

Alumni Columbia Journalism

Winter 2005 // Journal

DuPonts Go to 2 Grads

Bronstein, Condon are among award winners in broadcast

Scott Bronstein ('83) and Jeanmarie Condon ('86) are among the winners of 2005 duPont-Columbia University awards for excellence in broadcast journalism.

Bronstein was producer and writer for the National Geographic Ultimate Explorer team that generated "Liberia: American Dream?" a two-hour eyewitness report on civil war in Liberia and the overthrow of President Charles Taylor. The piece was aired on WSNBC.

The duPont judges said, "National Geographic's team showed both courage and insight. Just when most news organizations were pulling out of Monrovia, correspondent Michael Davie and an Ultimate Explorer film crew led by Scott Bronstein traveled to Liberia to investigate firsthand a civil war at its most intense...they documented stories of massacres, divided families, armed rebel gangs and a humanitarian crisis that spilled over into Sierra Leone."

DUPONT -continued on 2

INSIDE

3

Alumnus tells of struggle to build Iraq paper

4

RW-I Students cover Republicans, protesters

5

More than 215 mentors sign to aid students

5

PARADE editor analyzes newspaper supplements



Ron Mott ('01) of Kansas City's KSHB-TV was embedded with a Kansas National Guard unit in Iraq. See his Correspondent's Report, P.2.

'Blogs' Questioned

Fall meeting panel explores usefulness of political blogs: media watchdogs or echos

By Victoria Schlesinger ('05)

A panel of top journalists from the frontlines of the blogosphere agreed that political commentary websites ("blogs"), popular today, are an Internet version of Thomas Paine's pamphleteering but debated whether their contributions to the 2004 presidential election were laudable or regrettable.

The Alumni Association's annual Fall Meeting, November 16 in the Journalism School's lecture hall, tackled the question "Pamphleteering in the Digital Age: The Impact of Blogs on the 2004 Campaign?" Some 150 persons attended.

Moderated by Newsday media writer **James T. Madore ('88)**, panelists questioned the usefulness of political blogs and whether they function as a media watchdog or partisan echo chamber that further divides and misinforms the public.

"The big media's self image, especially since Watergate, has been that it has an adversarial relationship with government...and that its purpose is to ask questions and hold these insti-

tutions accountable," said James Taranto, editor of the Wall Street Journal's online OpinionJournal.com for which he writes the popular column "The Best of the Web Today."

A parallel rivalry exists between the media and bloggers, Taranto said, pointing to the CBS 60 Minutes scandal in which bloggers debunked memos suggesting the President received preferential treatment in the National Guard. Within hours of the CBS broadcast, bloggers produced evidence that the memos were forgeries.

Taranto said the media has scrutinized itself closely since. "There's more competition among media outlets," he said, "as a result of the catalyst bloggers provide, not only to get the story first but to question the way each other covers the story, and I think that's a very good thing."

But panelist Ana Marie Cox, whose moxie has popularized her political blog Wonkette, said, "For every CBS scandal, there's a mysterious bulge story."

Cox was referring to bloggers' speculation about a perceived "bulge" under the back of President Bush's jacket during the Miami debates. Cox said: "That story actually got picked up by The New York Times...there's an extent to which blogs have made it impossible for the mainstream media to sit on a story before it's ready to go."

While Wonkette's witty sarcasm played on a politically divided country, Cox conceded: "Blogs fed off of

FALL MEETING -continued on 3

Fassihi Is Back On Job

WSJ reporter returns to Iraq after stunning E-mail on horror

By Ed Silberfarb ('52)

One of the most controversial and evocative reporters in the Iraq press corps has returned to Baghdad.

Farnaz Fassihi ('99) of The Wall Street Journal, who electrified Iraq watchers with what began as a personal e-mail excoriating the United States role in the country and shocking readers with her description of horror there, has ended a brief vacation. She journeyed to Israel and the West Bank to cover Yasser Arafat's funeral. In Ramallah she wrote think pieces about post-Arafat Palestine, then went on to Jordan, where she prepared the paperwork for a return to Iraq. In Amman she covered the visit of the interim Iraqi prime minister, Ayed Allawi.

While in Iraq, Fassihi sent private e-mails to friends describing life there, but one two-page message in September was so dramatic in describing the dangers and frustrations to reporters and civilians that it was forwarded without her consent to others. The circulation increased exponentially. It was picked up by bloggers and Internet news services.

"Being a foreign correspondent in Baghdad these days is like being under virtual house arrest," is how it began. It went on to detail car bombs, land mines, kidnapping, the murdering of Iraqi police, and a general hopelessness of the American situation. She asks a young Iraqi if he will participate in the elections, and he says, "Vote and risk being blown to pieces, murdered for cooperating with Americans? For what? To practice democracy? Are you joking?"

Soon after sending the e-mail heard round the world, Fassihi went on vacation, prompting critics to accuse The Wall Street Journal of silencing her, but according to Editor & Publisher magazine, her editor, Paul Steiger, said, no, she was taking a much deserved and long scheduled vacation. He told E & P her personal opinion had not gotten in the way of her very fair and accurate reporting.

FASSIHI - continued on 2

SAVE THE DATE
Career Panel March 8
Alumni Weekend April 14-17

FASSIHI FROM PAGE 1

Then the November-December issue of the Columbia Journalism Review carried a five-page "Baghdad Diary" by Fassihi, which she had begun in August for CJR, five weeks before her world-famous e-mail. The diary was even more detailed — from her arrival in Iraq on Royal Jordanian aircraft that had to take evasive action while landing to avoid anticipated rockets and mortars, to her harrowing drive to Najaf disguised as a proper conservative Muslim woman, leaving behind American identification papers and maneuvering through a gun-fight along the highway.

