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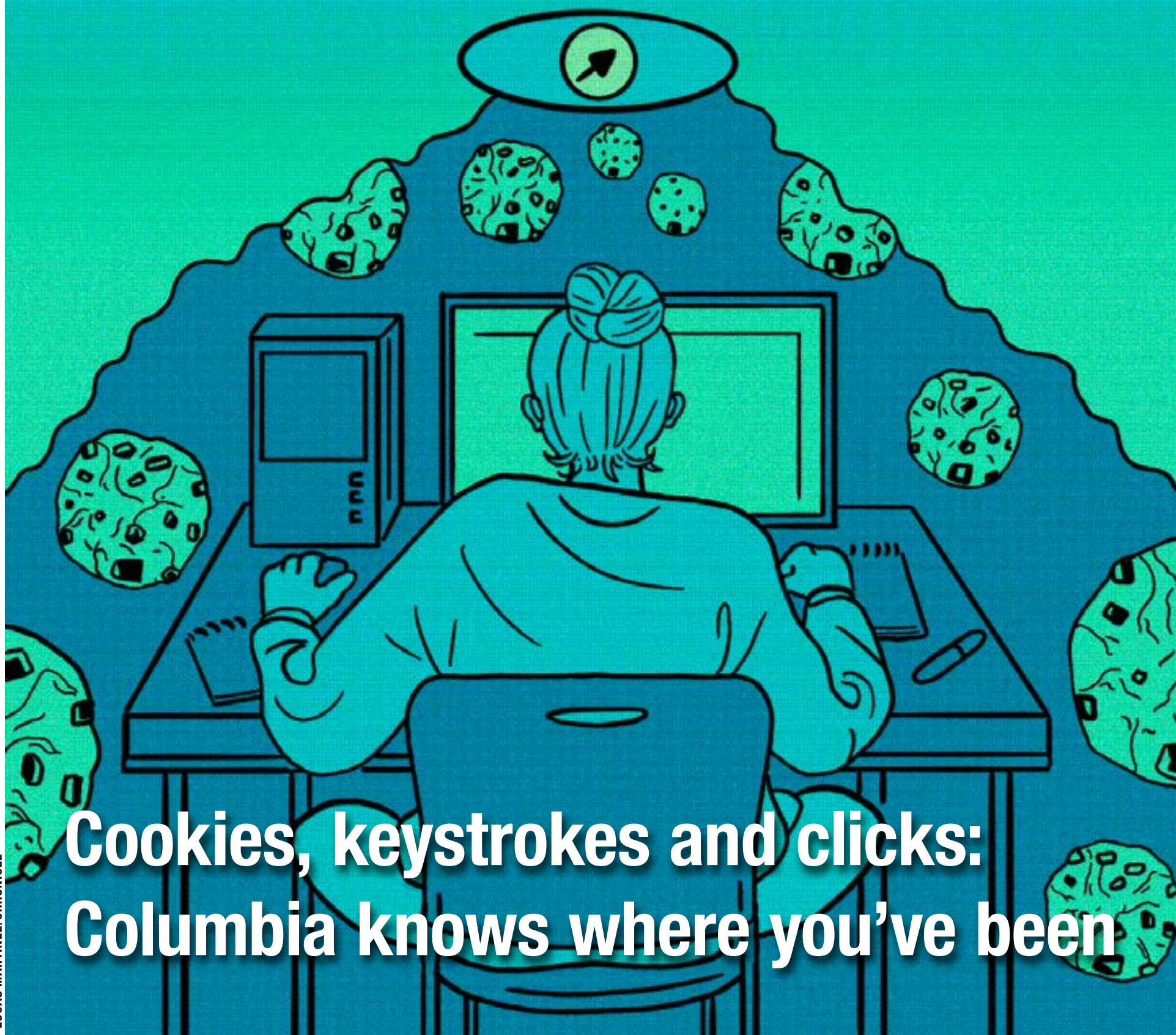


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Cookies, keystrokes and clicks: Columbia knows where you've been

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The country may have elected Joe, but there is still a long way to go

» **MARIELLE DEVEREAUX**
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

WHEN PRESIDENT-ELECT Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris emerged from election week victorious, there was an outburst of emotion around the country.

Overwhelmingly, Biden supporters took to the streets to celebrate when the results were announced on Nov. 7—dancing, singing, banging pots and pans and cheering with an energy reminiscent of former President Barack Obama's election win in 2008.

In Chicago, thousands gathered with flags and signs to show support for both Biden's win and Harris' historic win as the country's first female, Black and South Asian American vice president, as reported by the Chronicle Nov. 9.

While the joy was widespread among Democratic voters, many also understood that this victory was only the first step toward real change.

As activists and those involved in politics know, the work involved in advocating for and creating policies is a year-round process that involves ongoing engagement including being media aware and savvy, communicating with your neighbors—even those who don't agree with you—and constantly educating oneself through history and literature.

Biden and Harris winning the election does not mean issues surrounding climate change, systemic oppression, student loans, income inequality and the COVID-19 pandemic will automatically dissolve. Nor does it mean that everyone who voted against their campaign will suddenly become supportive of the programs and initiatives they plan to implement.

As it stands, the country is still as divided as it was four years ago. In her Washington Post opinion piece, Deputy Editorial Page Editor Ruth Marcus points out that winning may be the easy part for Biden, who will inherit a "Trump-enhanced Supreme Court," 71 million Americans who voted for President Donald Trump and possibly a Republican-controlled Senate, depending on the outcome of Georgia runoffs.

No matter who you voted for, your civic and moral involvement in the matters that determined your vote do not end when a president is elected.

Even though the next four years will be inevitably different under a new presidential administration, as a nation, we will still be grappling with many of the same fights as we have in the last four years.

There will still be protests against police brutality, petitions for affordable healthcare, informational seminars on criminal justice reform, advocates calling for better foreign policy and people calling on their representatives to help overhaul our country's flawed immigration system.

As Tanya Watkins, executive director of Southsiders Organized for Unity and Liberation, said in recent Chronicle coverage of the election, the Democratic Party has a long way to go to be truly inclusive and representative of BIPOC communities.

"We have to ensure that no matter who is elected to represent this country, that person is held accountable to us," she said. "So Uncle Joe, we'll see you in the streets."

It is okay for people to take a moment to breathe and celebrate a candidate's victory, as long as they do not become too complacent or comfortable.

Many are calling for healing in this country, but this will require all of us to put in the hard work needed to get to a place of unity and acceptance.

