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#### THE ( ) CHICAG 0 COLUMBIA COLLEGE October 2, 1995

#### VOL. XXIX, No. 2

# **Lightfoot Brings Columbia To**



Photo courtesy of Jean Lightfoot Columbia Dean of Students Jean Lightfoot, lower right, takes a break at the Fourth U.N. Conference on Women to pose with new friends.

# **Columbia Teacher Declares Candidacy**

By Bob Chiarito News Editor

Columbia professor Robert Lytle is trying hard to manage his time. Besides teaching two class-es at Columbia and running his own computer consulting firm, Lytle has thrown his hat into the rare for 34th District stute reprerace for 34th District state representative.

Lytle announced his candidacy on Sept. 19, declaring himself a Republican candidate in the North Side district that has historically voted Democratic. So far, Lytle has raised \$2,000 towards his campaign, but raising funds may not be his toughest fight, although one politician feels the 26-year-old rookie has a

feels the 2b-year-old rookie has a future in politics. Artie Fitzgerald, 47th Ward Republican Committeeman, told supporters at Lytle's announce-ment that "Republican gains across the country make this race winnable for a candidate like Bob

Lytle. He has the right qualifica-tions, a strong educational back-ground, pro-business attitudes, and the drive to mount a success-ful political campaign."

ful political campaign." Lytle also has an advantage because, presently, no other Republican is running against him in the primary, but candi-dates have until mid-December to declare. Also, the incumbent, Democrat Nancy Kasczak, is leaving to pursue Congressman Michael Flanagan's 5th District Michael Flanagan's 5th District post, leaving newcomers Luke Howe, Tom O'Donnell and Larry McKeon to vie for the Democratic nomination of the 34th District.

Although the 34th district (which is bound by Addison Street on the south, Foster on the Street on the south, Foster on the north, the Chicago River on the west and Lake Michigan on the east), has traditionally voted Democratic, Lytle feels good Lytle See page 3

#### By John Biederman

Managing Editor

When Columbia's dean of stu-dents attended the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women, she found international sister-hood, experienced life without basic freedoms, learned basic rules governing all humanity, and—more importantly-brought Columbia with her.

They listed the college, not "said Jean Lightfoot, referme," me," said Jean Lightfoot, refer-ring to the 200-plus page events catalogue confronting every issue from affirmative action to the Simpson trial. "The college is what will live on in history." At the conference Lightfoot presented "Our Grandmothers' Mantras (The Essence of the Spiritual)," a presentation com-bining discussion and perfor-mance to explore the spiritual, a

mance to explore the spiritul, a musical form with origins in African culture. A classically trained soprano, Lightfoot's twohour presentation drew more than 200 people. Lightfoot feels her format had a definite edge. "It was clear that what transcended words was the essence of music, movement and rhythm," she said. Lightfoot attended the confer-

Lightfoot attended the confer-ence from August 29 to Sept. 7, after visiting Shanghai and the University of Suzchou, with five other women, mostly from Washington, D.C. universities. Unlike most of the 30,000 women in attendance, Lightfoot considers herself one of the ucky. She was able to stay at a consucrs nersen one of the lucky. She was able to stay at a hotel in Beijing, away from the lodging in rural, undeveloped Huairou, a scenario she described as a "Barracks Environment."

Staying in Beijing and travel-ling 80 miles daily to Huairou, however, had its drawbacks. "You were told to ride the

same bus that you went out on when you came back at night,"

Lightfoot said. "It was almost militarized, in terms of how you had to do your stuff. had to do your stuff. Physiologically, I felt restricted. I Physiologically, I felt restricted. I had never been in a place that I needed to wear identification which was like the army 'dog-tags,' except you have your pic-ture on [them]." The experience in China was unbelieved uncered to a second

symbolic of women's overall plight: The world's most popu-lous nation hosted a world con-ference for women—but relegat-ed it to an unfinished, rural envi-ronment. Women from all over could air their critiques of a could air their critiques of a male-dominated world—but could only demonstrate against China in remotely located areas. Even nature itself seemed to take the role of oppressor, bringing constant rain and turning the vil-lage of Huairou into a muddy mess

But like women throughout history, the circumstances didn't stop them. "By the time the pageantry and celebration of the opening

and celebration of the opening ceremonies commenced, with 10,000 white pigcons flying up carrying wishes for a beautiful and peaceful world, the notion that 'we are all one' was on the lips of every woman you encoun-tered reardlers of rece athing. tered regardless of race, ethnici-ty, or culture," Lightfoot said. "There were plenty of profes-sionals with all the fancy credentials. And then there were ladies who worked in the soup kitchens.'

A fairly seasoned world-trav-eller, Lightfoot admits she learned a lot at the conference, and despite decades of academic endeavor, she was often sur-prised. "Some of the small places, like the small countries in Africa and eastern Europe, I just figured there weren't any women at this level, who even had a fingernail in the policy-making," she said. "[But] there are—all over the world.

"Spiritually, I feel more of a sense of female community. A world sense of it. I left there feeling a sense of sisterhood." This sense of sisterhood proved much stronger than the largest obstacle present-the language barrier.

"If your [picture ID necklace] had turned on the wrong side someone would turn it over, so they could see where you were from," Lightfoot said. "And peo-ple gave me the nicest things, like hand made grochest, like like hand-made crochets, little things they had made at home.

things they had made at home. They just wanted to share with the world." While positive emotions dom-inated the experience, the Chinese government—widely considered one of the greatest human rights abusers among the international community—gar-nered a sense of fear in foreignnered a sense of fear in foreign-ers. Lightfoot recounted airport, hotel and conference security checks in Huairou, even when moving from building to building.

