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## Columbia Chronicle (05/22/1995)

Columbia College Chicago

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# THE CHRONICLE

OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

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22 MAY 1995

## To Date Or Not To Date?

### Columbia Faculty And Students Face A Dilemma

By Bob Chiarito  
Copy Editor

To date or not to date? That is the debate students and faculty face at colleges and universities around the country. Some schools, such as Tufts University in Massachusetts and Indiana University, have even adopted policies prohibiting relationships between teachers and students. Columbia College, like most schools, has a passive approach to the controversy. Just as at most institutions of

higher learning, student-teacher dating does take place at Columbia. "William," a Columbia teacher who wishes to remain anonymous because he feels Columbia may eventually adopt a policy against such relationships, has been dating a Columbia student for two years. According to "William," student-teacher dating at Columbia "happens all the time."

Just how often is open to discussion, but in a 1988 *Newsweek* survey of 800 faculty members of a West Coast university, 25 percent of those questioned admitted having sexual relations with students, most more than once.

Columbia Associate Academic Dean Steven Russell-Thomas said Columbia College does not articu-

late a policy which governs social relationships between students and faculty, but conceded such relations can be dangerous.

"Any of us would take the stance that if an instructor is dating a student in their class, a component is being added, a potential power component which is risky," Russell-Thomas said.

There is little doubt that both students and teachers walk an ethical tight-rope when starting a relationship together.

"If a [student-teacher] relationship starts within the class, then the person [student] has to think twice because the student might be running into a problem with grades and class performance," "William" said, noting that he dates a student from a

different academic department.

Debbie Schwartz, a journalism feature writing teacher, believes teachers are better off not getting involved in student relationships.

"My rule of thumb is not to get involved with any students because there are too many repercussions," Schwartz said, adding that she even goes as far as making sure she is never alone in a room with a student with the door closed.

If these teachers seem overly cautious, especially since Columbia has no policy against student-teacher relationships, it's because of Columbia's reluctance to address the issue. There may not be a specific policy, but there is a large gray area.

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### In Spite of Tuition Increase, Columbia Still a Deal

By Sergio Barreto  
Editor-in-Chief

No one ever said that coming up with about \$3,800 for tuition was easy, especially at a time when legislators are taking an ax to student financial aid programs.

The good news -- so to speak -- to Columbia students is that it could be worse.

Columbia students will pay 4.9 percent more for tuition in the fall 1995 semester than they did this spring, but students at other major Chicago private colleges and universities that offer programs comparable to Columbia's will pay up to 18 percent more next semester.

DePaul University's tuition will increase by approximately 6 percent. The dollar amount of the increase will vary by major.

Roosevelt University, which is almost next door to Columbia, will increase its tuition by 7 percent, from \$300 per credit hour to \$321 per credit hour, whereas Loyola University will increase its tuition by 13 percent.

At The University of Illinois at Chicago, a state-supported institution, freshmen and sophomores will be paying 4.2 percent more for tuition next semester, while juniors and seniors will pay 9.3 percent more.

Michael DeSalle, Columbia's vice president of finance, believes that some-

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### Columbia Educators Praise Cultural Diversity

By Roumiana Bankova  
Correspondent

Taking advantage of our differences and learning from our cultural diversity was the subject discussed at the town hall meeting "Our Diversity," held on May 11 in the Ferguson Theater.

The panel meeting was sponsored by the Lilly Endowment Foundation as part of a discussion series called "Compassion in Our Culture."

The panelists were faculty members Jose Lopez of the liberal education department and George Bailey and Sarah Odishoo of the English department. Student-panelists included Frida Richman of the

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Chris Sweda/Chronicle

Chicago's landmark Buckingham Fountain reopened on May 1 after 10 months of reconstruction.

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## Financial Aid Office Improves Despite Lingering Problems

By Nancy Laichas and Charles Edwards  
Staff Writers

Each year at Columbia, thousands of students go through the painstaking, often bewildering process of applying for financial aid. And while the relationship between students and the college's financial aid office has had its ups and downs, several new initiatives coupled with adequate staffing have gone a long way in reducing the student complaints that plagued the department last spring.

In its March 28, 1994 issue, *The Columbia Chronicle* reported that an understaffed financial aid office was struggling to complete a backlog of unprocessed student files. With only four full-time financial aid advisors, the department was

unable to catch up, leaving students uncertain about the status of their applications.

"Last year, at this same time, we probably had about three hundred student loans that students were otherwise eligible for, but we couldn't get around to pushing through the system," said Financial Aid Director John Olino. "At this point, we have forty."

Olino attributes the increased production of the financial aid office to adequate staffing -- he currently employs seven full-time advisors -- and new departmental initiatives such as automated award letters and direct lending. The financial aid office recently sent out about 600 automated award letters in a test of the new process. The award letters inform students of their eligibility for everything from

state aid to work study to loans and scholarships.

"In the old days, we didn't get an award letter out to you until August," Olino said. "It's like a one-legged man shooting himself in the only foot he has." Now, he said, "In one packet, a student gets a complete award letter and a promissory note. If students follow the directions in the packet, they're done for the year."

Direct lending, which eliminates banks from the student loan process, will simplify and speed up student applications. Although Olino said his advisors will spend the same amount of time processing student loan applications under the direct lending program, loan checks will no longer be sent to the

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# Maintenance Woes Continue

By Linda Sturgess  
Staff Writer

A female student walks into a stall in the Torco Building's 13th floor bathroom.

"You may not want to use that one, the door doesn't shut," another student advises.

Feeling a little foolish, the first student goes to the only bathroom stall with a door that locks and says, "Thanks, I always forget which ones don't close."

This scenario of a maintenance problem is only one example of a long list of equipment breakdowns. Chronic equipment problems are a hindrance to many frustrated students and faculty, and they take a big chunk out of Columbia's annual \$4 million maintenance budget.

Topping the list of complaints are repeated elevator and library equipment breakdowns, and prob-

lems with the overall cleanliness of the campus buildings.

When the maintenance department receives a complaint, they usually address safety-related issues first. After that, there really isn't a pattern, said Larry Dunn, the director of building services. *The Chronicle* attempted to obtain records on the numbers and costs of individual repairs, but Dunn said that he does not have the staff to maintain such records.

(Dunn's staff includes two carpenters, two electrician plumbers, and there is typically at least one general maintenance person available from 6 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. in each building.)

Probably the most common complaints involve consistent elevator breakdowns. Students often compare horror stories of riding an elevator in darkness or waiting a long time for one elevator because the others aren't working. To avoid being late for class, students have learned to allow about 15

minutes to wait on an elevator.

"Sometimes you hit the elevator button and you wait forever before you realize that the button light went out and you have to hit it again to get service," said Amy Bojanowski, a photography student. "It gets to be very frustrating."

Last year, a high school student fell four stories and suffered second-degree burns to his hands when he climbed out of an elevator stuck in the Wabash Building. Dunn said that the elevators are "absolutely not" a safety hazard. However, if students find themselves stuck in elevators, school administrators advise that students do not attempt to get out. They should pull the fire alarm and wait for help instead.

Elevator maintenance is handled by three outside contractors: Urban Elevator Service, Inc. for the residence hall, Millar Elevator Service Co. for the Torco Building, and Montgomery-Kone Elevator Co. for the 11th Street,

600 S. Michigan and 623 S. Wabash buildings. Although Dunn said he has to place calls regarding elevator problems about twice a week, he also said that the companies usually respond by the end of the same day.

"The problem is that Columbia bought office buildings and threw in seven thousand students," Dunn said. "The equipment was modernized in the late fifties and early sixties. Updating the elevators again could become very involved and replacing the controls and changing elevator motors would be very exorbitant."

There are no actual figures available on the cost but Dunn repeated, "There is absolutely not a safety issue involved."

Meanwhile, students and faculty members squeeze into elevators that screech as they hoist their human cargo up and down floors and the college dishes out \$4 million of its \$42 million annual budget to building maintenance, including the elevators.

The maintenance budget is not increased with tuition increases, but is updated to meet inflation costs, according to Ann Kennedy, controller. Administrators agree that the problem is not so much budget constraints as it is the general age of the buildings. The budget only addresses maintaining the buildings, not revamping them.

According to the Chicago Architecture Foundation, the 600 S. Michigan Building was built in 1907, and the 623 S. Wabash Building was built in 1896. Dates weren't available for other Columbia buildings.

"Part of the problem is you're introducing new technology into old buildings," said Mary Schellhorn, library director. Library equipment problems had also topped students' lists of grievances but Schellhorn said that the problems are being addressed.