Through advocating for those around us and engaging in difficult conversations meant to educate, we may be able to grow collectively stronger, rather than two sects separated by political ideologies.

This is not about making America great again or romanticizing a glorified version of the past. This is about making America better than it ever was and acknowledging the ways in which this country has hurt and continues to hurt its people.

It is about looking more critically at the ways our societal systems and institutions were not meant to benefit everyone.

There is no such thing as a perfect president or a perfect country, and there never will be.

Hopefully, a Biden presidency will mean openly recognizing our country's failures and actively working to address them in order to create a truly great nation we can all be proud of.

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All letters are edited for grammar and may be cut due to a limit of space.

The Columbia Chronicle holds the right to limit any one person's submissions to three per semester.

Cookies, keystrokes and clicks: Columbia knows where you've been

» KENDALL POLIDORI
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

» MARIELLE DEVEREAUX
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

COMPLEX CODING ALGORITHMS allow websites to track users' clicks and keystrokes and monitor actions across the internet for marketing and site optimization purposes, and Columbia's website is no exception.

A user-tracking [inspection report](#) found that Columbia's website, colum.edu, has around 11 ad trackers, 18 third-party cookies and may be monitoring users' keystrokes and mouse clicks, informing Facebook when a user visits and allowing Google Analytics to follow users across the internet.

The number of ad trackers on Columbia's website, according to the report, is more than the average of seven found on "popular sites," and the number of third-party cookies is more than the average of three found on "popular sites."

While this may seem alarming, Surya Mattu, an investigative data journalist from The Markup who had a hand in developing the inspector site [Blacklight](#), said tracking and similar practices are not unusual to find among various institutions' websites. He said the main issue is that people are unaware they are being tracked.

"It is in the question, like 'why is this really useful?'" he said. "Something we have found in our study is [institutions] don't often know these things are happening on their website."

In January 2019, [The Markup](#)—a non-profit organization focused on data-driven investigations of technology and how it influences society—began looking at an internal tool to report on surveillance. Mattu said at first the organization wanted to look at local websites, but it slowly turned into a larger scale study. The point is to identify exactly how a user engages with a website and how that user is being monitored.

Michael Towns, publicity chair for Columbia's part-time faculty union, or CFAC, said the real question is whether students, faculty and staff have any say or get insight into the usage of the data collected.

Towns, an adjunct faculty member in the Business and Entrepreneurship Department, said there needs to be more disclosure on any data collected, analyzed and used "to make decisions that are a function of student, staff and faculty activity" on the college's website and its digital properties.

In an Oct. 16 email to the Chronicle, Senior Director of Campus Communications Keisha Cowen said the college

does not collect or host sensitive personal information, such as social security numbers and credit cards on the public facing website. She said the college's website is its "primary marketing tool used to raise awareness, share information and attract a variety of audiences" to the college.

"To learn more about our audiences and how we might communicate and connect with them most effectively, we use a range of industry-standard tracking tools such as pixels, cookies and heatmaps," Cowen said. "These tools help us create a better experience for our audiences as they reveal to us whether or not information can be found easily; what information is being sought out [and] how long people are willing to stay."

When looking at the numbers from the report, Cowen said the number of ad trackers and cookies found on the website is not "constant," meaning it changes based on the college's different campaigns, how long they are running and how many metrics the college is trying to track.

Since the roll out of Duo security, a two-factor authentication and endpoint security platform, Craig Sigle, academic manager in the Communication Department and president of the United Staff of Columbia College, said staff have had major concerns of being tracked through email, personal messages and location.

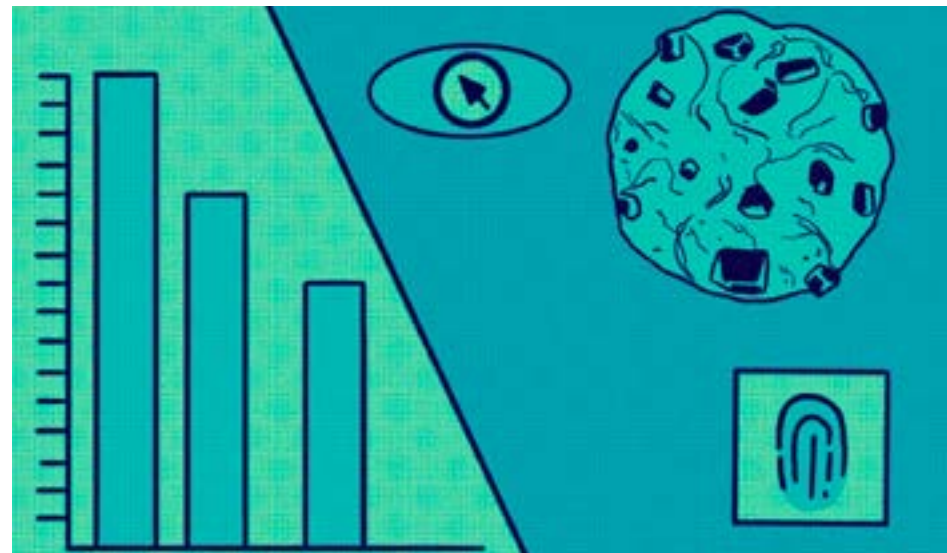
The security system was put in place after the college was named the victim of a ransomware attack by NetWalker on May 30, [as reported by the Chronicle](#). And in the last two weeks, employees of the college have had to download GlobalProtect, a web browser based virtual private network service that runs on a device to protect sensitive networks, in order to log work hours and access other essential employee information.

Associate Vice President of Strategic Communications and External Relations Lambrini Lukidis said a VPN can help protect against identity theft by protecting data and that it creates an encrypted tunnel for data sent and received that is "out of reach of cyberthieves."

Sigle said Columbia's staff union, USofCC, is "particularly concerned that we are being forced to use our personal devices as part of the college security strategy." He said the college did not offer employees other devices to use, instead indicating it was too expensive.

"Besides being asked to use our personal devices ... we are also concerned the school is tracking employees with their phones, and the Duo system, I am told, has a tracking feature," he said.

Duo's [privacy information](#) states that



» LUCAS MARTINEZ/CHRONICLE

it uses "a pseudonymized mobile data analytics provider, Firebase," which it describes as "Google Analytics for Duo Mobile. It helps us understand how Duo Mobile users interact with our app. Our usage analytics only collect information about how you use Duo Mobile, it cannot 'see what you do' in other applications on your phone."