Fassihi, 33, is of Iranian background and still has family in Iran. American born, she comes from Oregon, and has a B.A. in English literature from Tehran University, where she worked as a translator for Western reporters visiting Iran. She's fluent in

'If I didn't thrust myself into reporting, I might start crying with them.'

Farsi and knows enough Arabic and French "to get by." Her first newspaper jobs were as a stringer for The New York Times, and then as a reporter for The Providence Journal, where she covered suburban news, but did manage an assignment to Cairo.

She joined the (Newark, N.J.) Star-Ledger and worked with the team

covering the Sept. 11 attacks and became its Middle East correspondent in time for the American invasion of Afghanistan. In a report to the Alumni Journal and the American Society of Newspaper Editors, she described a harrowing four-hour drive on a "non-existent" road to Herat through a rocky, dusty field where other cars had smoothed a makeshift path. "We did not dare steer too far from the road because the land was littered with mines."

And she told of children in the winter with no socks, shoes or warm clothes begging for food, and men missing arms or legs pleading for help. "I was about to bear witness to unimaginable misery," she said.

Misery and danger seem to be her raw materials, whether in Afghanistan or Iraq. In an Afghanistan relocation center where refugees were awaiting food and blankets in frigid November, hungry people camped on the bare ground. She saw a crowd swarm around the body of a 23-year-old woman who had starved and frozen to death. Her children were sobbing and her husband was asking help to bury his wife. "I pulled out my notebook and started interviewing the family. If I didn't thrust myself into reporting, I might start crying with them."

Fassihi has worked throughout the Middle East — Egypt, Jordan, Qatar, Pakistan and Iran, as well as Iraq and Afghanistan, Israel and the Palestinian territories. She reports political situations as well as disaster scenes, and she brings vivid detail to both.

"On a quiet, narrow street, an old stone house — distinguished by its delicate oval balcony, mosaic courtyard and stained glass windows—



Farnaz Fassihi in Afghanistan during the American invasion there.

embodies much of Iran's immediate political past and its future," she reported three years ago with the Newhouse News Service.

"The past can be found upstairs in a locked room: file cabinets seized from the American embassy more than 20 years ago, when revolutionary students took 52 Americans hostage for 444 days. The revolutionaries of yesterday are now the key figures in President Mohammed Khatami's reform movement... Many return to the house to deliver speeches about democracy... This house, with its decades-old memories, is home today to students with views just as strongly held, who want to change Iran's future."

A year later she was in Gaza City interviewing Palestinian women about female suicide bombers who blow

themselves up in order to kill Israelis. "There is nothing more powerful than sacrificing your life for a cause," says one.

"No, killing yourself and civilians will not result in peace," says another. "A woman has many ways to struggle, but to be a martyr is not one."

In an interview for ASNE, Fassihi said what she likes about journalism is "you never know what each day brings. It is intoxicating to witness history in the making." She added, "I do what I do because I believe that somehow my stories will make a difference."

Asked if she still feels that way after her Iraq experience, this past year, she told the Alumni Journal, "Yes, absolutely. I believe what I do is important. If I didn't I wouldn't be going back."

CORRESPONDENT'S REPORT

Road Rage in Iraq

By Ron Mott ('01)

If the treacherous five-mile stretch between the Baghdad Airport and the area formerly known as the "Green Zone" were the inspiration, Willie Nelson likely would have added to his 1980 hit, "On the Road Again" — "I can't wait to get on another road again."

In November I dared a round-trip trek on this deadly pavement while embedded with soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, a terrifying journey culminating in a 30-minute broadcast report: "8 Days on the Frontlines: The Kansas National Guard in Iraq."

I have never felt closer to death's door than I felt that day.

And I had good reason.

This highway is Ground Zero for countless American and coalition soldiers, contractors and civilians, as determined insurgents display an intense form of road rage the likes of which I-95 has never seen.

Every nearby vehicle is looked at with suspicion (might be a rolling car bomb). Every underpass is skittishly crossed (a launching pad for rocket-propelled grenades). Every "errant" scrap of road debris is avoided (home to an unfortunate number of IEDs—improvised explosive devices.)

In other words, it's not your leisurely Sunday afternoon drive.

The day my photographer and I arrived in Baghdad, two soldiers from our unit were killed on this road by a suicide car bomber who attacked a military convoy. Their armored SUV was no match for the grotesquely powerful blast common in these deranged

salutes to Allah, built to wreak maximum damage on the target and all but certain to vaporize the "martyrs" and, in their line of thinking, solidify their place in heaven.

The two soldiers didn't have a chance, but they did have a choice. The commanding officer lauded the fallen soldiers' actions — calling it not a tragedy but a victory — for their willingness to squeeze their Chevy Suburban in between the bomber's

'There's no way to emotionally prepare for it.'

vehicle and the one containing a general they were escorting.

Normally trained to fire rockets, which are about as useful in the fight to quell insurgents as a sling blade without elasticity, our unit was deployed to Iraq to provide security to DVs — "distinguished visitors" to the war theater — generals, heads of state and members of Congress, among them. Theirs is a cool existence vis-à-vis their infantry brethren in such boiling pots inside the Sunni Triangle.

That is, until bullets start flying and things begin blowing up.

For 10 months our unit survived daily runs up and down "Route Irish" with not so much as a scratch on their fleet of Humvees, save for a quarter-inch, cone-shaped impression at the rear of one where a high-caliber round failed to make entry.

Then suddenly, on Nov. 8, the 350-man unit of the 2nd/130th was

reduced by two. The emotional loss, however, was much greater.

"There's no way to emotionally prepare for it," one grieving soldier told me. "You can think about it. You can talk about it. But if you think about it too much, you're going to worry about it, become preoccupied by it, and might ultimately fail somewhere."

When I took that harrowing ride on "Irish" 48 hours after the Nov. 8 "victory," I thought of nothing but my impending defeat as I sat bracing for doom in the cramped confines in the right rear seat of a Humvee.

