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Columbia College Chicago

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THE CHRONICLE

OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

VOL. XXX, No. 26

MAY 12 1997

May 12, 1997

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Snail faster than mail:

Fall schedules arrive late or not at all for Columbia students

By Robert Stevenson
Opinion Editor

Chronicle Special Report

Neither rain, sleet nor snow can stop the mail, but pre-registration seems to be doing what Mother Nature can't.

A process that is saving the school tens of thousands of dollars seems to be hindering the prompt delivery of a mass mailing done by the school for early registration. Fortunately, this has not stopped anyone from registering because all continuing students are eligible, but many students have yet to receive registration packets in the mail. Early registration started April 29.

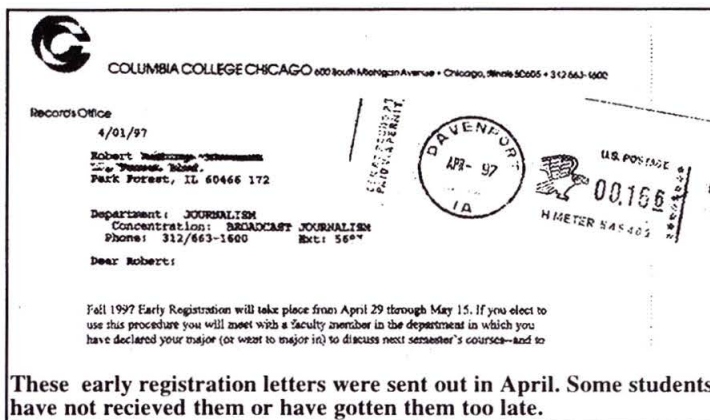
Drop Mail Express is the commercial mailing service that Columbia, other colleges and businesses are using to do mass mailings. The company processes the mail in Davenport, Iowa, by zip code, then sends it out to 600 main post offices across the country to be mailed.

"By the time it gets to the main post offices, we've done all the work," said Sharon Parke, national account manager for Drop Mail Express. "They [the post office] just have to deliver it."

This company, brought in by Bob Keck, mail-room coordinator, has saved the college between \$18,000 and \$20,000 in postage since January versus the college doing the mailing itself.

"We use this for larger volume and heavier mailings, like catalogues," Keck said.

The problem that students are having is that the mail is not getting to them on time, something that Keck, Parke and the U.S. Post Office say is unusual.



These early registration letters were sent out in April. Some students have not received them or have gotten them too late.

"It should've taken six to eight days," said Sharon Parke, national account executive for the Chicago based company.

"Standard A mail takes five to 10 working days to deliver, once it is in the mail stream," said Vera Davis, an U.S. Postal Service mailing requirements technician.

With the Davenport, Iowa, stamp on the registration packets, some may think that is the cause for the delay. Davenport is used because the delivery times are faster outside of Chicago. According to Parke, the company has an average delivery time of 5.5 days, but in the Chicago metropolitan area, it jumps to seven to eight days.

The fact remains that students are not receiving the mail.

"I don't think it's worth the money if it's late," said Christopher Richert, a junior who received his early registration packet on May 6, a week after he registered for fall classes.

"Of the amount of students we've [the TV department] registered, a good amount haven't received registration packets in the mail," said Annette Prijatel, administrative assistant of the television department. "I was surprised."

Cheating enjoys its new cyber-environment

By Rui Kaneya
Copy Editor

In the good old days, keeping a classroom honest was as simple as noticing a cheat sheet taped to a baseball cap or spotting a pair of wandering eyes.

College professors know all the cheating games—well, until now.

In the world of growing computer technologies, reports of World Wide Web sites where students can download term papers have academics pondering what the Information Age means to the age-old problem of cheating.

In many ways, the computer has elevated cheating to a new level. Students can now find a reprint of a Nobel laureate's paper on the Internet if they know where to look.

At recently established Web sites, such as "School Sucks" and "Evil House of Cheating," students can find old exams or download term papers just by clicking the mouse. The sites contain papers on topics from Einstein to Shakespeare.

See Editorial Page 9

In June 1996, Kenny Sahr, a then-journalism student at Miami International University in Florida, created "School Sucks" (at <http://www.schoolsucks.com>), which stirred heated discussions among many educators around the country.

Since the creation of the site, Sahr has been showered with angry criticisms from his detractors who charge him with promoting plagiarism. But Sahr defends his position and contends that the purpose of his site is not to help others to plagiarize. The site is intended to be used at the beginning of a "paper chain" of researching, to gather ideas for students' own papers, he says.

Sahr argues that his site will be a wake-up call to the educators to make them realize where the real problem lies.

"Without a struggle, there is no progress. No checks and balance," Sahr said. "And if they caught somebody cheating with this site, the school should thank me for helping to get rid of a bad seed."

Rebecca Courington, Columbia's academic computing department chairperson, finds Sahr's argument a bit of a stretch. "I think it's a good rationalization on his part," she said. "The premise is: 'Well, you are not supposed to use that paper. It's just an additional resource.' But nobody believes that, though."

Jeff Schiff, acting director of composition in English department, says if students copy the materials from somebody else's paper, their instructors should be able to notice. "If teachers are doing their job, they would have paid attention to students in the entire process of writing the paper," he said. "They

See Cheating, next page

Columbia grad comes back to discuss his experiences as a foreign news correspondent

By Hang Nguyen
Correspondent

"One must know what's going on about everything to be a true journalist," said Bernard Burrell, a Columbia graduate.

Burrell is a foreign correspondent who is extremely keen on news. "I talk, walk and sleep on news. I have an open mind on any and every story. I cultivate and use an open approach. I hate late appointments, like consistency in many things not only with events and I like knowing where I stand with a person," Burrell explained to Rose Economou's Intro. to Broadcast Writing class as he described himself and his successes.

Burrell's wide range and many years of experience have drawn much respect. He started journalism in 1985 when he approached his career in writing a story for the Jamaican Gleaner in England. He studied at Columbia from 1989 to 1991.

Burrell has traveled to Belgium, Italy, France, Holland, Greece, Spain, Wales, Scotland, Haiti and the United States. Having been to all those places, his favorite is the United States. He believes the people are lively and media information is easy to access.

"It's like a melting pot of information," said Burrell. He speaks several languages

and thinks that America has very little foreign news while England has many foreign affairs.

"Britain has a wider grasp of news outside their home. They cultivate," he said. He likes their style of reporting.

According to Burrell, the United States's news operations provide their audience with news that gets straight to the point.

Burrell has covered the Jamaican parliament and was once senior reporter for the Jamaican Broadcast Corporation. He now writes for several publications in the United Kingdom, the Caribbean and the United States.

He works for Radio Jamaica, writing profiles of the famous and infamous people. Occasionally, he covers business and other topics, but his favorite is doing profiles of famous people.

Michael Palin, a member of the British parliament, was profiled and admired by Burrell. Burrell admires Palin's ability to captivate, his style of writing and speaking. "He has a very unique style," Burrell said.

A noticeable thing about Burrell is that he's always holding a pen. In fact, he loves pens. At his home, he has a large box containing hundreds of pens, including the ones he has bought and used for his many interviews.

He says he's always has one handy, even

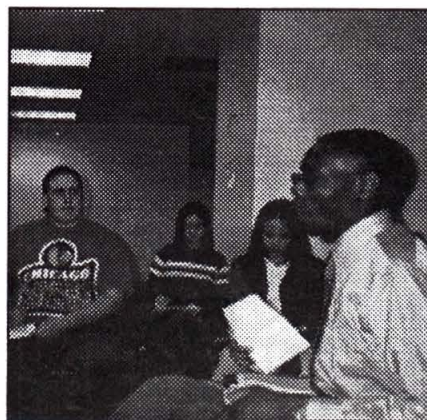


Photo by Glad Kotel

Students look on as Bernard Burrell discusses his career as a foreign correspondent.

when he's not working. "There's always something you might want to make a note of."

"The most important thing for a foreign correspondent is to know the news around and outside your immediate area. Some of the benefits of being a foreign correspondent is to experience and understand different cultures, their operations and workings," said Burrell.

Coming next week:

A special pullout section on the best pictures of 1997

THE CHRONICLE

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Millions lost in Pell Grant fraud

By Adolfo Mendez
College Press Service

A new study reveals that more than 100,000 college students received Pell Grants during the 95-96 school year who should have never received the free federal money.

According to the U.S. Department of Education's Office of inspector general, college students lied about their family income to get the award money. Worse yet, the Inspector General's office reported that colleges, by themselves, have no way of discouraging the practice.

"We knew some people were lying, based on our past criminal investigations where we have found that students had lied," said Patrick Howard, director of student financial assistance programs for the Office of Inspector General at the Department of Education. "We just had no idea of the magnitude."

Just how large is the problem? The inspector general's report found thousands of students are lying on their student-aid applications and costing the government millions as a result.

Working with the Internal Revenue Service, the inspector general's office compared family incomes reported on students' financial-aid applications with those reported on their parents' federal tax records.

The audit showed the government gave \$109 million more than they should have to at least 102,000 students in 1995-96 because students either failed to report or under-reported their income.

In addition, at least 1,200 students who claimed to be veterans were not. The result, according to the inspector general's office, was that they were granted independent status, which most likely increased their eligibility for Pell Grants. Students in this category were awarded more than \$1.9 million in Pell Grants, which are supposed to go only to needy students.

The audit also referred to four

unnamed students who stood out because they had "the greatest income discrepancies" between their tax forms and student-aid forms. Three of the four students received full Pell Grants; the other was awarded a grant slightly below the \$2,400 maximum.

The parents of the four students reported family incomes to the IRS ranging from \$646,720 to \$1,306,913. During the same period, three students reported zero earnings on their student-aid applications and the fourth reported just over \$7,000.

It gets worse: One unnamed student reported no income on the student-aid application, even though the IRS found the students family reported more than \$1.3 million in adjusted gross income on their tax return. The student, although his identity is known to the IRS, can't be prosecuted, Howard says.

In fact, none of the students who received Pell Grant money will be prosecuted.

"At this point, we cannot go after them criminally, although we'd love to," Howard said. "It's part of our agreement with the IRS."

That agreement only allowed the Department of Education to report how widespread the fraud is. It did not allow the department to reveal the names of the students either to the public or the schools where the Pell Grants were applied.

Currently, the department relies on colleges to verify that students submit accurate data on their student-aid forms. Federal law requires colleges to verify key eligibility information for at least 30 percent of their students who receive federal aid.

But while many colleges require aid applicants to submit copies of their family's federal income tax form, the colleges have "no assurances" that the forms are the same as those sent to the IRS, the report said.

"Sometimes people submit fake 1040s. There are marketing companies that are in the business of producing fraudulent tax

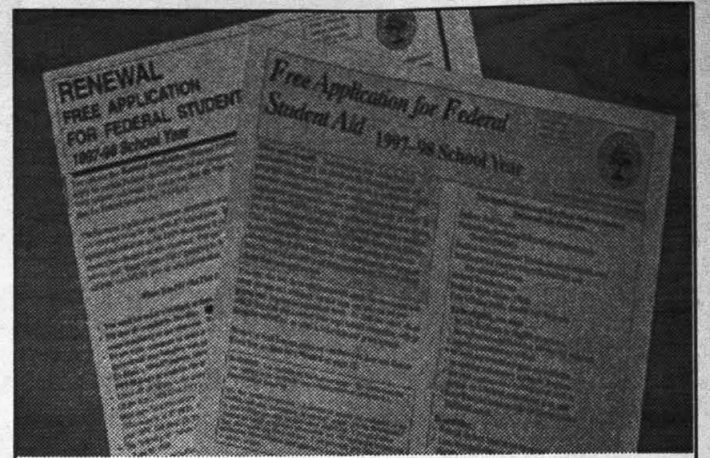


Photo by Brain Mariewicz
The FAFSA and its renewal form are just one source in which students can apply for Pell Grants and other financial aid.

returns." Inspector General Thomas Bloom told legislators in March. Bloom testified during a hearing before a subcommittee of the House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

He said many colleges are too time- and cash-strapped to investigate whether the financial information submitted by students is fraudulent. They lack the experience, too, to ferret out offenders, he said.

Bloom recommended that the federal government take on the responsibility of insuring that federal aid is going to the students who need it. He said the IRS should share tax returns with the Department of Education, a move that critics have said would invite "Big Brother" into students' lives.

"I'm a strong believer in privacy rights," Bloom said. "But it is different when you're asking for federal money."

Leslie Gray, a freshman at Harold Washington College in Chicago, agrees that the Department of Education should work with the IRS to pull records at will. "I think they should," said Gray. "Those people [students who lie on student aid applica-

tions] take money away from people who don't have any money for college."