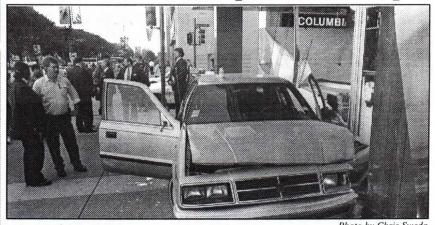
One night Lightfoot had fallen asleep for over an hour on the ride home, and upon awakening, she noticed that neither her bus, nor the other two buses in their group, were yet on the high-way—where they should have

way—where they should have been at that point. "I figured 'These drivers couldn't possibly be lost? Why are they taking us this far out of the way?" Lightfoot recalled. "And then we drove down to some dark and very dank [ware-house], it looked like a lumber-yard or something, and I'm won-dering 'Oh Father, have they decided to just off a busload?"" It turned out the buses were

It turned out the buses were lost due to poor visibility from the rain, but the idea of a repres-sive government disheartened Lightfoot. At the same time, how

China See page 3

## Columbia Student Side-Steps Crash On Campus



A car crashed into the Ramada Congress Days Inn on Sept. 26. Nobody was injured. **By Barry Sorkin** Harrison

Staff Writer

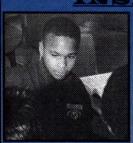
Columbia transfer student Ellen Weiss was barely out the door after her first day of classes Sept. 26, when a tan Dodge Lancer barreled up onto the side-walk missing her by less than two feet, and proceeded to crash into the Ramada Congress Days Inn on the corner of Michigan and

The car was heading north on Michigan Avenue when the dri-ver blacked out and veered across the road, onto the sidewalk and into the front window of the hotel, according to a Days Inn security representative. Nobody in or outside of the building was hurt, and the driver, did not appear to have sustained any severe injuries.

Photo by Chris Sweda

Although an open beer can was found in the car, security was not willing to speculate as to whether the driver was under the influence of alcohol.

Hotel management has not yet appraised the damage to the building, but a spokesman indi-cated that there was concern about the uninsured driver's ability to pay for repairs.



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## **Teachers Create Alternative School**

Students who attend the Persepectives M i d d l e School here on the third floor of Columbia's W a b a s h B u i l d i n g clown around after class Forty students from all over Chicago commute to Columbia's campus to this attend unique school

> Photo by Chris Sweda

THE CHRONICLE

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# **COLUMBIA COLLEGE** WABASH CAMPUS . 623 S.

"They're in a setting where it's cool to be learning. These kids have chosen to come here and go after their dreams, where in a public school that's not their environment.'

#### **By Bob Chiarito** s Fdite

Going to a public school in Chicago can be frustrating for both students and teachers. Low attendance, low morale and a system clogged with red tape often overshadow the rewards of edu-cation. But, instead of accepting the way things are at Chicago's schools, three public school teachers decided to change it, offering Chicago students an alternative to public schools without the expense of private schools. In the process, many Columbia students have also benefited.

After teaching together at the After teaching together at the Dyett Elementary School on Chicago's South Side, Kim Day, Stephanie Clark and Diana Shulla put their vision of an ideal school into action. According to Day, they were tired of the erratic atmosphere that became known as a typical day in a Chicago public school. "What drove me crazy was the

inconsistencies," said Day. "It was all about crowd control, lunches, fights, assemblies, dis-ruptions to the classroom, and attendance problems. Sometimes we had 18 interruptions in a day." so, the threesome submitted a plan to the Chicago Teachers Union two and one half years ago and with grants from Serve America. the ·Lieutenant Governor's Office, Small Schools Workshop, The University of Illinois at Chicago

and the Field Foundation, Perspectives Middleschool was born

Run by Shulla and Day, (Clark left after helping set up Perspectives), the school, located in Columbia's Wabash Building, consists of 40 students from all over Chicago.

"We have kids from 8800 South to 7900 North and as far west as Austin Boulevard," Shulla said

Because only 40 students attend Perspectives, it would make it easy for Shulla and Day to "weed out" any applicants that are less than exceptional stu-dents. But instead, Shulla and Day operate on a very open poli-

cy. "The only criteria we ask is that their parents be willing to volunteer two days out of the year in our classroom," Day said.

Students must also find their own way to Columbia's Wabash campus, to suites 309 and 311, which Columbia donated to Perspectives in 1994, the schools second year. During its

first year. Perspectives was housed at the Dyett Elementary School at 51st Dyett Elementary School at 51st and King Drive. That year, Perspectives had 40 students attending, all sixth graders. Shulla and Day only teach one class. This year, the same stu-dents are in eighth grade and, according to Day they are better according to Day, they are better prepared for high school than the

rest of their public school peers. Perspectives is a public school, but because it is located in Downtown Chicago, opportu-nities are more visible to its students. Officially, Perspectives is classified as a satellite of Dyett, only satellite school the Chicago.

"The students have been exposed to some things that they might not have been exposed to at an earlier age, but at the same time I feel that they're highly motivated," Day said. "They're in a setting where it's cool to be learning. These kids have chosen to come here and go after their dreams, where in a public school that's not their environment.'

The atmosphere at Perspectives isn't the only way it differs from other public schools. students at Perspectives are required to wear uniforms, a practice Day said has a dual rea-son behind it.

"Too much emphasis is put on what kind of clothes you wear and not enough on what you know," she said.

