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Columbia College Chicago

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Columbia: Pioneer In Sign Language Ed

By April Knox
Correspondent

This spring, Columbia will boast its first batch of graduates from a new major introduced in 1993. The four-year undergraduate program in Sign Language Interpreting was the brainchild of Columbia's English Department and its former chairman, Philip Klukoff, making Columbia the first four-year-accredited college in the midwest to offer an entire curriculum/major in that field.

Since its implementation, the faculty has expanded to include people, some hearing impaired, who have been extensively involved in working with the deaf and hard-of-hearing communities as interpreters, educators, and advocates. The 100 student majors and 250 more who are taking classes within the curriculum are privy to the program's resources, such as a combination language laboratory/resource center supplied with audio and video equipment as well as a library.

"There was and still is a tremendous and overwhelming response from the students," said Ann Fancher, Interpretive Training full-time faculty member. Fancher credits the program's popularity

and the fact that the bulk of the graduating students are second degree candidates, to the many uses of sign language interpreting today. Students majoring in other fields have found that the ability to communicate with the deaf and hard-of-hearing can significantly increase their marketability and career options upon graduation.

According to Fancher, sign language has now become a part of mainstream America, occupying a place of major importance in contemporary linguistics and communication theory.

Therefore, there are more career opportunities in interpreting than ever before. Job opportunities now exist in the areas of health care, law, government, social service and the arts, as well as in education (classroom instruction).

There is also an urgent need at the present time for more minority interpreters.

"Sign Language is now a recognized language, and is as complex as learning any other language," said Fancher.

"The emphasis of the program--which is made up of a core curriculum including courses such as American Sign Language, Deaf Culture, Interpreting and Transliterating (an interpreting practicum)--is to develop and become a



Photo By Laura Stoecker

Columbia students (from left) Chris DeLong, Melinda Axtman and Andrew Harmon practice their sign language skills. Columbia is the first four-year institution in the Midwest to offer a degree in Sign Language Interpretation.

strong skilled interpreter, and the best reward for our graduates is that they will have no problems finding jobs," Fancher said. In fact, they'll have more work than they'd be able to handle."

The influx of jobs is a result of federal legislation being passed during the last few decades and an increased awareness of the rights of deaf persons to reasonable accommodation and accessibility to information and education.

"There is a critical shortage of qualified interpreters nationwide," said Fancher. "And due to the American's with Disabilities Act (ADA), there is more complete access for the deaf community."

Work aside, the study of sign language also rewards students with the pleasure and discipline that are involved in the study of any language. "Students are acquiring and becoming fluent in a brand new language," said Fancher.

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Out Of Bulgaria And Into The 'American Dream'

Roumiana Bankova Left Behind Family And Friends To Come To The U.S. With A Boyfriend And \$500--But Upon Her Arrival, She Found That Her Troubles Were Far From Over

By Yasmin Khan
Staff Writer

Tall and striking, Columbia Journalism student Roumiana Bankova could easily pass for a model. But behind all that beauty lies a young woman who fled war-torn Bulgaria five years ago with \$500 in her pocket and a whole lot of guts, in search of the elusive American dream.

Today, she rents an apartment in Evanston and has just purchased a \$13,000 Honda. In some ways, she has achieved what she set out to do, although her road to happiness was a long and dreary one. She not only battled the system but escaped an abusive relationship, survived starvation and beat a con-man at his own game.

Her journey started in Bulgaria

when she was just 18. Fresh out of high school she was drawn into an America she had only read of in books and seen in the movies.

"I was so caught up in what I saw that I started to construct my life around the realization of that dream," she said. "I wanted to go to America. The turning point came when I missed getting into the college I wanted to study at. It isn't easy getting into college in Bulgaria. You have to pass an entrance exam which includes the



Photo by Chris Sweda

Roumiana Bankova

history of the Bulgarian Communist Party."

Having failed to make it to the college of her choice and with free time on her hands, she started studying English and began preparing for her escape to America. For a year, she studied 50 English words a day,

while her boyfriend, who was the only person who knew about her plan, got the tickets for her. But when it came down to the crux of it, leaving her family and the

country she had called home for almost two decades wasn't as easy as she thought it would be.

"Cutting the emotional ties was the hardest. In Bulgaria, I had everything I needed. My parents had a farm and a condo where I lived on my own. I also had a car and enough money to do what I wanted. But I felt that none of these things were mine, they were my parents' and I wanted to make it on my own. Still, it was hard to say goodbye."

"But what made it harder was that on the day I was supposed to leave, my mom and my sister unexpectedly turned up at the apartment. I had only 20 minutes to pack my whole life into a suitcase and get to the airport or I would miss my flight."

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Students And Faculty Derailed By Columbia's Unusual Holiday Calendar

By Cristin Monti
Staff Writer

While there are currently no plans to change it, many students and faculty feel that Columbia's academic calendar, especially during the fall semester, breaks the momentum they gain during the semester, interferes with their employment opportunities and increases travel expenses.

"The post-Christmas semester seriously undermines education," said Journalism instructor Carolyn Hulse. "Dysfunctional students, comatose professors and wretched weather combine to

produce lost learning time, which represents 20 percent of the semester."

Throughout the semester, students develop a routine, and the two-week holiday break near the end of the semester throws it off, said Fred Gardaphe, professor of English.

"When you stop for the holiday break, you lose the momentum that's been building in your class with reading assignments and discussions," he said. "And it's just before the end of the semester, the point at which students' ideas are beginning to focus."

Columbia President John Duff stated that the college operates under the tradi-

tional college schedule that has existed for 100 years or more in the United States.

"In fact, it's the schedule that the Ivy League colleges operate under," he said.