She says she was surprised by the IRS audit. "That makes other people, like me, look bad," she said.

Gray, who attends a community college where tuition and books run slightly more than \$1,000 annually, says she received the maximum Pell Grant award this school year. "Without it, I wouldn't be in school," she said.

Gray says she's heard of students at the school talk about falsifying information. "They say, I can try to get more money if I say I'm on public aid [when they're not]. And I'm like, like they don't know"

Many financial aid officers said the audit caught them off guard, too. Cathy Kavanagh, associate director of financial aid at the University of Delaware, says she's never seen Pell Grant fraud in her 10 years of working at the university. "I was surprised by the IRS audit," Kavanagh said. "From our perspective, we review every Pell Grant applicant."

Cheating

Continued from page 1

will be able to tell if, all of sudden, a student who can't put together a sentence comes in with very sophisticated paragraphs."

Some say the very definition of cheating is becoming blurred with the development of technologies.

If a student, with a tough research project, seeks advice over the Internet, there will be any number of experts who might be unaware that they are conversing with a student under the gun to produce.

If a student downloads information from those experts, is it plagiarism? Or has that student simply used technology to demonstrate what educators have been stressing in their classes—the use of synergetic skills in problem solving?

It is a gray area, just as defining the plagiarism itself isn't a black-and-white issue.

"It's an excellent resource—being able to go out and communicate with people you otherwise wouldn't have an access to," said Courington. "But, I think what you should do is to cite them as a source just as using an Encyclopedia."

Schiff said he is not against students using any help they can get as long as they are the primary writer of the paper. "The issue is that students may not know that they have to make citations for those materials," he said. "There are citation strategies for materials pulled off from the Web. It's a same way that you would cite references in the periodicals, books or conversations in the interviews."

In some ways, cheating hasn't changed much at all.

"Even back in the Dark Ages when I was in college, there were phone numbers that you could call and tell them what you want-

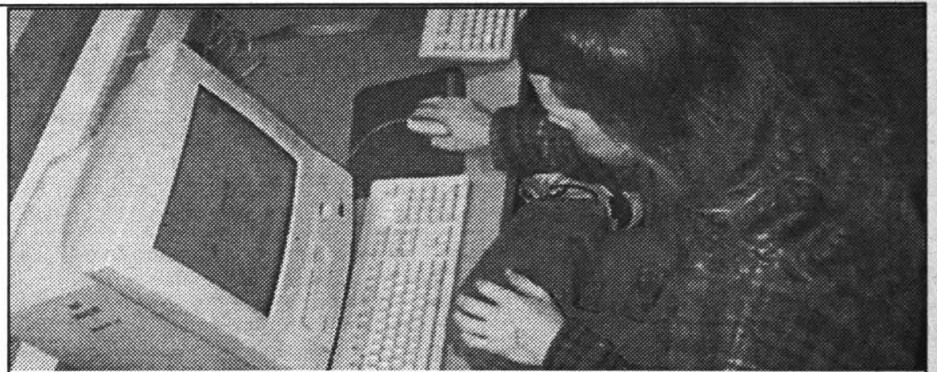


Photo by Dave Brennan
Jeremy Pierson, a junior, is busy surfing the Web in one of the computer labs.

ed, and they would send you a paper," said Courington. "So [computers] just modernized that scam."

Certainly the idea of cheating has been around well before the computers—a problem that's as old as education itself.

The difference is that high-tech cheating may be a little harder to catch than the old-fashioned methods.

Some colleges are being armed with high-tech gadgetry to counter that problem. Those technologies are designed to safeguard exam questions and discourage students from plagiarizing research.

At Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, computer programs created by students are subject to scanning by software that detects similarities with other programs.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology created a piece of software called "PGP," or "Pretty Good Privacy," which turns test questions and answers stored on a college or universities computer system into a jumble of numbers and letters. The text can only be accessed by using the right password.

"It's really important to get that kind of safeguard," said Courington. "It is up to the colleges to make sure that their resources are protected."

But, if the current trend is any indicator, even such cutting-edge technology will last only until students figure a way around it.

The consumer trend suggests that many sophisticated technologies are being purchased for home use. Hence, it is likely that many students arriving at colleges in the next few years have computer knowledge beyond most of their professors' comprehension.

"We are presently trying to encourage the use of technologies in an instructional context and trying to train the instructors," Schiff said. "But many teachers we have raised in an educational environment that did not feature any technologies. So it's a slow process."

"But we did a survey, and you'll be surprised that many of students we get are not as versed in technologies as you think."

Viewers put nail in Ch. 5 coffin



On Media
Jason Kravarik

Now that the Jerry Springer-Channel 5 saga has come to an end, it's time to assess what really happened here. And despite the near destruction of the Channel 5 newsroom, there are some—actually a lot—people who should be proud of the way they handled the situation.

They're the viewers. Just about everyone who analyzed the pre-Springer ratings, this writer included, thought the numbers would

go up when Springer took to the air. Instead, Ch. 5 didn't even come close to the 22 rating they promised advertisers. In fact, they didn't even win the time period. The 14.7 they pulled for the Springer debut was no real increase over their typical numbers for a Monday night. (One ratings point equals about 32,000 households.)

Imagine the look on the faces of Lyle Banks, the Ch. 5 general manager, and Joel Cheatwood, the new vice-president of news, when they saw that their newscast barely beat the perennial also-ran, WBBM, on day three of the Springer fiasco. On that Wednesday, a whopping 200,000 households watching Channel 5 for the preceding program tuned out at 10 p.m.

Last Thursday, one week

after the resignation of Carol Marin, Springer made newsroom staffers happy by himself resigning. In an interview on the Ch. 5 news that resembled a near-fight on Springer's syndicated show, reporter Mark Suppelsa spent four minutes bickering with Springer partially over whether his first commentary accurately characterized his Cincinnati mayoral duties. Since we're used to seeing Suppelsa more laid back, the interview—complete with Suppelsa sticking his finger in Springer's face—looked more like Ch. 5's way of coming out against Springer and distancing themselves from the sins of journalism that the talk show host has come to represent.

Marin would not comment on Springer's resignation. Cheatwood reportedly

said he will announce a replacement for Marin within a week.

Cheatwood is best known for the pioneering of tabloid news in Miami and Boston. His hiring was undoubtedly one of the factors leading Marin and critics to believe Ch. 5 would soon be headed in the tabloid direction.

For the sake of the many hard-working, credible professionals at Ch. 5, let's hope the Springer nightmare made real to Ch. 5 execs what they should have already known: Viewers in this city won't stand for sub-par news programs. And for the sake of the entire Chicago journalism market, let's hope Ch. 5 finally absorbed the lesson, and won't further drift into the land of tabloid "news."

Knock on (Cheat)wood.

How's Your Steak?



With
John Henry Biederman

Time to play a little misty

It was the worst of times, it was the...Well, the worst of times. It was the Year Without a Santa Claus.

Oh, all right. It wasn't that bad. I'm talking about this year, my senior year and, more importantly, the year I tackled the Chronicle editor-in-chief job.

I was a columnist before working up here, but now only three columns remain. As the end approaches, I figure I should pass a little "wisdom" on to those who may follow in my footsteps.

This applies to more than just people who work for college newspapers. I'm speaking to everyone spending their college years doing those internships, playing in those bands, taking those extra courses—whatever.

Don't block the entrance to that chimney.

I'm outside of the archetype associated with the term "college student," but students like me are quickly coming into their own archetype. We're students who didn't earn our degrees by the age of 22, as was the rule in years past. I went to college at 18, partied like a stereotype and, although I didn't flunk out, I didn't place much importance on those silly classes before my parents, helping me through at the time, wisely decided that my "education," at that point, wasn't a wise investment.

While saving money to return to college, I hideously checked my history for a few more years. Then I started writing everything—novels, poetry, nonfiction—to hone my craft and soon began before coming to Columbia in 1994 to do finish my degree.

In my mid- and later-twenties, this college stint has been almost the opposite of my first. It was all fun and debauchery before; now I have career-oriented projects and the near-full-time Chronicle job in addition to full-time courses. I guess it's Academic Karma, going from mostly play to mostly work.

To make a long story short...well, too late for that. To make a short story long, I advise students to stop and rest the work horse now and then. Getting your education is already doing something positive for your future—try to let loose and "be a college student" more often, regardless of your age. So what if you spend a while after graduation working a butthead job while getting your act together? Success is great, but what does it mean if you're so stressed that it feels like your eyes are popping out?

I'm not saying that I regret this experience and I'm sorry for hitting a Bob Greene tone. I've had some great times here at Columbia. And how could I have passed up the chance to be editor-in-chief?—we need to remain cognizant of our futures. So maybe I'm just waffling like a political candidate in an election year, not saying much at all. When a period of one's life like college passes, it's only natural to look back and wonder what should've been done differently.

"Sniff, sniff."

It's my...er, friend, Knuckles Von Chuckler.

"Knuckles," I say. "I'm touched that you care."

"What are you talking about? I couldn't care less about your sappy little manifestos. I'm worried about my friend Slats."

"Grobnik?"

"Yeah. I saw him at a Column Character Union meeting and he's really depressed about losing his author. I can see that—he had Royko, I have an idiot."

"You mean, even though Mike died, Slats..."

"I don't have time to explain," Knuckles says, reaching into a duffel bag. "We have to tie up some loose ends before 'How's Your Steak?' wraps up and...grab 'em, Nipsy!"

Nipsy has snuck up behind me, I'm caught off guard and, in moments, they have me hog-tied to my chair.

"Moohahahahaha!" Nipsy laughs. "John. I am a part of you, a part of you that escaped when you declared this 'Year Without a Santa Claus' early this year, after seeing how much work being editor-in-chief entailed!"

"What..."

"Remember when you first started classes here, how you used to say: 'Columbia College: Where the Sinner is Just Beginn'?"

"I don't recall..."

"Next you're gonna tell me that you didn't inhale!" "Anyway," Knuckles says, "We have to fuse Nipsy back into you. The ritual is too horrifying for a general audience, so we'll have to end this column."

"Oh," Nipsy adds. "John will be okay, a little more normal after this. And, as you'll recall, Santa does come around at the end of 'Year Without a Santa Claus' movie, so who knows? John may be especially evil for one column or so but..."

E-mail John: kdolphin@xsite.net

College News from around the nation

By College Press Service

Universities Support Affirmative Action

NEW YORK—A group of the nation's most prestigious universities defended their right to use affirmative action in their admissions process in an advertisement published April 24 in The New York Times.

The ad contained the text of a policy statement adopted by the Association of American Universities, which includes 62 top research universities, at its spring meeting April 14 in Washington.

"We...want to express our strong conviction concerning the continuing need to take into account a wide range of considerations—including ethnicity, race and gender—as we evaluate the students whom we select for admission," the group said.

The policy statement is a response to recent decisions to roll back affirmative-action programs in California and Texas, the group said.

"We believe that our students benefit significantly from educations that

take place within a diverse setting," the group said. "Our students encounter and learn from others who have backgrounds and characteristics very different from their own."

The group said it does not endorse quotas or "set-asides" in admissions. Instead, an applicant's grades, standardized test scores and "unquantifiable human qualities" should be considered.

The Association of American Universities includes all members of the Ivy League except for Dartmouth College, various private colleges, and public universities.

Michigan's Nude-Mile Run Draws Tepid Response

ANN ARBOR, Mich.—Maybe dashing buck naked across campus doesn't raise as many eyebrows as it used to.

Despite cold temperatures in the mid-30s, about 200 University of Michigan disrobed at midnight April 22 for the annual "Nude Mile" run.

As usual, thousands turned out to witness the spring event, which celebrates the last day of classes and was started 12 years ago by members of the men's crew club.

But at least one female spectator commented that she was "under-impressed" by the turnout—and, for that matter, by the stampede of bare-butted sprinters who attracted the gawkers. Even the Daily Michigan gave the annual dash a yawn and didn't do a write-up.

The trouble, says Jim Yood, Northwestern University art critic and theorist, is that American society has become indifferent to nudity.

What's numbed us, according to Yood, are constant displays of nudity in movies, fashion, advertising and even in TV shows such as "NYPD Blue."

But while spectators may call it a bore, participants say there's still something liberating about a mad dash in the buff.

One participant said. "It's the most amazing feeling. I mean, it's so cool, so free."

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FROM SCIENCE/MATH DEPARTMENT

Satisfying Lab Components Requirements

Due to a misprint in the Columbia College class schedule for Fall 1997, proper "Lab Component" designation of Science Institute classes were omitted.

