advertising Columbia College's new radio program "The Disco Express" on WCRX-FM (88.1).

"It's a change of music, and not a lot of radio stations play much disco or older music. We get lots of requests for disco music. Some people even call from their car phones on their way home from work," says junior Luis Lopez, a top WCRX disk jockey, and a radio major.

"The Disco Express," which began airing in October of 1994, was an effort to keep the disco-era of music history alive, and to please

the many listeners whose requests for the music had become a daily task.

"Working here in the station is good work experience," says Lopez. "Even though it is a college station, you have to really get into it; and getting into has surely paid off for the DJ. Both "The Disco Express" and his regularly formatted radio show have become truly successful.

According to Lopez, WCRX-FM, unlike any other radio station, bases "Disco's" music log on the requests of its listeners. Among the most requested songs are *Disco Nights* by GQ; *Boogie Nights* by Heat Wave; *YMCA* by The Village People; and *I Will Survive* by Donna

See WCRX, page 6

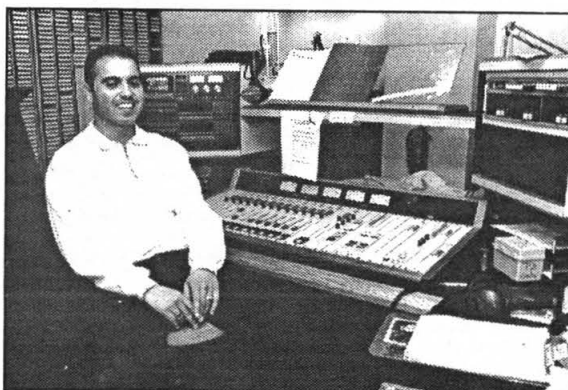


Photo by Nobuko Oyabu

DJ Luis Lopez sits in Columbia's WCRX studio where he hosts *The Disco Express* on Fridays from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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Something Is Rotten In Denmark

By Nancy Lachas
Staff Writer

"What is time?" These are the words that begin Peter Hoeg's new novel, *Borderliners* (1993, 277 pages, Farrar, Straus, and Giroux), translated by Barbara Haveland, a cautionary tale about controlling the behavior and intelligence of children by regulating the passage of time in their environment.

Borderliners is Danish author Peter Hoeg's fourth novel, but only the second to be translated into English.

Again, Hoeg manages to defy genre, but unlike his intricately woven 1993 thriller *Smilla's Sense of Snow*, his new novel confines itself to terse, almost curt language and minute plot movements.

Set in Copenhagen in the 70s, at a private school for gifted children, the story is told in flashback by the adult Peter. An abandoned child, spent 10 years in four different state-run orphanages before being transferred to Biehl's Academy as part of a national educational experiment. Fourteen-year-old Peter is integrated into the student body as one of the "borderliners"—children who are neither academically gifted nor retarded—in an attempt to prove

that a rigidly controlled environment will counteract inferior intelligence.

Peter meets two other "borderliners," Katarina, an orphan whose mother died of cancer and whose father subsequently committed suicide; and August, who murdered his parents after years of abuse. They discover an Orwellian plot underlying the headmaster's plan to influence native intelligence. As Peter and Katarina struggle to uncover the meaning behind the strict structure of the academy, they become obsessed with the passage of time. "I want to study it scientifically," Katarina says. "We're going to touch time."

Together, Peter and Katarina attempt to unravel the mystery that shrouds the academy. They find ominous meaning in the pattern of the bells between classes, and the constant battery of psychological tests to which they are subjected. While working to discover the secrets of the school, they become sort of surrogate parents to August. He is a child so disturbed by his traumatic past he resorts to sneaking to the kitchen at night and inhaling gas from the stove in order to sleep.

Borderliners is profoundly disturbing and moving as it details what happens to children in the

absence of love and the presence of abuse. But its climax doesn't justify the suspenseful build-up. The headmaster does have a higher purpose besides behavioral control, but it hardly contains the evil the children attribute to it before it is revealed. The reader is left wondering, "What is the point?"

In a revealing scene, the adult Peter is at a playground watching his daughter play on railroad ties. When a strange woman applauds the child's effort, saying, "Aren't you clever," Peter flashes back to his childhood and nearly attacks her. "The child had wanted attention," he thinks. "She had just asked to be noticed. But she was given an assessment: 'Aren't you clever.'" While difficult to categorize, *Borderliners* is imaginative and original. Hoeg's purpose, however, shifts from scene to scene, as if he can't decide what he's trying to say. Is this a novel about the meaning of time, or behavioral control, or the dangers of conformity? Or, is it about the hazards of defining ability and intelligence through testing and assessment?

Perhaps Hoeg fails to provide any clear-cut answers, but he does succeed in fleshing out strange, sad characters, especially Peter and Katarina, who ask intriguing questions in a compelling way.