Although Duff feels Columbia's schedule is a form of tradition, Gardaphe said that students would rather concentrate on their responsibilities to family and friends over the holiday break than worry about term papers, final projects and final exams.

Editor-in-Chief
Nancy Laichas
"loses her
mind" over
Columbia's
holiday
schedule--

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THE CHRONICLE

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The Chronicle is a 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.

Corrections and Clarifications

In the January 8 issue, the column on the Student Organization Council incorrectly identified the Organization of African-American Graduate Students.

The Chronicle regrets the error.

Weissman Winning Mural Photos On Display In Hokin Annex

By Danielle Curley
Correspondent

Senior Katja Heinemann was always interested in photography. However, she never considered it a career option until her success at Columbia changed her perspective on the issue.

The fruits of her success will be on display at the Hokin Center in mid-January until Feb. 1st.

Heinemann spent two years working on the project, which features photographs of mural art around Chicago.

"This project portrays how art works in connection with the neighborhood that it is in," she said. "It really shows the connection between times, and how

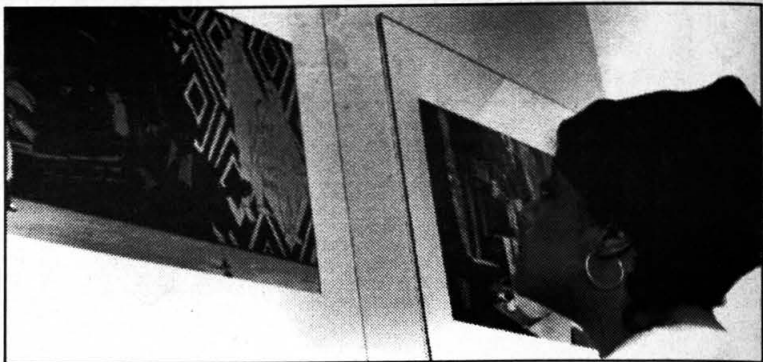


Photo by Laura Stoecker

Holly Petty views Heinemann's photos, which will be exhibited until Feb. 1 in the Hokin Annex.

much things have changed."

Heinemann produced the exhibit on her own, which became costly because of the large, glossy prints. But she is quick to point out that the time and effort put into the project was worthwhile because work from it has been used in others' projects and it also won her a Weissman Scholarship.

Director of college relations, Carol Bryant, who helps decide who receives the scholarships, said "we were very impressed by her work and she definitely deserved the scholarship."

Heinemann said her enthusiasm for her work was the key to getting her work exhibited at the Hokin, as well as winning the scholarship.

Hokin Gallery Assistant Amy Ferrara said Heinemann's project was chosen to be exhibited in part because of the Weissman Scholarship, and because of her previous work that was displayed in exhibits from various departments.

Another reason that Heinemann's work is being displayed is because instead of waiting to be asked, she approached the Hokin staff.

"Not many students get to display their work in their own shows unless they are graduating, or if they have a professional portfolio," Ferrara said. "Every show is a chance for students to get their work displayed though, and they can get that chance by submitting work to the Hokin."

Have A Relaxing Semester Break, From All Of Us At The Chronicle (We're Taking Time Off Too, But We'll Be Back In Print Feb. 19)

Bankova, from page 1: after countless troubles, the life of this Columbia College student and Bulgarian immigrant is finally approaching her original 'dream'

Fortunately, my mom stepped out to buy groceries, and while she was gone, I started packing frantically and at that moment was forced to reveal the truth to my sister. She started crying, but she promised not to tell my parents."

Roumiana made it to the airport on time to meet her boyfriend, who was leaving for America with her. Between them, they had only \$500. On arriving in Chicago, they stayed at the Loyola hostel for two nights, before renting a studio apartment for \$325. They then mustered up enough courage to request political asylum at the American Embassy. "We filled out some forms and went through some interviews. They told us that they would call us back in a week. We haven't heard from them in five years."

Naturally they couldn't just sit around and twiddle their thumbs waiting for the government's reply. Also, they were running out of money. To save what was left, all they ate during the first two weeks were two sandwiches a day. "I remember fainting a lot during that time," she recalled.

Despite the lack of food, they once walked from Rogers Park to Lawrence Avenue to get a job. Eventually, Roumiana's boyfriend found work as a construction worker for \$30 a day while she worked in a sandwich shop. Once they had settled in, it was time to make the heart-breaking call back home.

"They were devastated and my mom cried and begged me to come home, but I was not going to let anything stand in my way or hold me back. I spoke to her a great deal during the first month and I only stopped when I ended up with a \$500 phone bill."

But homesickness was not the only thing she battled with as her boyfriend had, by now, turned abusive. "He got so angry he would punch the walls or throw the furniture around until there were holes in the walls of the apartment. Other times he would hit me. At first, I tried to understand his anger, but, finally, it got so bad that I left."

She moved into her own apartment and enrolled at Northeastern University. Lonely and depressed, she turned to writing poems and prose to keep her from losing her sanity. As her writing and her English improved, Roumiana decided to study journalism and transferred to Columbia. But just when it finally looked as though she had her life in order, tragedy struck again. This time she was conned out of her hard-earned savings by a man posing as an investor.

"I gave him all my savings of \$5,000 but when I never saw returns, I made a police report and then hired a lawyer. I learned he had cheated a lot of people but he was arrested and I got most of my money back. I don't think he ever expected me to get a lawyer, but this was my hard-earned money and I was determined to get it all back."

Today, she has finally put all the bitterness and pain behind her. She misses her family though, as she hasn't seen them since leaving Bulgaria five years ago. But she is determined to make it here, if only to make up for all that she has been through and all that she has had to give up.

"I am a lot stronger today because I have been through so much. I gave up my family for this and I am determined that whatever I do here will be worth that sacrifice."