Sigle said he is not concerned with the requirement to use GlobalProtect.

Lukidis said those who do not wish to install GlobalProtect can go to campus to use the college's private network to complete tasks that are on software protected devices.

She said Duo is "an additional security feature to protect the institution and the user, and does not increase risk or violate privacy." Additionally, she said those who do not want to install Duo on personal devices can request a FOB, or token from IT.

When comparing Columbia with other nearby colleges, the report shows that DePaul University's website has 10 ad trackers, 11 third-party cookies as of publication but does not monitor keystrokes or clicks. Like Columbia's site, it does tell Facebook when users visit the site, and it allows Google Analytics to follow web visitors across the internet. Loyola University has six ad trackers, 11 third-party cookies and does not monitor or track keystrokes and clicks; and Roosevelt University has 10 ad trackers, 18 third-party cookies and also does not track or monitor keystrokes.

Section five of the Federal Trade Commission Act prohibits websites in the U.S. from using unfair or deceptive marketing practices, meaning owners must clearly inform visitors about the ways the website collects their information and how it may be used or shared with third-parties.

On its website, Columbia lists its [privacy policy](#) and outlines its use of cookies,

remarketing, web analytics, sharing, links, security, compliance and cooperation with regulatory authorities and notification of changes.

Cowen said the site does engage with third-party vendors, like Technolutions/Slate (for the application, inquiry forms, etc.), Shopify (the Museum of Contemporary Photography store) and Lightspeed (ShopColumbia). But, "they are external companies [and] services and none of the information collected by those companies is hosted on our web servers," she said.

Aaron Stevens, vice president of strategic partnerships at Osano, a data privacy software platform, said often institutions are unaware of the analytics and marketing tracking or third-party cookies left over on the site from previous administrations or marketing department staff.

To help companies find out what is on their site, Stevens said Osano's software scans websites for cookie scripts and miscellaneous advertising coding.

"These reports that we can run are usually pretty eye-opening to companies. Sometimes it's good. Sometimes it's bad. Sometimes it's nothing," said Stevens, who also assessed Columbia's site. "But I wouldn't say that [Columbia is] doing anything over the top."

Lori Andrews, a professor at Chicago-Kent College of Law, said it is common that institutions or companies will not specifically disclose what they are tracking on their websites and why.

She said although it is not illegal, the use of tracking can lean toward strong invasions of privacy, and the issue is that many people do not know or understand what information is being collected when they visit certain websites.

"We really need some social pressures to change this," Andrews said.

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Music talk show ‘Sound Opinions’ finds its new home at Columbia, WCRX

» KENDALL POLIDORI
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

RENOWNED CHICAGO ROCK music critics Jim DeRogatis and Greg Kot and their music talk show “Sound Opinions” is moving into a new home at WCRX 88.1 FM at Columbia after more than 15 years of production at WBEZ.

“We are doing things exactly the way we want,” said DeRogatis, an associate professor of instruction in the English and Creative Writing Department.

Previously produced by Chicago Public Media through WBEZ 91.5 FM, the music talk show was notified in mid-June that it would no longer be produced in-house and officially became independent on Sept. 4, recording podcast episodes on its own and posting on its website and platforms like Spotify.

DeRogatis said he and the rest of the “Sound Opinions” team were devastated when Chicago Public Media terminated the production agreement, as WBEZ was a “good home” to the show for years.

Although handling production and the behind-the-scenes work on their own since becoming independent, DeRogatis and Kot continued the show’s distribution to about 150 other public radio stations nationwide.

The weekly show is an hour of DeRogatis and Kot, longtime Chicago Tribune music critic, talking shop about all things music, including news, interviews, critiques and discussions on music history.

In the midst of the pandemic, DeRogatis said recording and producing in the WCRX studio will take some time, and for now he and Kot will continue to record across from each other at DeRogatis’ kitchen table.

“What this is about is building for the future and being able to give students an opportunity,” DeRogatis said.

He and Kot have always strived to give back and get other people involved, and the essence of “Sound Opinions” is conversation and sharing diverse voices and ideas, DeRogatis said.

Dean of the School of Media Arts Eric Freedman said the school’s goal is to support the show’s production and provide program-related oppor-



» COURTESY/JIM DEROGATIS

MUSIC TALK SHOW “SOUND OPINIONS,” WITH CO-HOSTS JIM DEROGATIS (LEFT), AN ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF INSTRUCTION IN THE ENGLISH AND CREATIVE WRITING DEPARTMENT, AND GREG KOT (RIGHT) IS NOW BEING BROADCAST ON WCRX EVERY SATURDAY AND SUNDAY. COURTESY/JIM DEROGATIS

tunities for students working in radio and audio production.

“‘Sound Opinions’ is a tremendous value add for our students and our academic programs and will lift the profile of our work and our station,” Freedman said.

Matthew Cunningham, faculty adviser for WCRX and assistant professor of instruction in the Communication Department, said once “Sound Opinions” became independent, DeRogatis came right to WCRX to

foster the opportunity for students to get involved.

Cunningham said he is ecstatic about the show because students in the past have wanted to intern for it, and now that opportunity will be available at Columbia.

The partnership was made possible through a gift from the Walter and Karla Goldschmidt Foundation, and since early November the show has already begun airing on the station. Cunningham said “Sound

Opinions” will be broadcast every Saturday at 11 a.m. and Sunday at 8 p.m.

DeRogatis said while there are a lot of podcasts out there with people “yapping about music,” there are not a lot with the breadth of musical discussion and journalism like “Sound Opinions,” and he is ready to bring that to the Columbia community.

“I love being at Columbia... it is always a great place to be,” DeRogatis said.

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'I'm so happy to be back': WGN's newest anchor is Columbia alum Ray Cortopassi



» COURTESY / WGN-TV

1990 BROADCAST JOURNALISM ALUM RAY CORTOPASSI (LEFT) JOINS MICAH MATERRE (RIGHT) ON AIR FOR THE WGN EVENING NEWS EVERY DAY AT 5 P.M., 6 P.M., 9 P.M AND 10 P.M.

» **PAIGE BARNES**
AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT EDITOR

"DON'T GIVE UP on your dream and keep trying" was Ray Cortopassi's motto as he questioned if his goal of becoming a TV news reporter was meant to be after he was continuously turned down by stations.

So, in 1994, he and his then-college sweetheart laid out a map of the U.S. and marked all the places they could drive to in the Midwest to talk with any TV stations' news directors he came across.