"We have replaced the three copiers with new ones, and we are slowly replacing microfiche printers," she said. Schellhorn also said that there are now comment cards available for students to voice their concerns and

See Maintenance, Page 8



Chris Sweda/Chronicle

The Wabash Building, located at 623 S. Wabash Ave., was built in 1896. School officials say the problem with maintaining it is due to its age, not budget constraints.

## Dating

From Page 1

According to the 1994 Columbia Faculty Guidebook, section 310, page 3, *Columbia expects and deserves ethical and professional conduct from each employee, particularly from its faculty. One instance of criminal conduct, or serious breach of ethics or professional standards of conduct which comes to the College's attention may be grounds for further investigation by the College and may lead to disciplinary action, including immediate termination of employment. In short, every faculty member is expected to act in accordance with commonly accepted standards of professional ethics.*

Just who sets the "commonly accepted standards of professional ethics" is unclear, especially at a school as diverse as Columbia. Most students and faculty do not share a religious common ground or a shared cultural background, therefore sexuality is often the common factor in which etiquette is based.

A search through the Columbia College Student Handbook for clarity is just as fruitless, only finding that situations that may arise not specifically covered by Columbia regulations will be evaluated by the dean of students, who is empowered to take "appropriate action" as set forth in Columbia's Sexual Harassment policy.

Although there is a wide gap between student-teacher dating and

sexual harassment, Columbia's Sexual Harassment Policy states that *preferential treatment of an employee or student, or a promise of preferential treatment ... in exchange for dates or sexual conduct, is prohibited conduct.* According to supporters of a policy restricting student-teacher dating, "grades for sex" is the major negative of such relations.

In June of 1992, Indiana University established a policy banning its faculty from dating students in their classes. Indiana's dean of students, Richard McKait, said their policy was established because of a "general belief that it was in the best interest of the instructor and the student not to be in a dating relationship because of the potential for victimization."

Although there was no uproar at Indiana denouncing the policy, Fran Snygg, Indiana's dean of faculty, conceded that those who wish to date cannot be policed.

"I think it [the policy] has helped, but I do not think it stopped it totally," Snygg said.

"Carol," the Columbia student dating Columbia teacher "William," echoed Snygg's and most students' belief.

"If true love hits, a policy can't stop it," "Carol" said.

Columbia does not restrict student-teacher relationships, but, by keeping an unclear stance, most students and fac-

ulty members feel that it is not condoned. Ironically, taking no stance may be Columbia's safest stance.

Most full-time faculty sign 10-month contracts while those with administrative duties sign 12-month contracts. All faculty hired in or after 1988 are on "probationary" status for their first five consecutive years of service. Because of these short-term contracts, many believe it would be easy for Columbia to terminate a teacher deemed risky or controversial without much attention.

That is why there is a bad stigma attached to student-teacher relations, "William" said.

Columbia College President John Duff, reacting to accusations that Columbia could easily rid itself of teachers who date students, said "you could say that for any kind of a reason."

According to Mark Kelly, associate provost of planning at Columbia, "very few institutions have explicitly restricted relations between faculty and students and those that have really have come under fire."

Until Columbia addresses the issue of student-teacher dating as either pro or con, the words of President Duff will continue to sum up the atmosphere at Columbia: "People have to act ethically and morally but people also are entitled to all the rights adult Americans have."

## News in brief...

**This year's perfect SAT scores** rose by more than 3,700 percent. Last year, only 25 high school students had perfect scores compared to the 137 students that scored 1600 this year. The reason for the increase may be the new scoring system, which gives students who take the test about 95 bonus points, according to Bradley Quinn, associate director of the SAT.

**Stanford University academic** advisors have set up a summer school program for students who haven't declared a major. The program, Sophomore College, lasts three weeks and helps students to find out what major is best for them. Students will participate in a variety of activities covering a number of different subjects and will work with professors and each other in small groups. Each day will be filled with research, field work, and some community service for the program's 50 students. The program is funded by a private donor, and Stanford officials say they plan to expand the program next year if it proves to be successful.

**In an effort to help the University** of Maryland keep a scholarship for African-Americans, the U.S. Justice Department has filed a brief in support of the school. In 1990, the university was sued by Daniel Poberesky, a Hispanic who told the court that he was entitled to a scholarship because he had higher test scores and grades than all the applicants but two. The lower court ruled in favor of the university, but that decision was overturned by a federal appeals panel. The university officials now wait for the U.S. Supreme Court ruling on the case that is set for later this year.

**Private contributions for colleges** and universities registered their sharpest annual increases in seven years, according to the Council for Aid to Education. Total gift income during the 1993-94 academic year rose 10.3 percent, or \$12.35 billion. Over the past 20 years, gifts from alumni and corporations have both increased 149 percent. Contributions per student rose 6.8 percent.

**Converse College, a private** women's college, approved a plan to keep women out of the all-male Citadel but agreed to sponsor a program for women seeking to be cadets. The new \$10 million program could begin by August, which is the date the courts have set for The Citadel to admit Shannon Faulkner as a cadet or provide her with an alternative.

**Testing could begin this summer** for a scaled-down schedule for Chicago Transit Authority trains and buses during off-peak hours. The current schedules have trains and buses running minutes apart all day, according to CTA President Robert Belcaster. Trains and buses currently run 92 to 95 percent full during rush hours and only 20 percent full during off-peak hours.

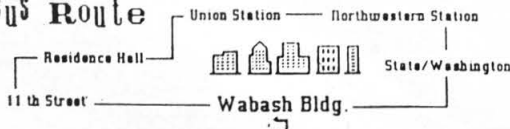
**In the state of Texas it will soon** be legal to carry a concealed weapon. The new bill, which was approved last Tuesday, will allow Texans 21 or older to obtain licenses to carry concealed handguns. The four-year permit will cost \$140 and applicants will have to undergo 10 to 15 hours of training and pass a proficiency test.

From Chronicle wires

## ATTENTION

Columbia College Community

Bus Route



The bus service is no longer available for this semester.



# Former Campus Organization Reaches Out To The Community

By Michael Johnson  
Correspondent

Each One Reach One (EORO), one of Columbia College's most active black student organizations, severed all ties with the college this semester after its funding was cut and an "inactive" status was imposed by the Student Organizations Council (SOC).

According to EORO founder and president, Charles Edwards, after funding ran out, EORO lost its main vehicle for communicating with its growing number of members: a monthly newsletter whose freelance content at times met with disapproval by certain college faculty. Edwards felt there were also forces outside of SOC who wanted his organization shut down.

EORO's board members didn't accept the "inactive" status imposed. "We didn't see any reason for it," Edwards said. "But instead of arguing and fighting with the administration, EORO board members met, weighed our options, and decided it would be in the best interest of our organization to be totally independent of Columbia College."

If there were any efforts to shut EORO down, those efforts failed. EORO continues to function and move in positive directions.

"We've established an afford-

able daycare program for mothers with limited funds," said Edwards. The program opened in Uptown on Chicago's Northside at 4423 N. Sheridan Road, and focuses on young mothers who are going back to school or are affected by the changes in the welfare system and can't afford the high cost of daycare.

"We currently have a staff of five as well as a day care director, Tenya Baskett," Edwards said. Either of us can be reached for information on the programs."

EORO is planning to expand the program and will likely open other facilities on the North and Southside of Chicago.

"We were approached by a group of ministers on the Southside who wanted us to bring the program into their community," Edwards said. The organization will also run a six-week summer camp program which will include field trips, baseball games and museum excursions to name a few.

One of the main events the organization plans to have during the summer will be the Each One Reach One Roundball Classic basketball tournament. There will be 16 teams competing for scholarships and the chance to be on an international basketball team.

"It's for some of the older kids, when they get out of school they'll have something to keep them out of trouble," said Edwards. "Something to do and somewhere to go."

EORO now receives most of its funding for such community events from Chicago area businesses.

Though some suspected a bitter dog fight between the EORO and SOC brought about the split, Dean of Student Affairs Jean Lightfoot says it wasn't the case and Edwards agrees.

"There's nothing negative I can say about the organization," said Lightfoot. "EORO is a great organization and they've done a lot of positive things in the college community. I spoke with Charles on some key issues and we came to an understanding which didn't include the assumed tension and animosity suspected."

Neither side spoke in detail on the issues involved. Accusations leading to SOC's decision, according to SOC, were based on an accumulation of incidents allegedly involving certain members of EORO.

EORO continues to run their daycare center and their controversial newsletter is expected to go to press sometime in the fall of 1995.



Photo by Rachel Ottens

14-month-old Sascha Malcolm (right) looks for support from four-year-old Chaz Lemberger at the Each One Reach One daycare program at 4423 N. Sheridan Rd.