Schedule, from page 1: While other local students relaxed over holiday break, Columbia's spent the time worrying about finals--and they're not happy about it

Students agreed that starting the semester earlier in September and ending it before the holidays would help alleviate academic pressure.

"It was hard for me to relax over break," said Cory Barlog, a computer animation major. "I went home and worked on homework almost every night."

According to Hulse, who is also the journalism department internship coordinator, the late start of the fall semester limits the opportunities that students have at the end of the school year to fulfill their other responsibilities. Students would be more employable if the school year ended in mid-May, she said.

"It would make students more competitive in terms of the dates of availability for internships and summer jobs," she said.

Students who come to Columbia from out of state said the fall schedule leads to excessive travel expenses.

"It places a tremendous financial burden on my parents," said junior Chris Smith, a Colorado native. "They have to pay for my plane tickets to go home for the holidays and then again when the semester is over only weeks later. That's money I really

wish they didn't have to spend."

According to Duff, other schools have moved away from the traditional schedule to accommodate their students' similar wishes, but he added, "In the nearly four years that I've been president, there hasn't been any big protest or agitation to change Columbia's schedule."

Duff said that if there was an overwhelming feeling

"The post-Christmas semester seriously undermines education. Dysfunctional students, comatose professors and wretched weather combine to produce lost learning time, which represents 20 percent of the semester."

--Carolyn Hulse

among students to change the schedule, then the administration would have to respond to it.

However, while the primary reason for the late start of the school year is because "that's the way the schedule has always

been," it also provides an opportunity for late enrollment, said Duff.

"We do get a number of students, it may be as many as 100 or more each year, who had started somewhere else and didn't like it," he said. "It provides access to students and that is one of our main goals at Columbia."

The economic factors would also have to be examined before any changes were made, said Duff.

"If there are 100 students that come in, that is \$700,000 [in tuition money]. That is important money for Columbia College," he said.

Columbia As An International Institution:

Japanese Student Sees More To Learning Than Classes

By Jeff Mores
Correspondent

Every year the number of international students attending Columbia College increases dramatically. What is it like to live amidst a totally different culture thousands of miles from home? Why do so many come here? Is the United States everything they thought it would be? What are they like?

Tsuneo Matsuura is one of 301 international students enrolled at Columbia that International Students Advisor GiGi Posej-pal says are attracted to the college by "word of mouth and write-ups in international magazines."

For Matsuura, however, who was born and raised in Tokyo, the United States is not the only country he will be visiting.

Since coming to the United States in early August, Matsuura, a Fiction Writing student, has decided that he wants to travel around the world.

"I have always liked the English language," said the twenty-one-year-old Matsuura, who has been studying it since the seventh grade. "In Japan, it is not common for college students to be focusing on their goals."

Matsuura explained that he came to the United States not only to better his English writing skills, but to experience a different culture and be with other students who are striving for a certain goal.

Matsuura feels that he has learned a lot about writing and has improved his skills greatly since coming to Columbia, but has lately thought about leaving college to travel to the corners of the globe. He feels that there is no better way to better his opportunities and grow as a writer than to "go to different places and experience different people."

"I have realized that there is a lot more to learning than attending a college and reading books," Matsuura explained. "If you want to learn about Vietnam, you should go there." He thinks people gain a better understanding of what the world is like this way.

In addition to making a living by writing essays and books, Matsuura has his sights set on someday turning one of his writings into a movie and actually participating as an actor in it.

"I never really thought taking acting classes is something I wanted to do," despite his desire to appear on the silver screen, he said. He would rather produce his own story and put himself into it. Experiencing as many different cultures and places as possible is something he feels will benefit him in accomplishing this dream.

So what does he think of the United States? When he arrived at O'Hare Airport, he remembers looking at the cityscape and thinking to himself, "This is awesome." Matsuura had read in newspapers and heard from other international students that went back to Japan that "Chicago was a dangerous place."

After hopping on the El train, he rode through the heart of the city and "felt very comfortable seeing all the huge buildings" as he was accustomed to seeing in Tokyo. After he exited the train at Jackson Street, however, and began making his way south to the residence center, Matsuura "saw that there were dirty buildings and homeless people."

This, combined with the circulation of guns and endless drug abuse incidents in the news, not only frightened Matsuura, but is something he will "never understand."

Matsuura admitted that he has grown used to Chicago and has made some observations along the way. One thing he is quick to point out is that "people are very friendly here." In Japan, Matsuura said it is very uncommon for a stranger to say hello while passing on the street, and that people are more eager to help one another in the United States.

This attitude is something that Matsuura thinks carries over to the classroom.

"American teachers are more active," he said, explaining that Japanese teachers "do not like to be interrupted" with questions while presenting information. Instead, they prefer to lecture and leave it up to the student to decipher what was said on his/her own. In fact, open class discussions is something Matsuura has grown to like very much.

Despite continual improvement, this semester has not been an easy one for Matsuura.

"Since English is my second language, it is hard for me to translate everything I want to say," he said.

Matsuura spends approximately three hours per day at the Harold Washington Library, where he can often be found thumbing through the English-Japanese dictionary. He believes that it takes him twice the amount of time to complete an essay as it does for an American student. He is looking forward to the upcoming break.

In the mean time, Matsuura will be writing away, exploring Chicago and dreaming of the day he will set foot in places like Mongolia, the Netherlands and Poland. Each day, for him, is an exploration as well as a day closer to accomplishing his ultimate dream.

Just Say No To The Internet

By Elissa Leibowitz
College Press Service

Columbia College Library

she knows when enough is enough.

WASHINGTON-- Jennifer had one worry this Christmas break: would she be able to survive her month-long winter break at home?