"The Disco Express" is one of the things scheduled.

DJ Hustlin' Justin (aka Justin Kaufmann), one of the master minds behind "Disco Express," describes the mood of the show as "just havin' fun in the sun." He adds, "The show is like a separate radio station. Disco music defines itself through the cultural artifacts of the 1970s: bell-bottom pants, big mustaches, huge afros, fist-handled afro-hair picks, and clothes like this," as he points to his fitted, lime green polyester shirt. He also emphasizes that society often acknowledges all other kinds of older music—but shuns disco as if it never

existed. "Disco then, disco now, disco forever," says Hustlin' Justin.

Luis Lopez's regular radio show is heard every Monday and Friday, from 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. "The Disco Express" train with "The Disco Dream" Lopez and Hustlin' Justin, can be heard Fridays from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on WCRX-FM (88.1) of Chicago's underground.

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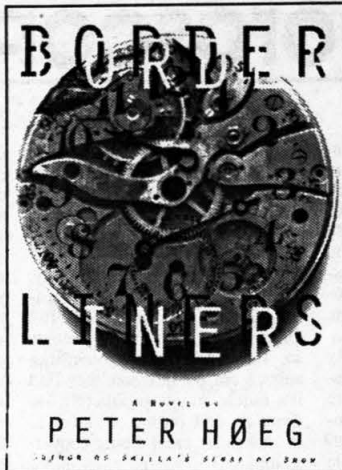
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Peter Hoeg's *Borderliners* details what happens to children in the absence of love.

CORRECTION

The author of the article "Beauty Queen Shares Memories" is Keith O. Banks, not Tamiko Bowie, as was incorrectly stated in our Feb. 20 issue. The *Chronicle* apologizes for the mistake.

Rent The Movie Instead

By Nancy Lachas
Staff Writer

The current production at Touchstone Theatre, *Sweet Bird of Youth* by Tennessee Williams, is a multi-layered tale of lost youth, the fleeting nature of fame and the vagaries of fate. Unfortunately, under Ina Marlowe's heavy handed direction, much of the play's subtlety is lost, and it threatens to dissolve into overblown melodrama.

Sweet Bird of Youth is the story of former golden boy Chance Wayne, who returns to his hometown accompanied by Princess Kosmonopolis, a fading movie-star seeking solace in drugs and alcohol. Chance comes back to the gulfoast town of St. Cloud hoping to reunite with his childhood sweetheart Heavenly, and he's convinced that his connection with the wealthy Princess will finally allow him to grasp the elusive fame he has sought all his life.

Touchstone ensemble member Melinda Moonahan's poignant performance as the Princess is the production's saving grace. In a role that, in less talented hands, could degenerate into caricature, Moonahan combines just the right amounts of humor, pathos and world-weary cynicism. Moonahan deftly handles the Princess's violent mood swings; one moment she's struggling to break through the drug-induced fog of her

memory, the next she's lashing out at Chance in a voice dripping with irony.

Unfortunately, Lawrence Woshner is unable to bring the same range to the role of Chance Wayne. In his early scenes with The Princess, Woshner is able to convey some of his character's peculiar combination of self-importance and naivete. But, in a key scene during the second act, when Chance confronts some old acquaintances with what is supposed to be a drunken mixture of bravado and anger, Woshner falls into a lisp, whining cadence that is almost painful to watch.

The supporting cast has few bright spots. Rohanna S. Doylida is oddly flat as the tragic Heavenly, and Knight Houghton is all bluster and no depth as Boss Finley, Heavenly's father. Only Farrel Wilson, as Boss Finley's mistress, Miss Lucy, is able to flesh out her character. Instead of another cardboard cut-out, Wilson's Miss Lucy is a charming combination of a schemingly vindictive tart and Chance's only sympathetic ear.

The Touchstone Theatre, 2851 N. Halsted Ave., offers a technically adequate effort, but the performances are so wildly uneven that its few great moments can't spare it from being anything more than mediocre. Instead, rent director Richard Brooks' 1962 version with Paul Newman and Geraldine Page.



Photo by Steve Shay

Lawrence Woshner and Rohanna Doylida star in Tennessee Williams's *Sweet Bird of Youth*, which is currently playing at Touchstone Theatre, 2851 N. Halsted St.

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Dates To Remember

Monday, March 6

The 1994 Albert C. Welsman Scholarship Winners' Exhibit will be held in the Hokin Gallery from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The exhibit will run through March 24.

Dr. Manning Marble, director of Columbia University's Institute for Research in African-American Studies, will lecture in the Hokin Hall from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. The lecture is sponsored by the Lily Endowment.

The opening reception for "Computer Imagery Beyond the Monitor" will take place in the Hokin Annex from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The exhibition is currently on display until March 10 and is sponsored by the academic computing department.