## Columbia Poetry Review Making Waves

By Terra Fuller  
Correspondent

The *Columbia Poetry Review* recently celebrated its eighth year of publication at a party at the The Harold Washington Library on May 13.

The event was part of the series, "Poetry -- Chicago: Voices Alive and Well." It featured poets from Columbia College and an open mike reading for audience members.

Among the reciting poets were Susan James and Kimberly Hayes, both Columbia students, who were selected for the Eileen Lannan Poetry Prize. Paul Hoover, a resident poet at Columbia College, introduced each reader.

Sandie Stravis, a recent Columbia graduate, was excited about this latest issue of the *Columbia Poetry Review*. "It's the first time I've ever been published anywhere," she said.

Stravis became interested in poetry in high school, but it wasn't until she repeatedly took Columbia's advanced poetry workshops that she became involved with the *Columbia Poetry Review*. Now, she said she has "journals and journals, folders and folders" of poetry she has written.

Most of Stravis' poetry deals with relationships, as is illustrated by "Case History #19," which she read at the event.

It began: "It ranges from normal to the absurdity of hiding the kitchen knives, obsessions with the unattainable, and kissing hands to practice for lips ..."

Patsy Dulak, also a former Columbia student, said she has written poetry since eighth grade and has since sought that art form as a way of expression. She called her poetry "the dichotomy of myself and the '90s woman. We're torn between being a good girl and a nasty girl."

Dulak read her poem, "What You Would Have Learned In Charm School Had Your Parents Loved You Enough To Send You or How You Came to Be Such A Tramp"

"...speak expertly/when asked/about sewing/nutrition/Day Lilies/the Heimlich Maneuver for infants/the fear of God/the fear of electronics and/tightly sealed jars/the fear of ERA/because wouldn't that mean/you could be drafted?"

Dr. Philip Klukoff, chair of Columbia's English department, said the poetry program has more than doubled in the last 10 years. "There are more poetry magazines and anthologies of poems being published than ever before," he said.

The series of poetry workshops and readings is being held at Chicago branch libraries throughout April, May and June in hopes of building a relationship between the public library and Columbia College.

The *Columbia Poetry Review* is written and edited by students and is distributed all over the country. The cost is \$6. Branch library readings are free and open to the public. For more information call (312) 663-1600/ext. 250.

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# Student Sues Credit Card Company

By College Press Service

During her sophomore year at Radford University in Virginia, Michelle Bedell bought a few necessities on credit. It seemed easy enough — she only had to make small monthly payments.

But eventually Bedell, who only worked during the summer, fell behind one month, then two months. With interest and penalty fees accumulating, the total she owed grew rapidly. By her junior year, it was out of control. Her monthly amount was at a level she couldn't pay, and her interest rate skyrocketed to nearly 24 percent.

Then, she said, the intimidating phone calls started, leaving her frightened and in tears. Basically, she had a choice: pay or be blackballed financially for the next seven years. She couldn't pay.

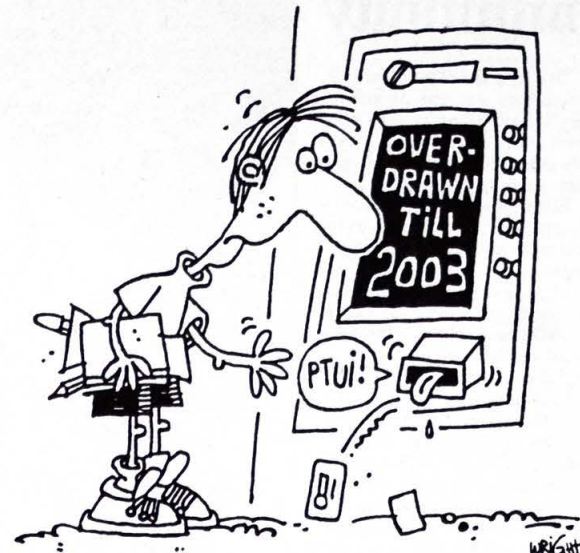
Bedell had fallen into the trap of spiraling credit card debt.

"I got really scared, and I didn't know what to do ... I was just so ashamed ... I couldn't believe this was happening."

Today, at 22, she can't rent an apartment, buy a car, and may be shunned by prospective employers. It will be this way for the next seven years. "Standard practice," said credit card companies nationwide. "Loan shark tactics," said her mother, Connie Bedell.

Bedell and her mother are fighting back. Last spring they told their story before the U.S. Congressional Subcommittee on Consumer Credit and Insurance, which was examining the consequences of marketing credit cards to high school and college students.

And it didn't end there. Bedell is now suing Signet Bank's Credit Card Division (from whom she obtained a Visa card), claiming she did not fully understand the nature of her credit card contract — primarily, interest accruals and in-



creases and the long-term ramifications to her credit record. This month, Bedell and her mother go to court to take on what her mother referred to as "the suits ... high powered lawyers and bankers."

How could this happen to this shy honor student who says she used the card strictly for bookstore purchases, not shopping sprees or entertainment?

"I was trying to be all adult, and I thought, 'Hey, credit cards! You know they just come right to you. You just fill it [an application card] out. I never even thought about the interest rate,'" Bedell admitted. "I just thought I'd be paying a certain amount and would never have a problem with interest."

If Bedell's story strikes home, it is not surprising. A few years ago, it was rare for a student to have his or her own credit card. Today an estimated 61 percent of the nation's

eight million college students have at least one credit card, according to the industry's own statistics.

Even though most students have a limited income and credit history — or none at all — they're very attractive to credit companies. Why? "Since adult cardholders already have eight to 10 pieces of plastic, teens are one of their few remaining untapped markets," reported consumer advocate Gerri Detweiler, author of *The Ultimate Credit Handbook*.

"It's just the last few years that students have been targets," said Ruth Susswein, executive director of Bankcard Holders of America (BHA), a non-profit consumer credit card company. That, plus the relatively high interest rates on "kiddie cards," make students a profitable long-term market, said Detweiler.

"What's more, there's a fresh

batch of prospects each year called 'freshman,'" said Susswein.

Student applicants also are not required to meet a strict criteria that requires applicants to have employment, a credit history and the assets necessary to obtain a credit card.

Applications pop up in campus mailboxes, dormitories, student unions and bookstores. National advertising campaigns have touted using the cards for spring break in Florida. Fraternities and sororities are recruited to distribute applications, making a few dollars for every name signed. Meanwhile, the complications of interest, penalties and missed payments are saved for the fine print, which most students toss away as the "wrapper" in which the card arrived.

Even though most college students are not employed, credit card companies generally consider them to be a safe bet. When they can't pay, their parents often pick up the tab.

"What we hear, more often than not, is that parents are bailing children out," Susswein said. "Parents usually feel morally obliged to pay, even though they are not legally obliged."

Whoever is paying, the credit card industry is more than satisfied with the end results. Susswein said industry estimates indicate "issuers are earning \$16.5 million a year on every 100,000 student cardholders — more than \$10 million of which is interest income."

At the hearing, subcommittee chair U.S. Rep. Joseph P. Kennedy (D-Mass.) said this: "The credit card industry is telling students that they can get a credit card without a job, income or any other showing that they can pay off a debt. This marketing blitz is having a devastating impact on the lives of many

See Credit, Page 7

## How To Manage Credit Card Debt

So, how can you stay out of credit card trouble? First, heed the warning signs by asking yourself, "Does any of this sound familiar?"

\*You've got more than one credit card, one of which may have reached its limit.

\*All earnings from your part-time job are used for paying off credit card debt.

\*You regularly use your credit card to buy things for friends who pay you in cash, which you then spend.

\*You are using cash advances from one card to pay off another.

\*You can only make very low minimum monthly payments on your balance.

These are all signs of potential credit card abuse and could signal serious trouble ahead. But you can get help.

Most cities have non-profit credit counseling service affiliated with the National Foundation for Consumer Credit. Counselors can act as an intermediary between you and the credit companies to prevent long-term damage to your credit rating.

However, students should learn techniques to manage their credit card usage before any trouble begins.

\*Try not to carry forward the balance from month to month. Put it in your budget and pay it off.

\*Limit yourself to \$50, \$75, or \$100 a month, whatever your allowance or discretionary income may be.

\*Pay cash if the item will be gone by the time you get the bill (a burger), if you wouldn't borrow money to make the purchase (jeans), or if you don't know how or when you can pay the bill in full.

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## Tuition From Page 1

times students get a rougher deal at public institutions than they would at a private one.

"Public institutions need to deal with legislators," he said. "If they can't get as much money out of legislators as they need, they have no choice but to turn to students for more money."

DeSalle said that Columbia has been successful in its goal of remaining as the least expensive private college in Illinois.