Cortopassi knew the stations did not have any open positions, but he said if he could make an impression, it would help start his career in the broadcast journalism industry.

Now 53, Cortopassi—a 1990 broadcast journalism alum and a WGN evening news anchor as of last month—said he is excited to be back in the city where his journey began.

"Every step along the way we found meaning and magic," Cortopassi said. "Every move led to a new discovery, a new process of learning and connecting both

with a TV audience, the community [and] colleagues. I felt blessed at every stop along the way, but when [my wife and I] left Chicago, the goal was always to get back. So, we never lost sight of that."

Little did Cortopassi know that the first stop he made on his career-seeking road trip would land him his first broadcast job in 1994 at WPBN-TV, an NBC affiliate in Traverse City, Michigan.

Cortopassi said he is a realist and knew early on that in order to achieve his dream, he would have to move to a smaller market and work his way up.

He worked for three years at the Daily Southtown as a freelance print reporter right out of college, as it was available and a position for which he knew he had the right skillset after taking print journalism classes at Columbia.

Cortopassi said at his first job, he learned how to write timely news for his audience and discern what facts are important.

"In print, that really is a process that is so detail-oriented, so I think that translated well for me as a broadcast journalist," he said.

Cortopassi said he was determined to land a job at the City News Bureau of Chicago after graduating from college, but the timing was not right at first.

After months of trying to get his foot in the door, Cortopassi took on a job in the retail industry at a sign company that made advertisements for billboards, buildings and vehicles.

"I thought that would be my future until that nagging desire at the back of my heart said, 'Don't give up on your dream, keep trying,' and so that's what I did," he said.

All the doors suddenly opened for Cortopassi after he successfully applied for a second time at the City News Bureau in 1993.

Along the way, Cortopassi said he fell in love with a classmate named Leslie, who was also a journalism major and later became his wife. She supported his ambitions, pushed him to continuously network and ultimately helped him determine his career direction, he said.

And though he had footing in the print journalism world, the end goal was still to work in broadcasting.

Cortopassi and his wife packed their bags and made their way around the states, working in Michigan, Las Vegas and Indianapolis before returning to Chicago.

Now at WGN alongside news anchor Micah Materre, Cortopassi said it was a momentous achievement seeing all the names before him on the walls as he walked down the long hallway to the newsroom.

However, he said it was not an "unfamiliar" feeling. Instead, it felt like he was finally at home at a station that he has many memories of, from watching "Ray Rayner and His Friends" to "The Bozo Show."

"I've been in a lot of newsrooms over the years," Cortopassi said. "But what I found about WGN, whether it's a reporter, or an anchor or producer, [is] all of those journalists have a very down to earth, friendly way about them."

Tune in to WGN News to watch Ray Cortopassi anchor the 5 p.m., 6 p.m., 9 p.m and 10 p.m. newscasts.

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Q&A: Columbia alum brings the stage to the screen in “New Faces Sing Broadway 1987”



» COURTESY/CASTLELIGHT PRODUCTIONS

2020 COLUMBIA ALUM KELAN M. SMITH WILL BE IN PORCHLIGHT MUSIC THEATRE'S STREAMED SHOW, "NEW FACES SING BROADWAY 1987," UNTIL NOV. 29.

» SUMMER HOAGLAND-ABERNATHY
OPINIONS EDITOR

KELAN M. SMITH, a Columbia alum, is a “New Face” in theatre, but he has been around the block a few times.

Smith graduated with a bachelor's degree in musical theatre performance in 2020 and has been featured in shows around Chicago like BoHo Theatre Company's “Bright Star” and The House Theatre of Chicago's “Verboten.”

Starting Nov. 6, his performance in another Chicago production, titled “New Faces Sing Broadway 1987,” is available to stream with Porchlight Music Theatre's virtual tickets.

Filmed in early October with no live audience, this cabaret of Broadway's 1987 hits was a new kind of theatre for Smith. He gave the Chronicle his song and dance on his experience as an up-and-coming actor during the pandemic:

THE CHRONICLE: HOW DID YOU GET FROM COLUMBIA TO “NEW FACES SING BROADWAY 1987”?

Smith: My first semester freshman year, the first show that I did at Columbia was “Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson.” In that show, I was basically an ensemble character, but I also played the bass guitar. And in that show, music director Spencer Meeks really liked my work, and they asked me to work on a couple of productions that they were directing in the city professionally. So pretty much right [out of] the gate, I started working in the city. I did a lot of [professional] shows while in school, so I was very fortunate.

WHAT CLASSICS ARE YOU SINGING IN “NEW FACES”?

I have a solo called “Leaning on a Lamppost” from “Me and My Girl.” That's sort of a cute, romantic song about a guy in love, who's waiting for this girl ... and singing [about her]

to the police officer who comes by that thinks he looks suspicious. ... And then, I'm in a trio from “Les Miserables” called “Drink With Me,” and that was a more somber piece, where I'm playing guitar as well.

HOW DID IT FEEL TO PERFORM AGAIN AFTER MONTHS WITHOUT IT?

It was honestly kind of amazing for a lot of reasons. One of the biggest reasons being that performers haven't really been able to perform hardly at all during this time. And so it was really electrifying to be able to get to perform again ... even though it was only a few people that we were singing in front of. The opportunity to essentially perform in a musical film was a really cool and really unique opportunity.

You aren't hearing any reactions—you're not getting any sort of applause or laughter. But there's also another level of enjoyment that I get out of performing in front of a cam-

era because ... there's certain choices that you would make onstage performance-wise that you wouldn't make in front of a camera.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO ASPIRING ACTORS TRYING TO BREAK INTO THE BUSINESS?

Obviously, you have to get your foot in the door, that's the most important thing. So showing up to audition for [shows] is kind of a necessity. Otherwise, getting your foot in the door anywhere really is a good step—auditioning for everything you can in the city, trying to get yourself out there so that when you're going into the audition, ideally people behind the table already have a sense of who you are and can see the work that you've done. And just making sure that you're somebody that people want to work with is a big thing.

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DREADHEAD COWBOY RIDES HIS HORSE SOUTHBOUND ON THE DAN RYAN EXPRESSWAY, SEPT. 21, 2020.



» COURTESY/VASHON JORDAN JR.

PROTESTORS GATHER FOR A DANCE PARTY IN FRONT OF MAYOR LORI LIGHTFOOT'S LOGAN SQUARE RESIDENCE AS A PART OF THE "LOGAN SQUARE LOCKDOWN," JULY 23, 2020.