Safety is another reason for uniforms, due to the many excursions Perspectives students take outside the classroom. Every Monday the students

leave the building to go on a field study, exploring downtown Chicago. In addition, the students spend one Monday a month with a professional in the city, getting

a first-hand look at careers. This form of learning is typi-cal of Shulla's and Day's philos-ophy, which goes beyond school bells and hall monitors. For example, English and his-tory are combined into "humani

tory are combined into "humani-ties" and math and science are grouped together as "technolo-gies." Shulla said the students usually work for two hours at a time on concepts, projects and discussions, learning about sub-jects in what she calls "real time.

Art was one subject that was missing from Perspective's schedule, until Suzanne Cohen, Columbia's chairman of interdisciplinary arts, discovered the students

"I was in the Wabash building and saw all these short people," Cohen said. "I asked them, 'who are you, you're too young to be freshmen." When the students informed her they were from Perspectives, she asked them if they had art classes. "They told me no and asked if I could teach them art," she added. "They are the nicest kids you'll ever meet in your life ... I was hooked instant-t..." ly

Teaching art to Perspectives students also provides an oppor-tunity for Columbia students to learn. Cohen enlisted her graduate students to teach art, provid-ing them with teaching experi-ence. On the week of Sept. 18, Perspectives students celebrated their artistic talents with a mural. show cased on the third floor of the Wabash building. Because of the college atmos-

phere, Perspectives students have been exposed to many different things, none of which are considered taboo by Shulla and Day.

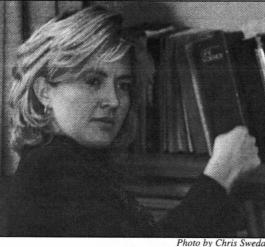
ered taboo by Shulla and Day. "Everything they see here [at Columbia] theyre going to see on MTV, but they see it in living color here," Shulla said. "We're very open about sex education and homosexuality. We don't close anything out. Were about celebrating peoples' differences and we talk about that as freely as we talk about that sorrely as we talk about history.

Taking a more liberal stance to education has improved Perspectives students' scores on standardized tests. Shulla and Day, however, don't believe tests Day, however, don't believe tests can accurately measure their stu-dents' abilities. They believe focusing on standardized tests such as the IOWA test would be a waste of class time. "We don't guide teaching towards or around the IOWA tests," said Day. Although 50 percent of Perspectives students read above grade level, Shulla said they are focusing on helping their stufocusing on helping their stu-dents get into good high schools.

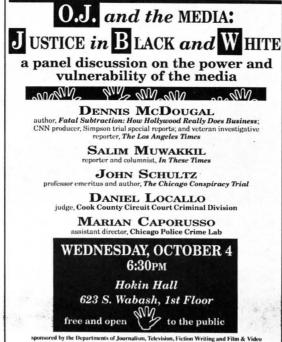
"Kim and I plan to help hand-place every student and maybe get some scholarships to private schools," she said. "Wherever they want to go ... we'll really get them there.



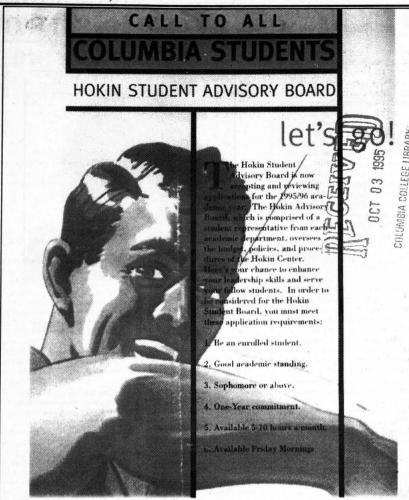
Another school day ends on a high note for Perspectives' "Kids in the Hall."

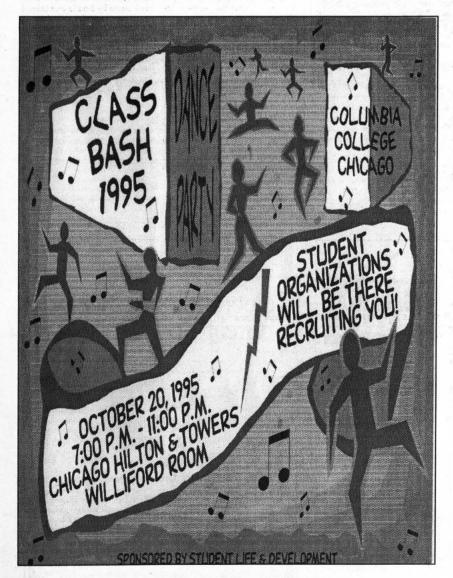


Kim Day, one of Perspective's founders, can pay more attention to students on an individual level because of the small class size.



#### October 2, 1995





#### Lytle From page 1

NEWS

about his chances. In his speech announcing his candidacy, he said his choice to run as a a Republican "makes perfect

sense." "When our state faced an enormous health-care shortfall for people on Medicaid, who for people on Medicaid, who designed a model plan for cost-saving HMO care, The republi-cans," said Lytle. "Who pushed forward the plan to reorganize our public school system ... the Republicans. And who are the unquestioned champions of eco-nomic freedom and growth across the country: the Republicans." Lytle is quick to explain that he is not a "right wing person." Rather he considers himself a moderate Republican, much like Governor Jim Edgar, a role model of Lytle's. "As you age, you change your

-IBRARY

"As you age, you change your views. I used to be more conservative but now I have more of a Libertarian view. I would never

label myself as a liberal or a con-servative," Lytle said. As far as his goals, Lytle wants to increase skills training programs for public schools and community colleges. "We need vocational education that pre-pares students for high skill jobs in industry and business," he in industry and business," he said

He also supports the creation of alternative high schools and giving school principals more

#### China From page 1

ever, there was no shortage of hope. Or ingenuity from the Chinese

"One day two Chinese ladies were walking together and all of a sudden they moved apart, and they had a banner that said some stuff about women's roles," Lightfoot described. "Well, of course, the guards descended upon those ladies in a minute.