"We look at the programs we offer, the raises we give, and we try to keep everything as low as possible. We have raised our tuition consistently less than all other private colleges in the state, and even some public colleges, for the last 10 years," he added.

Are students buying this? John Olin, director of Columbia's financial aid office, thinks believes so. "I haven't heard complaints yet, and I've been keeping my ear close to the ground," he said. "If there comes a time when students start complaining, it will be during the summer, when their financial aid packages start to come in."

For more information on financial aid, read story on page 1.

## Diversity From Page 1

Afrikan Alliance and Paula Garcia of Luna.

"There was already one discussion a month ago, and next year the series will continue," said Christine Somerville, director of the Campus Climate Project, who sponsored this panel meeting.

Sommerville introduced Pepon Osorio, a visiting artist and the facilitator of the panel meeting. "I do not want this to be a place where people come, talk, and nothing happens," said Osorio, who led the discussion.

As Osorio noticed isolated groups of Latinos, African-Americans, Anglo-Saxons, and Asians, he asked audience members to intermingle with each other.

The first speaker was George Bailey, who accented in his speech that risk-taking is the most important thing in life, and that it should start in the classroom.

"We need to cross the border to get to another human being who is different," said Bailey, "but the need is to move beyond tolerance."

Speaking second was Sarah Odishoo, who asked audience members to cross their fingers and place one thumb on top of the other. The personal choices of placing the right thumb over the left or the other way around, she said, is a learned behavior that is subject to change.

"We are not born racists, we become racists," Odishoo said. "I have seen a lot of changes through

my life, and there will be a lot of changes after."

Panelist Frida Richman said that change is not as easy as it sounds, especially when issues like cultural and ethnic diversity are involved. She said that the first step toward change is to admit the fact that we live in a racist society. Only then we can take further steps and change the existing institutions.

The last panelist was Jose Lopez. "Education is a human experience, which is enhanced with the exercise of freedom," he said. "And freedom means to be able to understand the world about us, and act upon the issues most important in transforming it."

Finally, the audience took the microphone for questions, suggestions or personal experiences.

A student suggested organizing a student government body to increase students' political power, and also to serve as a cultural experience.

Osorio responded that even though a student government might be a good idea, it could still lack cultural diversity.

The audience also agreed that many student organizations do not offer enough support and sense of belonging. They lack the integration and cultural values that can make them attractive to Columbia students from every background.

Suggestions were made to enrich the curriculum and to open the classrooms for cultural diversity discussions. Nevertheless, students reflected that some of the teachers teach by the program, and very few are open for unusual class discussions.



# 1995

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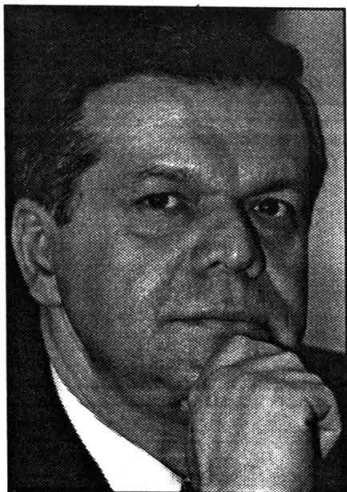
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## People YOU should KNOW



Chris Sweda/Chronicle

### Jose Lopez

#### Who he is:

As a part-time instructor in the liberal education department, Jose Lopez teaches the courses Hispanics in the U.S. Since the 1800s and The History of Mexico and Central America.

#### Education:

Lopez received a bachelor of arts degree from Loyola University and did his graduate work at the University of Chicago.

#### Career:

Lopez has taught at his former high school, Tuley High, and in addition to teaching at Columbia, he is also an instructor at Northeastern Illinois University. In 1981, he co-founded and became the executive director of the Puerto Rican Cultural Center, located in the Humboldt Park area.

#### What he does at the Puerto Rican Cultural Center:

Lopez helps direct programs aimed at helping the Puerto Rican community in Humboldt Park. The center runs an alternative high school structured to meet the needs of students who have dropped out or been "pushed out" of the school system. The center also offers housing, a literacy program for young mothers, a day care center, and an AIDS education and counseling program.

#### Other involvements:

Lopez is an active participant in the Puerto Rican Independence Movement.

#### Advice:

"My advice to students, particularly Latino students, is that they should never forget where they came from. They should always remember that the very measure of success is not to the degree that they make a lot of money, but to the degree that they are agents of transformation, agents of change in their community, and they can go back and make a dent in that community."

By Veronica Cervantes  
Staff Writer

### Credit From Page 4

students and their families. Without knowing the risks of credit, students have gotten hooked on plastic and are racking up huge debts that will plague them for years. Their parents often face a grim choice: to either bail out their children or watch them get their financial lives off to a disastrous start."

By the time Bedell turned to her mother for help, she was being sued for payment by Signet and also was having problems with a Discover card, although the situation was later settled out of court. Her twin sister, Diana, was in the same situation but had not been sued. The twins' combined debts at Signet alone were roughly \$3,000, half of which, the Bedells claim, was interest and fees.

"Our family had three kids in college and had no more money left," said Connie Bedell, "so we started fighting it."

Bedell's mother phoned the credit card companies, bank presidents, the BHA and finally, the press looking for help. "I said, 'What can I do? No one had an answer...'"

Because of these calls, the Bedells were asked to testify before Congress and suddenly found themselves in the media spotlight, appearing on the national evening news and in a *Washington Post* article. They were even invited to appear on the television talk show *Geraldo*. (They declined).

Bedell remains baffled by all this attention. She described a day when classmates "were all saying, 'Hey, you were on T.V. You have bad credit,' so that was really horrible." But for Bedell and her mother, there was no going back.

"I find this unconscionable,"

raged Connie. "They [credit card companies] rope in these young people who really are not familiar with credit cards ... at loan shark prices and then hurt the parents who are financially strapped already. To me, it is a slap in the face. I call it 'middle-class loan sharking.'"

But credit card companies strongly disagree. Credit card companies argue that college students are in fact better credit risks than other populations.

"We are very pleased with the way these young adults are handling their accounts," said Teri A. Temples, spokesperson for Signet, who refused to comment on the pending Bedell case. "The college portfolio is one of the best and the highest performing portfolios ... so there are a lot of young adults out there that are handling their credit and doing it the right way."

Temples said, however, she does not know how many of these loans are being paid by parents.

As for the students who find themselves in financial hot water, she said: "They have opportunities to get education to help them understand how they need to pay [credit cards] them off. There are two modes of thought about that ... one is not giving cards to students, because we don't want them to get into trouble. Our mode of thought is let's give cards to students at a reasonable rate, at a reasonable level of pay-off, to students who are likely to manage those cards the right way ... We've been very successful with that."

When asked about the reasonableness of a 24 percent rate, Temples responded, "People who do not handle their accounts correctly end up with rising rates. With the entire portfolio, not just college students, [we] try to recoup costs that the person has agreed to pay in the original contract."

She does confirm, however, that Signet does not give "unsecured" credit to any other borrowers who are unemployed. To get a card, they must "secure" it by linking it to a savings account.

"College students are held to a different standard than the rest of us," said Susswein. "College students with no job, no assets, no income, no credit history and no means of supporting themselves are eligible for unsecured credit, and in some cases, quite a bit of credit."

"Without exception, no other group with this same lack of credentials is given the time of day by the credit card community."

So what does this mean for students? Well, nobody's talking about yanking those plastic pacifiers just yet. The congressional subcommittee and credit counselors are primarily asking for more education up-front to balance all the sales hype.

"Our concern is not that students should not get a credit card," said Susswein. "When used wisely, it can be an excellent way to build credit. Our concern is that people are given cards without the understanding their responsibility."

Ultimately, it is the students who have to protect themselves.

"It's an intoxicating trap that can literally ruin a young person's financial future," said Detweiler of today's easy access to credit cards. "Negative marks, like late payments, are recorded on real-life report cards, those all important credit reports -- and stay on for seven years."

"Like any report card, a good credit report is a valuable asset," she said, "while a bad one can haunt today's young adults -- well into the next century -- making it hard to rent an apartment, buy a car or even get a job."

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## Financial

### From Page 1

college.

"In the fall semester, we received four thousand checks in two days," Olino said. "How are we supposed to process those, serve students, process incoming students, handle two award years, and go to direct lending all at the same time?"

The advances made by the financial aid office have been noticed by students. Asked to describe their financial aid advisor's performance, nine out

of 10 Columbia students surveyed said their advisors show concern for their financial problems and share helpful information or in-sightful direction. Eight out of 10 students said that their advisors are very accessible and spend valuable time with them.