The following Science Institute classes will satisfy students "SL" (science lab) requirements:

57-4510
The Atmosphere and Motions of the Earth and Other Plants

57-4110
Biology: Chocolate, Coffee, Sugar and Spice

57-4125
Biology of the Human Immune System: Health and Disease

57-4514
Computer Models and Virtual Worlds in

Science

57-4250
Crime Lab Chemistry: Solving Crime Through Analytical Chemistry

57-4410
Dinosaurs and More: Geology Explored

57-4200
From Ozone to Oil Spills: Chemistry, the Environment and You

57-4001

Frontiers of Science

57-4300
Modern Methods in Science: Discovering Molecular Secrets

57-4505
The Physics of Music

For more information on these courses, or to set up an appointment for early registration, call the Science Institute at (312) 663-1600 x5544

Columbia News & Notes

Security Alert!

The campus has experienced an increase in thefts of personal property and office equipment in the last two weeks. Please be on guard to prevent further incidents.

Nominations announced for 1997 Excellence in Teaching Award

A total of 31 instructors have been nominated for the

Excellence in Teaching Award given to instructors who reflect the spirit and intent of teaching at Columbia. This year, awards will be given to instructors who excel at a pedagogical technique that effectively imports knowledge and facilitates learning.

Columbia's Planning Document Approved

In a letter to the Columbia

administrators and faculty, President Duff reported that the college's Board of Trustees endorsed the college's planning document, Framing a Plan of Action. This document was previously approved by the College Council in December. As stated in the letter, Framing a Plan of Action along with the companion document, Laying the Foundation, now becomes College policy and will

guide decision-making and resource allocation for the College in the future.

International student wins Photography Award

Peeratouch Oprasert won 3rd place at the 17th Annual Photography Contest. The area he won the award in was Color Photography.

Here's Proof That A College Degree Can Really Pay Off.

*Right Now Recent College Graduates Get **\$400** Off Every New Dodge. In Addition To Most Other Current Offers.**

Dodge Neon Coupe starts as low as

\$9,900 *after \$400 college grad and \$1,000 national cash back.***



Cab-forward design, dual airbags, 16-valve, 132-horsepower engine. More standard power than Escort, Civic and Cavalier Coupe.

Dodge Dakota starts as low as

\$11,935 *after \$400 college grad cash back.***
 (\$12,395 as shown)



Sport Truck magazine's '97 "Sport Truck Of The Year." More available horsepower, torque, towing and payload than any compact pickup.

Don't forget to ask about '97 college graduate finance plans available to eligible customers through Chrysler Credit. ♦

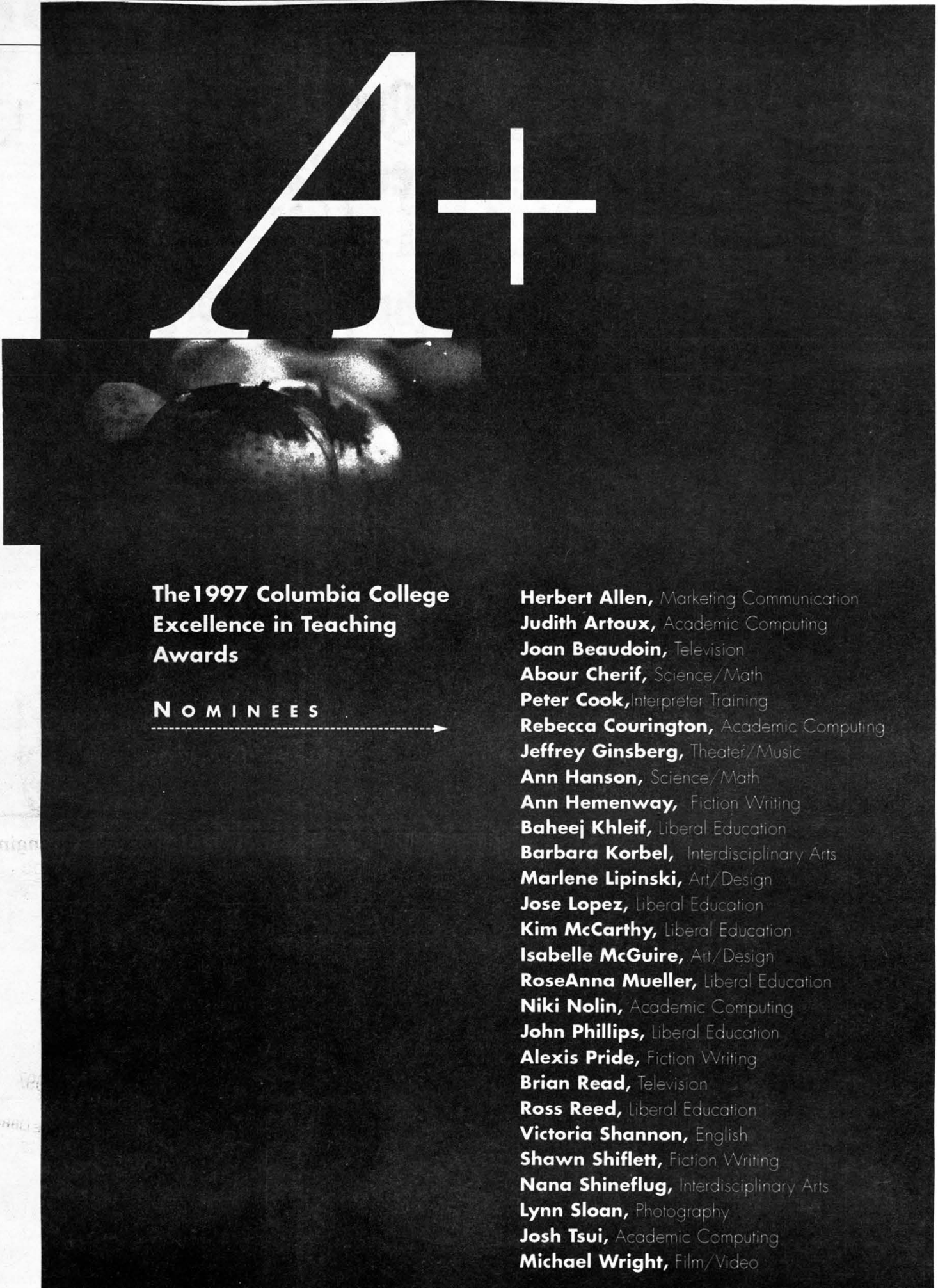


The New Dodge

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The 1997 Columbia College Excellence in Teaching Awards

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Ann Hanson, Science/Math
Ann Hemenway, Fiction Writing
Baheej Khleif, Liberal Education
Barbara Korbel, Interdisciplinary Arts
Marlene Lipinski, Art/Design
Jose Lopez, Liberal Education
Kim McCarthy, Liberal Education
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Niki Nolin, Academic Computing
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Alexis Pride, Fiction Writing
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Ross Reed, Liberal Education
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Faculty and Students: Please write a letter in support of any of the teachers who have been nominated for this year's **Excellence in Teaching** award. Your letter is important and will be taken into consideration as part of the criteria for the nominees named above. Give specific examples of innovative and effective teaching methods and creative course development. The award will be given to one full-time and one part-time faculty member.

Send your letter no later than **Friday, May 23, 1997** to the Academic Dean's office, Columbia College, 600 S. Michigan Ave., Room 515, Chicago IL 60605. Questions? Call 312.663.1600 x 5208.

Final Exam Question #2

The Collect Call

What's the only number to use for all your collect calls that could instantly win you cool stuff (like hip Planet Hollywood® jackets and packs of 24 free movie passes) every hour, every day?



a) d

b) d

c) d

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Como se what?

Erin Bonillo
Staff Writer

Over the weekend, I found myself digging frantically through Marshall's enticing spring fashions, elbowing and rubbing up against dozens of other sale-crazed shoppers—all of us moving in frenzied circles to the music droning out from the store speakers. I was so tightly wound up in my own shopping frenzy that it took me a few minutes to even notice that the music was not Lionel Richie, but a Latin interpretation of "Dancing on the Ceiling."

Unfazed, I continued burrowing through the pile of alluring summer shorts. It was about then that a clerk interrupted the shopping insanity with an announcement of yet another bargain we shoppers shouldn't pass up.

At least I think that was what she said, because the message was not spoken in English, but rather in Spanish. A little startled, I pulled my head out of the pile of shorts and looked around to see if anyone else found the announcement a little odd. Instead I discovered that I was the only one the least bit surprised—in fact, I realized I was one of only a few Caucasians within sight. Almost the entire first floor of shoppers appeared to be Latino. For an instant I felt like I was transported to another country for a spring vacation, but no, I was in Chicago at a local Marshall's store. "Wait a minute," I thought. "We are in America for God's sake! Can't we have the Marshall's announcement in our own native tongue?" This was insane! Or was it?

I realized it was one thing to hear about the growing conflict of linguistics among immigrants and Americans, from the news or papers, but it felt like quite another to experience it firsthand. My initial reaction was anger, stemming from my egocentric view that English should be the only language spoken here in the States. Yet, after some reflection, it dawned on me that the answers would not be so simple.

Immigration no longer represents a collage of separate cultures and countries as in the 1800s to mid 1950s. In this country, pressures exist within every community as our nation attempts to assimilate separate languages.

It is that change that is pushing our nation to rethink our policies and question what is actually happening. The level of non-English speaking immigrants is surging to unprecedented levels as more immigrants are creating language sub-cultures. The 1996 statistics from The Department of Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) show that, for an estimated 34 million U.S. residents, English is not their first language and many are not literate in English at all.

Non-English-speaking children are now the fastest growing group in schools in the United States. In 1990, one child in every twenty enrolled in an American public school either could not speak English or spoke it so poorly as to need language-assistance programs, according to the 1995 Statistical Record of Latino Americans. This number is increasing with striking speed; only six years earlier, it had been one child in 30.

Victor Rodriguez came to the U.S. in 1991, with visions of future success as a radio broadcaster. He made his home in Logan Square, a predominately Latino area of Chicago, and found a job working at a Mexican pastry shop. As months turned into years, Victor felt very comfortable here in the States. In fact, it wasn't very different from his home in Columbia. He discovered that there was a multitude of "Spanish only" TV stations, radio programs and publications. He frequented his favorite Colombian restaurants, went salsa dancing over the weekend and even attended classes with Spanish

as the language of instruction at Truman College.

"I went almost two weeks without having to say anything in English," he boasted to me in Spanish.

Victor is not atypical. In fact, more immigrants have been falling into these language sub-cultures than ever before. Richard Lamm, author of "The Immigration Time Bomb," states that these sub-cultures provide comfort, security and, above all, rid immigrants of any requirements to learn English and integrate into U.S. culture.

The difference between these immigrants and those of previous decades isn't that they are maintaining their cultural ties but that many cannot speak the language of the country they live in.

Neither Spanish-speaking nor English-speaking citizens are right or wrong, but both are fighting to preserve their identities among a swiftly changing nation. In the end, it may be the ethnic population that decides.

Most Latino immigrants come to the United States assuming they will learn English and assimilate with American culture, but once they arrive, it becomes apparent that learning English is not a necessity to survive, says Stacy Woods, public relations director for English First Lobbying Organization. Her advocates blame the U.S. government for creating the linguistic division, pointing out that the government caters everything to immigrants in their own native tongue.

Other lobbyists agree, feeling that it is a contradiction to encourage immigrants to learn English when our government translates all written material into Spanish and places Spanish-speaking workers in the government buildings. Advocates of U.S. English Organization believe wholeheartedly in these fears.

"We are misguided to believe that printing forms in multiple languages is beneficial for the future of our country," said Daphne Magnuson, director of public relations for EFLO. "It promotes the delay of language assimilation and wastes resources that could be used to teach English so immigrants could better their lives."

Perhaps language assimilation is not the answer. Already our system is responding to the large percentage of Latinos, whether we as a country agree or not. You can vote without knowing English (through translated voting cards), become an American citizen, work, go to school, own a business and live a comfortable life.

In essence, it is almost a wasted effort to argue the vital necessity of English when it is apparent that it is no longer a necessity at all. Rather, it makes sense to re-examine our country as a whole and work together to find a solution that assimilates rather than discriminates against ethnic choices. Is the possibility of preserving both languages, and making English and Spanish the official languages of the United States, outrageous?

Not really, if you consider that these two languages are already the backbone of the United States linguistics and culture. The divided bilingual system, conflicts within government policy and increasing subcultures are the strongest advocates of a new system. Countries such as Japan, Sweden, Germany and Canada have already proved that having two official languages not only works, but benefits the citizens, empowering them with two languages to communicate and relate with.

The answers are not simple, but one thing is for certain. If the United States continues to ignore the growing Latino culture, the system will be forced to decide for itself based on the inevitable pressures growing within. A change is necessary, whether it be enforcing English, integrating Spanish or making two official languages.