The energy of the movement is not always so promising, Lightfoot learned. While some governments, including China and many Latin American and Islamic nations, opposed much of the conference's Platform For Action, she wasn't sure if the female representatives from those countries truly believed the "party line" of the conference.

"I don't think we know ourselves

empowerment to hire and fire teachers, set school hours, and contract private maintenance services. Unlike many Republicans, Lytle supports increased funding for school arts programs. Like many Republicans, Lytle

is taking a tough stance on crime, specifically juvenile crime. He specifically juvenile crime. He supports parent accountability initiatives, which hold parents responsible for the actions of their minor children. Lytle also wants to decrease regulation of wants to decrease regulation of small businesses and supports tax incentives to encourage business and industry growth. Lytle plans to decrease government size by privatizing state services and limiting governmental intrusion into financial and personal matinto financial and personal matters

Lytle, plans to continue teaching his "Advanced MIDI Sequencing" and "Elements of Multimedia/IBM" classes at Columbia. He has a bachelor's Columbia. He has a bachelor's degree in music technology from the University of the State of New York and was part of Roosevelt University's Academic Scholar Program. Currently he is working on a master's degree in public service management at DePaul management at DePaul University. As far as business experience, Lytle owns a com-puter consulting firm, is a mem-ber of both the Ravenswood and Northcenter. Chamber of Northcenter Chamber of Commerce, and is a member of the National Federation of Independent Business.

sometimes which kind of things come to us as our independent thinkcome to us as our independent think-ing, or a result of our environment," Lightfoot said. "A lot of ladies, although they would tell you that this is spiritually something they believe in the deepest of their gut, it really was forced on them. But they don't even realize how they came to think like that."

Of course, 30,000 women banding together is the type of event that is going to provide the impetus for a lot of change in the female world, which, according to Jean Lightfoot, is itself part of a larger picture. "If we're going to survive as

humanity on this planet, we've got to do some of these same things from the Platform for Action throughout society," she said. "It just turns out that we were discussing them at the women's conference."



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## NEWS

#### October 2, 1995

## **Instructors 'Tune-Out' TV News**

#### **By Nancy Laichas** or-in-Chief

"If it bleeds it leads" is a pithy maxim that sums up the editorial philosophy behind many a television news broadcast. And in a curious paradox, the same medium that is portrayed by its critics as increasingly violent, trivial and sensational remains the American public's No. 1 news source.

Here at Columbia, the journalism department faculty is com-mitted to teaching students the basic tenets of good reporting— truth, accuracy, and fairness. But at the same time, instructors say students must prepare to compete in a business in which these values are sometimes secondary, and

ues are sometimes secondary, and the depth of reporting is often sacrificed for dollars. "The quality of television news has declined a lot since I first got into the business," says Steve Corman, Columbia's director of broadcast journalism. "Stories are done based on their ability to be promoted, and there are fewer issue-oriented stories. Television news does regularly opt for the superficial story over more issue-oriented ones." While many of Corman's col-

leagues agree that the quality of television news has declined, most point to local, not-network newscasts as the primary villain. Jeff Lyon, a Pulitzer Prize winning reporter for the Chicago Tribune, says local newscasts often bury the important stories of the day in favor of ratings-grabbers. "Local news just jumps the most sexy sensational, or filmable story to the lead." In ratings months, lead stories are even worse than usual, adds Lyons, who coordinates the jour-nalism department's science writing program. Competition for ratings is

what often pushes television news across the line that divides information from entertainment, Information from entertainment, a according to Gilbert Jimenez, a Chicago Sun-Times reporter who teaches Media Ethics and the Law. "Television news programs want to get people locked into their story, so it is made extreme-ty sensational by playing to basic ly sensational by playing to basic human interests. It ends up being a lot of entertainment—not very good entertainment—at the expense of higher journalistic standards."

But Nat Lehrman, journalism department chairman, says that although the content of local newscasts could be improved, dispersing information is not the only function of television news. 'All journalism tries to be entertaining, we can't kid ourselves about that," says Lehrman, former president of Playboy's pub-lishing division. "You have to keep your audience. Ratings are

what keeps you in business." Jim Disch, news director at CLTV, says it's not necessary to sacrifice journalistic standards in order to keep viewers. "This is a business. But you don't have to compromise your values. You don't have to have a newscast full of 'flash and trash,'" he says.

of 'flash and trash,'' he says. Disch, who teaches Columbia's television news practicum, says that the reason television news often emphasizes crime and violence is that those types of stories are easier to produce So-called 'issue-stories' require much bigger commit-ments of time and money, and aren't always feasible for television stations with lean budgets and looming deadlines. But it's unfair, Disch says, to label crime stories superficial. "A murder story—that's not superficial," he says. "It's substantial, but just easier to do."

In order to shed the labels of superficiality and sensationalism, faculty members say, television news needs to build upon its strengths: The ability to cover breaking stories and provide visual and emotional impact.

"Television journalism works best when the commentators say nothing at all. Raw footage of a news event provides a sense of drama and emotion that can't be presented in print," says Chicago Sun-Times reporter Lee Bey, who teaches News Reporting I and II.