Even with the improvements the financial aid office has implemented, some students still have complaints. Four out of 10 student surveyed said financial aid information available is unclear, especially when dealing with loans.

Sherri Clark, a television major, said when she applied for a

student loan, the loan agreement terms were not clear. She was not sure what was expected of her once she graduated and had to repay it.

Olino said he knows the application process is confusing. "We try to de-mystify it as much as possible. We're never going to meet all the frustrations that all the students have. But the issue is: How do we get a student from no money to money. You've got to go through these hoops one at a time. The goal is an education."

However, Olino cautioned students against taking on an un-

manageable burden of debt in the form of student loans.

"Loans are something students should be very conservative about," he said.

Tracy Snipes, an art major who received one student loan, said she won't take out another one. "It's not as bad as many might think ... but it should be used only as a supplement to your financial aid or need," she said.

Snipes thinks the reason loan applications are so complicated is that lenders try to get as much information from students as possible so they can locate borrow-

ers who don't pay their debt. "Many students abuse the system," she said. "That's why some lenders go overboard in ascertaining all they can about your personal life, so they can retrieve money on a defaulted loan."

Snipes may not be far off in her assessment. Six out of 10 students surveyed admitted that they have abused the financial aid system. One student, who asked not to be identified, said, "Lying on your financial aid application may enable you to receive more money than necessary. The trick to not getting caught is to be very accurate with your lie."

## Maintenance

From Page 2

suggestions.

Another major concern troubling students and faculty is the general cleanliness and appearance of the buildings.

"The bathrooms are pretty scuzzy, especially with the leaky soap containers," said Jennifer Laboy, of the journalism department.

Julie Lux, administrative assistant for academic computing, agrees and has one of the very few examples where a complaint hasn't been addressed.

Lux said she wrote a letter to the maintenance department about the cleanliness of the Wabash Building fourth floor washrooms. "I don't know when the walls were cleaned last, but there has been a band aid on the wall for three months," she said. Even after her letter, Lux said the walls haven't been cleaned.

Janitorial services are also handled by outside contractors. American Business Maintenance comes in every night to clean. They are notified when complaints are received and are then supposed to address them.

According to school officials, all students need to do is mention the problem.

In fact, departments who have notified maintenance of issues for the most part were pleased with the speed in which situations were handled.

"When we call they come right away. Within the hour. I've never had any problems and I've been here a long time," said Gina Richardson, a film/video department administrative assistant.

"We were experiencing sink back-ups and lights out," Conswayla Aaron of the science and mathematics department said, "but they took care of it right away."

It is hard to point fingers, but aging buildings seem to be the main culprit. There are, however, other problems as well.

"I spend all my time cleaning graffiti," said Karen Castillo of the maintenance department. "So we have problems with the students too."

Not causing damage is one way students can help, but according to school officials, students can also take a stand by notifying someone of maintenance problems.

With tuition increases and reduction of financial aid, more money is coming out of students' pockets to attend Columbia. Students can do much more to get the most of their money than just accept maintenance problems and work around them.

Susan Babyk, of the provost's office, advises students with maintenance issues to go either to the provost's office or to security. They will then contact the proper personnel to handle the problem.

Larry Dunn said that during the school year, maintenance staff can only do routine checks on the corridors, because classrooms are in use. It is only really possible for maintenance to do full scale checks during the summer and any downtime at the school.

"When students are on vacation is actually the busiest time for my staff," he said.

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Chicago, Illinois 60605  
(312) 663-1600 ext. 343  
(312) 427-3920 FAX

Editor-in-Chief  
Sergio Barreto

Managing Editor  
Todd Dell'Avinga

News Editor  
Susan Naese

Features Editor  
Kandace DeSadier

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

## The Ultimate Boys' Club

A thundering cheer erupts around me as grown men high-five one another and cavort around the bar like children at recess. I get a bit excited, thinking someone has just ordered a round on the house. But much to my dismay, all the chaos is simply over another Bulls victory. I realize this just as an over-served sports-fan tumbles into me, almost spilling my drink. A perfect time to vent my frustration over the sports complex of America.

Professional sports are the ultimate boys' club. The perfect excuse to sit around with friends and drink beer, cheering for you favorite team, which incidentally is often the one you placed a bet on. But make sure there are no women around: 1) They don't understand the game, and 2) They might object to all those bikini-clad models featured in our favorite beer commercials. Strictly the guys, male bonding while enjoying our favorite barbaric ritual.

I cannot buy into this scene. The fact of the matter remains that professional sports are detrimental to the culture of American society. Too many times I see people who are content spending their Saturday and Sunday afternoons watching meaningless sporting events, the outcomes of which have no direct impact on their lives.

I am willing to bet that a modest percentage of men who watch sports do so merely because society dictates that it is a "guy" thing to do. Guys want to be macho and fit in with other guys, so they keep pretending to care whether a team wins or

loses, or what player gets traded to what team, etc.

Society would be much better off if men, the next time they were going to spend a whole day watching sporting events, would instead read a book, watch a stimulating movie, take a walk outside, spend time with those important to them, or even get off their butts and go out and play a sport themselves.

Life is too short to waste time watching other men run around. It's time America started living life, instead of always watching it.

Ryan Healy  
Junior, Journalism

## Take the Stairs!

After reading *The Chronicle* for the past few months, I cannot believe the laziness of people. Week after week, there have been articles and letters complaining about the slow, broken down elevators at Columbia. It seems ironic that people will waste time complaining when they should take a couple of minutes to use common sense.

It doesn't surprise me at all that the elevators break down or take long. The reason is not the fault of Columbia's maintenance, though they seem to be a phantom division of the school, it's the fault of Columbia students and faculty members.

Yes, you know the types. The fat and lazy student who takes the elevator up to the third floor, or the wrinkled faculty member who takes the elevator from the 13th all the way to the 12th floor.

These are the types of idiots that cause elevators to take an eternity. Not only that, but the elevators break down, not because of Columbia's lack of care, but because of their re-

peated use by idiots.

Elevators should not be able to stop on the first four floors of any building when they are taken from the ground floor, except in cases of handicapped persons. This may not seem practical, but if Columbia could enforce this policy by hiring elevator attendants with the money they will be saving from not having to repair them every week. It may sound like the elevators would really be crowded with an attendant along for the ride, but if Columbia weeds out the non-hackers, everything will fall into place.

I know there are many of you who agree with me and that is why I am personally offering an award to anyone who enforces my proposed policy. The next time somebody gets on an elevator and presses the button to only travel one floor, quickly hit the open door button and shove them out. When I hear about your valiant effort, I will present you with an iron-boot award. To sum up my point I'll put it in simple terms for those of you who might not understand: TAKE THE STAIRS, MORON!

Arnold Kasden  
Sophomore, Dance

## And What's With Those Food Service Jerks

I have put off writing long enough.

If you've ever been down to the Underground Cafe, that place beneath the main campus building (600 S. Michigan), you've experienced what I am about to relate to you.

If you have yet to venture to those depths, do yourself a big, huge favor and visit Chicago Carry-Out's instead.

Here's the deal: every Monday through Wed-

nesday, anytime between 10:00am and noon, I get a break within my morning classes.

Because I have class at the main building it is convenient to simply walk downstairs in order to get a cup of coffee or an orange juice.

So I do.

Convenience is an important thing in our lives. We sometimes go out of our way to have it.

I don't deliberately snub the Harrison Cafe or other nearby restaurants, yet they are altogether too consuming and involved for only a cup of java.

Anyway, I go downstairs. . .

Yes, I go downstairs and more often than not, when I get to the bottom, confronting me is a line of students and faculty 10 people long and two people deep.

The line moves slowly if at all. And do the cashiers make an effort to extinguish the wait?

There is typically only one cashier; there are moments when a second appears, albeit briefly. The one cashier in particular that haunts me so is a short-haired gentleman about [5 feet 10 inches tall] with a dark complexion.

This man is slow.