The somber-faced soldiers had formed a circle before we left, heard briefings on specific threats gathered through intelligence, and said a prayer (Psalms 91:4). Our camera eyed one soldier scribbling on the helmet of another. Later, I asked why. Blood type, just in case, was the answer.

What else was I to think about during the ride? A walk-and-talk standup? The breadth and variety of our B-roll?

No, I thought about dying, wondered whether I would hear the slightest hiccup from a VBIED (vehicle-borne improvised explosive device—acronym-obsessed militaryspeak meaning nothing more than a car bomb) before going over to the other side. Would I see the RPG (rocket-propelled grenade) before it slammed into my side of the Humvee?

Of course, nothing of the kind happened to us. While we spent five hours in the Green Zone before returning to Camp Victory, though, one of the officers of our unit told me no fewer than 10 grenade attacks were reported on convoys moving across the airport road.

The harrowing 10 minutes of this round trip were the only moments I ever really felt in danger in Baghdad. Sure, I went to sleep every night to the steady cadence of exploding mortars and rockets, some close enough to rattle the oversize windows in my sleep-

DUPONT FROM PAGE 1

Bronstein, who previously worked at ABC News and CBS News ("60 Minutes"), is now at CNN in Washington, D.C., where he is senior producer for a new investigative unit.

Condon was senior producer and writer for the ABC News and PJ Productions piece, "Jesus and Paul: the Word and the Witness," a three-hour prime-time documentary about the origins of Christianity.

The judges said "This is a sweeping examination of the roots of Christianity told through the stories of Jesus and the Apostle Paul. The program takes viewers on an educational journey to the current-day Mediterranean settings where centuries ago a small Jewish sect took hold and ultimately displaced the Roman gods. It is an extraordinarily beautiful production."

In all, there were 13 winners out of 588 entries of programs that aired in the United States between July 1, 2003 and June 30, 2004. The award ceremony will be January 13 at Columbia's Low Library.

ing quarters, but I quickly learned to pay attention to the loudest ones only.

My photographer and I, much to our surprise, were considered DVs by our escorts, protected virtually every waking moment by a plethora of firepower. All that American military muscle, though, was not enough to lift the hefty load of terror that came at 60 miles an hour on that airport road. It snapped me to the kind of attention I don't wish to feel for a very long time.

Back home, I couldn't wait to get on another road again. Any road.

Ron Mott is a reporter for KSHB, the NBC affiliate in Kansas City.

Iraq Paper Founder Struggles but Fails

Journalistic victories mixed with problems of robbery, arrest, printing costs, advertising

By Hassan Fattah ('00)
with Sarmed Ali ('05)

I arrived in Baghdad in May 2003 with \$1,000 in my pocket. As a journalist and an Iraqi, I realized that the best I could do was chronicle Iraq's experience under occupation, and tell the unheard stories.

That was the inspiration for starting an English-language newspaper, and the idea became a reality in a chance meeting with Stephen MacSearraigh, a one-time editor turned businessman, who was looking to launch a newspaper in Iraq. Backed by Mina Corp., a London-based investment firm, we sought to start an English-language newspaper that would be free of political connections. We would be beholden to no one and would provide a platform to tell the real stories of Iraqis through Iraqi reporters.

Our target was the thousands of expats, administrators and soldiers who flooded into Iraq after the fall of Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi elite who would appreciate a local newspaper in English, and the world at large on the Internet. With such a vast group of English readers in the country, with hefty spending power, our market would be golden, we thought.

Of course, what sets Iraq apart from most other nations in transition is the level of risk. Violence occurs at the most inauspicious moments — Friday prayers at a mosque; at a school; while standing in line for a security check.

For us, the lesson came early. A day before we published our first issue of Iraq Today on July 7, I woke up to a gun barrel in my face. There were seven men circled around me, all holding Kalashnikovs and demanding my money. It was evident that they had nothing against Iraq Today; they just

saw us as Westerners with money to steal. They tied me up, stuck a machine gun to my neck, execution style, and went upstairs, where they found the paper's \$12,000 stash of money.

From the start, our guiding principle was no rumors, just facts. In drill after drill, we taught reporters the dangers of innuendo and the risks of not checking allegations and facts. Forget the editorializing, just tell the story, I demanded.

At first, the story ideas were typical of many of the Arabic newspapers. One reporter pitched me the gossip about American body bags in the river, insisting his best friend had seen them. I demanded videotape. Another wanted to do soldiers' mistreatment of Iraqis; I asked for documentation. In time, their stories became less sensational but more telling. And it was not long before they began to complain about the inconsistencies in reporting by the Iraqi media. Thereafter, the team began bringing in hard evidence of crimes and military operations gone wrong, of corruption and political scandal, and of innocent people detained without charge.

Our reporters came from varied backgrounds. The team was made up of Sunnis, Shia and Christians, but the sectarianism that often characterizes Iraqi political discourse didn't exist in the newsroom. We typically spoke a

'Our guiding principle was no rumors.'

mix of Arabic and English to help the reporters improve their English, and I insisted that reporters be able to defend their arguments.

For all the successes Iraq Today had in telling the story, surviving as a business was a quixotic and often infuriating task. The rule of thumb about doing business in Iraq is to forget



everything you learned abroad. Mafias and price rigging, monopolistic business practices and various shenanigans all define business here.

In the newspaper business, the effects can be harrowing. Ten months into the occupation, phone lines in much of Baghdad were still not in operation. Satellite phones, at \$1 per minute, were impractical. So reporters often had to travel to locations just to make an appointment. The costs of transportation could amount to a quarter of our expenses. But once the reporters had gathered the facts, there was still the problem of getting them into the computer. With power typically working for just three hours at a time, we bought a generator. But that quickly proved irrelevant when a diesel shortage in town and breakdowns of the generator managed to waste countless hours.