An increased commitment to solid reporting and more air-time per story are ways in which television news executives could improve the overall quality of broadcast journalism, faculty members agree. "I'd like to see more resources go toward some of the important stories in the of the important stories in the community—political stories, investigative stories—and then some headlines of what's going on nationally," Lehrman says. Jimenez believes that the

problem with television news lies

with the station owner's preoccu pation with the bottom line. "The owners are more concerned with profitability than with journal-ism. The station managers could appeal to their bosses to sacrifice profits in journalistic pursuit. This is not the business in which we should be getting rich."

Unfortunately, some students are drawn to television news for "the wrong things: money, glam-our, looking good," says former Columbia Chronicle faculty advisor Tracey Robinson, who has extensive experience in both print and broadcast journalism. "They need to hone their craft first, not get caught up in the glitz

But Lyon says that students whose priority is money probably won't succeed in the business. "Those students driven by vanity a desire for money—they 't make it anyway. Their won't make it anyway. Their emptiness will show in the work environment," he believes. Journalism department faculty

members strive toward presenting an accurate picture of the harsher realities of the television news business while, at the same time, stressing the importance of solid journalistic ethics. In the classes he teaches, Lyons says, he tries to instill in students a love of reporting and a fierce determination to get the truth.

Jimenez inspires his students by appealing to their sense of responsibility. "I try to get stu-dents to see what a capricious commodity free speech and press is," he says. "I show them how important reporters are when it comes to informing the public on an issue, or in choosing a political candidate." Broadcast journalism coordi-

nator Rose Economou, a former producer for CBS news, sums up her teaching philosophy this way: "My objectives are to foster excellence in journalism by preparing students to write accu-rate, fair and comprehensive reports, to teach students about ethics so they comply with industry standards, and to place stu-dents in challenging intern-ships."

Contributing to this report: Alison Allred, Grisel Acosta, Heather Jamison, Jim Brunetti, Andrea Poet, Pete Mandra, and Rita Kelaita.

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People YOU should KNOW

## Dr. Su.Jata Rani Verma

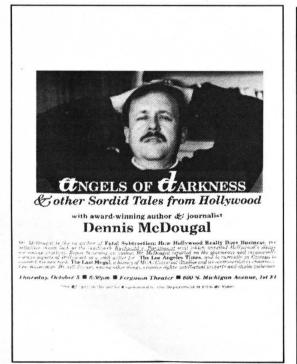
Who She Is: Dr. SuJata Rani Verma is a full-time faculty member in Columbia's Science and Math Department. Originally from Patna, Bihar, in eastern India, Verma teaches Human Anatomy and Physiology, and Botany.

What Brought Her to America: Verma was teaching in India and followed her husband to the U.S. Dr. Rajesh Verma is also an instructor here at Columbia and teaches Biology of Human Sexuality. She viewed her move as an opportunity to have more options and to see the world. She soon joined Northwestern University's research department. Later, she came aboard Columbia College. This semester is her first as a full-time faculty member faculty member.

#### Why Columbia?

"Columbia is fresh. Each semester, there is a different class interaction." Verma believes this allows for flexibility within a course, and in how instuctors are able to teach it. She also says this flexibility gives students and teachers the opportunity to grow and improve, allowing creativity, yet giving responsibility.

Home Is Where The Heart Is: Verma wants, most importantly, for her children to have every door open and every opportunity available to them. And whether it be through college or beyond, she will see them through until they are independent and able to stand firmly on their own.





## How's Your Steak?

John Henry Biederman Managing Editor



I'll explain that in a minute, but don't you agree that something needs to be done about journalism? While other media, namely radio and TV talk shows, continue evolving (and regardless of your opinion, they are pursuing originality) and attracting masses of new fans, you have the same recycled dreck by newspaper columnist "personalities.

Okay, newspapers have changed little—they have regular O.J. seca littletions and publish the work of wacky mail-bombers-but only to compete with the sleaziness of other media. Editors nationwide whine about decreasing readership while ignor-ing the talented, experimental columnists in student newspapers.

Job prospects for graduates wax uglier by the day, while George Will, nationally syndicated political columnist of The Washington Post, blithers on. His wife works for Bob Dole, but he has the illusion this doesn't alter his objectivity. This is just one example of his ethical fantasy-land, but like his use of multi-syllabic show-off words and his pre-dictable "Joe Conservative" views (not to mention he looks like a fascist muppet), it's irrelevant. He's just one example of the newspaper's retardation.

In this case, the Navajo saying, "Tradition is the enemy of progress" fits like the O.J. prosecution wishes the bloody gloves would.

Thank you, try the yeal. And it's time to explain myself.

I thought a lot about this column wer the summer. Who knows when I'll get a gig like this after Columbia. so I've decided to put sincere effort into turning the newspaper column inside-out. I'm not sure how. But making the commitment is a start.

I looked to other media for ideas. I'm wary of TV and radio for obvious reasons, so I considered music. I thought, "How can I bring something from music to journalism?" Then it hit me.

I'll be the "lounge singer" of newspaper columnists.

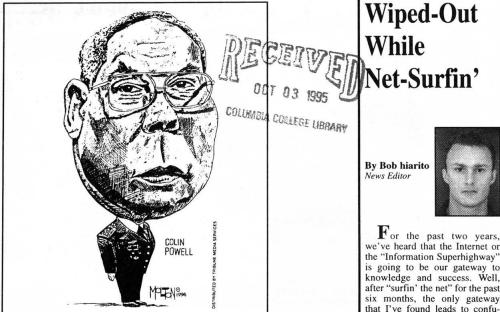
Admittedly, I should shoot higher. Maybe one day the print equivalent of "King of the Lounge Singers"—Tom Jones.