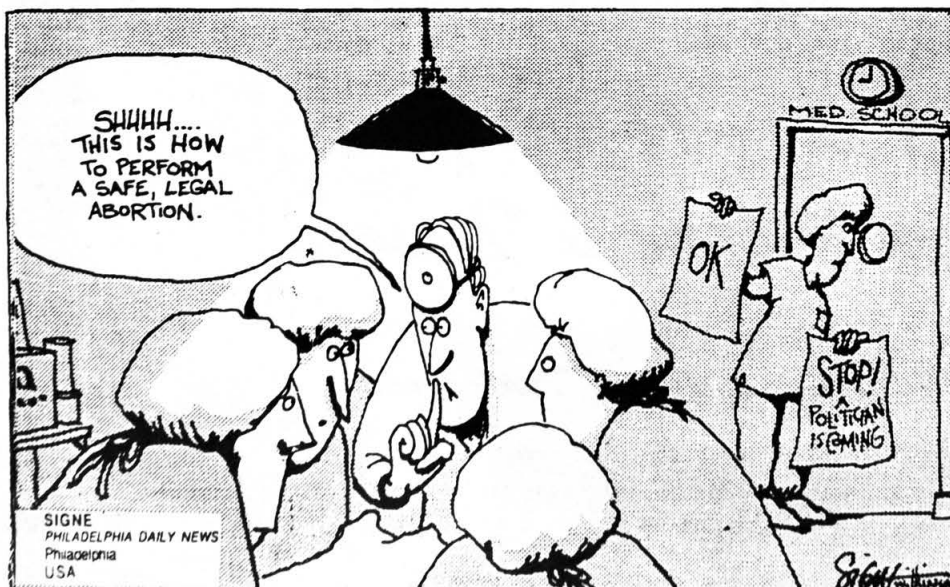
Not only is he slow, the man thinks nothing of taking time out from the druggery of his employ to exchange pleasantries with his friends that are always stopping by.

And by pleasantries, I do not simply mean, "Hello, how are you, goodbye."

Please, this man has a method. He is not satisfied unless he can stand there every 45 seconds and do absolutely nothing.

I am tired of waiting. Whoever hired this lazy buffoon, please, set him free.

Temsd Everett  
Junior, Film



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## John Henry Biederman

Columnist

Politicians all the way up to Clinton are suggesting we circumvent that "pesky Bill of Rights" after the Oklahoma bombing.

Never mind that there's no evidence that any radio host influenced it. Never mind that in the not so distant past "McCarthyism" spurned the same type of action, accomplished nothing, and made the first and forth amendments misnomers.

It's a case of politicians doing what they do best: Talking dramatic; useless and dangerous steps in the name of "action" because intelligent answers are beyond them.

Notice that with all the "shock jocks" and "right wingers" they're targeting, the bestseller that's led to more bloodshed than any other escapes mention. If you're talking about dangerous forms of speech, how can you possibly leave out the Bible?

I'm not talking only of crusades and inquisitions of yesterday. Whose name does the radical "pro-lifers" kill in the name of? Could it be...JESUS? And Koresh wasn't brainwashing people in the name of Howard Stern. On a more subtle basis, ever wonder if the religious right's opposition to birth control education inflames addiction and gang problems, etc., by creating more unwanted pregnancies?

Nonetheless, I'll start screaming if the government takes any steps to restrict religious freedom. But I have to admit it's a much larger threat than Rush Limbaugh.

I've been imagining the nightmare society that could result from Neo-McCarthyism. It'll start with the fringe groups, militias and small political parties. Then those who complain to legislators will be suspect. Once the ignorant open the door, it'll run wild. The only question is who'll be harassed first.

A recent *Chicago Tribune* headline may foretell the possible future witch-hunt: "McVeigh: Loner And Soldier." As a social stigma, it's already begun. (I've actually been asked "You haven't had a girlfriend in how long? How do you know you're not a serial killer?") Ted Bundy and other psychos fit the "loner" label, and people like generating simple rules - because they don't exist.

We have to find a skin color for the "enemy." We have to spot maniacs early. So we ignore the great thinkers and law-abiding citizens who may fall under the arbitrary "loner label."

Throw out free speech to catch "right-wingers," and then I suppose "loners." Then we have to search anybody wearing camouflage, anybody interested in weapon science, anybody who frowns at authority figures...

So before you crank-up the Big Brother machine that'll have you searching my room on a Saturday night I spend writing, re-read the First Amendment, Billy C., your recent speech is what's dangerous.



## Women Closing The Gender Gap

By Charles Edwards  
Staff Writer

A suburban businesswoman drives her \$75,000 convertible Mercedes-Benz into the Loop on a sunny day last week. On this same day the President of the United States visited Chicago. Do I call her the President or the first lady? Depends on whom you ask.

I woke up last Tuesday, looked at my calendar and realized what most men fear to admit - women are no longer inferior to men. They are becoming more superior by the day.

Just take a pulse of the mood of today's woman. Women in the workplace not only are major breadwinners for their families but also have little desire to give up that role. A report in the *Wall Street Journal* last week published a new study by the Families and Work Institute that 55 percent of employed women bring in half or more of their household income, and 53 percent of those women say they don't want to give up any of their responsibilities either at work or at home.

I can testify to that study because even though I am a decent salary working for the mayor of Chicago, my wife earns 36 percent more. Clearly she is the breadwinner in the home and I hate to admit it.

Later in the day, as I read my *Tribune*, I flipped past the page announcing President Hillary Clinton's visit to Chicago and stumbled across the headline: "Women escape affirmative action feud." How, I

asked myself? Surely I thought they were receiving the short-end of the stick. Not so. 1994 Labor Department figures show there were 6.5 million woman-owned businesses in the U.S., an increase of 57 percent since 1982. Together they employ more workers than all of the Fortune 500 companies, the article reported.

Jobs that require a man's advantage over women (physical skills) have been declining in number and salary. Newt Gingrich once pointed out, "Men have a propensity for hunting giraffes, and presumably superior skill in doing that." I quickly scanned the classifieds of my *Tribune* and couldn't find any job openings for giraffe-hunters. But what I did find was a ratio of 13 to 1 female-oriented job openings to male; especially in the field of child care. Once again I hate to admit it but women are increasingly replacing men in what traditionally have been male occupations.

Remember Murphy Brown? She became sort of the symbolic woman of the '90s. She had a child without being married but also was a highly paid TV reporter, bossing men around. The suburban woman's license plate (the one I saw in the convertible Mercedes-Benz) could have read MURPHY.

"Well," you might ask, "how do you know this woman is from the suburbs?" Because I gave her a flyer of my newly opened business: a day care center.

"Why," many who know me have asked? "Your major is journalism and you have no children of your own." Yes, this is

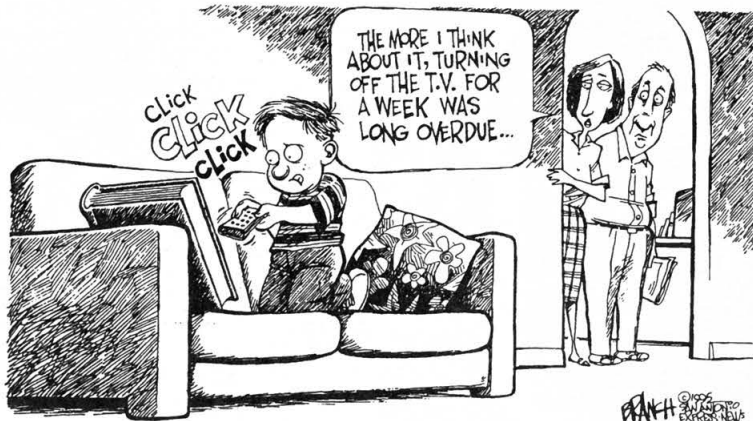
true, which means I have no experience in child care. Furthermore, I don't need the money, yet it could come in handy to surpass my wife in individual earned income.

I'm not ashamed to admit this fact: More working mothers coupled with the oncoming tidal wave slash by Republicans of cuts for welfare recipients means more children will need day care. And according to the Children's Defense Fund, there are 7 million kids under five whose mothers work, and one out of four are in day care centers.

This brings me back to the woman in the Mercedes-Benz. When she pulled into the gas station off the Congress Expressway I handed her a flyer advertising my day care. Why? Because she looked like Murphy Brown. Just kidding; but her response, nevertheless, to my flyer was, "I could sure use your service but I live in the suburbs." Tough luck? Wrong.

Men, wake-up, look at your calendar, and strike back. The date is 1995 and women have taken over every field that used to be the traditional symbol of manliness. And if I can start a day care, I know there are a few good men who can...let me stay safe and just say think creative because I have.

Men, don't be afraid to crossover to traditional feminine fields, because if you are, more women will be driving \$75,000 convertible Mercedes-Benz and you'll be on the sidelines waiting for a bus to take you to the welfare office where there won't be a check waiting.



## Overheard

"Have you ever been on a committee of nine people? Did you have a feeling of power? I don't wake up in the morning and say 'I'm a powerful guy.' I don't feel powerful, because I end up doing things I don't want to do."

--Supreme Court justice  
Antonin Scalia, on his job.

"Every day life teaches us how important and powerful it is to remember those who have suffered, whose lives have been taken."

--Fashion designer Giorgio  
Armani, on victims of AIDS.

"They were doing a full back shot of me in a swimsuit and I thought, Oh my God. I have to be so brave. See, every woman hates herself from behind."