It wasn't the fear of a stressful Christmas dinner or too much time bonding with her family that put the University of Massachusetts sophomore on edge. The downtime from school brought with it down time from her computer--and the Internet. For the first time all semester, she could not log on every night.

"I might go back early," said Jennifer, who asked that her last name not be used, "because I really don't want to be away that long."

Away from school, or away from her computer?

"Well, I like school, and it's kinda slow at home, but, my computer is part of it," she said in an interview via a computer bulletin board service. "My hobby is the Internet."

Hobby or obsession? Some college officials and students are beginning to ask that same question, because as more students gain access to the computer information network, more students become addicted.

Instead of doing schoolwork or hanging out with friends or even sleeping, some students are jetsetting all over the world via their mouse and keyboard. And like many other habits, the Internet can become an obsession, say university counselors.

The majority of students are like Jennifer--they use the Internet socially, said Jane Morgan Bost of the University of Texas in Austin. But, "we've been hearing more and more from students and colleagues about people who could be actually having a problem with it," said Bost, the assistant director of programming at UT's Counseling and Mental Health Center. "I didn't see it as a problem til other people started mentioning it in (counseling)."

A University of Michigan study last year found that freshmen and sophomores log on for an average 10 hours a week, while 18 percent of them are online for at least 20 hours.

In all, more than 24 million people age 16 or older use the Internet, according to a recent telephone poll of 4,200 Americans and Canadians by the Nielsen Media Research company. That comes to 11 percent of the population.

Jennifer said that the couple hours a night she logs on is her way of relieving stress, of taking a break from studies. She completes her school work on time and

she knows when enough is enough. Bost and her colleague, psychologist Kathy Scherer, started an Internet workshop last year to explore how and why students are using the Internet.

Though turnout was small, Bost said she got the feeling using the Internet has the potential for some people to be as addictive as gambling or drinking.

"I personally feel like there are folks who abuse the Internet. How many and what percent do, we do not know that," Bost said.

University of Maryland officials in College Park, Md., have formed a support group called "Caught in the Net" to help students cut back on their computing habits. And some schools have banned students who have been "hogs" in university computer centers, and others were fined.

Jennifer said it dawned on her that she may be addicted one night after she logged onto a University of Iowa-based

bulletin board service based, which allows users from all over the world to chat with one another in real time.

"I was talking to several people at once one night, and when I looked up, I realized it was three in the morning. I had intended to just check my mail, send a note to my friend and finish some reading for a class the next day,"

she explained. "I didn't even see or hear my roommate go to sleep."

She now limits herself to a few hours a night--after she has finished her work.

But not many students have that discipline, Scherer said. "It's like with any addiction - if you feel that it's a repeated pattern and it starts to interfere with your regular activities, then it could become dangerous," she said.

If students are worrying that their Internet time is infringing on their lives, Bost said users should ask themselves the following questions:

[] How and why are you using the Internet?

[] Are you falling behind with your schoolwork?

[] Have you ever stayed awake all night chatting on the Internet instead of sleeping?

[] Are you isolating yourself from in-person interaction, such as going out with friends?

[] If you have to pay for an online service are you able to keep up with your payments?

And ironically, for the truly addicted who know they have a problem but just cannot stay away, several Internet users have established World Wide Web sites on Internet obsessions.

Is surfing the Internet a hobby or an obsession? College officials and students alike are beginning to ask that same question, because as more students gain access to the computer information network, the more some students become addicted.

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John Henry Biederman
Managing Editor



Condone Condoms?

Along with our first kiss, our first love, and our first beer, most of us will always remember the first time we bought condoms.

For me it was grade school, and I couldn't wait to get home and try one on. The man behind the prescription counter looked like a fascist Sunday-school teacher, eyeing me like I'd asked for a something to off grandma painlessly. I was as nervous as the night when, years later, I'd actually get to use one for the first time.

I could have used a program like the Falmouth, Mass. schools have. In Falmouth, students can ask the school nurse for condoms as part of an AIDS program. For the squeamish (I myself would still go to the drug store, rather than face a woman I know) there are also restroom vending machines for wiener wraps.

Some of the Falmouth parents became agitated and filed suit, demanding to be notified if their children requested condoms. The case went all the way to the Supreme Court, which refused to hear it.

The parents argued that they have the right to control their children's upbringing, which is somewhat true. Parents have control until their children become "free" at 18, but it's not that simple—There's a period between those extremes. It's called adolescence, when parents can give guidance, but kids will make many decisions themselves.

So any realistic parent realizes it's better to be safe. Unless they've always hoped their children would become unwed parents or HIV positive someday, easy access to condoms makes sense.

Of course, common sense is too much to expect. Take the abstinence argument. It starts with STDs and pregnancy, but since most people refuse to let fear spoil all pleasure, protection and a selective choice of partners seems reasonable. In its next step, the abstinence argument wallows in dogma:

"Daddy," junior says, "With all the hatred and Bosnia stuff going on, are you sure God thinks the mutual exchange of pleasure is a prominent evil?"

"Yes! The Good Book says so!"

"Okay. But my hormones are raging! Little-girl-Suzzy looks more and more like little-woman Suzzy, and I've gotta do something about my underwear tightening all the time..."

"Oh no!" answers daddy. "God gets very irate if you touch yourself!"

"But why?" Junior says.

"Because the Good Book tells us so! And you better stop this—if you ever become Surgeon General, they'll fire you over such blasphemy!"

And so junior is off to school, where he'll try to strategically bump into a wall at just the right angle. Well, probably not. People also overlook the reverse psychology that pervades society. You can see it through personal experience—most of the kids with strict religious upbringings that I grew up with became the worst burn-outs and sex fiends—or concrete facts—the countries with the most "obscenity" law have the lowest rates of sexual assault.