The printers, too, proved a problem. With the high cost of paper, and the generally jaded attitudes of printers who had more work than they could handle, we faced dramatic printing costs exceeding 30 cents per issue. And for that, the printer would often make simple errors that would never be acceptable anywhere else, errors that have infuriated advertisers. So we stationed our designers with the printers to watch each step, correcting all along the way.

And, once ink was on paper, distributing Iraq Today was the most diffi-

cult job. Mainstream newspaper distributors refused to take the newspaper, sometimes mistaking it for a coalition-backed product. Many hotels, the most logical sales point for an English-language paper, refused to handle the paper. Bringing in advertising was also a tortuous affair. Many advertisers didn't understand why they should be seeking a Western audience. Others simply wanted us to place their ads for free.

The sole consolation was that most newspapers in Iraq were facing the same challenges.

So in December 2003, after a meeting of our Iraqi staff, we slashed advertising rates and the newsstand price. We turned the company from a Euro-centric one into an Iraqi-centric one. We invited people into our offices to see who we were and began building relationships with the community. Locals, not just the foreign press, began singing our praises. And soon, our circulation inched upward reaching 2,000 copies a week, but it was all in vain.

Despite the paper's ultimate failure, last April for lack of money, there were insights to be drawn from my experience. When given a road map, the Iraqis I worked with proved their ability to band together and deliver a product. When given a voice, they used it responsibly and in the broader interests of the paper. And when handed a challenge they were able to forget their differences to work for the common good. Those may be valuable

FALL MEETING FROM PAGE 1

the extreme partisan nature of this election... in part because the stakes were high and blogs made them seem high."

Panelist Thomas Fitzgerald, an election reporter for the Philadelphia Inquirer, cited a Pew study conducted last summer that found 11 percent of Internet users view blogs, while an Associated Press Managing Editors poll found 20 percent of newspaper readers sometimes looked at blogs.

"How much impact did they really have [on the election]?" Fitzgerald asked. "I can say I've been entertained and gotten a good, quick reading of what the left is thinking or the right is thinking, but have I been informed with facts or analysis... not really?"

"What's the difference between a good scrappy blog and the slag you hear from your friends at the pub?"

There's a downside to the partisanship, he said, when blogs become the extension of each side's campaign spin machine.

"They re-enforce rather inform the truly non-aligned," he said. "Newspapers do have the socially useful function of bringing together diverse

people that have to interact with each other in some way or hear how the other side lives or thinks."

Panelist Duncan Black, senior fellow with Media Matters for America and who, under the pseudonym Atrios, runs the blog Eschaton, said his liberal political blog began in 2002 as a counterbalance to what he felt was an abundance of conservative blogs.

Challenging critics who blame bloggers for exacerbating partisanship, Black said: "Listen to the vitriol flung on AM radio by Rush Limbaugh and Michael Savage. There's been a lot of vitriol for a lot of years but they don't get the kind of criticism we do."

Black defined the relationship between bloggers and the mainstream media, which bloggers commonly call "the MSM," by saying: "To a large degree we're symbiotic with the rest of the media. We don't do a lot of breaking of stories. A lot of blogging is taking existing news stories and having a little bit of value added to that story."

Black defined value as ranging from a sarcastic remark to emphasizing a part of the story overlooked by a journalist or referencing older stories.

But the "value added" by exit poll results posted on blogs election night has been heavily criticized, particularly by the mainstream media. Among

the blogs that posted results naming Sen. Kerry the winner were Wonkette and Eschaton.

Cox said her decision to post was not thought out, but in retrospect, she said she would do it again.

"We had to kill the exit poll to save them," Cox said. "There's a

'We had to kill the exit polls to save them.'

mythology of exit polls among journalists and political operatives that make them seem almost totemic, and that the public cannot see them because they're not ready.

"The classic argument that people won't vote... that may be true, but it's a very paternalist view of how a voter might react."

Taranto was quick to point out that the exit poll data was leaked to bloggers by the mainstream media that commissioned the polls.

"Now the media is in precisely the same position as the head of a government agency who is embarrassed by a leak and who blames a reporter for it," Taranto said. "If there's a problem here, it's that the media don't exercise

sufficient control over its information."

The consequences of the misleading poll information was minimal, Taranto said, "so people who were for Kerry were overconfident at 6 p.m. on election night and people who were for Bush were a little bit panicked. Well, that was pretty much the mood they were in throughout the campaign."

As for the future of political blogs, the 2008 election seemed too far off for much prediction by the panelists. Black did venture that "blogs will evolve and politicians will get better at exploiting them." And Fitzgerald surmised that "the mainstream media will try to co-op blogs and it will be really lame."

Apparently leading the co-opting charge is Columbia Journalism Review, which covered the coverage of the campaigns with daily online posts at CJR Campaign Desk.

Dean Nicholas Lemann announced that the blog will continue in an expanded form under the name CJR Daily. As a daily press criticism website of business, arts, and science as well as politics, it will complement the CJR magazine, which comes out six times a year.

"I don't think anyone does this as ambitiously as we're going to be doing it," Dean Lemann said.

GOP Gathers in New York

Student reporters contend with credential problems, protest scenes, ethical dilemmas

By John Wihbey ('05)

About two weeks after starting journalism school, many students found themselves adrift in an alien world, like Gulliver lost in the land of giants. As if moving to New York City weren't dizzying enough for most of us, the Republican National Convention lumbered into town, turning the city into a frenzy of politics and protest.

It was as if Woodstock and a World Trade Organization meeting were taking place simultaneously—in the same spot. At the prompting of the faculty, we students fanned out across the city to report on the madness, which stretched for most of ten days.

I'd been to a convention before to help a Senate candidate. So, going in, I thought I'd be working at an advantage. I'd pounded yard signs into the grass around the Bangor Auditorium, in my native Maine, passed out policy leaflets and bags of popcorn and rallied people for my candidate's speech. This turned out to be as helpful as reading a Tolstoy short story before going to report in Chechnya.