--Supermodel Cindy  
Crawford, on courage, in  
Playboy magazine.

## Jon Bigness

Columnist

In Oklahoma City, the search for survivors is over. But, for rescue workers, it will be a long time -- most likely the rest of their lives -- before they will be able to get over the horrors they witnessed in the rubble of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.

If you were to ask a rescue worker how many dead babies he or she carried out of what was left of that building, you would most likely get a fairly accurate count. Holding a dead baby in your arms surely has lasting effects, not easily overcome by any duration of time.

But there are other babies who are killed every day in this great land of ours, and this butchering is acceptable to many people. Millions of babies have been murdered under the blood-stained banner of abortion rights. But has anyone come out to condemn the terrorist actions of Planned Parenthood, which sponsors these activities? Has the President made any efforts to crack down on left-wing radicals?

On the contrary, President Clinton, the moral leader of the United States of America, nominates for surgeon general a doctor who has performed several abortions. There is great controversy about the exact number of abortions performed by Dr. Henry Foster. At last count, the Tennessee obstetrician figured he had performed 39 abortions. Before that, he said it was fewer than a dozen; and before that he said he had performed just one abortion.

Thirty-nine minus one equals 38, right? That's quite a jump. I wonder if other mass murderers have similar problems with math.

Foster would have the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee and the nation believe he had merely misspoke. "In my desire to provide instant answers, I spoke without having all the facts at my disposal," Foster told the senators.

The Senate committee is expected to vote on Foster's nomination this week. It can be hoped that the senators wisely reject this man, if for no better reason than the fact that Foster finds human life so insignificant, he can't even remember how many babies he scraped and sucked into eternity.

Life begins at conception, most medical doctors, pediatricians, and scientists affirm. According to the accepted biological/medical definition, contained in *Robert's Introduction to Medical Genetics*, human life begins at the point of fertilization, when the male and female sex cells merge and create a zygote. For the zygote to be considered life, it should contain the correct number of chromosomes and observable growth should continue.

The Supreme Court, in its 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision, knew it had to apply some sort of definition to the beginning of life. But instead of abiding by the definition contained in any Biology 101 textbook, they created their own definition -- the ambiguous viability standard and trimester system.

The trimester system was designed by these nine legislating justices to give women the absolute right to terminate a pregnancy in the first trimester. In the second trimester, a state may take steps to regulate abortion as it relates to the mother's health. In the third trimester, a state, if it so desires, may regulate abortion to the extent that it is proscribed in its entirety.

Not every state forbids third trimester abortions, and the outcome is more grisly than any pictures you saw from Oklahoma City. In one of my classes here at Columbia, I saw a slide presentation that showed a baby after it had been aborted in its seventh month. It was covered in blood and its head and one of its limbs were missing; to think that this goes on daily is distressing.

I know all the arguments from the Pro-Choice camp, so don't even bother to write. I'm sure that I did not change anyone's mind, and I can assure you that my mind will not be changed. But I wish more Pro-Choice people could have seen that picture. Maybe then they would at least consider the importance of life.







# Comedienne Renee Hicks Tops on College Circuit

By College Press Service

Some men think Renee Hicks is kinky because she has a bald head. Some women think she's a lesbian because she has a bald head. And some people think she's a kinky lesbian because, well, she's got a bald head.

To college audiences, however, Hicks -- who stuck with the bald look after a niece botched a haircut just before a stand-up performance -- is among the most popular comedians on the campus circuit, having played at nearly 200 colleges in the past year or so and having been named the National College Comic of the Year.

Not bad for a former certified public accountant who also happens to be the daughter of a Pentecostal preacher.

So just how does a C.P.A. go about becoming a hot comic? Would you believe it's the old friends-convincing-her-to-get-on-stage-at-an-open-mike-night-at-a-San Francisco-comedy club-and-things-just-took-off-from-there story?

"It's true!" yells the high-energy Hicks by phone from a Texas hotel. "I'd been really reluctant to go up on stage, but my friends dared me. Then they said, 'We'll give you a hundred bucks.' When they talked money, I listened. So I got on stage, and I was really comfortable.

"When I got off, other comics

came up to me and said, 'You're really good' and 'Where do you play?' I told them it was my first time, and nobody believed me. After that night people started hiring me to emcee their shows and that led to me quitting my job as an accountant and doing the comedy full-time."

Hicks, who was born and raised in San Francisco and attended college at Cal State in Hayward, explains that the secret to her humor is her ability to mine everyday life and everyday people for laughs.

"I do what I call humor people, which means that no matter who you are -- black, white, Hispanic, straight or gay, male or female -- you can come to my show and be able to enjoy it," she says.

"What makes me laugh is watching normal people and observing the absurdities of life. That's how I get my material. When I'm onstage, I'm just me. I'm the same way onstage that I am off it.

"Sometimes, when I get off stage, people say, 'OK, you can calm down now.' I say, 'I wish I could!' I just got lucky enough to have this personality that lets me make people laugh."

The comedienne, who's single, thirtysomething and splits her time between Los Angeles and San Francisco, reports that she loves performing at colleges, where she's nearing the end of her *Bald Ambition Tour*.

"You can't do a lot of political material for a college crowd. Even though they may vote, they may not be that up on what Newt Gingrich is up to because they're busy studying. But the college crowd is a lively crowd," she notes.

"If they like you, they really like you, and they demonstrate it. They'll yell and scream, and they want you to party with them afterwards. At a comedy club, the audiences are like, 'Oh yeah, you're funny,' and they're drunk and slobbering on you."

In addition to her campus and night club appearances, Hicks has strutted her stuff on numerous TV comic showcases, such as *Caroline's Comedy Hour* and *Evening at the Improv*. Further, she's guest-starred in an episode of *Hanging With Mr. Cooper* and tackled a small role in the recent film, *A Low Down Dirty Shame*.

Looking to the future, Hicks foresees herself jumping back and forth between movies, television and the stand-up comedy circuit.

"I want to get more into acting. We've been talking with some production companies and to the networks. It's just a matter of trying to find the right projects, ones that don't rely just on me being bald and black," concludes Hicks.

"My management team thinks something will happen soon ... and I hope they're right!"

## Fiction Writing Students On a Roll

By April M. Knox  
Correspondent

Everything from car-jacking to buying tickets for the New Kids On The Block concert was covered during Columbia College's fiction writing department's advanced reading.

Approximately 100 people gathered in the Hokin Gallery for the reading on May 11, including fiction students, faculty, and staff. Students who wished to participate in the reading had to be enrolled in "Prose Forms" or other advanced fiction classes and were required to read two double-spaced type written pages of their work.

"The readings are consistently becoming better -- a lot better than we expected," said Drew Ferguson, fiction major and member of the fiction writing department's student board. The student board, consists of eight fiction students who work diligently with faculty advisors Patty Lewis, Don DeGrazia and Gary Johnson to plan each fiction reading.

"We've had four readings this year, and each reading seems to get more polished each time," said Lewis, part-time fiction teacher. "All of the readings are free and open to the public. We were surprised at the great turn-out we got at the reading in early April, because it was the same night of Michael Jordan's first home

game."

Approximately 20 fiction students read their work at the advanced reading, including featured readers whose work has continuously been outstanding in their fiction workshop classes.

"Featured writers are not only more experienced, but they keep the readings more lively," said Lewis. "We try to make sure we have a variety of faces, voices, and content."

The audience were not only good listeners, but gave supportive responses to those who read. The audience were served a wide variety of material that ranged from a "Black Panther" experience to being chased by sharks while in an aquarium.

In addition to being responsible for fiction readings, the student board is currently having its first "Submission Drive," which encourages fiction students to submit their manuscripts to publishers by providing a list of potential publishers.

A publishing seminar held on May 20 provided a panel of selected writers who gave submission guidelines and advice. It was followed by a question and answer session for student writers who are interested in learning more about the do's and don't's of submitting work.

"We've gotten a lot accomplished this year," said Patty Lewis, "But we're setting up things for next year now."

## Grads: Don't Forget to Ask for Gifts

By College Press Service

If you are lucky, a lot of people are asking you, "What do you want for graduation?"

Don't be afraid to tell them. If you don't offer suggestions, you are going to get strange kitchenware items that you will never use.

A couple of things you will need for a jump on the real world are:

1. A leather organizer: This will come in handy for scheduling all those job interviews. It will also keep you organized so you don't forget any of those interviews. Plus, it looks cool.

2. A briefcase: A soft leather briefcase adds the finishing touches to the whole "I-am-a-business-person" look.

3. A suit. No one wants a suit -- specially as a graduation gift. But one good suit can sit through many interviews.

Just make sure you dry clean it in between interviews. You really can sweat in those things.