Long have I pondered the differ-ent treatment received by writers and musicians. I sit at a keyboard, alone, as I perform. Musicians get screaming women and cheering fans. And what better model musician than Tom Jones? The guy gets underwear thrown at him! While the rest of us men are lucky to seize a little action by acting romantic, he gets women on a silver platter by singing his true, sleazy intentions. Some lyrical examples: "My love's like candy on a shelf, you want a taste just help yourself,"; "If you wanna see me do my thing, baby pull my string,"and "I'll soon be kissing you sweet little pussycat lips." All this while gyrat-ing in a skin-tight jump-suit, an act which, done by anyone else, would have women running away.

I'll need a little help. Please, stop and throw your panties at me while I'm typing in the Chronicle office. You won't be disappointed this semester. Sure, there's going to be nay-sayers. Take my ex-girlfriend.

Take my ex-girlfriend-Please!





# Is Powell Reinventing The Wheel?

While Americans wait patiently for Colin Powell to formally declare his candidacy for next year's presidential election, Powell himself quite possibly will end up chuckling all the way to the White House. By refusing to throw his hat into the ring, Powell could alter the political landscape and change the way future presidential races are conducted

Without ever specifically defining his views, Powell has managed to endear himself to a huge chunk of voters. He shows well in poll after poll based on little more than pure charisma and star appeal. But his very reticence just may be part of a larger plan.

A private citizen, Powell commands a hefty fee for speaking engagements and is currently wending his way cross-country promoting his recent autobiography, "My American Journey." Smart man. With the election still over a year away, the field is crowded with candidates who have already made substantial dents in their campaign warchests.

Is Powell deliberately creating a prototype for the way he thinks campaigns should be run?

Perhaps he thinks the current campaign process is long-winded, bloated and often irrelevant and is offering himself as a test case: Instead of perennially bombarding the American political arena with presidentialwannabees, potential candidates could delay declaring their intentions until a couple of weeks before their party's conventions.

This way, the total campaign time could be cut down from almost two years to just a few months.

If this is Powell gameplan, he's got our vote.

"GOOD LIKK-ADOPTION IS PREFERABLE TO BEST WISHES - LET'S BEAR ARMS, BUT IN A RESPONSIBLE MANNER..."HOW ABORTION, BUT IT IS ULTIMATELY UP TO MOTHER ... " DID HE INSCRIBE AT THIS RATE, WE SHOULD KNOW ALL ABOUT HIM BY YOURS? THE PRIMARIES.

**Overheard** 

"We were very lucky" - House Speaker Newt Gingrich after the small jet he was in hit four geese and ran off a runaway

'You blew it ... You threw it all away" - Criminal Judge Fred Suria Jr. to former Congressman Mel Reynolds before sentencing.

"I don't think he's changed since the 1600s" - Bob Quinn, executive director of the New Hampshire Democratic Party, on Pat Buchanan.

the "Information Superhighway" is going to be our gateway to knowledge and success. Well, after "surfin' the net" for the past six months, the only gateway that I've found leads to confusion and information overload.

To outsiders, the Internet sounds like an invaluable resourc e, but in reality, it is over-rated. Yes, there is useful information, but it is only a drop in the bucket when compared to the abundance of crap circulating. I mean, how many people really need a copy of the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report? There is an actual area for that, although I'd assume only creeps and Unabomber-obsessed journalists would care to read it.

Name the subject, no matter how mundane, freakish, or technical, and you'll find a mass of information about it on the Internet, as if we're not already bombarded with enough messages. Case in point: I'm writing this about six hours later than I thought I would, due to a few things I had to complete first. I had to check my E-mail, which was clogged with 126 messages from various list-servers (or electronic groups), then I had to set up my VCR to record a televi-sion show, and then, in an attempt to gain more knowledge than I already have, I checked out a new web site on the Internet. For all you people who have lives and don't know what a web site is, it's just a specialized subject area.

That's what caused me to lose all concepts of time and space. I figured I'd log on, go to the web site and maybe save the address in my computer if it turned out to be cool. Well, once I found my way to the web site, I checked out some sites they recommended and then proceeded to check out more sites that those sites recommended. I continued surfing my way to new areas until my eyes were permanently crossed from staring at my computer screen and my printer was burned out from printing useless information that sounded cool at first.

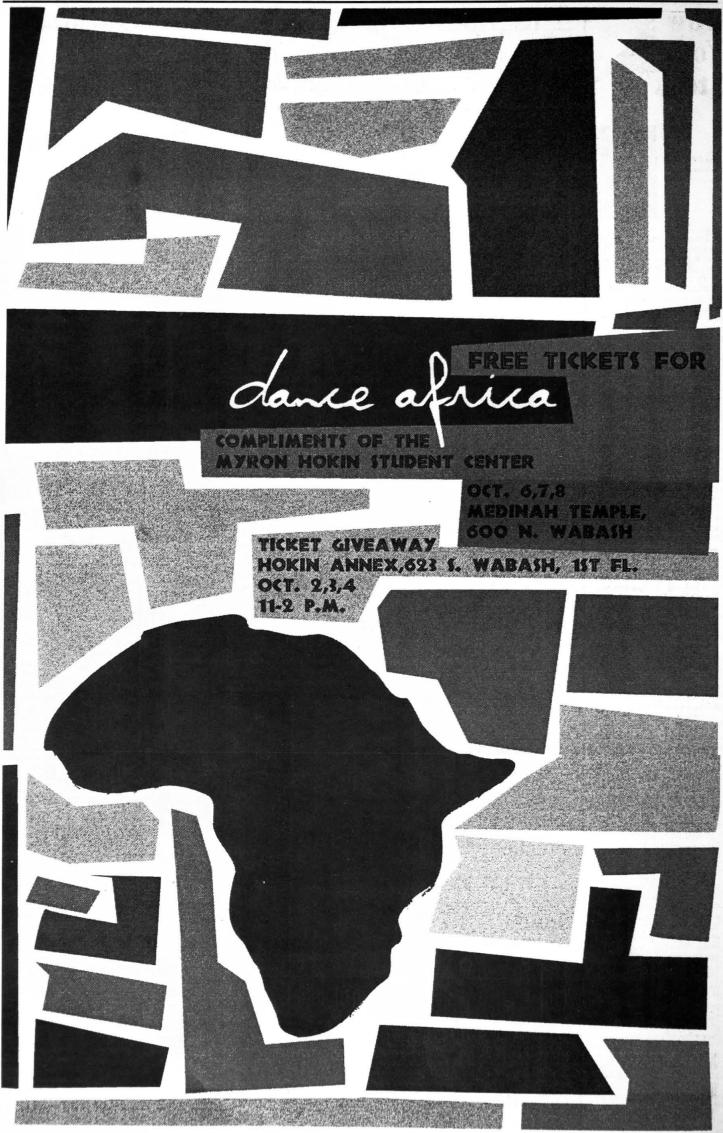
Keep in mind that I was doing all this with my radio blaring and television on without sound so I could look over every few min-utes and see the score of the women's rugby game on ESPN2. I also had the phone next to me, in case I couldn't restrain my