The first problem we all ran into was access. Gaining entry to the convention and its related events was tough. Some of us called our home-state congressional reps; failing that, we tried the Guam or Washington, D.C. delegations. (The more obscure,

'It was a whirlwind experience.'

the better chance of getting a break.) Only half in jest, my friend Jen Weiss and I debated the merits of going on dates with delegates.

Many of us dressed in our buttoned-up best and put on smiles for the surly door guards at events. Like some other students, I managed to get a freelance assignment that allowed me to use real press credentials.

The protests were open to all, and as long as you knew when to duck or run, covering these often-uproarious skirmishes was good fun. Film festivals, art displays, and parties lit up the city. The left-wing group Billionaires for Bush produced a cabaret on the docks of the lower West Side, where people in bowties and ball gowns got rip-roaring drunk as a celebrity rapper paraded through.

By serendipity, I had an RW1 professor, **Robin Reisig ('68)**, who had covered protests in the 1970s for The Village Voice. Once again, war was on, people were in the streets, and Robin was in the right place. Our class got advice about negotiating crowds and tips on what to do if arrested, which my buddy Jim Fanelli nearly was, inadvertently, after the cops penned in his section of a crowd with orange plastic fencing.

"It was a whirlwind experience," Jim said. "It was exciting because I had never been in that situation before, on the front lines of protests." He described a surreal scene in which a television puppet, Conan O'Brien's "Triumph the Insult Comic Dog," and its human companion mocked the police from inside their pen.

Luckily for him, Jim had a press pass through his hometown paper in

Queens, which allowed him to escape spending the night at the makeshift jail on the West Side Highway.

We all ended up in places we'd never thought we'd be. Tom Randall, another friend, rode with a group of bicyclists down the main avenues in an act of civil disobedience, halting enraged cab drivers. Then, amazingly, he reported from the head of the major protest march on the Sunday before the convention. There Tom witnessed journalists swarming around a befuddled person who had wandered into the press corps, which was separated from the protestors at the front.

"It was the first time I'd seen the desperation of our profession," Tom said. "I was amused but also filled with dread." He published a story about this in Columbia Journalism Review's online "Campaign Desk."

The whole protest circus—there were more than 1,000 arrests—proved a bonanza for stories. J-school students collectively covered it, I would argue, more energetically and comprehensively than nearly any other news desk in the country. We hung out for hours on street corners and in parks, listening to people who had traveled from far away to rally for their cause.

Madison Square Garden was a world unto itself. I say that with no disrespect for the ordinary delegates themselves, many of whom came eagerly from small towns across America just to see New York. I met some decent folks; a few were treated rudely by protestors. Other delegates, like a few I watched take batting practice with the Mets in Shea Stadium, said they were having a blast.

I encountered only one protestor inside the convention. He was holding a pink sign in the hallway that said, "Bush Lied, My Son Died." I asked him about his son, who he said had been killed in Iraq (a story which I later verified). It was a difficult moment for me — trying to be sensitive to this man's story in a hall of hostile security guards and Republican delegates. Eventually, I realized that the man had a public relations person just around the corner. I went away bewildered.

As a rookie journalist, I encountered my first ethical dilemmas. When I registered my credentials at the RNC media center, I received gifts: RNC collector's edition Kraft Macaroni & Cheese; a pedometer; breath mints; a fancy pen; and a phone card. Should I have kept this?

Most reporters complained about the goodies on practical grounds.

"What do journalists really need?" a woman next to me asked. "It wouldn't be macaroni and cheese." The box of noodles sits in my cabinet as a memento of a surreal time.

Letter to the Editor

Your article in the Spring 2004 Journal on "Cupid Tales" didn't go back far enough. Let me tell you about Alta Judy and Harold Graves, who met in the Class of 1936 and married a year after they graduated. Harold's career included a Foreign Broadcast Monitoring Service he helped set up before World War II, covert operations with the OSS in Asia, the Washington Bureau of the Providence Journal, and then many years with the World Bank as editor, speech writer, director of public relations, and assistant director for new research. Harold died in 2002.

Judy Graves, now 91, lives in

RWI correspondent unwittingly leads protest demonstration

By Tom Randall ('05)

Walking backwards, about 200 reporters unwittingly led the United for Peace and Justice protest parade as it passed Madison Square Garden heading north on Sunday.

Police had granted reporters early access to barricaded Seventh Avenue on the condition that once they met up with the protesters, they, like the protesters, would not be able to leave the parade until it ended. Before the reporters knew it, they found themselves the unwilling heads of the parade, separated from the body of protesters by an oncoming but unyielding arc of UPJ marshals and police officers.

Journalists standing on Seventh Avenue at 30th Street had waited with a thick sense of anticipation as hundreds of thousands of protesters slowly made their way toward them. As the reporters waited, they tossed around ideas for possible stories:

"Is there something going on somewhere else?"

"If we get separated, we'll just meet on 31st ..."

"I'll be the one with the bruises and blood."

"Do you think any of them will be marching naked?"

The first protester to appear in front of the miles-long line of demonstrators was a man pulling two young boys on a carriage behind his bicycle. His bike was fitted with an American flag with a peace symbol where the stars would be. He wore a ripped athletic shirt with stenciled letters on the back that read, "NYPD Undercover," and a straw hat with ragged edges.

The man and his boys had somehow gotten out in front of the parade, and were quickly surrounded by an entourage of reporters who peppered

them with questions. From the attention they were getting, one might mistake these three for a visiting royal family. The two dazed children stared up into the lenses of photographers.

Soon, the first heavy waves of people were upon us. I searched the crowd for people to interview myself, only to discover that this was not the protest parade, after all. These were just more reporters. They were everywhere.