Language will never be limited to just words—it is a culture all in itself. My hope is that someday we can all understand the "sale announcement" whether it is in Spanish or English. After all, this is a democratic country, and we are all entitled to equal rights...whether it be for jobs, education or the knowledge that spring tank tops are 50 percent off at Marshall's.

WANTED: Writers and Photographers!

The Columbia Chronicle is looking for staff writers and photographers to help fill its pages for the fall 1997 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.

Corrections and Clarifications

In the May 5th issue, Carol R. Vanselow took the photographs of the students who made the Reebok commercial.

i³ was the company that co-produced the commercial with 'Redcar' productions.

One last gasp for a healthy life

Wilfred Brandt

Every day, it becomes harder and harder to discern what's good for our health. Anywhere you turn, there's some dorky guy in a lab coat telling you "eat this" or "exercise." The physical fitness experts are doing cartwheels—wait no, cartwheels are bad for you, they now do somersaults. In the nineties, it's anybody's guess how to stay healthy.

But not to worry. You don't need to subscribe to some fancy health magazine and read all the latest research to stay in shape. Who wants to translate all those big scientific words the "experts" throw at you anyway? Well, with one semester of high school health and eight weeks of yoga, I'm no health expert. But believe it or not, I have come up with a new program for eternal physical and mental health. It's so easy you can do it at your home, office or AA meetings. Sound too good to be true? It's not! My key to everlasting health is to cut out that one nasty habit we've all been guilty of at one time or another. Forget smoking, red meat or even that six pack of Ding Dongs stashed in the pantry, the true villain behind any human sickness is simple—breathing.

Yes, it may sound hard to believe, but for years the health professionals have missed the forest for the trees. The intake of oxygen into our soggy looking brains has throughout history led to hazards the likes of cancer, heart attacks, psoriasis and Rambo movies. Think back — couldn't all your ailments have been avoided if you'd simply said "later" to that gaseous friend of yours?

Plus, breathing uses up valuable energy that could be better spent rearranging furniture, or shopping for a new car. Even on a day where physical and mental activity is limited only to breathing (i.e. during MTV Real World marathon), the average

person still loses enough energy to necessitate at least a few hours of sleep. Cutting breathing out of our schedule eliminates the need for even a cat nap after Thanksgiving dinner, thereby freeing up countless hours for step exercises or weight lifting.

And once all that exercising has paid off, you needn't worry about aging. New studies show, oxygen intake is entirely responsible for nagging problems like wrinkly skin and gray hair. Without oxygen in our bloodstream, old age will become a novelty of the past, like hula hoops or multi-colored hula hoops. Many of our greatest figures in history caught on early, decided breathing was for the birds, and stayed young forever. Marilyn

Monroe and James Dean knew what they were doing.

But what about the most dreaded of all health ailments you ask? Yes, that too is taken care of here. No more worrying about love handles, double chins or people poking your stomach like the Pillsbury Doughboy and expecting you to giggle. As long as you're in shape now, you can guarantee you won't gain any of those icky fat cells once you've stopped breathing. This is the wonder diet perfect for Susan Power! No need for label reading or calorie counting, just sit back and relax. Once the pounds started piling on, rocker Jim Morrison wised up and cut oxygen out of his diet completely. And he hasn't gained a bit since! Imagine how many pounds Brando could have kept off if he'd only quit breathing after "The Wild One."

So the next time you're fretting over which low fat meal or aerobics program is right for you, just think — there's always my easy to follow, one step guide for keeping in tip top shape. And when the health community "experts" jump on the bandwagon, remember, you heard it here first.

This is the wonder diet perfect for Susan Power!

SHOOTS AND LETTERS DEPARTMENT

"All the nuts that are unfit to print elsewhere!"
 This page rated SH--the discretion of a sense of humor is required. The opinions represented herein are not those of the college, Journalism Department, Chronicle or, in some cases, anybody in their right mind.
 When sending correspondence to the Shoots And Letters Department, please also include your name and phone number for verification purposes. You can "write" us in the following ways: Mail: c/o Columbia College Chicago Chronicle, 623 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago, IL 60605; FAX: (312) 427-3920; e-mail: Chron96@interaccess.com; Web page message board: <http://www5.interaccess.com/chronicle>. We reserve the right to edit all submissions for length and clarity.

In response to...

I'm writing in response to Marc Roman Bravo's letter of May 5. Marc never mentioned his frustration regarding writing assessment to me. Nor did he report frequently canceled classes, a situation that is not tolerated in the English Department. Marc did, however, speak to me about technical difficulties in his computer assisted composition course. I sent him to the Acting Director of Composition (not the substitute chair as Marc's letter states—though I understand the large number of "acting" titles is confusing) who met with Marc's instructor to discuss and correct the matter. If the technical problems persisted, Marc should have again addressed me or the Acting Director of Composition.

The college is devoting a great deal of resources to guarantee students have access to the latest technology. Most of the new computer-assisted classes have received favorable evaluations. A survey in one class indicated that the students overwhelmingly favored working on their writing in a computer environment. One student said "[In the computer classroom] I get a lot more help and a lot of different opinions and suggestions." Another said "It's nice to just come in and sit down and start working...I find it an interesting way to learn." Another commented, "I have benefited greatly." Another liked the immediate feedback. The list of compliments was long. Because the program is new this semester, we expected a period of transition to work out the bugs. We also expect both the program and the instructors' experience to grow stronger each semester.

The English Department has an excellent computer lab and very dedicated instructors. I hope the complaints of one student will not deter others from trying the computer-assisted classroom. I encourage other students to contact me with any comments, suggestions or complaints. Thank you.

Garnett Kilberg Cohen
 Acting Chair, English Department

Ms. Cohen: Perhaps we were wrong about Mr. Bravo all along. We were all excited about having a super hero within our ranks at Columbia, to combat administrative mischief and naked folks running around. Now, however, we're wondering if Johnny Bravo...er, Marc Roman Bravo, is really a super villain in super hero's clothing. Or perhaps News Editor Jim Boozer is a little too excited about his new Dr. Octopus Underoos!—Eds.

More in response...

An article highlighting the Columbia College Student Medical Insurance Plan was included in The Chronicle's March 24 edition. Ms. LaValle did contact my office and spoke with me regarding the current policy and the improvements we are incorporating into the 1997-98 policy. Though some of the coverages mentioned in the article were correct, many were not correctly explained. To that end, I have outlined below the corrections and enclosed a brochure as a reference.

In addition, I want to stress that all insured students that have any questions or problems regarding the health plan should contact our office at 1-800-457-5599 or e-mail Studntcare@aol.com. We are responsible for servicing the Columbia College

Plan and assisting insured students in resolving any issues which might arise.

Coverage Corrections:

1. If a student has an accident and the injury requires medical treatment, the insurance company (after the \$25 deductible) will pay 100 percent of the Reasonable and Customary expenses up to \$2,500. Therefore, the company pays 80 percent of the Reasonable and Customary expenses up to a maximum of \$50,000 per injury.

2. Covered expenses include hospital confinement, physician, surgery, X-ray and lab services, prescribed medicines, use of an ambulance and other medically necessary services.

3. If a student has an illness which requires medical treatment, the insurance company (after a \$25 deductible) will pay the reasonable and customary expenses up to the allocated amount listed in the brochure, for the first \$2,500 of paid expenses. Thereafter, the company pays 80 percent of reasonable and customary expenses up to a maximum of \$50,000 per sickness.

4. The current plan already covers MRI and other diagnostic scans. This benefit is being increased up to \$1,000 for next year.

5. The inpatient mental health coverage will be increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000 for next year. The outpatient mental health coverage will stay the same.

Ms. LaValle's recent article has helped me realize how we have to continue to improve the language in the brochure so that it is clear and understandable to the general student population.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Teresa Koster
 President, Koster Insurance

Ms. Koster: Now we understand why Ms. LaValle has been wondering around the Chronicle office in a daze chanting "we want a deductible, not one of the Huxtables"! In any event, thank you for submitting this scintillating insurance manifesto to our pages! This should help Copy Editor Jerry La Buy get back on his napping schedule!—Eds.

KISS this

Being a former A&E editor and writer for two college papers, I try to read your paper as much as possible, especially the features section.

As I turned to the back page of your April 28 issue, I was happy to see an article on the band Kiss. I must warn you that I am a huge fan of the band, seeing them 10 times on this reunion tour. I read the article, what there was of it, quite intently.

First and foremost, was this story supposed to be a review or preview? Never in the article did the writer mention any specifics of this "particular" show. I will get to the reason for the quotes later. Using the term "you could expect to hear" would usually be used in a preview of a concert, not a review.

Now this point may not be understood by people who are not fans of the band. As the writer stated many times in her story, this tour is a reunion, with the original members. She says she was a little disappointed that the band didn't perform the songs "I Love it Loud" or "Lick it Up." If she knows anything about the band, she would know that two of the original members didn't record on either of those songs. They had nothing to do with them. Why expect to hear those songs if the original band didn't record them?

Back to the reason I used quotes around

the word "particular" earlier. The writer claims that she saw the band perform on April 24 in Milwaukee. Ms. Hardaway, are you sure you are writing about the same band here? Kiss performed April 23 in Madison, Wis., and yes, it was a brilliant show. You would think that you would at least get the date and city right if you were going to write a review of a performance.

Lastly, even though I don't believe you attended the show, a review is supposed to round up the things that happened on stage, not outside. Who cares how many people were outside looking for tickets? Wouldn't you rather mention how singer and guitarist Paul Stanley flew to the back of the arena, or how lead guitarist Ace Frehley's guitar shot rockets to the ceiling of the arena during his solo? None of that, or any other specifics of the performance were mentioned.

I surely hope this story was used as a filler, because if it wasn't, you have big problems. I also surely hope that Doc McGhee, or anyone from the band's publicity department, gets a copy of the story. They are tough enough to get tickets through, but to please, even tougher.

Thank you for your time. I hope my letter will be worthwhile.

Jason/Onefix214@aol.com
 Via e-mail

PS Ms. Hardaway, Kiss has released 30 albums, not 25 as you stated. Just thought I'd let you know that.

"Jason/Onefix": Ms. Hardaway's story what not used as filler—and quit calling us Shirley! (We've been waiting all semester to use that one!) But seriously—okay, not seriously—you may be suffering from Kiss addiction if you have one or more of the following symptoms: 1) Spraining your tongue by hanging by it from a chin-up bar in an attempt to lengthen it 2) Spending more money on makeup than Ru Paul and Dennis Rodman combined or 3) Writing college newspapers with rambling (and, frankly, not worthwhile, to answer your final question) letters nit-picking about Kiss articles.—Eds.

Need more in the story

Dear Mr. Kaneya,

[A response to Copy Editor Rui Kaneya's story on foreign college students in the April 21 Chronicle]

As a Columbia college student, I was excited to know that the number of foreign students are increasing every year. Personally, I thought it was a very good topic to discuss but I felt that Mr. Kaneya and the editors didn't put much effort into this article. First, Mr. Kaneya shows how the percentage of foreign student increasing in many colleges including Columbia. As a reader, I wanted know why more foreign students are coming to American colleges. Also, it would be nice if Mr. Kaneya added a real foreign student's voice.

Sincerely,
 Jihyuk Park

Jihyuk: You're absolutely right! We most certainly should have added a real foreign student's voice to Kaneya's article, so we're including this update from Blggui Vrrztllk: "Orgody ziervoyq xex-xrvty grnt!" Unfortunately, Ms. Vrrztllk is from the planet Schnickerpiz and we are unable to translate.—Eds.

Anyone speak

Cantonese?

I am happy that Columbia is increasing its rate of foreign student enrollment. However, I can't find another Hong Kong guy in Columbia. I always speak English here. Sometimes I want to voice and share my opinion and emotion with someone of the the same background about Hong Kong news and stuff. In fact, I can't find anyone who speaks Cantonese so far. Please tell me how I can meet a Cantonese guy or join a Chinese club at Columbia.

Anthony Lai

Mr Lai: Try floor 3 of the Wabash Bldg. for information on student organizations and, in the mean time, catch reruns of "Hong Kong Phooey" on cable.—Eds.

Arm-chair editor gives assignment

You guys need to do a story or column on what's going on up on the seventh floor at WCRX 88.1. If you tune in to the Radio Party Tuesday Afternoons (3-7p.m.) or Scott Trunda Mornings (Wednesday-Friday), you'll find out that there's a lot more going on than dance music. A lot of us, especially me, give the Chronicle a lot of attention.

Lonnie
 Via online forum

Lonnie: We may indeed follow up with this for a story, but we'd listen to WCRX more if we could tune it in up here! We'll be requesting our own wire to the station but—c'mon, we can't even get 'em to turn the heat down up here. It's like a Turkish bath in this office, and some of us are a little sick of Opinion Editor Robert Stevenson walking around in a purple, Barry White-style bathrobe!—Eds.