urge for a hot, greasy pizza. After six hours of wandering around cyberspace, I turned off my computer, radio, and television and picked up a notebook. I even unplugged my telephone. I wanted some peace and quiet because I was starting a journal, an early and not often used form of communication.

Today's entry: Ma Unabomber has a point. Maybe the



6



7

FEATURES



We know you're out there. We can here you reading.

The Columbia Chronicle is seeking story ideas that reflect the diversity and culture found at Columbia.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like to have publicized, know of an interesting personality or would like people to hear about your efforts, contact 115.

We can be reached at the following.

Write us at : Room 802, 623 S. Wabash Avenue, Chicago, IL. 60605 Fax us at: 312-427-3920 Voice mail us: ext. 5343 or ext. 5432

Or just drop by the Chronicle office, Room 802 in the Wabash Building.

## This Mouse Won't Eat That Kind Of (

When I decided to write a fashion column for The Columbia Chronicle, I felt

it would be an easy task. Excited about my new position, I immediately began to keep a list of cosmetic lines and boutiques to inform students about. Then I had a talk with one of the big cheeses at the Chronicle.

He told me, "Number one, Ms. Taylor, you are a feature writer and the Chronicle is a news-paper and number two,

this is an art school and the stu-dents care about art, not make-un " A fter emphasizing my name dents care about art, not make-up." After emphasizing my name with darling, Mr. Cheese said "The fashion department at Columbia is such a small depart-ment that there isn't a real need to write about cosmetics." Well, Mr. Cheese, if you take a look around the campus and stop molding, you will see that we have a fairly large fashion design

and fashion management depart-ment at Columbia. These departments employ some of the finest faculty around who teach many up-and-coming designers and and aspiring retail and merchandising managers. Also, take a closer look at the lipstick colors that some of the females and males wear. Not to mention the nail polwear. Not to mention the nail pol-ish they wear. An art student did-n't create any of those colors. No, most women and men buy their lipstick and nail polish from stores that sell cosmetics. The point is that Columbia is

not just a school for film, art, television and journalism. And if Columbia was a school

for only film, art, television and journalism, does this mean that the students majoring in those fields oppose looking good? Tell me Mr. Cheese, I'm waiting for your answer.

I must admit that after my

conversation with him I had to take a closer look at the diverse clothing styles worn by students at our school. I sat at my computer typing this story while in the back of my mind, I asked myself, how do I satisfy my audience?

The answer came to me during y "Fashion from a Historical Perspective" class. The

instructor showed a slide pre-sentation showing clothes as early as the Bronze Age and each student had to select a period

and talk about what they liked and disliked about the clothing. I will do the same with the dif-

I will do the same with the dif-ferent styles of clothes worn by students at Columbia without saying if I like or dislike the clothes. Unless, of course, they are so ridiculous that I must tell the person "Honey please go home and take that...off". This week I will show you street wise clothes clothes that

this week I will show you streetwise clothes (clothes that

Sandra Taylor Fashion Write



you can wear anywhere) and you can wear anywhere) and boots to stroll down the avenue in. For those of you who have more of a traditional style there is something for you to scan over, too. Hopefully, it will suit your personality. Mr. Cheese, it would be polit-

ically incorrect to take your advice and leave information about cosmetics out of my col-umn. Excuse me while I put on my lipstick.



From left, a debonair jacket with a fun tie is great for cool school days in the Windy City. Next, a suit that can fit any personality. Next, these boots are made for walking in any type of weather. Finally, a comfortable outfit for any occasion.

## WELCOME BACK STUDENTS & FACULTY



### Southeast Corner **Congress Parkway and Wabash Avenue**

## **Discount Parking for Students & Faculty** Day and Night

All rates include city parking tax

1 Hour	\$4.25	5 Hours	\$5.50
2 Hours	4.75	6-10 Hours	5.75
3 Hours	5.00	11-12 Hours	6.25
4 Hours	5.25	13-24 Hours	7.75

Monthly Pass (Unlimited Access) \$100.00

#### **Get Ready For Dance Africa Author Gibbons Woos Crowd**

As the semester progresse into its second week, the Columbia event calendar grows.