But, once again, common sense eludes society. So what if Junior decides not to have sex—or touch himself?

Can you say, "Hormonal time bomb?"

Hitting Him Where It Hurts?

As wrong as it seems, investigations into political wrong-doings become divided—as does everything political—along partisan lines. While congressional Democrats view any possible wrongdoing in Whitewater or the White House travel office as impossible, Republicans view the current findings, which seem "shady" but have yet to be proved illegal, as unmatched travesties of justice.

We can only hope the balance attained between the two extremes provides adequate justice in the end, but we find it curious that, even as former Arkansas employee Paula Jones has received the go-ahead to sue Bill Clinton for sexual harassment, the critical eye has been focused on his wife, Hillary.

There's no doubt about it: The deals Hillary and her Rose Law Firm cut with Madison Guaranty, back when Bill was governor of Arkansas, have some questionable aspects. And the travel office memoranda quoting Hillary as saying "we need these people out, we need our people in," is certainly fishy as well.

But at the same time, of the Senate Whitewater Committee Chairman Sen. Alfonse D'Amato's (R-N.Y.) targeting of Hillary seems out of place, as does New York Times columnist William Safire's personal attack on Ms. Clinton. Neither can we condone Bill's overreaction by saying he'd like to punch Safire in the nose, nor his complaints that "presidents have feelings too"—as the most powerful man in the free world, you should be prepared for these things.

For those of you who are sick of the partisan quibbling, bad news has arrived with a new book by political scientists Stephen Ansolabehere of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Shanto Iyengar of the University of California at Los Angeles, "Going Negative." They've found that mudslinging campaigns actually work—and work well. Considering that 1996 is a campaign year, it can only get worse.

We can't argue statistically with these political scientists, but we can request that attackers avoid the Mafia tactic, ala "We'll get you where it hurts—your family!" In case you politicians haven't noticed, Hillary won't be running for president. Bill Clinton will.

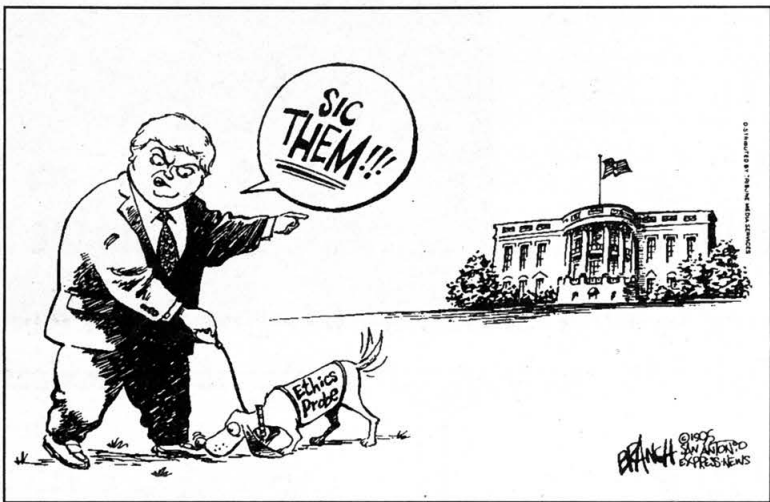


Photo Editor Bids Phond Pharewell

By Chris Sweda
Photo Editor



After two semesters as the photo editor and one as a staff photographer here at the Chronicle, I'm finally graduating after a long but fulfilling four and a half years at Columbia.

So many people have been instrumental in my progression as an editor, photographer, and person since working at the Chronicle. While I cannot thank everyone, I would like to briefly mention just a few.

Since starting at the Chronicle, I've worked under three different editors-in-chief and two different faculty advisors. Although working in varying styles, editors-in-chief Michel Schwartz, Sergio Barreto, Nancy Laichas and faculty advisors Tracy Robinson and Jim Sulski all strived for a common goal—to produce the best possible product we could offer on a weekly basis. I thank them for their leadership and patience with a sometimes under-manned photography staff.

I thank Journalism instructor Omar Castillo for his encouragement as I tried to better myself as a photographer. I have greatly appreciated his unbelievable dedication in sharing knowledge on such diverse topics as computers, photography, and women. I'd also like to thank him for sparing me the embarrassment at the dart board on more than a few Fridays.

I thank Penny Lawrence, my former superi-

or at the Chronicle, for her faith in me as an editor and photographer. Because of her influence, not only did I succeed her as photo editor, but gained the enviable position of taking photographs of blood and guts in the operating room at Rush Presbyterian.

For News Editor Bob Chiarito and Assistant News Editor Ryan Healy, I will miss their dedication and intensity while working on the paper and basketball court. Don't worry guys, I'll come back if only for the horse games in back, Bulls victories at SLC, and hot dogs at CCO.

Entertainment Editor Jeff Heydt, who gave me numerous rides home and to photo shoots, spiced things up at the Chronicle with his one-of-a-kind sense of humor. If I ever get a car, you'll be the first to get a ride. Lets just hope my car has brakes.

I thank Ad Manager Sandy Taylor for her age-old wisdom. Just kidding Sandy. Wisdom, yes; old age, no. Why, you don't look a day over 21 baby.

John Biederman's humor and story-telling prowess I will not soon forget. If I ever have a question about mustard, I'll know who to call.

Staff photographers Natalie Battaglia and Laura Stoecker's passion and commitment to quality photography has been a welcomed addition to this semester's newspaper. Natalie will be making her appearance as the new photo editor next semester. She will undoubtedly bring a fresh passion and talent to the position.

Finally, I would like to thank my friend and mentor John H. White for the unbelievable inspiration he has given me since that first day of photojournalism class. His love for life has undoubtedly helped me to become a better photographer and person.