An Anime fanime

Hello. I came to Columbia College last fall and I must say it is wonderful here. I am having a great time. I read the Chronicle every chance I get and the writers and photographers put forth a lot of effort into their articles. Keep it up gang.

My main reason for e-mailing you guys is because I have a question. I have seen a lot of student clubs and organizations that are really cool. But I know there are some college students who are big Anime (Japanese animation) fans. I would like to see an Anime club here. Anime clubs are popping up at the U of C, and U of Michigan. In fact, colleges from every state have anime clubs. They plan trips to Anime conventions and have fancub services on the Internet. I would like to start an Anime club here at Columbia but what must I do to get the organization off the ground and where would I go from here?

Please help meeeee!!!!!!

Ukkyo2799@aol.com
 Via online forum

"Ukkyo": We too would like to see more animation at Columbia—mainly, we wish some of the aides in our departments were a little more animated!—Eds.

This Is This

Bob Chiarito



Burn your paper!

Last week, British Prime Minister John Major was trounced in his country's general election by a Clintonesque moderate, Labor leader Tony Blair. A few days later, Irish Prime Minister John Bruton called for a "real" cease-fire from Irish Republican Army supporters.

Back home, the U.S. House of Representatives approved a measure forcing public housing residents to do eight free hours of community work a month or face eviction. Former POW Pete Peterson went to Hanoi to serve as America's first U.S. Ambassador to communist Vietnam and a compromise to the "Partial-Birth" abortion issue was proposed by democrats.

Here in Chicago, three Gresham cops may face federal corruption charges for crimes they committed in 1995. Allegedly they left their district and drove to the home of a South Shore family, pushing their way in while posing as federal agents, and then demanded money while beating them.

In Bridgeport, an honor student from Whitney Young High School was allegedly beaten by police after they mistook him for a fleeing gang member. "Calabrese Street Crew" member Philip "Pete" Fiore was convicted of racketeering, extortion and collection of high-interest loans and was ordered to forfeit \$2.6 million and HUD filed a complaint against infamous slumlord A. Bruce Rozet.

If you weren't aware of these events, it's okay. It's not your fault, even if you weren't on vacation. You see, somehow the news media in this town decided that covering the Jerry Springer saga was more important than covering the news. While the Springer fiasco prompted a debate about balancing entertainment with news on television news broadcasts, little was said about how newspapers are going down the same yellow path.

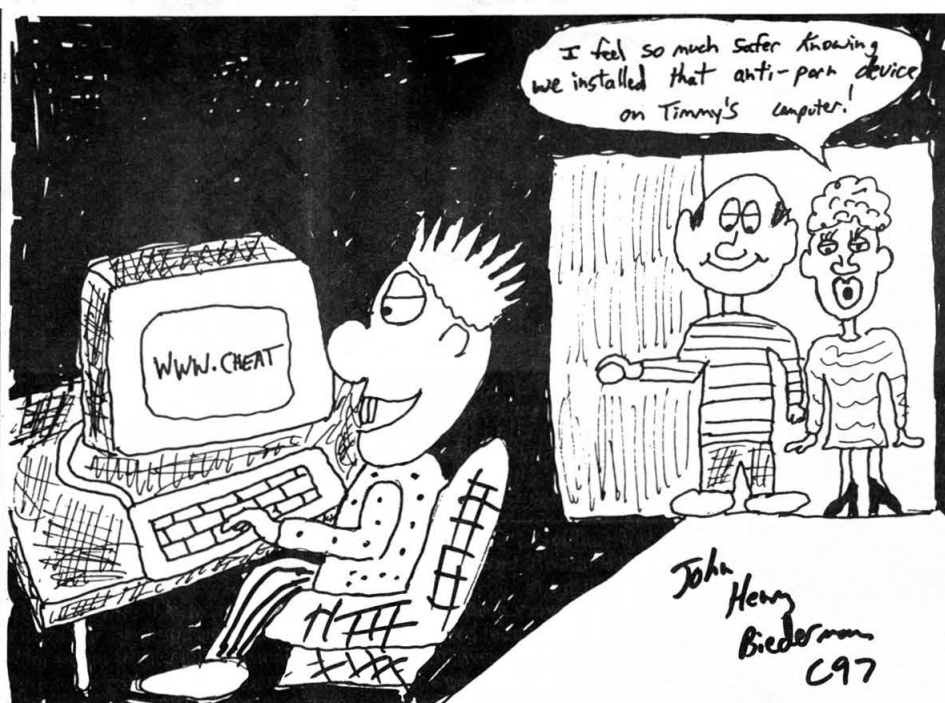
The other day, while talking to a friend, I proudly pointed out the fact that newspaper reporters never talk about how many newspapers were sold the previous day, unlike the broadcast smucks who always are talking about their station's ratings. But after looking at the front pages of area newspapers this week, it is obvious that newspapers are just as soft and sensational.

While the departure of Channel 5 anchor Carol Marin and Jerry Springer's brief stint at doing commentary was newsworthy, it was hardly worthy of continued front-page attention. Nor was the story about a Loop office building that will be converted to residential condos or the story about the Costa Rican campaign to save-the-turtles.

Those stories all got front-page attention, as did the latest Kennedy sleaze scandal and the murder of real estate mogul Lee Miglin, who at the age of 72, probably only had a few years left anyway.

The fact remains that this is a business and TV news and newspapers will continue to inform the public about Oprah's new hair style and Fergie's speaking fee if that's what sells. But based on the disastrous ratings of the Channel 5 News last week, there may still be hope.

If you're tired of seeing newspaper stories on issues that don't effect anyone, as I am, you should fight back. Write to the papers and let the overpaid, under-worked editors and publishers know you've had enough. That is, if you can pull yourself away from watching "Ellen" heroically kiss another woman.



Just who is cheating whom?

Perhaps it is a reflection of the stripped-down morality rampant in our generation, or maybe, as Rui Kaneya's front-page story reports, it is an age-old activity that has never gone away. But despite a clear explanation for why people commit plagiarism—whether it be pure laziness, lack of initiative or simply lack of intelligence (although the reasons do not matter)—the strongest factor in discussion over this issue lately is, of course, the Internet.

Along with obscenity and child corruption, we can now add obstruction of education to the ever-growing list of evils spawned of the Internet. While completely against the principles of education, plagiarism, which is being subversively promoted at Web sites such as "School Sucks" and "Evil House of Cheating," should not become another one of the compiling issues facing our freedom of expression because, with or without this technology, cheaters will always find a way to cheat. As an informational resource, these Web sites do help to provide students with a starting point for the tedious process of essay outlining and formulation. If simply used as a guide or as part of research, then where is the problem if students cite the forum as a research utility?

And for those who want to use the Internet as a tool for plagiarism, then you must consider the possibility of getting caught. As Jeff Schiff, acting director of composition in the English Department, suggests, a good instructor may be able to spot a plagiarized piece of writing, for such a teacher monitors students' writing processes and progressions. We even suggest that teachers take time to search the Web for the types of topics being offered in these arenas and then proceed to formulate essay ideas outside of the offerings.

As for students, the ultimate reprimand for cheating is eventually paid back in the real world where such behavior just won't fly, or at least not for long. College is not only about education, it is about discipline. If you cannot restrain yourself to noble and honest behavior in this area of life, your lack of self-determination will ultimately shine through the facade of illumination you try to portray. As the cliché insists, you are only cheating yourself.

If you know something, or think something fishy is going on, tell us about it!
Its easy to get in touch with us.

On the Internet:
E-Mail us at: Chron96@interaccess.com

Website: Http://www5.interaccess.com/chronicle

FAX us:
312-427-3920

Or write us:
The Chronicle
600 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 802-W
Chicago, IL 60605-1996

Stuff from Staff

Doug Arnold

Coming up at 10...

BC-Ch.5 News, 10 P.M., June 2, 1997: "Thank you for making us your choice for news. This Is Allison Rosati, for Ron Magers, who's taken an indefinite vacation."

"This month we have a new voice for our 'Another Point of View' segment, in which we present a variety of different people with different points of view. Channel 5 stresses that the opinions expressed are solely those of the commentator, and not necessarily of NBC or its employees. Here with today's point of view is Tova, a transsexual prostitute."

"Thank you Alice. First of all, I'd like to say that I just don't understand why that Carol lady was such a bit** about my good friend Jerry being on the news. Big Jerry, as I call him, is one of the best men I know, and baby, I know LOTS of men!"

"If it wasn't for Big Jerry giving me my television debut, I wouldn't have gotten to shake my (bleep) on Jenny, Ricki or Gordon, and I wouldn't be talkin' to y'all today."

"And baby, Jerry's so GOOD to his guests! He put me up for the weekend in that fancy hotel, so for once I didn't have to do my tricks in that alley off North Avenue with rats crawlin' up my (bleep). And the recognition is SO good for business! (Bleep) baby, just look at these clothes! You think I could have afforded this (bleep) before?"

"Anyway," Tova looks off camera. "Don't tell me to watch my mouth, stagehand mother-(bleep)—it's my point of view and I'll say whatever the (bleep) I want. And don't think I can't see you rollin' your eyes at me, Alicia Roselli; think you're better than me?"

Suddenly Tova jumps on top of the anchor desk, squeezing his buttocks with both hands and waving it at the camera while singing the chorus of a Spice Girls song.

"If you wanna be my lover, first you gotta be my—oh, excuse me—I forgot myself for a minute." Sitting back down, "WELL, as I was saying before I was so RUDELY interrupted, Jerry is a classy guy and deserves to be on the news more than that Carol lady does anyway."

"Now that I got that out of the way, I want to say, Carlo, I know you are out there watching, and if you're with that Rhonda (bleep) I'm gonna find out, and I'm gonna beat the (bleep) out of both your (bleep)!"

"I told you once to shut the (bleep) up; don't make me walk over there!"

"Carlo, I ain't out there sellin' it every weekend and going on TV and (bleep) keeping your (bleep) off food stamps so you can (bleep) the neighbor's babysitter every time your wiggly little (bleep) itches!"

Two bulky men in headsets and orange windbreakers that read "Security" approach Tova from both sides and each grab an arm.

"Get your (bleep)-ing hands off me, punk mother-(bleep)! Who the hell do you think you are treating me like this? I'm a STAR COMMENTATOR! I don't need this job, you know. Channel 2 wants me BAD! You think they like 'Weigel's Weiners'? You should have seen their faces when they got a load of Tova's titties!"

The scene fades to black, and then the obligatory "We Are Experiencing Technical Difficulties" screen kicks in. After several minutes, the silence is broken by a commercial.

"Tomorrow on Springer..."

INSIDE... THE CHICAGO

PART VIII IN A Another Level @ Lit X

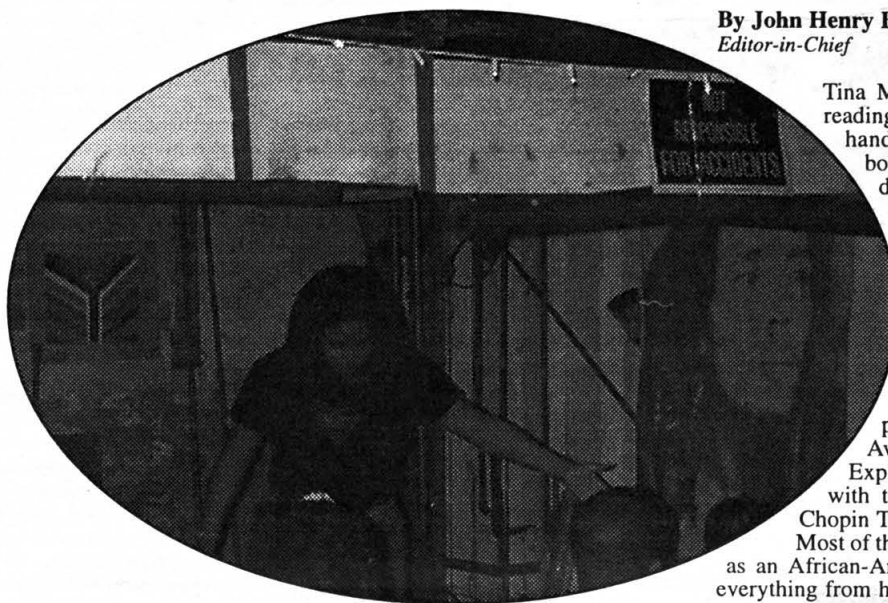


Photo by John Henry Biederman

By John Henry Biederman
Editor-in-Chief

Tina M. Howell has hosted the reading here since 1994, being hand-picked by the owners bookstore to carry on the tradition of the now legendary (but defunct) Spices reading, fusing poetry, music and hip-hop (plus the occasional comedy) for a predominantly African-American crowd. The event begins on Saturday night at 7 p.m. and runs until 11:30 p.m. at 1570 1/2 N. Damen Ave. Occasionally, Literary Explosion co-sponsors events with the Guild Complex in its Chopin Theater.