» COURTESY/VASHON JORDAN JR.

‘A Joyful Revolution’: Television student publishes photo book on months of civil unrest

» RYAN ROSENBERGER
STAFF REPORTER

WHEN MASS DEMONSTRATIONS, protests and various instances of looting broke out throughout Chicago and across the country on May 29, after the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police, senior television major Vashon Jordan Jr. grabbed his camera and sprung into action.

On the morning of May 30, Jordan Jr., who is a television student with a concentration in production living on the Far South Side of Chicago, traveled downtown to take photos of a peaceful demonstration at the Federal Plaza on Dearborn Street.

Jordan Jr. said he thought the demonstration would be small, as many Chicago protests are “one and done.”

“I didn’t know how many people would turn out,” Jordan Jr. said. “I thought it was another one and done. But the following week, when we had the Chicago March of Justice for George Floyd, 38,000 people [attended].”

Jordan Jr. spent a large part of his summer covering peaceful demonstrations and civil unrest. He attended 37 rallies in total, including the Logan Square Lockdown on July 23, the One Million Man March on June 19 and the Kids Lives Matter March on July 31.

The final product of his work is a photo book titled “Chicago Protests: A Joyful Revolution,” which was released Oct. 17 on Amazon.

“I believe that it is important to show the nuances of every story and present a narrative that represents the overall feelings and mood, not just those of whoever is the loudest,” Jordan Jr. wrote in a press release for the book. “Having more photographers and media makers covering the communities and people that they represent is an automatic win because no one ... can tell your story better than you can.”

Although most of the demonstrations he covered focused on systemic racism and police brutality, Jordan Jr. also covered rallies in support of President Donald Trump

and the Chicago Police Department.

Jordan Jr. said one of the biggest differences between the rallies is inclusion, noting that pro-Black Lives Matter protests were more diverse and accepting.

In addition to covering peaceful demonstrations, Jordan Jr. said he also photographed separate instances of looting.

One reason he felt compelled to do so was because a handful of news outlets that covered the unrest did not portray the full story. They only show up when protests turn bad and they “flip the narrative,” he said.

Jordan Jr. said the demonstrations during the summer showed Black people living their lives in harmony and he wanted to document that.

“We look at the history of African Americans in this country and the first thing we show you is slavery, carnage, bondage, chains, Jim Crow, MLK shot ... everything is negative,” Jordan Jr. said. “So just seeing Black folks coming together, living their lives and having a good time, that in and of itself is revolutionary.”

Jordan Jr. was drawn toward following the large number of demonstrations because he supports the struggle against racism and police brutality.

“What appeals to me, more often than not, will appeal to other Black men because of our shared culture, experiences and backgrounds,” Jordan Jr. said. “I know I can go out here and I can choose what to take photos of, and automatically it’s going to be more relatable than what any journalist not from this community [and] not from these backgrounds can think of innately.”

Jordan Jr. said he would like his photo book to serve as a “discussion piece” years down the road.

“I want it to be something we can look back on when we want to know what happened in 2020,” Jordan Jr. said. “Everything is there in its raw form. You may agree or disagree with my calling for a revolution, but the bottom line is, it’s all there for your own interpretation and I welcome [that].”

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PROTESTORS GATHER AROUND CLOUDGATE, ALSO KNOWN AS THE BEAN, AS A PART OF THE “SOLIDARITY STREET: DEFUND CPD BLOCK PARTY” PROTEST ON AUGUST 1, 2020.

» COURTESY/VASHON JORDAN JR.



DEMONSTRATORS, MANY OF WHOM ARE CARRYING SIGNS, MARCH DOWN DEARBORN STREET IN PROTEST OF RACISM AND POLICE BRUTALITY LESS THAN A WEEK AFTER THE MURDER OF GEORGE FLOYD, MAY 30, 2020.

» COURTESY/VASHON JORDAN JR.

'It feels like life and death': Chicago v

» CAMILLA FORTE
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

AHEAD OF AND on Election Day, Chronicle photojournalists covered polling sites in neighborhoods across Chicago to speak with voters on what brought them to the polls.

In their own words, here is why these Chicagoans voted, what changes they hope to see and how they felt about the election.

CFORTE@COLUMBIACHRONICLE.COM



» KAYLIE SLACK/CHRONICLE

(LEFT) "IT'S LIFE OR DEATH THIS TIME. THIS ELECTION MATTERS MORE THAN EVER BEFORE," SAID KATIE KLAIN.

(RIGHT) "I ALWAYS VOTE, EVEN THOUGH I BELIEVE THE GOVERNMENT THAT WE'VE HAD FOR QUITE SOME TIME, MAYBE [FOR THE LAST] 40 YEARS, ISN'T RESPONSIVE ANYMORE TO THE ELECTORATE," SAID MARK ZATORSKI.



» CAMILLA FORTE/CHRONICLE



» CAMILLA FORTE/CHRONICLE

"WE WANT TO HAVE A LEADER WHO WILL TAKE CARE OF GLOBAL WARMING AND ... WHO WILL TAKE [THIS] SERIOUSLY AND LISTEN TO THE SCIENTISTS AND THE DOCTORS AND RESPECT THEIR ADVICE," SAID NGOEDUP WANGMO (LEFT), WHO WAS BORN IN TIBET AND CAME TO THE POLLS WITH HER SON, TENZIN WOZER (RIGHT). "I FEEL PRIVILEGED TO BE ABLE TO VOTE FOR ALL THESE YEARS ... SINCE I BECAME A CITIZEN IN 1998."



» ZAC CLINGENPEEL/CHRONICLE

"I'VE NEVER NOT VOTED SINCE I WAS 18," SAID JENNIFER BRIDGEFORTH, A CHICAGO VOTER. "I'M ALWAYS GONNA VOTE. IT IS ONE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL CORE WAYS ... TO CHANGE WHAT IS GOING ON IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND IN OUR COUNTRY."

"[VOTING] IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PRIVILEGE WE HAVE AS U.S. CITIZENS," SAID CONNOR KELLY, AN EVENT MANAGER IN PILSEN. "EVEN IN A STATE LIKE ILLINOIS, WHERE WE'RE LIKELY TO VOTE FOR A DEMOCRAT ... IT'S IMPORTANT FOR ALL OF US TO SHOW UP AND VOTE FOR WHO WE BELIEVE IN."