Tuesday, March 7

Eid, the festival at the end of Ramadan, will be celebrated in the Hokin Annex from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 8

The radio/sound department and career planning and placement office is sponsoring Sound Career Day. A panel discussion and networking reception on professional audio manufacturing, sales and marketing will be held at 11 a.m. in the Audio Technology Center, 676 N. LaSalle St.

Thursday, March 9

The Journalism Club will hold "What Can the News Media Do To Save the Next Generation?" at 10:30 a.m. in Room 1305 of the South Campus Building. The event will cover child abuse and neglect stories.

Artist Alfredo Jaar will talk about his exhibit "Real Pictures" in the Ferguson Theater in the 600 S. Michigan Building at 6:30 p.m. His exhibition, which is funded by the Lily Endowment, is now on display at Columbia's Museum of Contemporary Photography in the Main Campus Building.

Friday, March 10

The International Womens' Day Show opens at Mentalfloss Gallery, 2300 W. Wabansia St., from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. The show will present work by former Columbia students.

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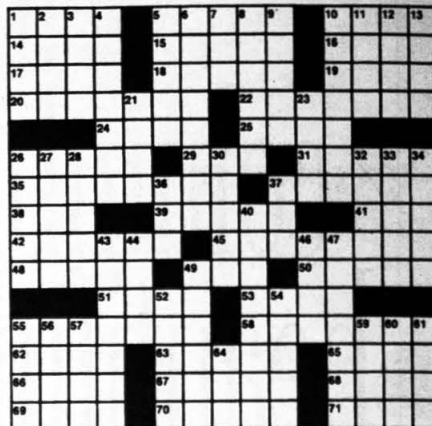
THE Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Journey
- 5 Felt pain
- 10 Advantage
- 14 Took the bus
- 15 Gleam
- 16 Line of junction
- 17 Atop
- 18 Sample
- 19 Serene
- 20 Instructor
- 22 In theory
- 24 Male deer
- 25 Invitation letters
- 26 He stares amorously
- 29 Resident of: suff.
- 31 Ghostly
- 35 Makes happy
- 37 Raises
- 38 Ewe's mate
- 39 Century plant
- 41 Portable bed
- 42 Pencil end
- 45 Deride
- 48 Eur. finch
- 49 Alphabet sequence
- 50 Swear
- 51 Memo
- 53 Part of USA: abbr.
- 55 Passage
- 58 Tenon's partner
- 62 Possess
- 63 Extremely angry
- 65 Length times width
- 66 State vigorously
- 67 Threefold
- 68 Devilish kids
- 69 Hardy's heroine
- 70 Flower part
- 71 Tardy

DOWN

- 1 Turkey or fox end
- 2 Wander
- 3 Brainchild
- 4 Sat like a bird
- 5 Daisy kin
- 6 Bakery in detail
- 7 Possessive
- 8 Complete
- 9 Acts
- 10 Fleeing prisoner
- 11 Transaction
- 12 Nerve
- 13 Acting award
- 21 Difficult
- 23 Always
- 26 Monsters
- 27 Blinding light
- 28 US Supreme Court justice
- 30 Despots
- 32 Happen again
- 33 Objects of worship
- 34 Miss Lauder
- 36 Advisory organ
- 37 Place to rest
- 40 Fish-liver oil compound
- 43 They need saving
- 44 Seth's son
- 46 Bakery employee
- 47 Shorten
- 49 Hit the sack



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ANSWERS



- 52 Leans
- 54 Paragon
- 55 The one there
- 56 Be enthusiastic
- 57 Sits
- 59 — La Douce
- 60 Fall month: abbr.
- 61 Facilitate
- 64 Bigwig

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FACE VALUE

By Tasbir Singh

How might a cut in financial aid affect you?



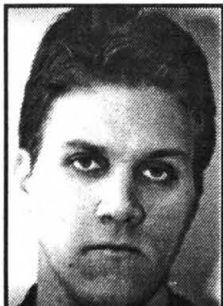
Gary C. Guzman
Music Composition
Junior

It would affect the number of hours that I take here, which would definitely delay my graduation.



LaVondra Hinton
Music
Freshman

It would affect me because I'm now depending on financial aid since I'm an independent student. It helps me with my books and sometimes housing, and without financial aid, my part-time job wouldn't cover my tuition.



Jeremy Stammers
Illustration
Junior

I would need to get a better paying job, maybe even a second job. I might even come close to having to quit school.



Esmerald Gomez
Radio
Sophomore

I would have to come part-time and work harder to pay tuition.



Kenneth Danzy
Film
Junior

I, plain and simply, would not be able to afford to go to Columbia. Columbia is actually my second choice. I was accepted at N.Y.U. I could't go because it cost 15 grand and financial aid would not cover it.



Rachel Lefler
Fine Arts
Junior

I would not be going to Columbia anymore.