Most of the time, this space operates as an African-American bookstore selling everything from history to self-help in literature and everything from hemp wear to African style clothing in other goods. While the poetry takes place in a side room, and the open mic doesn't usually begin until 8 p.m. or later, the entire space becomes a gathering place before the actual reading begins. Food is prepared, friends catch up with one another, and people just hang, occasionally heading out into downtown Wicker Park to grab beverages or a cigarette.

"It's more than just the open-mic. We hang out, talk, offer one another support."

Howell recalls a time when her life seemed futile and hope was scarce. With the help of Maria McCray—now the host of P.O.E.T.S.' open-mic on Monday nights—Howell found support and a much-needed creative outlet at Spices, a club that formerly served much the same role as Lit X in the late '80s and early '90s.

"Before I found Spices, I had nowhere to do that, so I wanted to carry that tradition on. It's a damn basement, but it's home."

Unlike many poets on the scene, however, Howell is in comes nowhere close to tak-

ing herself too seriously. In fact, she might make a fine comedienne, often bringing the crowd to raucous laughter with her jokes, impersonations and wild gestures.

Lit X goes out of its way to avoid repetition—a magician even performed here once. On some nights the event will focus on comedy and laughter, on others it may focus on helping an attendee who's down and out. It's more than a poetry venue, it's a haven of artistic expression that often provides a positive outlet in a world where negative outlets often seem the only place to turn.

"As long as I save a couple homeys from the streets, I can feel like I've made a difference," Howell said.

Hanging in the side room before the open mic sitting in a card table chair, or on a couch, someone may ask to "bum a beat" off another patron adept at hip-hop style "mouth music." When obliged, a poet will rap some verse over the beat, someone may pull out a bongo. In the absence of a drum, rhythm is created by clapping hands, tapping chairs—whatever can make the music.

Lit X does carry on a historic tradition—improvised music, and oral as opposed to literary expression, has attained a level of mastery in these settings, influenced by centuries of African-American oppression. (As slaves, African Americans learned to make due despite meager resources and discouragement from literacy.) The event begins with patrons offering a libation of water to their relatives, friends or ancestors via a potted plant. And Lit X, too, carries on the more recent tradition begun at Spices.

But Lit X is its own phenomenon.

"It's Spices with a very big twist," Howell said. "It's a place where you can go that extra step."

While the venue may focus on African-American issues, Howell encourages everyone to come out, and there is usually a racial diversity among patrons. Important issues are explored in this basement, and free expression is one of the few rules for the stage.

"People get offended and leave," said Howell, "but they come back."

About this series

Today's look at Weeds is Part III in a continuing series of poetry open-mic reviews the Chronicle is running indefinitely this semester—excerpted from a book tentatively scheduled for release this summer and tentatively titled, "The Chicago Poetry Scene: A Comprehensive Guide."

The book, by editor-in-chief John Henry Biederman, seeks to define The Scene, from the invention of the slam onward, to an extent never seen before. As The Scene is an ever-changing, largely unchronicled monster, the rare write-ups it has received have suffered from inaccuracies and misrepresentations—but this book strives to be different, written from a Scene insider's point of view.

Although the excerpts to be printed herein form but a small part of that work, enough will be included within these pages to allow one interested in the Scene to get started. For those interested in the book itself—keep up on this series as publication is now being negotiated between publishers and even an agent or two.

Currently, Biederman is working on a chapter for "Underground Chicago," to be published by Manic D Press out of San Francisco, on the poetry scene. He also appeared on the WGN morning news on April 23 as an expert on the scene.

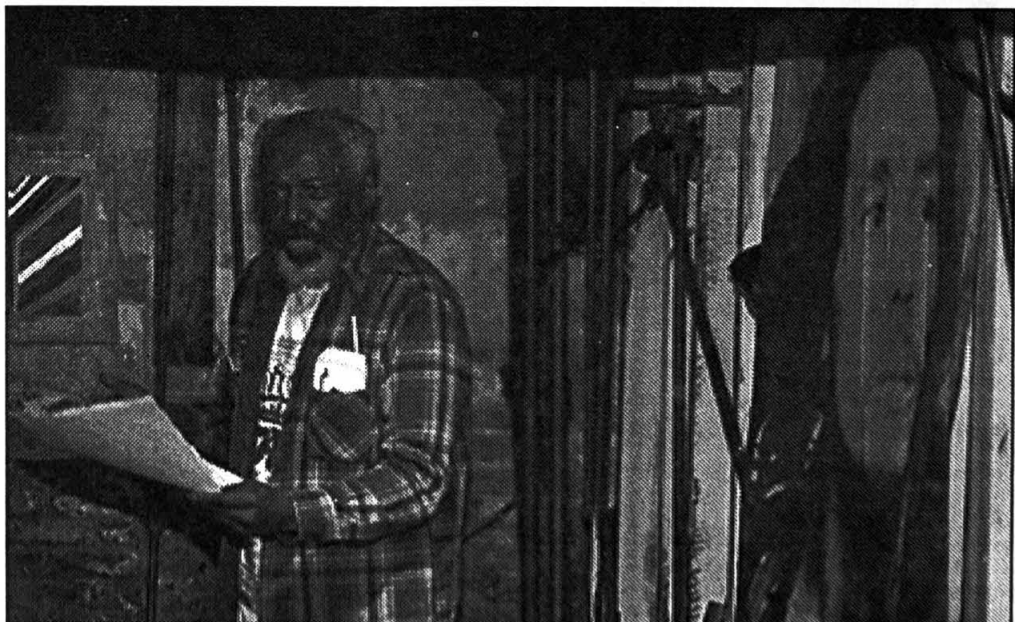


Photo by Blair Fredrick

POETRY SCENE

CONTINUING SERIES

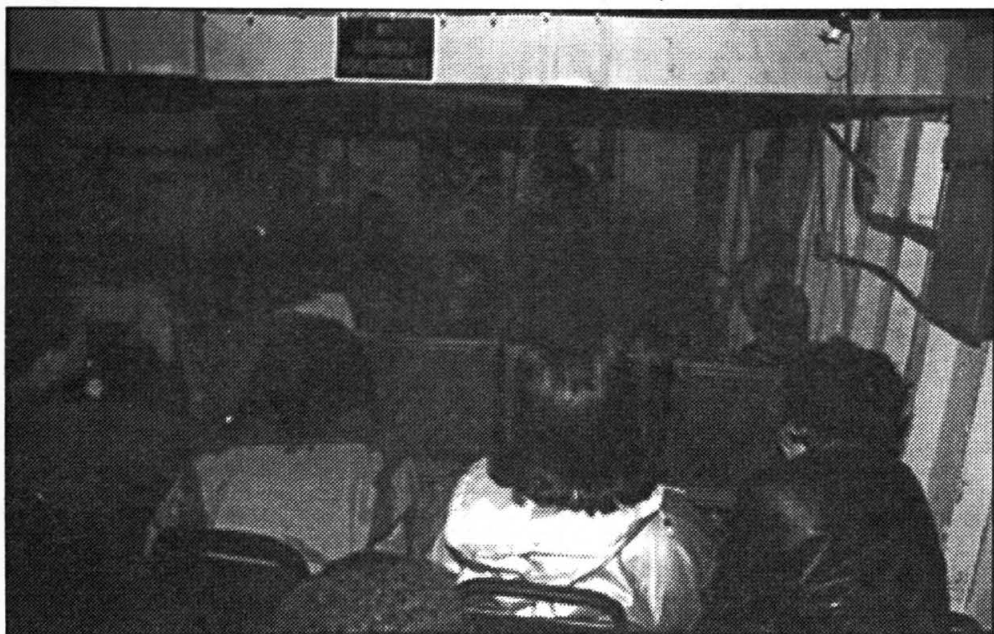


Photo by Blair Fredrick

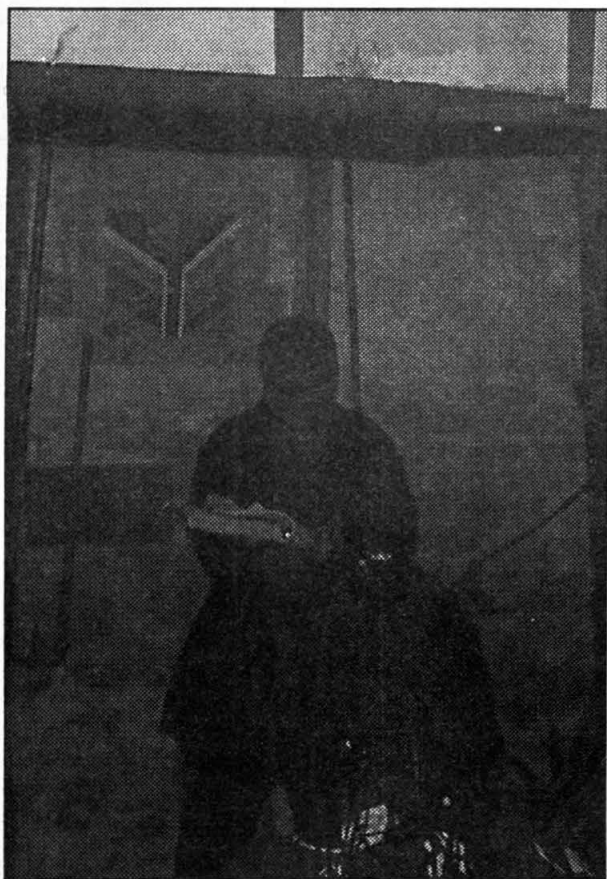


Photo by John Henry Biederman

Clockwise, from upper left: Host Tina Howell cracks up the crowd; a view of the proceedings from the back of the room; Mario "X" (left), co-host at large, poses in the bookstore with Bang Masta D; Edith Ann Giles titillates the crowd with another of her bawdy poems; and controversial poet/activist Joffre Stewart reads against a Bob Marley backdrop.

I've come a long way since moving to the City of Chicago.

I came here from rural, buck-white McHenry County and expected the city to be a haven of diversity and acceptance. I thought a lot of racism happened to exist in the country because they didn't know anything but white (although you certainly can't say everyone out in the sticks is a racist). I had met jerks, geniuses, idiots, people-users and altruists among mostly white people, so I didn't see why all these types wouldn't exist in any other race.

People are people, right?

It became quickly apparent upon moving to the city that a great racial divide exists here. "City of Neighborhoods" is a euphemism for segregation. It also became quickly apparent that I was blinded by naïveté. White people turned to me on the bus, assuming I was one of "them," to utter "damn niggers" or "look at that gook" when people of other races boarded. I had African Americans call me "oppressor" and uglier things simply for being white. I'd stand on the red line platform to see mostly whites heading north and mostly blacks heading south. I'd go to bars and coffeehouses people recommended and see no more diversity than where I'd grown up.

I didn't really start mixing with those of other races until I found the Chicago Poetry Scene.

I'm not saying that the Scene is some Utopia of race relations where everyone gets along perfectly. Many readings are populated by a sizable majority of one race or another. I was warned against going to Spices as a white boy and told of an ugly scene resulting when a white host of another venue tried. And the group known overall as artists is composed of human beings, after all, and contains bad apples among its ranks.

In today's scene, however, a new openness exists. I've made just about every reading in town and been, on more than one occasion, one of only two or three white faces in the crowd—and even been the only white face before. Maybe it does feel strange at first, but I reminded myself, "people of other races get used to feeling this way early in life." I feel that I'm obligated to put silly fears aside and work toward a point where I'm just out around people—not out among a bunch of people unlike me.

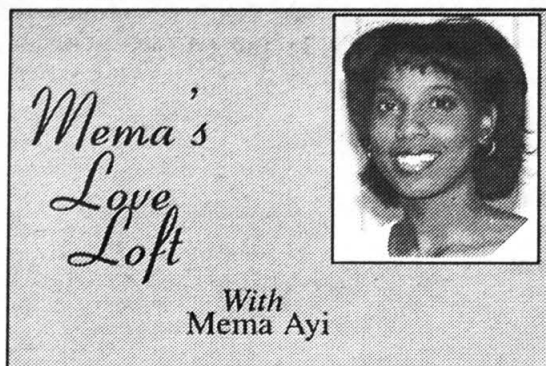
During readings like Lit X's, I feel that way. Out among other poets, all with similar hopes, fears and dreams.