Stuff From Staff

Nancy Laichas
Editor-in-Chief



If I Only Had A Brain

I don't know about you, but I'm still on Christmas break. Well, at least my mind is. Although my body is at Columbia (albeit it a few pounds heavier from holiday feasts), my brain is M.I.A.

I know of nothing sillier than this institution's academic calendar. We Columbia students (some of us, anyway) maintain a remarkable level of energy for 12 weeks and all of a sudden there's this two-week gap. Our instructors advise us to utilize this time wisely. Catch up. Finish that final project. Write that 3,000 word paper, but don't forget to enjoy the holiday season. And, oh, get some rest.

Am I the only one who lost momentum, who caved in, not under pressure, but without it?

I don't think so.

Evidence of the missing brain phenomenon is everywhere. Ever since January 3, I've noticed it in my classmates, my co-workers here at the Chronicle, and even my teachers. Every time I go to class, fewer and fewer people show up, and the eyes of those who do are suspiciously glazed. The Chronicle staff (myself included) keeps showing up later and later, and leaving earlier and earlier. Our writers keep calling and asking for deadline extensions, pleading overwork.

Now, I know that the final weeks of the semester are tough at any school. But I firmly believe that Columbia's weird academic calendar contributes to students' stress and is directly responsible for my missing brain.

I have been told that the original reason the fall semester began so much later at Columbia than at other schools was on order to maximize enrollment. See, Joe College would go off to U of I in August, decide after a couple weeks that Champaign was simply too scary, and hightail it back to Chicago right into the waiting arms of Columbia's generous open-admissions policy. Old Joe could probably even take a week off before taking another stab at college life.

But that original reasoning no longer holds water. Columbia is no longer a second choice for prospective students. It's a first-rate, first-choice institution, and its enrollment has increased by a whopping 99 percent in the last 14 years. In fact, if Columbia's enrollment continues to skyrocket, the time could conceivably come when the college's resources aren't enough to meet the student body's needs. And that would be tragic, indeed.

So, I think the answer is clear. The 1996 fall semester should begin three weeks earlier and end before Christmas. And if the powers that be don't change the academic calendar, Columbia students must act swiftly and decisively. I won't be here, I graduate in June (that is, if I can find my brain), but here's what you all must do: Next January, when the fall semester resumes, DON'T SHOW UP. That's it. That's all you have to do. It's so simple that I can't believe no one else thought of it.

And even though I won't personally benefit from a new academic calendar, it's enough to know I made a contribution. Consider it my gift to all my fellow students.

By the way, if anyone has seen my brain...

Library A Study Sanctuary For Students

AROUND COLUMBIA

By Bill Jordan
Staff Writer

Although Columbia College has recently provided its students with brand new library facilities, the volume of books there is still somewhat limited and at some point students will probably require materials beyond what it has to offer.

The Harold Washington Library, which is the largest municipal public circulating library in the country, is just a few blocks from the school at 400 S. State St. and is a great alternative.

Because of the massiveness of the library—10 floors, more than 70 miles of book shelving, and over 6 million books and periodicals—visitors are advised to stop at the information desk and pick up a map that lists all the floors and their various contents before heading into the stacks.

Once on the desired level of the building, book searches are made easy by the online catalog computer stations located on each floor. Users can search by author, title, or subject, and then print the results.

The third floor of the building, which contains newspapers and general periodicals, can be particularly useful when looking for information on a specific subject. Daily newspapers, including the Chicago Tribune and the New York Times, as well as other periodicals, can be searched by subject quickly and easily via computer. The information that can be found in a few articles can save many phone calls and a lot of legwork.

Another popular area of the library is the fifth floor, which holds the Municipal Reference Collection. This section contains a local newspaper clipping file for community issues from 1956 to present (probably the most extensive and detailed information available on local issues), most city documents since the mid-1800s, and collections of Chicago laws and ordinances. Students looking for detailed information on controversial issues may want to start here.

Aside from books, periodicals, and documents, the Harold Washington Library also offers other diverse resources. The eighth floor has a music listening room that has 20 remote controlled listening stations and access to over 80,000 recordings. Also on the same floor are six music practice rooms that contain upright pianos where people work on their chops in privacy for up to an hour at a time.

For visitors who become cross-eyed or tired from reading, a stroll around the building reveals over \$1 million worth of art, a small Chicago Blues Museum, a coffee shop located on the first level, and an exhibit hall downstairs that features art shows.

The library also continually offers movie showings, lectures and other events. Schedules can be obtained at the information center on the first floor.

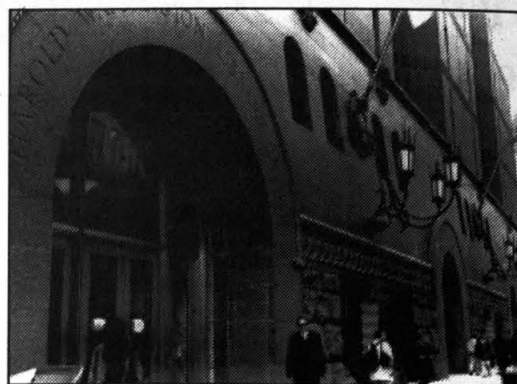
Library hours are: Sunday 1:00-5:00, Monday 9:00-7:00, Tuesday and Thursday 11:00-7:00, and Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday 9:00-5:00.

WHAT: The Harold Washington Library

WHEN: Sun. 1-5, Mon. 9-7, Tues., Thurs. 11-7, and Wed., Fri., Sat. 9-5

WHERE: 400 S. State Street

Photos by Natalie Battaglia



WANTED: Columbia Writers and Photographers!