Through the armies of journalists, I spotted the line of United for Peace and Justice workers, in tangerine-colored "marshall" t-shirts, arms linked across the entire street.

"Ladies and gentlemen of the media, please move back for the sake of safety," one police officer called out on a bullhorn. "You've gotta keep moving," he intoned. "You stop, the march stops." The line of linked UPJ marshals, with the help of dozens of police, herded the increasingly frustrated pack of reporters on, backwards. Thus did the press become the vanguard of the protest.

With little else to do, journalists

'You gotta keep moving. You stop, the march stops.'

from publications ranging from the Village Voice to National Review relentlessly questioned and photographed the few protesters who had sneaked their way past the marshal line: the bicyclist with his two young boys, four teenagers with a cardboard sign, and a person in a wheelchair.

Sideline spectators watched with confusion as the journalists passed, a few cheering as they mistook the reporters for protesters. Soon enough, the backward-scrambling reporters had interviewed and re-interviewed every scarce protestor available ahead of the cordoned-off main body of oncoming marchers. They returned to talking to some of their favorite subjects — other reporters.

Dean Hits the Road

Dean Nicholas Lemann toured the country in recent weeks, updating alumni on recent developments at the school and re-igniting their interest in Columbia.

In a visit to Chicago, October 28, the Dean gathered with 35 alumni at a reception hosted by **Jim Robins ('73)**. The event drew graduates from the classes of 1959 through 2004.

The Dean updated alumni on lat-

est happenings at the school, including the new M.A. program, and thanked them for their continued support.

"We've already been asked when we'll be back," said Jeff Richard, associate dean for alumni and development.

About 60 alumni from the Boston area met with the Dean November 9 at the home of **Philip S. Balboni ('71)**. Only a week after the presidential elections, the talk focused on the media's coverage of Washington, the challenges facing the industry and the state of journalism education.

Dean Lemann, reflecting on his time as a Washington correspondent, recalled the patriotism that blurred the objectivity of the press in the days and months following the September 11 terrorist attacks. As the Bush Administration went to war in Afghanistan and then Iraq, the media failed to cover the events with a critical eye, he said.

Edwin S. Grosvenor ('76) opened his Bethesda, Md., home to Dean Lemann and 75 alumni from the Washington D.C. area December 2. After being introduced by **Elisabeth Bumiller ('79)**, White House correspondent for The New York Times, the Dean discussed recent events at the school.

STATE OF THE MEDIA

Newspaper Supplements

By Lee Kravitz '83
Editor, PARADE

You probably never heard of him. But between 1896 and 1937, Morrill Goddard edited the largest-circulation magazine in the world. It was called *The American Weekly* and, as Goddard wrote, "While it comes to the reader along with the various sections of all Mr. Hearst's Sunday newspapers, [*The American Weekly*] is not an extension or overflow of the news columns. It is a separate, distinct entity. It is a magazine." A magazine, he might have added, that existed mainly and uniquely to supplement the newspapers that carried it.

Before *The American Weekly*, there had been numerous locally edited Sunday newspaper magazines — the first, published in 1869, was a high-toned literary supplement to the *San Francisco Chronicle*. But never before had there been a nationally syndicated Sunday newspaper magazine. With a total circulation of 5.5 million readers, *The American Weekly* gave Hearst's newspapers a means of fighting the growing competition for ad revenues (and readers) from *Collier's*, *McClure's*, the *Saturday Evening Post* and other low-cost national magazines.

In the decades that followed, *The American Weekly* and *This Week*

(founded in 1935) built sizable circulations by supplementing Sunday newspapers. They were joined by *PARADE* in 1941 and by *Family Weekly* in 1953. *The American Weekly* closed its doors in 1966 and *This Week* stopped publication in 1969.

Today, there are four nationally syndicated general-interest magazines, popularly called "supplements" — *PARADE*, *USA Weekend*, *American Profile* and *Life*. Each confronts the same task their predecessors faced — to help attract and retain readers.

Each week *PARADE* (owned by Advance Publications) distributes more than 35 million copies through 340 newspapers from coast to coast. *USA Weekend* (which was launched in 1985 after Gannett bought and reconstituted *Family Weekly*) distributes more than 22 million copies through more than 600 papers.

PARADE and *USA Weekend* are Sunday magazines. *American Profile* (founded in 1999) distributes 6 million copies through 1,200 papers on various days of the week. And *Life* (re-launched by Time Inc. in October, with a circulation of 12 million in 70 papers) is a Friday magazine.

I can speak for *PARADE*. Its challenge, indeed its opportunity, is to be well read. We do that by publishing evocative, exciting and fresh news arti-

cles as well as regular features that inspire readers to return to our pages every Sunday. While we are often recognized for the stature of our top writers, the truth is, it is the ideas that win readers. For example, David Halberstam writing about the legacy of *Brown v. Board of Education*; Elie Wiesel on 9/11; Michael Crichton exposing our unproven fears; Bruce Feiler visiting the war-threatened biblical sites in Iraq that represent our common heritage.

A large circulation also brings unique business challenges.

For the publishers of *PARADE* and *USA Weekend* in particular, the stakes are high. The rate for a national, full-page, 4-color ad in *PARADE* is \$830,000; a similar ad in *USA Weekend* goes for \$540,000. Both magazines compete for broadcast as well as print dollars. Our biggest challenge (beyond rising newsprint and manufacturing costs) is to create innovative advertising, marketing and promotional programs that will enable us to compete with other magazines and broadcast companies.

In an era when television ads are becoming less viewed and remembered, thanks to VCRs and TiVo, we can deliver a more effective medium to advertisers who want to reach a mass audience quickly. That's a plus.

For more than a decade, newspaper editors and publishers have been challenged by a variety of new media — and, in many cases, by a decline in circulation. However, by and large, today's editors and publishers recognize the value of newspapers to their communities and advertisers. Syndicated magazines are one of the critical tools that they can wield to retain and grow circulation.