Celebrate The Moves of Africa: Prepare to celebrate dancing and artistic expression African style. Student life is sponsoring the Dance Africa Reception in the Hokin Student Center Oct 2. The affair is open to the public from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Compliments of the Myron Hokin Center, there will be a Dance Africa ticket giveaway Oct. 2. - 4. from 11p.m. until 2 p.m

In the rhythm of celebrating African dance, The Dance Africa/Chicago 1995 Performance runs Oct. 6 and 7 at 8 p.m., and Oct. 8 at 3 p.m. at the Medinah Temple, 600 N. Wabash. The Chuck Davis Griot, Djoul'e African, Rennie Harris Pure Movement, Sundance Production, and Ghana Dance Ensemble will be present at the exuberant production

If you want to appreciate the ritual dances that stem from African culture, don't miss this generous opportunity.

**Protect Yourself Students:** In concern for the safety of Columbia students, Campus Safety Awareness Week begins Oct. 2 and ends Oct. 6.

To help students learn how to themselves, protect "Self Defense Demonstrations" will be offered at noon in the Hokin Center, Oct. 3 and 4.

Don't Forget the Writers: Broadcast Journalism majors, here is a reminder that the **Celebration of Chicago Great** Sportswriters event is Oct. 5.

Guest speakers like WLS-TV's Mark Giangreco and a host of other famous writers will be present. The event will run from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. in 624 S. Michigan building's 11th floor faculty lounge.

The event is open to all interested students.

Party at The Bash: Students, remember to support the Class Bash 1995 showcase

Face Value



and dance party Oct 20. For questions on how to be a part of the showcase contact Kathy Giblin in Academic Advising.

Keep in mind that the dance is from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the Chicago Hilton and Towers' Willford Room.

Also check out the student groups represented at the Bash. They will be glad to explain what their organization is about. and how students can join.

Calling All Designers: The Chicago Latino Cinema office is searching for the winning design their 12th Annual Latino Film Festival Poster.

The deadline for the contest is Nov. 1, and the winning designer will be announced at the Art Institute of Chicago during the festival's opening night affair.

"The text on the design must read '12th Annual Chicago Film Festival,' and the date 'April 12-22nd, 1996' must be present as well, " said Assistant Director Mariana Dufour. "The judges of the contest are from the School of the Art Institute, Leo Burnett; and Foote, Cone, and Belding. An unveiling celebration will be Nov. 16 at a restaurant called Rio Tapas."

The winning designer will be awarded with a check for \$500. "The design for the poster will be printed and distributed around the world on 10,000 program books and posted all over the city," said Dufour.

Interested designers submit your designs before Nov. 1!

Departments and organizations interested in publicizing their events should ccll me at The Chronicle office on Monday from 11:30-12:30; and on Tuesday from 1:20-4:20.

**By Nancy Laichas** Editor-in-Chief

Fellow southern writer Thomas Wolfe's oft quoted admonition, "you can't go home again," poses no problem for North Carolina native Kaye Gibbons. Gibbons, in Chicago last week to promote her new novel, simply won't ever leave home.

home. "I'll always live in the South and write about the South," Gibbons says. "My books have to be set in the south because of the language. There is richness in southern language that's not evident in other parts of the coun-

try." Gibbons published her first novel in 1987 while studying American literature at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. "Ellen Foster" went on to win the Sue Kaufman Prize for First Fiction, and Gibbons went on to write four more critically acclaimed novels in the next six years. Columbia College English

instructor Karen Osborne includ-ed "Ellen Foster" in the reading list for her class, "Southern Women Writers" because her students find the novel so accessi-

"Kaye Gibbons is an incredi-bly talented writer," Osborne says. "One of the things that stands out is that the author total-ly disappears from the work. You do not find Kaye Gibbons, the person. She is extraordinarily

adept at creating characters who assume life on the page." Reading passages from her new novel, "Sights Unseen," at the Women and Children First bookstore in Andersonville on



Sept. 27., Gibbons charmed the standing-room-only crowd by

interrupting her narrative with wisecracks at her own expense. Diminutive and soft-spoken, with a gentle southern drawl, she nevertheless exudes a calm strength that is shared by many of her characters. "Women who are aggressively strong annoy me. I prefer women who are quieter in their strength."

In her latest novel, drew from her personal history to create one of the book's main characters. "Sights Unseen" is narrated by Hattie Barnes, who chronicles her mother Maggie's

chronicles her mother Maggie's battle with manic depression. During the summer and fall of 1967, when Hattie is 12, Maggie tries to run a pedestrian over with her car and is temporarily com-mitted to a psychiatric ward. "Um manie damessium and so

mitted to a psychiatric ward. "I'm manic depressive and so is Maggie, but our experiences are different," says Gibbons. "I've never hit anyone with my car, [bu1] I have a lot of shoes that I bought when I wasn't well." Meticulous about capturing the essence of the time neriod in

the essence of the time period in which her stories are set, Gibbons read more than 50 books on homefront life during World War II for her fourth novel, "Charms for the Easy Life," and just fin-ished nine months researching the Civil War for her next book.

the Civil War for her next Dook. "Research is the fun part," she says. "Writing gets much harder as I get older." With five novels under her belt before the age of 35, Gibbons makes it seem easy, but she is characteristically modest about her accomplishments. "I've written five books in

rve written five books in seven years, but they're short and they have wide margins," she says. "When my children are grown, I'm going to write big, thick books and sell them for \$27.95."

Next week in the Chronicle: Correspondent Ryan Healy profiles Weisman grant recipient Kathy Anderson; and Features Editor Aliage Taqi takes a look at academic advising opportunities for students.



#### By Chris Sweda

#### If the presidential election were held today, who would you vote for?