» MENGSHIN LIN/CHRONICLE

"I VOTED TODAY TO ... FIX THE HOLE THAT WE'VE BEEN DUG INTO AND THE WORLD OF HATE THAT OUR SYSTEM HAS PROVIDED PEOPLE ACCESS TO," SAID MAYA POPERNIK, WHO WAS ABLE TO VOTE FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS YEAR.



» CAMILLA FORTE/CHRONICLE

voters on why they voted this election

“IT’S PROBABLY ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ELECTIONS OF OUR TIME. I THINK WE’RE IN A WAY FIGHTING THE CLOSEST LEADER WE’VE HAD TO FASCISM,” SAID ROBERT PENNA. “I KIND OF WANTED TO VOTE GREEN PARTY ... BUT WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF TRUMP MAYBE DENYING THAT THE ELECTION IS LEGITIMATE, I THOUGHT IT MAY BE BETTER TO JUST TACK THE NUMBERS IN THE FAVOR OF WHICH MY OPINION GOES.”



» CAMILLA FORTE/CHRONICLE

“I THINK IT IS A BEAUTIFUL THING TO SEE PEOPLE TAKING THE TIME TO KNOW HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO VOTE,” SAID DESIREE WINTER, A BERWYN, ILLINOIS, RESIDENT. “I DON’T BELIEVE BOTH SIDES ARE 100% [TRUTHFUL]; I JUST FEEL LIKE THEY NEED TO BE MORE FOR THE PEOPLE, REGARDLESS WHO WINS, AND IF THEY ARE NOT THERE FOR THE PEOPLE, I WOULD SAY WE VOTE THEIR A-- OUT OF THERE.”



» MENGSHIN LIN/CHRONICLE



» CAMILLA FORTE/CHRONICLE

“THE THING THAT I’M SPECIFICALLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT IS THE [ILLINOIS] FAIR TAX [AMENDMENT],” SAID ANDREW CARR.



» CAMILLA FORTE/CHRONICLE

“I THINK THE WORLD IS IN A WEIRD PLACE RIGHT NOW,” SAID KELSEY ELLIS. “THE OUTCOME, REGARDLESS OF THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE, IS GOING TO BE REFLECTIVE OF HOW THE UNITED STATES IS FEELING RIGHT NOW.”

“YOU CAN’T COMPLAIN ABOUT ANYTHING IF YOU DON’T VOTE,” SAID DONNA DONOGHUE, A CHICAGO VOTER. “YOU CAN ONLY COMPLAIN IF YOU VOTE.”




» ZAC CLINGENPEEL/CHRONICLE

“I’VE VOTED IN EVERY ELECTION I COULD [SINCE 2012],” SAID LUCAS SHAY ROETTER. “[THIS ELECTION] IS FAIRLY FRIGHTENING. I THINK THERE IS A MEASURABLE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CANDIDATES THAT YOU DON’T OFTEN SEE.”



» CAMILLA FORTE/CHRONICLE



Chicagoans celebrate Biden-Harris win, more work to be done

A DEMONSTRATOR DRESSED AS LADY LIBERTY POSES ABOVE THE CROWD GATHERING BEFORE TRUMP TOWER, 401 N. WABASH AVE, AS A SYMBOL OF HOPE, EQUITY AND DEMOCRACY.

» **PAIGE BARNES**
AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT EDITOR

WHAT WAS ORIGINALLY planned as a rally to demand democracy and defend the election turned into a full-day celebration [after news broke](#) that Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden and his running mate, California Sen. Kamala Harris, won the presidential election.

On Saturday morning, Nov. 7, the [Associated Press](#) announced Biden had gained the majority of votes in Pennsylvania, which propelled him past the 270 electoral votes needed to win the presidential race.

Cheers and music filled the air as people met at Union Park, 1501 W. Randolph St., before making their way to East Wacker Drive and North Michigan Avenue.

The city raised the Wabash Avenue bridge as thousands of people blocked traffic and caravans of cars headed south on North Michigan Avenue blaring their horns. Many held signs with memes of Trump, and a few read, “You’re Fired,” in reference to Trump’s tagline as the host of “The Apprentice” television program.

The event was hosted by the [Chicago](#)

[Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression](#) along with the Chicago Teachers Union and numerous other Chicago activist groups. Other spontaneous celebrations erupted throughout the city.

Aside from the widespread festivities, many speakers at the rally said this victory was only the start of the progress that needs to be made.

Tanya Watkins, executive director of Southsiders Organized for Unity and Liberation, an organization that helps low-income and marginalized people of color on Chicago’s South Side and in the south suburbs, said although she celebrated states turning blue and getting the “fascist” out of office, it is time to demand more from the Democratic Party to earn Black women’s votes.

“I refuse to be so naive to think that any white man, with white money and white privilege living in a big a- white house, could ever be singularly invested in my Black liberation,” Watkins said.

Watkins, a former creative writing major with a concentration in fiction, said if it were not for Black, Indigenous and people of color youth who took to the streets

during the past few months to protest inequalities and encourage people to vote, the Democratic party would not have had a platform in 2020.

“We have to ensure that no matter who is elected to represent this country, that person is held accountable to us,” she said. “So Uncle Joe, we’ll see you in these streets.”

Biden won Illinois’ 20 electoral votes with 55.8% of the state’s total vote, according to the [Chicago Sun-Times](#)’ Illinois 2020 election results. Overall, Biden is projected to win 306 electoral votes, Trump is projected to win 232.

Jesse Sharkey, president of the Chicago Teachers Union, said during a speech it is obvious Trump will not concede fairly—even with a decision made by the Electoral College—so it is up to the people to defend democracy, not those in power that currently govern them.

“This is not a simple, clear-cut victory,” Sharkey said. “There’s a lot of work for us to do, but right now we’re happy.”

Deborah Cosey-Lane, secretary-treasurer of ATU Local 308, a union striving to improve working conditions for Chicago transit workers, urged people to not be

complacent with Trump out of office.

“Donald Trump ... turned the ... soil and allowed us to see what was under the ground,” Cosey-Lane said. “Now it’s time for us to plant new soil so that we can see the beauty and the flowers that [have] always been in America.”

Senior cinematography major Akito Miyazaki went downtown to witness the celebration and shoot photos.

Miyazaki said he has not seen people this happy since former President Barack Obama won the election in 2008. Documenting the moment was like capturing history in real-time, he said.

Although Biden was not Miyazaki’s first choice, as he initially voted for Sen. Bernie Sanders (D-Vt.), he said Biden will be a decent president because he speaks to the American people, not just one political party.