Lee Kravitz

Producing any newspaper magazine is a costly endeavor, one of the main reasons the number of locally edited (as opposed to nationally syndicated) newspaper supplements declined from more than 60 in the early 1980s to around a dozen today. Few of these magazines could draw enough advertising from local retailers to survive. *The New York Times Magazine* is an exception: its affluent readership attracts a solid base of national advertisers. Today, a handful of newspaper magazines, most notably the recently revamped *Boston Globe Magazine*, are courting younger, affluent readers through increased lifestyle coverage.

Of course, 109 years after *The American Weekly* was launched, it's still true: The success of any syndicated newspaper magazine will rest on how it attracts readers (and also advertisers) each week. As Morrill Goddard wrote: "Stripped of all its complexities, the problem of magazine editor and advertiser comes down to the same two fundamentals: to seize attention and deliver a compelling message."

Mentors as Guides

By Tami Luhby ('97)

When Dawn Weiner ('03) was in the thick of her first semester at the J-School, she sometimes forgot to have fun. So after she graduated, she wanted to help future students remember that there's a world outside the Journalism building, too. That's why she signed up to be a mentor.

"I remember how difficult first semester was and how lost I felt sometimes," said Weiner, 30, who lives in Manhattan. "You lose your perspective when you are in the middle of it."

A producer at Fox News Radio, Weiner was paired with Emily Wilson, a broadcast student focusing on radio. After emailing a few times, Weiner invited Wilson to escape from Morningside Heights and see "Golda's Balcony" on Broadway.

Wilson, 39, who before coming to the J-School had taught at San Francisco City College and freelanced for several newspapers and radio stations, looks forward to hearing more about her mentor's experiences both in and out of school.

"It's helpful to talk to someone who's been through Columbia, but is out of Columbia," Wilson said.

Wilson was among more than 150 students who signed up for mentors from the Alumni Association's Mentor Program, a voluntary activity open to all full-time and part-time students. More than 215 mentors from around the globe signed up for the program, which was opened to alumni outside the New York City area for the first time this year.

The Alumni Association started

the mentor program in 1987 as a way to help students navigate the school. It has since evolved to focus more on life after school and the transition into the workforce.

Matching the school's traditional strength in print journalism, the majority of students said they were interested in working in newspapers or magazines. Among alumni, newspapers was the most common field, with those working in magazines and television coming in second and third. More than two dozen freelance journalists also applied.

While about half the mentors live in the New York City Metro area, those residing elsewhere jumped on the chance to be involved. More than 85 alumni outside the area — from Alaska to Albany — also applied, as did two dozen alumni living abroad in places including Hong Kong, Rome and Australia.

For some alumni, joining the mentor program is a way to stay connected to the school.

Though she lives in the Bronx, Franziska Bruner Castillo, ('02), found she didn't have time to participate in Journalism School activities. So she signed up to be a mentor to stay involved.

"Being a mom and working, I don't have time to go to events at the school," said Castillo, 29, who until recently was a general assignment reporter for *The Journal News*, based in White Plains, N.Y. "I want to keep contact with the school."

Castillo's student is Jennie Leskewicz, 25, who grew up on Long Island and wants to work in print journalism. Leskewicz is curious to hear

from her mentor whether the lessons she's learning in school are theoretical or practical.

"I want to know how she learned how to apply what the J-School taught her," said Leskewicz.

Students, of course, are also eager to talk to working journalists about their career paths. Leskewicz, for instance, also wants to hear from Castillo about what it's like to work in the New York City area and why she chose to stay here.

As a captain in the U.S. Army stationed in Afghanistan, Ted Latiak saw plenty of journalists at work, which is what got him interested in pursuing the craft as a career. But the broadcast major had never seen the inside of a newsroom until his mentor, Daniel Arnall, ('03), took him on a tour of ABC News, where Arnall is a producer and editor.

"It was very eye-opening," said Latiak, 28, from Greenwich, Ct., who has talked to Arnall about applying for internships. "It helped get me excited about the future."

Katie Melone, ('01), a town reporter at *The Hartford Courant*, thought her student, Ayesha Akram, might like to visit her office. So she — and two other alumni at the *Courant*, also, mentors — invited their students for a tour of the newsroom.

Melone joined the program because she valued the advice her mentor gave her when she was in school, advice that included working hard, but relaxing and enjoying yourself. She's been serving as a sounding board for story ideas and job essays for Akram, 23, who is from Pakistan.

But now that she's out of school, Melone sees how she also can help students with the transition to doing journalism outside the classroom.

"I thought I'd be able to provide

Editors Depart

Two alumni recently left high-level editor posts at New York City area newspapers after clashing with management over publication restructuring.

Howard Schneider ('67) left *Newsday* after 35 years with the Long Island-based daily in November. He had been editor since August 2003. His departure comes as *Newsday* wrestles with the fallout from a circulation scandal, where the paper inflated its numbers by about 100,000 copies.

In a meeting with the newsroom staff, Schneider said he disagreed with the publisher about the paper's future direction. *Newsday* is in the midst of reducing its staff by 100 people, half from the editorial ranks.

At the *Village Voice*, longtime editor Richard Goldstein ('66) left the alternative weekly in August. A 30-year veteran of the New York City paper, Goldstein had served for more than a decade as executive editor. His boss was Donald H. Forst ('55), editor-in-chief.

The *Voice* is also undergoing a restructuring in its newsroom, putting more emphasis on online content.

Just after graduating from Columbia, Goldstein went to the *Voice's* offices saying he wanted to be a rock critic, he told *Gay City News*.

"Columbia was horrified and said I brought down the earnings curve of my class," he said.

someone with practical advice on being a working journalist in the field," said Melone, 29, who lives in West Hartford. "There were so many things I didn't realize about being in the field and how different it is from the J-School."