Again, the Scene's not perfect—but it's a much more inclusive environment than society at large and, for the most part, its members are willing to try a little harder for a better world. And we could all learn a lot from today's Chicago Poetry Scene.

—J.H.B.



Photo by John Henry Biederman



A few weeks ago, I jumped on the guys for being jerks. I was tired of the lies, cheating and the games—silly games they play to get women into bed.

And I still stand by that—most men are jerks. There are so many men who treat women like they're brainless and incapable of seeing through the litany of lies thrown at us by men who obviously believe we're just too dumb to know the difference. We are just biologically inferior women, right?

A few people have asked me why I didn't at least lay some of the blame on women, or at least point out that there were women who play similar, if not the same, games.

I could have done it then, but I didn't. I didn't because then my original argument wouldn't have had much of an effect. If I'd balanced my argument and said that men are jerks, but women are stupid, I'd have been accused of being an anti-female male basher.

But, why are women stupid (or desperate) enough to take the crap these jerks dish out. Why?

Is it because they don't realize that they don't need men to make their lives complete? Men are such a small part of the big picture.

We don't need men. They're nice to have around, but we don't really need them. And we certainly don't need any of the jerks.

Most of the women who hang on to losers and jerks do so because they fear that they will won't find someone else. They fear being alone and not having someone to love. They don't seem to realize that they can love themselves.

Any woman who can love and appreciate herself won't settle for anything less than a man who thinks the world of her.

Believe me, being alone is a lot better than being in a destructive relationship.



And now on to women who play silly games. I think women play these ridiculous games to show

that they're in control. Nice guys beware. These women come after you first!

Problem woman #1: The flirt. She flirts with other men when you're around just to get a rise out of you. If you ignore her, she'll do it more and if you play the jealous boyfriend, she'll call you a possessive jerk. Yeah, in this game you can only lose.

Problem woman #2: What about the woman who loves to have men fawning over her. She waits for guys to completely fall for her and then she drops them. Why? Because she likes to. It makes her feel good about herself. And she fears commitment. Guys who think they're hip to her game will try to feign disinterest, not realizing that this makes her lose interest even faster.

Problem woman #3: This woman has a boyfriend, but she's shown some interest in you. She's always flirting, maybe you've even gone out with her. She tells you about all the problems she's having with her boyfriend and makes you believe that their relationship is failing. She doesn't want to leave him, she just wants him to realize that she could get someone else if she had to. Just when you think you're getting somewhere with her, the boyfriend will have come around and you will once again be alone. And if she's really trouble, you could have a jealous boyfriend after you.

How do we know when someone's playing some ridiculous mind game with us? We usually don't until it's all over. But we can learn from our bad experiences and come to know when we're being toyed with. Don't be the same fool twice.



Even though I didn't get a single Beanie Baby I requested, I have another small favor to ask: I need women (not for me) for some of my male friends. No, I'm not running a prostitution ring through the Chronicle. I just know a few [nice] guys who could use a date or two.

They're not ugly or twisted—just not dating at the moment.

Why am I going through all the trouble of trying to fix these guys up? I don't know. Maybe it's because I finally got a date (and yes, there was a second date) and I'd like to see them have "first date jitters" and all the other stuff that goes along with a first date.

All these poor guys are looking for is a woman (for each of them—they don't want to share) who is intelligent and fun. But they only want women who are serious—they've played enough games. If you find that you're not interested just say so, don't tease.

All right, ladies, now you know the rules. So if you want a shot at a couple of really sweet guys, contact me at the Chronicle. Write, e-mail, fax, phone or drop by.

Classifieds

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Looking for people to conduct customer service follow-ups. \$8.00 for good attendance, \$9.50 for excellent performance, higher pay on weekends. Flexible hours. Located steps from Chicago & Franklin "L" stop. Call today! 312-640-2563.

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PERSONALS

SBF petite, smart, fun, and ohhh sooo sassy, seeks **SBM** who is big (tall), beautiful and brilliant, who likes to party. No losers (you know who you are) need apply. Please write me in care of the Chronicle, code # A1125.

GWM, handsome, 30-ish, 5'10", 160 lbs., dark blond, hazel eyes, HIV- and very muscular. I'm a charming, sexy, caring romantic Leo looking for an attractive, intelligent, warm, compassionate man. I am a non-smoker/non-drug user who seeks same. I enjoy quiet time at home, which includes romantic dinners and thought-provoking conversation. Please write me if you want someone strong to keep you warm on those cold winter nights.
code # A1028.

To respond to a Personal ad, write to the code number in care of The Chronicle, 600 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60605.

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APPROPRIATE
PERSONNEL

Litany of lofty local affairs

Columbia Events

Digital Domain meeting

Ben Estes, editor for the On-line Tribune, speaks to students interested in keeping up with today's technology.
Columbia College Residence Center
731 S. Plymouth Ct.
May 15, 4:30 p.m.-7 p.m.

The 1997 Master of Arts and Master of Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition

A group exhibition of work by eight Columbia College graduate students in photography.
Columbia College Art Gallery
April 28-May 9

Distractions

The Dance Center of Columbia College proudly presents a senior performance featuring Tiffany Bowden and Deborah Dohrman.
The Dance Center
4730 N. Sheridan Rd.
May 16-17, 8 p.m.
FREE
773-989-3310

Columbia's Cooking with Buddy's

An evening of music, food and camaraderie to promote the recently published "Taste of Columbia" cookbook and raise funds for Columbia College Chicago's Residence Center Student Scholarship. Entertainment by Columbia faculty will feature jazz vocalist Bobbi Wilsyn.
Buddy Guy Legend's
May 14, 5:30 p.m.-8 p.m.
\$35 (including cookbook)
312-663-1600, Ext. 5287

The Best of Student Performance Night

The Dance Center will host original works choreographed and performed by Columbia students.
The Dance Center
4730 N. Sheridan Rd.
May 22-23, 8 p.m.
FREE
773-989-3310

The Columbia Poetry Review celebration

The annual publication will celebrate 10 years of cutting-edge wordplay with a publishing party featuring readings by the magazine's contributors.
Hokin Hall
623 S. Wabash
May 28, 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
FREE
312-663-1600, Ext. 5250

Book and Paper Arts Center installation

Book and paper artwork by Pamela Paulsrud, Clare Dolan and Larry Oberer will be shown alongside a set of urban landscapes and a performance by Barbara Bansley.
Columbia College Center for Book and Paper Arts
218 S. Wabash, 7th floor
May 16, 5 p.m. (Performance)
May 16 through June 30 (Exhibit)
312-431-8612

"7 Artists in Search"

Thesis performances by members of Inter Arts graduating class include dance and multimedia performances.
Randolph Street Gallery
756 N. Milwaukee
May 22-May 25
FREE

City Stuff

Music

"Night of Reckoning" release show

The artist/owners of the Nashville independent record label Dead Reckoning Records will celebrate two years of business with a show in Chicago.
Shuba's
3159 N. Southport
May 17, 10 p.m.

Local venues upcoming shows

May 17—13 MG at the Dome Room
May 21—Me'Shell Ndegeocello at the Vic Theater
May 27—Gene at the Metro
May 31—Yo La Tengo at the Metro

Performance

The Actors Gymnasium Performs

The organization's second annual benefit show is an evening of short performance works by members of the faculty, talented theater artists in Chicago.
Noyes Cultural Arts Center
927 Noyes Street, Evanston
May 15, 8 p.m.
312-328-2795

Skeletons

Strawdog Theatre presents a new play by local playwright Lauren Berman that causes audiences to ponder the ideas of family bonds, sibling rivalry, first love and unspoken trust.
Strawdog Theatre
May 5-June 14
3829 N. Broadway
773-528-9696

Under the Picasso

Presented at noon each weekday at the Daley Civic Center are the following programs for this week:
May 12—Exceptional Children's Week featuring children with disabilities participating in multiple performing arts programs.
May 13—Crete Monee High School presents "THE FACES," a girls chorus from Crete, Illinois.
May 14—Exceptional Children's Week. Performing arts program.
May 15—Alligator Week. Blues concert sponsored by Alligator Records.
May 16—"Tap" That's Dancing. Program kicks off National Tap Dance Week, May 19-26.

Exhibits

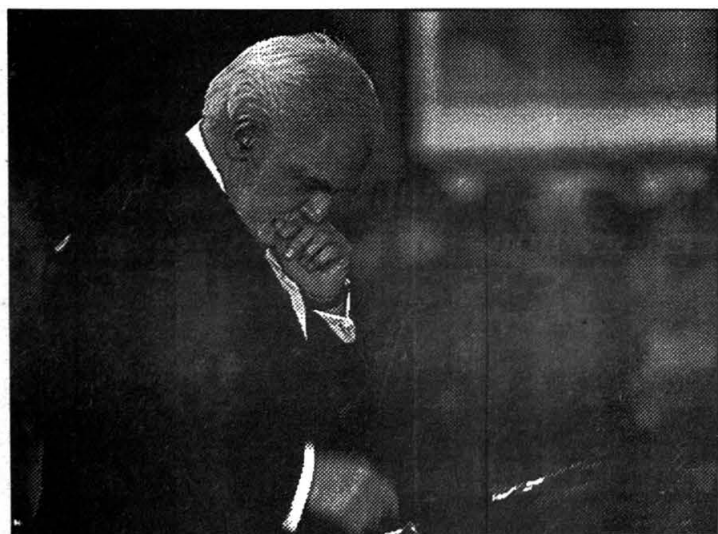
"1997 Undergraduate Show"

The School of the Art Institute of Chicago presents an exhibition featuring work by 235 students completing their bachelor of fine arts degrees, bachelor of interior architecture degrees and post-baccalaureate certificates.
School of the Art Institute
280 S. Columbus Dr.
Through May 17
312-563-5168

Discussion

"Gangs, Jobs and Culture"

Noted author and criminal justice instructor John M. Hagedorn will participate in a forum that offers the community insightful, provocative information in the form of proposals, challenges and solutions on the topic.
Pulaski Park Fieldhouse
Blackhawk and Noble
May 14, 7 p.m.
773-278-0775



Photos by Blair Fredrick

Columbia College's Jazz Ensemble performed at the Chicago Cultural Center on Sunday, May 4.

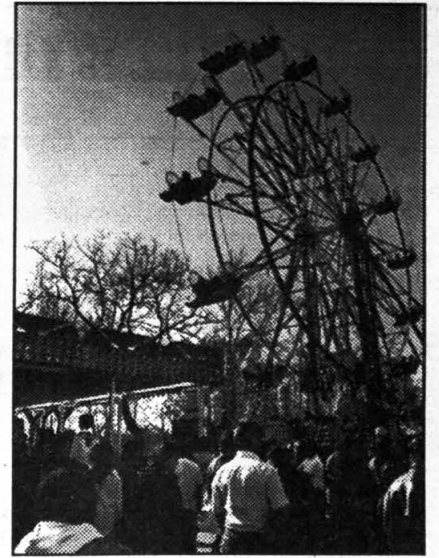




Photos by Sama Alshaibi

Cinco De Mayo festivities took place throughout the city on May 5.

The Mexican holiday honors native villagers who won the battle for Puebla against the French in 1862.



ATTENTION



GRADUATING SENIORS

Columbia College Chicago
would like to honor you at the upcoming
Senior Graduation Celebration

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May 23, 1997

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adviser Jim Sulski at Ext.
5584.

Sara on sports



By Sara Willingham
Sports Correspondent

So here it is, the end of May, and I am on the brink of insanity. Between final exams, last-minute projects, unpaid bills, internship applications, socializing, working, lack of time and the fact that Phil Jackson's job as head coach of the Chicago Bulls is again in jeopardy, I may very well crack!

I toss and turn all night...having nightmares of a dark and dying city (no...worse than Detroit). A city drearier than Gotham, with NO super heroes. A city where the residents walk in single-filed lines to the stadiums and ballparks with expressionless faces like the people living under the dictatorship-plagued city portrayed in "The Wall." Where Pink Floyd (a.k.a. Jerry Reinsdorf) sits in a balcony atop the peons with complete control of their lives and thoughts. Then I wake up...AHHHH! I'm going crazy!

So I decide to talk to a shrink.

Sara: "Hey Doc, I'm a little bit schizotypic, I need some help."

Doc: "Yes, Sara, what is bothering you?"

Sara: "Well, ya see, besides all of my daily-life dilemmas, I'm freakin' out about Phil Jackson being re-signed as the Bull's coach...like the rest of Chicago. It's like a virus, and it's passed from sportscasters and columnists to the general public. We may need to be quarantined."

Doc: "Sara, don't you think that to quarantine Chicago might be a little drastic?"