“I feel like as if all these four years of waiting and four years of this hurting [from] this hatred ... has become free from our bodies,” he said. “This is what the country is supposed to be ... united, not divided.”

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CROWDS TAKE TO THE STREETS AS CHANTS OF “BLACK LIVES MATTER” AND “F--- TRUMP” ECHO AROUND THE CITY.



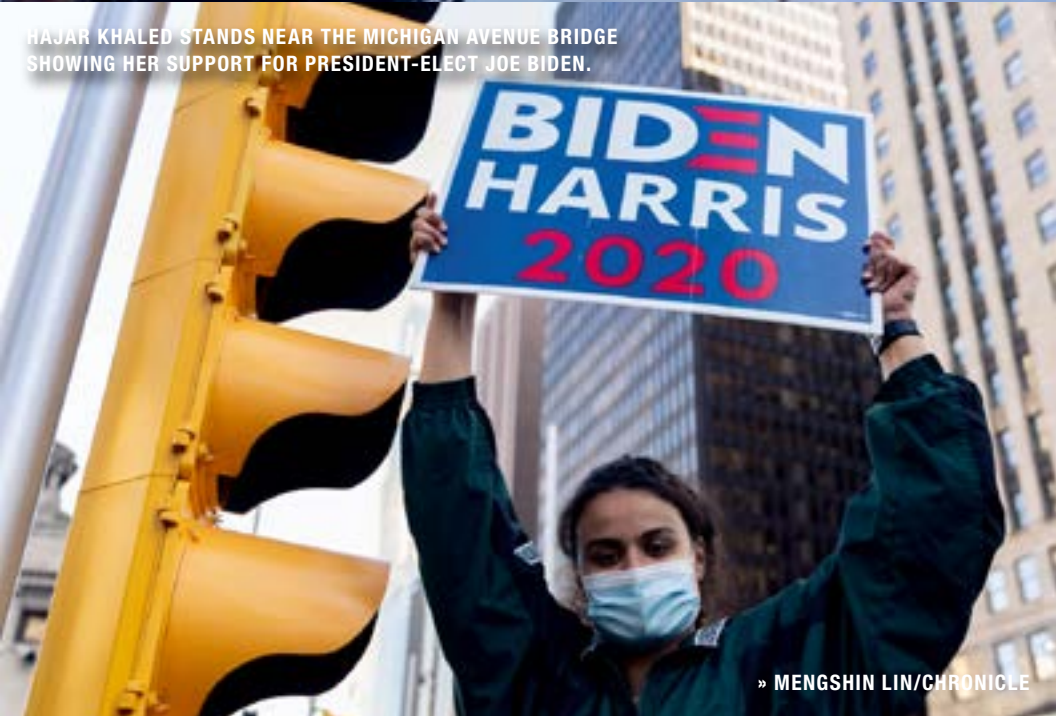
» MENGSHIN LIN/CHRONICLE

KAYLA BRECKEL CELEBRATES THE DEFEAT OF PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP BY FORMER VICE PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN.



» MENGSHIN LIN/CHRONICLE

HAJAR KHALED STANDS NEAR THE MICHIGAN AVENUE BRIDGE SHOWING HER SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT JOE BIDEN.



» MENGSHIN LIN/CHRONICLE

A BIDEN SUPPORTER, DRESSED UP AS THE LATE RUTH BADER GINSBERG, DRIVES BY AS PART OF A CELEBRATORY CAR CARAVAN PASSING THROUGH WACKER DRIVE.



» MENGSHIN LIN/CHRONICLE

ABBY NEW WAVES THE FLAG OF HER LATE GRANDFATHER, A WORLD WAR II VETERAN WHO SHE SAID VOTED AGAINST TRUMP IN 2016.



» K'VON JACKSON/CHRONICLE



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Awkward: What do you do if you dislike your friend's significant other?

» LAUREN LEAZENBY
NEWS EDITOR

YOUR BEST FRIEND is in the honeymoon phase of a new relationship: posting about it all over social media, staying up all night talking on the phone and gushing about their significant other to you.

You recognize you are supposed to be supportive of your friend's newfound love, but, you are actually finding it difficult to tolerate both this annoying relationship phase and the person your friend is dating.

You do not like their partner, and ultimately, you want your friend to dump this person. But how do you relay that sentiment without putting your friendship in jeopardy?

RELATIONSHIP EXPERTS WEIGH IN:

"Being curious about others' love lives is part of human nature," said Alexandra Solomon, a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Psychology at Northwestern University. "It's why we have entire industries now of romance-based reality TV. But what it has done is given us this sense that we are authorized to weigh in on relationships whenever, wherever and however."

Solomon, who is also the author of "Taking Sexy Back" and "Loving Bravely," both books on relationships, said you should ask yourself why you feel the need to provide feedback on your friend's relationship.

If you are seeing "red flags" that make you believe your friend's significant other is dangerous or toxic—or could put your friend's health or safety at risk—do not ignore them, Solomon said.

But wait for your friend to express these concerns, she said. If you bring them up yourself, you risk doing more harm than good by pushing your friend away.

"What happens is, if I come in weighing clearly on the side of 'You need to break up,' [then] by Newton's Second Law, what you're going to do is take the opposite pole," she said. "The harder I come down on 'You have to end it,' the harder you're going to come down on 'You don't understand.'"

Solomon recommends you listen to your friend. When they express

concerns, mirror them back lightly, without mentioning you have already observed these problems, too.

On the other hand, maybe the significant other has not displayed any red flag behaviors, but you still dislike them.

Psychologist and friendship expert Irene S. Levine said you should remember that this is your friend's significant other—not yours. What they want in a relationship might be different from what you want, or what you imagine they want, she said.

"You also need to reflect on your own feelings," said Levine, who also operates the advice blog, [The Friendship Blog](#). "Are you feeling jealous? Is it something that's not realistic on your part? Maybe you don't know the person that well. ... Is it that you're feeling that you're being left out now?"

Bonnie Tsai, founder and director of the etiquette training company Beyond Etiquette, said a good way to break past the awkwardness of this situation is to start by getting to know your friend's significant other better.

Most people feel comfortable talking about themselves, Tsai said, so her advice is to get the significant other to talk about themselves by asking about their hobbies and interests—questions that require a response of more than just a few words. Then ask follow-up questions to get a back-and-forth conversation going.

Tsai said if your friend feels as though their significant other is being ostracized by friends, this might present an awkward situation. To counteract this, she said it is important to include them in

group settings or conversations between you and your friend.