4. A watch: If you don't have one, you need one. Showing up late for an interview is very bad. Maybe you should ask for a watch with an alarm.

5. A good pair of running shoes: These will serve two purposes. You can put them on after job interviews, and you'll

look just like a yuppie with a job. Your feet also will be saved some pain and agony. Also, you can use them to outrun bill collectors when they come to you.

6. Feel-good tapes: You are a good person, even if it takes you three years to find a job. Get some affirmation tapes to reaffirm that. You will need them after job interview No. 20.

7. A nice set of pens: Who knows why you need this, but you will get it so you might as well ask for it.

8. A computer: Hey, why not? It would come in really handy. If you had the computer, you could do your own job resume.

9. A new car: As long as you are asking for big stuff, go for the gusto. If you got a new car, you would never have to worry about beaking down on the highway on the way to interviews.

Don't bother asking for the car if you are moving to New York City. It will get stolen. Instead, tell your gift buyer that you need thousands of tokens for the subway. You also might want a stun gun and mace.

10. An answering machine: There may come a day when a company wants to call you back.

But don't put some silly message on the machine until you sign the contract.

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CERTAIN CONFUSION



by Brian Cattapan



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1. for students who did not apply for federal aid during the 94-95 academic year: October 1, 1995.
2. for students who did apply for federal aid during the 94-95 academic year: June 1, 1995.

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### Miscellaneous

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## Dates To Remember

### Monday, May 22

**Student Honor Exhibition.** Art Gallery, 72 E. 11th St., 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday - Friday. Through June 2.

### Tuesday, May 23

**Reptile Palace Orchestra.** Performance featuring strings, percussion and wind instruments. *Hokin Annex*, 623 S. Wabash Ave., 1:00 p.m.

**How To Prepare for Finals.** Academic advising workshop. 3rd floor of the Wabash Building, 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

### Wednesday, May 24

**Time Will Tell.** A documentary about the life and music of Bob Marley, presented by the International Students Organization. A reception will follow the screening. *Hokin Hall*, 11:00 a.m.

**Direct Marketing Club Meeting.** Attend this meeting to review the 1996 agenda and become a member of DMC if you aren't already. Lunch will be served. Room 802 of the Torco Building, noon.

**Designing in HTML.** Academic computing seminar by Mac Rutan and Darrell Moore. Room 411 of the Wabash Building, 4:30 p.m.

### Thursday, May 25

**12th Annual TV Video Exhibition.** A showcase of videos produced by students in the television department. A reception will follow. *Hokin Theater*, 7:00 p.m.

**Mordine & Company Dance Theatre.** Featuring the award-winning "Edgemont Parts I and II." Presented by the Dance Center of Columbia College. *Harold Washington Library Auditorium*, 400 S. State St., 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$16; group, senior and student discounts available.

### Friday, May 26

**Graduation Party.** RSVP only. *Chicago Hilton and Towers*, 720 S. Michigan Ave., 6:00 -- 11:00 p.m.

**Mordine and Company Dance Theater.** See Thursday, May 25. Tickets are \$18.

### Saturday, May 26

**Mordine and Company Dance Theatre.** See Thursday, May 25. Tickets are \$18.

### Tuesday, May 30

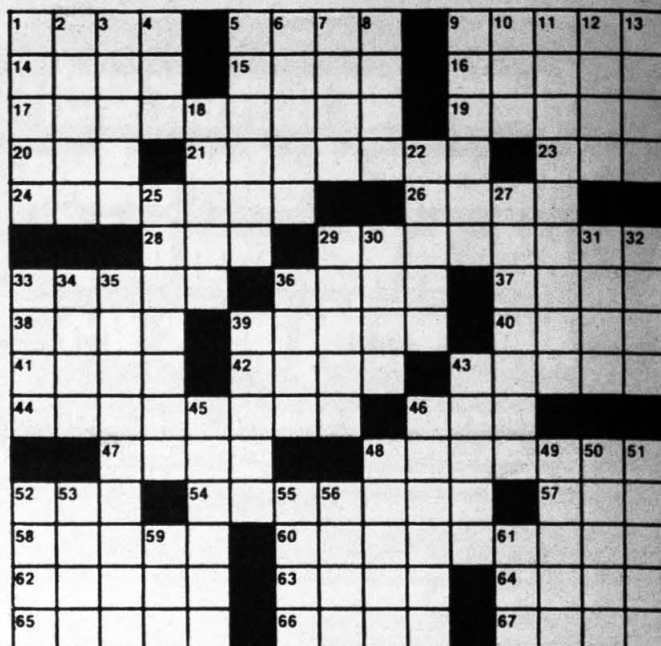
**International Tourist Fair.** Over 20 countries will be featured. Organized by the International Student Organization. *Hokin Annex*, noon - 3:00 p.m.

All events are free and open to the public unless stated otherwise.

## THE Crossword

**ACROSS**  
1 Norse god  
5 Rocky peak  
9 City near Atlanta  
14 Ponselle or Bonheur  
15 Funny Jay  
16 Hole —  
17 Satan  
19 Events for shoppers  
20 One — million  
21 Buys stocks e.g.  
23 Old lang.  
24 Outdoor area for socials  
26 Fury  
28 Biblical ending  
29 Varieties of speech  
33 Fountain drinks  
36 Gator's kin  
37 ERA e.g.  
38 Pitcher Hersher  
39 Express gratitude  
40 Forum wear  
41 "Gift of the —"  
42 Chops down  
43 Quite fat  
44 Reproves harshly  
46 Sedan  
47 Headliner  
48 Infielder  
52 Crony  
54 Areas  
57 Work by Keats  
58 Nautical call  
60 Baseball  
62 Bind again  
63 Jason's ship  
64 Angered  
65 Inclination  
66 Youthful suffix  
67 Uncanny

**DOWN**  
1 Distinguishing feature  
2 Singer Lena  
3 Acting award  
4 Stadium cheer  
5 Settle conclusively  
6 Actor Christopher  
7 — Boleyn  
8 Deities  
9 Prayer book  
10 TV actress Alicia  
11 Tax or garbage end  
12 Draft status  
13 Cozy home  
18 Decrees  
22 Train rail  
25 Follower of pragmatism  
27 Hand motion  
29 Sketches  
30 Charged particles  
31 License and dog  
32 Remain  
33 Search carefully  
34 Verbal  
35 Pass laws  
36 Mrs. Bono once  
39 "— you go again"  
43 Outdated



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### ANSWERS



45 Took a sip  
46 Johnny or Kit  
48 Pianist-comic Victor  
49 Watered silk  
50 Poisonous snake

51 Indigent  
52 Role  
53 State firmly  
55 Conversation  
56 Ripped  
59 Moral lapse  
61 Hasten

## FACE VALUE

By Chris Sweda

## What are your feelings about student-teacher dating?



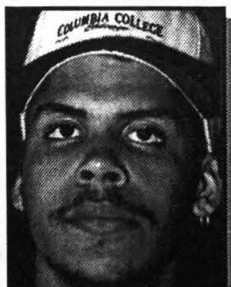
**Phillip J. Lee**  
Theater  
Senior

I think the concept is relatively dangerous. A certain degree of professionalism must be maintained in the student-teacher relationship. It could also be hazardous, under extreme circumstances, to the teacher's career.



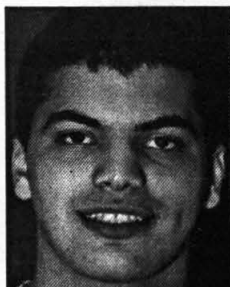
**Stacey Levin**  
Computer Graphics  
Senior

It's o.k. if the student is not taught by the teacher.



**Brandon B. Smith**  
Advertising Art  
Freshman

I feel if both people are not involved with anyone and they're both responsible, why not? If they keep school and their lives separated, it's o.k. Go for it.



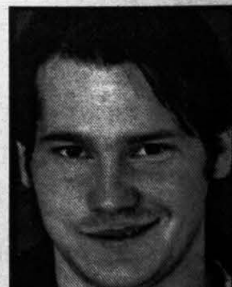
**Sean Moltaji**  
Music  
Sophomore

I don't think teachers and students should date. If they dated, students might not be able to concentrate on their classes as much as they should.



**Samara Beachdell**  
Liberal Arts  
Sophomore

I believe that student-teacher dating happens. I don't believe in putting rules on the dating as long as the student is not a pupil of that teacher, and as long as the dating doesn't affect the grading system.



**Ryan Healy**  
Journalism  
Junior

The only Columbia teachers worth dating are already taken. Oh well, there's always next year.

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