The Columbia Chronicle is looking for staff writers and photographers to help fill its pages for the spring semester.

Interested students should sign up for the class "College Newspaper Workshop," which is held every Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. to 4:20 p.m.

To qualify, you must be a Journalism or Photography major, of junior or senior status, and have a 3.0 GPA. The class is three credit hours.

Students participating in the workshop will have their work published weekly in the Chronicle and also learn about the newspaper industry.

For more information, call Chronicle faculty adviser Jim Sulski at ext. 5584.

Columbia College, in collaboration with the Erikson Institute,

announces a new undergraduate
degree program in

Early Childhood Education.

If you are interested in working with
children up to 8 years old, contact
the Educational Studies department
at ext.5390 for more information.

Columbia Instructor Serves Up Fashion

"Fashion: An Historic Perspective" is the name of a fashion history course offered through the Art Department. This class answers questions from those who are interested in the history of fashion. Not only do you learn the history of clothing, you gain an appreciation for art, interior decoration, architectural design, literature and music.

But, most importantly, you will walk away from this class knowing who were the real social forces of any particular time including the 20th Century.

The instructor for the fall semester, Mary DeWitt-Fleischman, is a fashion expert has been teaching fashion courses since 1978. She began her teaching career at the University of Wisconsin as a teaching assistant in the theatre and drama, and environment, textiles and design departments.

DeWitt-Fleischman has also taught clothing and textiles, fashion design and merchandising at the Milwaukee Area Technical College and Mount Mary College.

What a busy lady. Besides teaching at Columbia she also currently teaches fashion and design at the College of DuPage, William Rainey Harper College and the Ray College Of Design.

You will have to agree with me that she is an expert in the world of fashion. And like many other women who handle so much in a day and a lifetime, Dewitt-Fleischman amazes me.

DeWitt-Fleischman practices what she

teaches. She has a company which is named after her: Mary DeWitt Designs located in Lisle, where she creates and markets children's clothing and gifts which are distributed through department stores and catalogues.

She received her bachelor's of art degree from Mundelein College in Chicago, and later went on to receive a Masters of Science in Clothing and Textiles, and a Masters of Fine Arts with a concentration in Costume Design for

The overall benefits of the courses were learning about the Baroque and Rococo period (1600-1800). The Baroque fashions date from the end of the 16th century to the middle of the 18th century. The name Baroque is the artistic style that evolved during this period.

The designers of the Baroque period created garments which were lavished with ornamentation and the clothing featured free flowing lines and flat curves. Looking at some of the art work from the

Baroque period, you will notice the characteristic manner of bunching up the skirt when walking, which makes you think that the people during this period were heavy or they just like to wear a lot of clothes.

The Rococo clothes were a little more refined, but yet had the Baroque

emphasis. Remember, not all clothing was so luxurious.

It is wonderful to learn about clothing and the history of Europe, but, it is also a little disappointing to learn only of European clothing.

What about Africa, India, and Asia?

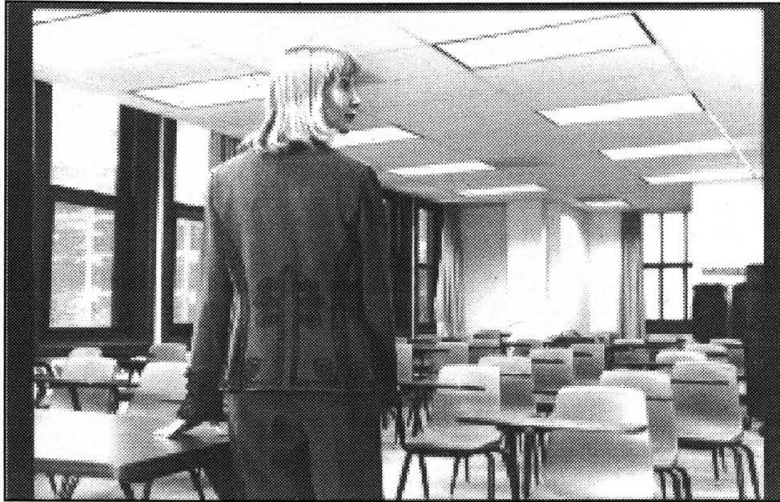
Did they not have clothes or is it not important to teach the history of their fashions?

I want to learn about history but why do I have to specify whose history when I register for class? Isn't the world one place - why can't the class-

Sandra Taylor
Fashion Writer

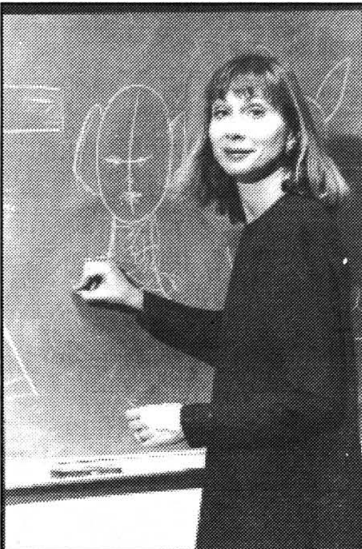


room be one learning place? I would like one day to enroll in a class in either the History, English or Art departments and learn about all cultures.



the Theater, both from the University of Wisconsin.

Her approach to teaching the class is very refreshing. I looked forward to attending her class and I did my best not



Photos by John Breun

"Like many other women who handle so much in a day and a lifetime, DeWitt-Fleischman amazes me"

to miss one.

I felt as if I were visiting an art museum whenever I went to class, and one can never get enough of art museums.