"The best way to approach it ... is to make them feel welcome," Tsai said. "There's gotta be a reason that your friend likes them or wants to be with them."

Still, jealousy over how much time your friend is spending with their significant other might creep in. When you bring it up, Solomon said to frame it as missing your friend.

"I want to say to you, 'You're spending too much time with this person.' What I could say instead is an 'I' statement like 'I missed you. Could we carve out some time for just you and I this week?'" Solomon said. "To say, 'I have a need here, I miss you,' is very different than criticizing the partner."

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» SAVANNA STEFFENS/CHRONICLE

OPINION: A PARODY FAREWELL FOR A PARODY PRESIDENT

» ISAIAH COLBERT
STAFF REPORTER

All memes have a shelf life, including meme presidents. After an Election Day that ended up lasting four days, former Vice President Joe Biden was declared the 46th president of the United States on Saturday, Nov. 7, based on vote tallies by the Associated Press. This was news that brought liberal tears to my eyes.

I could feel myself begin to heal as people ceased their “doom scrolling” and took to the streets in celebration of President Donald Trump’s loss over the weekend.

Trump has yet to make a public appearance conceding the election. Instead, he took to Twitter claiming he won the election “by a lot” and would seek to sue swing states and contest the results with the Supreme Court.

As his forward-thinking supporters said in 2016 and now, Trump is still our president and should be treated with respect. They are right.

There is a saying that “God gives his toughest battles to his strongest soldiers.” So, instead of treating Trump “very badly” as he puts it, in these un-



precedented times, I want to say farewell to the 45th president and highlight his biggest “achievements.”

Trump aided in boosting the economy by participating in an election week that led to an increase in online food, alcohol and marijuana purchases, [according to the LA Times](#).

Trump did more for Black people than Abraham Lincoln ... musically. He got the support of prominent rappers like Ice Cube, Lil Wayne, 50 Cent, Kanye West, and Lil Pump for his reelection. Honest Abe cannot say he shook up “Top Five Rappers” Spotify playlists like Trump.

Trump also showed compassion in selflessly securing jobs for Jim Carrey and Maya Rudolph—who portray Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris on the “[failing](#)” Saturday Night Live—

for the next four years.

Not to be outdone by himself, Trump sent a final notice to his supporters who “ignored” his call to contribute money to his campaign on Friday, Nov. 6. Over half of the money will be used to pay off his campaign’s debts, [according to CBS News](#).

In the same spirit, I would like to say farewell to Trump:

Donald,

This is your FINAL NOTICE.

So far, you’ve ignored all of the American people asking you to be presidential in REPRESENTING THE U.S. You’ve ignored scientists and protesters, and you’ve even ignored the final wishes of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Why haven’t you conceded? The integrity of our election is being COM-PROMISED by your fake news, and it’s going to take EVERY administration aide stepping up to hold you accountable to the results. We need you, Trump, to [hold your ‘L’](#) with grace and poise.

Thank you,
America

Trump’s four years of American exceptionalism proved true this election cycle. When you’re a voter, you can do anything—even grab him by the ballot.

Because Trump has won “[bigly](#)” for so long, I do not expect him to concede. That level of self-actualization was too mountainous a task for COVID-19 to humble him.

This won’t be the last time we hear from him. He is sure to vie for the main character of Twitter and continue his rallies as he reportedly intends to “Make America Great Again” when he runs for president again in 2024, [according to Axios](#).

Fair warning Trump: Just as you said of the late Sen. John McCain of Arizona, America does not like losers.

In the end, Trump managed to prove, in spite of himself, that he is just like the average American. By January, he will have the true 2020 experience of losing his job after contracting COVID-19 and being evicted from his current home.

It is what it is. Just don’t let the man, woman, person, camera or TV hit you on the way out.

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TOP 5

TOP 5 ONLINE STORES TO SUPPORT THIS BLACK FRIDAY INSTEAD OF HITTING THE CROWD AT TARGET

» CAMILLA FORTE
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY



1 Local and black-owned, [Semicolon Bookstore](#) is a wonderful place to browse for news titles and lesser-known authors or find your reading list top picks.

2 [Eco and The Flamingo](#) is Chicago’s first and only zero-waste shop that just happens to be entirely women-owned and operated. You can shop in person throughout the week, or order for pick-up or delivery from their online shop.

3 [Central Camera](#) is a Chicago photography staple that really needs no introduction. Visit their physical location or check out their online E-bay store for equipment, or their online shop to buy some merch.

4 [Pilsen Vintage](#) is a Latinx-owned thrift store that plays a huge role in nurturing the neighborhood’s arts and culture scene along with offering a wide range of carefully curated vintage pieces.

5 [Semillas Plant Studio](#) is a Latinx, woman-owned plant shop and nursery located in Chicago’s Lower West Side. They carry one of the largest house plant selections in the city.

» ELLA WATLYK
COPY EDITOR



1 [The Cedar Point official online store](#): I’m a huge roller coaster nerd and this online store is the perfect place to get merch that is normally only available in the park, including masks and ornaments.

2 [Pela Case](#): The store sells technology accessories, like phone cases and airpod cases, that are sustainably made and compostable.

3 [Earthbound Trading Co.](#): This store carries unique clothing items, home decor and more, all inspired by the free-spirited mindset embraced by the brand.

4 [Ten Tree](#): The store sells sustainable clothing and accessories and plants ten trees for every order placed. Shoppers can register their trees and track their status at [www.tentree.com](#).

5 [Vistaprint](#): This online printing service offers a variety of customizable items from face masks to calendars. It is a great place to create the perfect gift for that hard-to-shop-for person in your life.

» K’VON JACKSON
PHOTOJOURNALIST



1 [Merica Moore Artisan Studio](#): I love this store because of the African inspired designs and the artist’s use of epoxy resin and acrylics to create beautiful coasters trays and more.

2 [Mombasa](#): The store has a unique line of jewelry and accessories that use gemstones and you can shop online at [shopmombasa.com](#).

3 [Sandmeyers Bookstore](#): A lovely mom and pop bookstore that has a collection of new releases and high-quality service. Visit the online shop at [sandmeyersbookstore.com](#).

4 [Bath and Body Works](#): The store’s line of men’s scents and lotions is amazing, and it has some of, if not the best, candles ever.

5 [Chessex](#): This is an online dice shop for all Dungeons and Dragons needs. It has high-quality dice sets and more at [chessex.com](#).

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