Sara: "No! Hell, no! Do you understand what will happen to this city if The Bulls sucked as bad as the Cubs, the Sox, the Bears and the Hawks? My god, we'd be the laughing stock of this country! Even Green Bay has the Pack! We'd all have to flock to other places to live, and it all depends on the "John Hancock" of two, maybe three, people. And if Phil's signature was the first one to

be scralled-out on a contract with a bunch of dollar signs and zeros, it would be like the domino-effect. Chicago would be set."

Doc: "My, I see this is a problem. We should sign Phil immediately and avoid all of the mayhem."

Sara: "Wait a minute, Doc, not so fast. It's not that easy. Ya' see, an evil dictator wants to force Zen Master Jackson to sign for much less than he deserves. And now, the people in Boston have REALLY RUINED our tea party!"

Doc: "How so?"

Sara: "The bums went and spent \$70 MILLION DOLLARS on ex-Kentucky coach Rick Pitino for the next TEN years! PITINO...70-MILL...10 YEARS!"

Doc: "And what does that have to do with Jackson?"

Sara: "C'mon, Doc, don't ya' see it? If Pitino is signing long-term for big bucks, then four-time NBA Championship winning Coach Jackson should be able to do AT LEAST that!"

Doc: "Why is it that this Reinsdorf-dictator does not know how to avoid the chaos? Why doesn't he offer the Zen Man fat cash?"

Sara: "Precisely my point! And that's the problem, Doc. What should we do about it?"

Doc: "Geez, I don't know! How can I be a qualified shrink, and NOT KNOW? What good am I if I can't solve this problem..."

Sara: "Hey, Doc, it'll be alright, don't come down so hard on yourself..."

Doc: "No, you don't understand, what will Chicagoans do if Phil isn't signed?...Where will they go?...Who will they idolize?...Will Chicago sports fans commit mass suicide?...AHHHHH!"

So my shrink cracked on me, and I ran out of his office. As I walked home that night, I thought long and hard about the problem, and I think I cured myself. I realized that hey, life will go on, Chicago will be OK. And maybe, just maybe, we can sign JOEY MEYER...or maybe even RAY MEYER...or maybe MICHAEL JORDAN can coach the Bulls...

OK, OK, so I'm about as far away from a cure as Chicago is from sanity. Maybe we'll all have to join some "sports-junkie support group," or somethin', but nonetheless, life will go on...

Women's organization concentrates effort on mutual support

By Arjumand Hashmi
Staff Writer

Every second Tuesday of the month, working women of Columbia College have an opportunity to do lunch. There exists a platform where women professionals of Columbia come together to share their professional lives with their peers. The organization which they belong is Women's Work in Progress.

Women's Work in Progress is a group for women who meet over lunch to discuss important issues. Together they exchange ideas and thoughts on concerns pertaining to women in today's society. The organization's meetings revolve around presentations by the members as well as professional aspirations along with their experiences.

Together these elements have formed a group which has been in existence since the spring of 1994. "We started out with a hand full of people, then once we started it became an event to have this luncheon once a month," said Christine Sommerville Associate Academic Dean.

Sommerville says that there is no formal, established government for the group. "We wanted to stay away from having a president and vice president. I just make the memos for the meetings," said Sommerville, even though she does tend to lead the meetings.

"Our meetings are a place for us to come and talk, freely," said Sommerville. "We also bring up the possibilities of making Columbia better for women to work at than it already is."

Besides addressing general issues, Women's Work in Progress targets its attention to a few specific topics: professional work, child care, parental leave, forming a family-friendly college and creating a climate that encompasses women feeling comfortable.

Sommerville explains that, in order for there to be a comfortable environment on campus for women, steps should be taken toward developing understanding. According to Sommerville, women's academic success is rarely explored and is often left underdeveloped. She went on to say that recognition should be given to methods in which teaching and learning is made easier for those who may need help.

The organization's long-term goal is to continue to be a consistent group, which continues to have a positive difference for women at Columbia. As Sommerville stated, "That begins by supporting one another and providing a space where we can continue to talk about possibilities."

Women's Work in Progress continues to keep the focus on making a positive contribution to the community of Columbia College.

Show us the money

By Edwina G. Orange
Staff Writer

Every summer, when students are enjoying time off from studying, teachers and all the stress that college life brings, Columbia is busy trying to find the right words to tell you that the fall semester tuition will increase.

For continuing students, this little episode is familiar to us, so many just deal with it. But what do you do with your used books? Well, your best bet may be to take them with you when you leave.

"I think that the book store is a rip off. Mostly all the students here are on some kind of grant, and who can afford classes and books?" said Henery Walker, an alumni. "It's not really the amount of money that we get back, it's the attitude, as if we have to settle for pennies when we paid dollars."

Students are not asking for every dollar plus tax back—just more than a \$1.95 for a \$38 book.

The bookstore is owned by Columbia and ran by Follett College Stores. Follett has a logo that says, "Our store buys back textbooks everyday... We buy books that can be used here or on other campuses."

Paulette Cowling, the bookstore manger, said, "We don't determine the price of books being returned. It's up to the instructor."

If the instructor uses the book one term, students receive half the price on buyback, but if they change the book it's 1/3 and if they discontinue it, the book is not bought back.

"I feel that the teachers should notify the bookstore and, if we don't need the book, we should get a full refund," said Holly Petty a senior.

"Instructors send down the orders and we get the books, but once they're in the store, it's up to the teachers to let the students know why they choose that book," Cowling said. "And, as students, we should ask on the first day if the teacher will use the book throughout the semester and if additional books will be needed to complete homework assignments."

Doug Johnson II, a sophomore, said, "It hits the pocket hard. You don't get what you pay for and the school is constantly making money off one book and students are losing out."

Common factors affecting book buy backs rates are:

1. Instructor has authored reuse of book
2. Instructor discontinued book
3. Bookstore is overstocked
4. Publisher has new editions
5. Book is to ragged and in poor condition
6. Book has limited call for demand

Students should keep these reasons in mind when returning books and consider trying the library first before buying them.

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'Traveller' pales in face of 'Breakdown'

By Sandy Campbell
Film Correspondent

Being a Canadian red-neck, I often find movies that take place in rural areas attractive, since most movies take place in the city and involve city characters. "Traveller" and "Breakdown" are two recent releases that involve rural characters and communities.

"Traveller," starring Bill Paxton, is a low-budget independent feature that involves clannish Americana gypsies of Irish descent whose purpose in life is to scam from rural residents in North Carolina. In other words, they are reverse Robin Hoods—they rob from the poor and give to themselves.

Being a traveller is like being a fisherman, coal-miner or farmer. Only the males are travellers and make it their profession because it is how their fathers made their livings.

The artist formerly known as Marky Mark, Mark Wahlberg, plays a young man from Atlanta who wants to be a traveller. He goes to the North Carolina hills with his father's body to bury him there. His father, a former traveller who recently died, said that the clan would allow his body to be buried on their grounds. But the clan does not take kindly to Mark Wahlberg—though they allow his father's burial on home grounds, they still hold a grudge against Wahlberg for leaving the clan for a woman, an "outsider."

But Bill Paxton takes sympathy on him, listening to sage advice from his Grandma that the boy still has traveller's blood. Paxton obtains permission from the head traveller to take Wahlberg under his wing and they pull scams off on people. They hook up with another traveller, played by James Gammon, and attempt to pull a scam off on a rich gangster. There is also an "outsider" (she is not related to him) love interest played by Julianna Margulies of the TV show "ER."

"Traveller" deals with aspects and truths of rural life. The hereditary occupation is dying out and along with it

the close ties and clannish attitudes of rural individuals. But even though some of these rural people may hold to backward traditions, they keep up with the times.

The good thing about "Traveller" is that it doesn't condemn the gypsies and actually sympathizes with them. The film makes them the good guys. Even though "Traveller" handles rural aspects realistically, the problem with the movie is that it is too plodding and slow moving, that the audience is not going to give a damn.

"Breakdown" is the antipode of "Traveller." It is fast-paced and contains many rural stereotypes but, unfortunately, it is a far better movie.

This film concerns two Bostonians, played by Kurt Russell and Kathleen Quinlan ("Apollo 13"), whose truck breaks down somewhere in the Southwestern desert on their way to San Diego. A seemingly friendly trucker (J.T. Walsh, Glengarry Glen Ross/The Client) offers to give them a ride to the nearest town. Instead, he ends up kidnapping Kathleen, whom Kurt Russell must rescue.

Breakdown is a good example of a movie that is better than the previews. The previews show leering red-necks and endless car crashes. But the movie is a well put together, suspenseful action thriller.

Unlike "Traveller," there is not one sympathetic rural character in the movie. Everyone is a vicious red-neck that the hero from the city must overcome. There is the trucker, a rough and tumble mustachioed cowboy with a Southern accent, played by M.C. Gainey; Billy, a dirty, muscular guy in his mid-twenties (Jack Noseworthy, "Barbed Wire"); and a fat guy in a plaid shirt named Al (Ritch Brinkly).

The movie has nice touches, such as giving J.T. Walsh a wife and son, as well as turning the tables in which Kurt Russell briefly holds J.T. Walsh and his family and friends hostage. Without giving too much away, there is a scene where J.T. Walsh's eleven-year-old son has a gun to Russell's face while Russell orders his son to shoot. The son is bursting with tears. If this movie had taken

place in real life, Russell would be dead in two seconds without pity and remorse, based on the knowledge of the rural boys I grew up with.

This is the first movie that I have ever seen that tries to place a distinction between a rural pick-up truck and a city pick-up truck. A city truck is bright and shiny red with a lot of gadgets that spell out rich to the rural eye. A rural truck is shabby and dirty black with the only gadget being a rusty muffler. It is funny that Bill Paxton in "Traveller" drove a red truck similar to Russell's "city truck."

I have to admit that I enjoyed "Breakdown" tremendously, but I am a little upset about the end. Kurt Russell and Kathleen Quinlan see that J.T. Walsh's character is still alive, despite him falling off a bridge. They kill him off in a most violent manner, forgetting about his wife and son, feeling justified because of what he did to them and because he is a red-neck. In this society, it is morally wrong to call and even think a black person to be inferior. So why is it still okay to consider a rural white to be inferior white trash?

On another tangent, after the movie, a huge muscular man in the audience had hit another man's wife or girlfriend. The woman's husband or boyfriend felt it smart to call a cop. Why is it that, in this society, that we feel proud to hurt somebody after somebody has hurt us? The man felt proud to strike a lady for some unknown rankled reason and her soul mate felt proud to get the man arrested. This is the "eye for an eye" mentality that is shared in action movies like "Breakdown." I am not going to be an ultra-conservative Bill Bennett type and confirm that movies contribute to the demoralization of our children. That kind of thinking was around thousands of years before any movie was even made. But "Breakdown" doesn't help. As an individual who has struggled and still struggles with the "eye for an eye" and proud temper mentality, we should respect our brother the best way we can. *Breakdown A, Traveller B-*

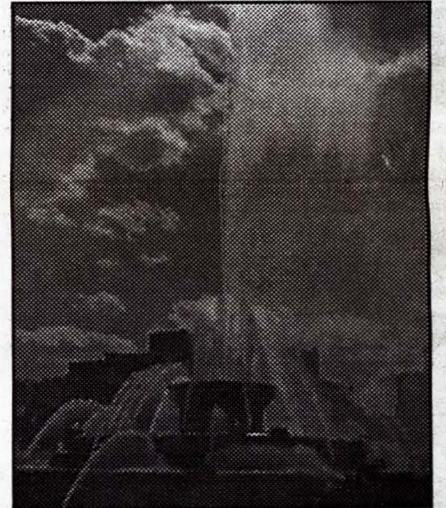


Photos by Jo Machado

May 1, Buckingham Fountain reawakened. Each year, crowds of native Chicagoans and tourists flock to the lakefront to view this spectacular architectural landmark.

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Face Value

By Dave Brennan

Have you ever cheated or thought about cheating to get financial aid?



Phil SciBelli
Freshman
Art

Never considered it.



Scott Schmidt
Freshman
Graphic Design

Never, I don't believe in it.



Amber Girton
Senior
Graphic Design

If I could get away with it, I would be there.



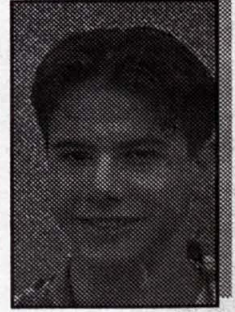
Kimberly Rounds
Freshman
Broadcast

I thought about it, but I'm afraid I might get caught.



DJ Ran
Senior
Sound

I would have to say that it's the '90s and you have to do whatever you can to get that paper.



Anthony Carco
Freshman
Interactive
Multimedia

I'd have to cheat my dad's wallet first. He pays for everything.