Fashion history instructor Mary DeWitt-Fleischman (above) is ready to go to any cocktail party in this dress designed by Dana Buchman. Left, she will be the talk of the evening in this suit designed by Dana Buchman. It's wonderful that designers are creating duo purpose garments that can go from work to play. All clothes provided by Nordstrom Oakbrook

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S.O.C. Goes South For The Winter

By Frank Walters
Correspondent



On January 10th, a hall-mark event took place which will have a lasting effect on Columbia for years to come.

The Latino Cultural Affairs Office and two student organizations, *Ahora!* and *Latina Image*, co-produced "The Latinos in the Arts Celebration '95-96" in the Hokin Gallery. This presentation is the harbinger of cultural exchange between Columbia and the University of Guadalajara.

"I thank President Duff with all my heart and Luz Maria Torres, Claudia Zuna and the students of *Latina Image* for their contribution to the cultural exchange of our two countries," said Helen Ladron de Guevara, the Latino Cultural Affairs Director and the liaison between Columbia College and the University of Guadalajara.

Luz Maria Torres, President of *Ahora!* and a broadcast journalism major, created a short documentary of the initial trip by Columbia students to Mexico in November. The trip culminated in the signing of an agreement between our two schools and the purchasing of rare books at the largest book fair in the Americas. These books will be on display in the library, in the Fine Arts section. "It was a pleasure to be a part of this," Columbia College President John Duff said.

At the latest allocations meeting, several issues were brought forth by Melissa Wendel, president of the council.

"Date rape is a serious problem at all universities nationwide. We at Columbia do not have a student government which sponsors programs that deal with the issue. We will be trying to fill that role in the future by sponsoring workshops with other departments here at Columbia," said Wendel.

If Helms Were Here, He'd Be 'Pissed'

By Ryan Healy
Assistant News Editor

Staring intently at the image of a crucified Christ submerged in a jar of urine, it is hard to see the controversy. The image looks more serene than obscene. But it is this controversial work, aptly named "Piss Christ," which catapulted the career of artist Andres Serrano into the spotlight.

"Piss Christ" is just one of over 50 works showing in his collection 'Andres Serrano Works 1983-1993' at the Museum of Contemporary Art, and Serrano is sick of talking about it. He'd rather discuss his other works, photographs which embody such themes as sex, the body, and religion.

Serrano, who uses photography as his medium, began taking pictures immediately after going to art school because he felt that after two years of studying painting and sculpture, he could not adequately do either.

"I started taking pictures I think mostly because I lived with a woman who owned a camera," said Serrano. "And immediately felt like I could still be an artist with the camera."

Early in his career, Serrano experimented with various bodily fluids: blood, milk, urine, and semen. The result is a series of works which flatten out the picture plane and are rich in eloquence.

"One of the things that I wanted to do with the fluid pictures was to mimic painting in some way, to use the language of paint, particularly abstract painting," said Serrano.

After the fluid pictures, Serrano's next project was a series called "Nomads." This series consists of portraits of homeless people.



ple. For these, Serrano used the New York subway tunnels as his studio. Though some critics have charged

Photos courtesy of the Museum of Contemporary Art

Above, Serrano's *Black Jesus*, 1990. Inset, artist Andres Serrano.

"I wanted to give a face and a name to the invisible pool of people we see everyday but don't really see," said Serrano.

When "Nomads" was complete, Serrano decided to start work on a series involving the Ku Klux Klan.

"I wanted to continue making some portraits, but I wanted them to be unusual, and then when I thought of unusual portraits I

thought of people with masks," said Serrano. "When I thought of masks, I immediately thought of the Klan, and because of who I am, racially and culturally, it was a challenge not only for me to work with the Klan, but getting the Klan to work with me."

The result of Serrano's work with the Klan is a series of delicate yet disturbing photographs. Hooded Klan members are photographed from a variety of angles. A conscious battle rages in the mind, struggling with the notion of finding beauty and humanity in figures who are symbols of hate.

A theme found throughout Serrano's work is religion. He has a series of photographs of religious statues submerged in bodily fluids, and a series of portraits of clergy members. But Serrano is not trying to deface holy icons. Rather, he is creating works in which many of his admirers find beauty, and which, at the very least, spur the minds of viewers. He is not showing his ideas or rhetoric down anyone's throat.

For example, two of his religious works, entitled, "Black Mary" and "Black Jesus," show these icon-like Christian figures with untraditionally dark skin.

"It's not about race if you don't want it to be," said Serrano of the works. "People should be able to see and get what they want out of the work."

Perhaps the most shocking of Serrano's works is a series entitled "Morgue." For this series, Serrano spent time photographing the dead in a morgue. Many of these photographs are fiercely graphic, such as the one showing a man who was beaten to death, and another one of a man who drowned. Others are extremely peaceful; a baby who died of fatal meningitis.

For Serrano, the latter has become one of his strongest and most personal images. "She has become probably my favorite image in the show," said Serrano. "And for me that's the whole point of why I'm an artist, to find the beauty in the things that we don't normally look for it in...to find the beauty that is often times overlooked."

CERTAIN CONFUSION

by Brian Cattapan



Face Value

By Laura Stoecker

If you were on the Love Boat, disaster struck and you ended up on a desert island, which crew member would you want to be with?



Judie Prebel
Music Theater
Sophomore

The girl cruise director, so I could beat the perky right out of her.



Russell Green
TV
Senior

Julie. She was smart and funny and knew how to get out of difficult situations.



Melissa Villegas
Dance
Freshman

Definitely Gopher! He'd keep my mind off our horrible situation by keeping me smiling. He was my favorite.



Jennifer Jones
Management
Junior

Gopher, because he keeps folks laughing and believe it or not, he was smarter than the rest.



Rick Atkisson
Film
Senior

The first Julie, the only one I wouldn't want to kill after any length of time.



Barbara GeorGouses
Dance Therapy
Graduate

The Captain. I like Older men.