World Traveler Settles at School

By Ed Silberfarb ('52)

So you want to know about garagemahals, traffic cones and the soaring price of steel. You want thumbnail sketches of Mr. Rogers and Rosalynn Carter. It's all in the freelance writings of **Irena Choi Stern ('01)**, whose new day job is assistant director of alumni relations and communications.

In this post, she assists Jeffrey Richard, associate dean for development and alumni relations, in keeping in touch with the School's more than 8,000 alumni. She edits "116th and Broadway," the publication for school affairs. She writes "eNews," a monthly e-mail message of School events and alumni notes. She arranges trips for Dean Nicholas Lemann to meet with out-of-town cadres of alumni. She's in charge of the alumni pages of the School's Web site. And she maintains liaison between the School and the Alumni Association and its Executive Committee.

Yet she still "pitches" (a term she uses for her freelancing) stories to the Westchester section of The New York Times. Garagemahals, by the way, refers to the massive luxurious garages built by people in historic Westchester

County houses. "A fitting home for the family Lexus" was the Times headline on her story. She also has freelanced for magazines, such as "Psychology Today" and "Working Mother."

Stern, now 46, was born in Boston, the daughter of Korean parents. Her father was a Republic of Korea diplomat, her mother a physician. As a child of a diplomat, she became a world traveler early in life. From age three to four, she lived in Korea; five to nine in New York; nine to 14 in New Delhi; 14 to 16 in Cairo. And en route from India to Egypt the family visited Nepal, Afghanistan, Iran

'If I couldn't get into the best, then it wasn't worth going.'

and Lebanon. Then it was off to boarding school in Massachusetts, interspersed with school holiday visits to her family in Morocco and Jamaica.

As the daughter of a Korean diplomat, she is asked her opinion of the North Korea situation, and answers like a diplomat herself. "It would be



Irena Choi Stern

threatening if the U.S. withdrew its troops. Kim Jong Il is an unknown quantity. It would be dangerous not to engage him in some way — through diplomatic channels, of course."

She has never tired of traveling. It's her favorite past time. With her husband, two sons and daughter, she returned to Korea and visited Vietnam and Thailand as well. And they took a family trip to Russia.

"I want to see Eastern Europe," she said, "and more of South America. I've been to Venezuela, but would like to go deeper. And Australia would be fun." That would leave Antarctica her only unexplored continent.

Stern is a graduate of Wellesley College with a B.A. in political science, and has an M.A. from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, which is administered jointly by Tufts and Harvard. While a student in the

Boston-Cambridge area, she met her husband, Bruce, now a lawyer, then a Harvard College classmate of Nicholas Lemann. After school, she worked as a program coordinator for American Field Services, which arranges international study programs here and abroad.

Then there is a break in her resumé while she had her children: Marlow, now 20, a student at Colby College in Maine; Dillon, 17, just accepted at Columbia, and Claire, 14. Both are students at Bronxville (N.Y.) High School. Their mother is a trustee of the Bronxville Board of Education.

In her post partum period, she decided she wanted to be a journalist. She worked for a Bronxville cable TV station, then the Review Press-Reporter in Bronxville, a Gannett paper. "I could cover anything I wanted, anything newsworthy in the community."

"But I wanted a solid foundation in journalism. When my youngest was nine, I applied to the Columbia Journalism School. I decided if I couldn't get into the best, then it wasn't worth going."

While at the J-School, she interned at the Daily News and began her freelance career. She joined the J-School staff three years ago as administrator of the Schork Awards and the Lukas Prizes, and became alumni affairs officer in August.

"I'm learning as I go along, but I do have ideas how the job should be done," she said. "I had some wonderful experiences in the Journalism School, and this is a way of giving something back."

1952

Woody Klein is the author of *Toward Humanity and Justice, the Writings of Dr. Kenneth B. Clark, Scholar of the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education* (Praeger Publishing, 2004).

1960

Caryl Rivers, a professor of journalism at Boston University, is the co-author with Rosalind C. Barnett of *Same Difference: How Gender Myths are Hurting Our Relationships, Our Children and Our Jobs* (Basic Books).

1961

Christopher Wren is the author of *Walking to Vermont: From Times Square into the Green Mountains — a Homeward Adventure*. After a journalism career that took him to more than 15 countries, Wren marked his retirement by seeing his own country, hiking nearly 400 miles in five weeks and chronicling his adventure.

1970

June Carolyn Erlick has published *Disappeared, A Journalist Silenced: The Irma Flaquer Story* (Seal Press, November 2004). The book is a biography of a Guatemalan journalist, who endured beatings and bombings to tell about human rights abuses in her country until she disappeared in 1980. Erlick is director of publications at Harvard's David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies.

William Wong has written *Images of America: Oakland's Chinatown*, a new photo history book (Arcadia Publishing).

1972

Peter Lance has written *Cover Up: What the Government is Still Hiding about the War on Terror* (Regan Books). A five-time Emmy-winning investigative reporter. Lance is a former correspondent for ABC News.

Book Shelf

1973

Donna Hanover is the author of *My Boyfriend's Back: True Stories of Rediscovering Love with a Long-Lost Sweetheart* published by Hudson Street Press, a new imprint of Penguin. She tells of reconnected couples from around the country, examines the intense appeal of reuniting, and explores the role of the Internet. She married her own high school sweetheart, Ed Oster, in 2003. Hanover was previously married to Rudy Giuliani, former mayor of New York City.

1978

Jane Eisner, a columnist with The Philadelphia Inquirer, is the author of *Taking Back the Vote: Getting American Youth Involved in Our Democracy* (Beacon Press).

1979

Judith Levine is the author of *Do You Remember Me? A Father, a Daughter and a Search for Self*. Her book *Harmful to Minors: The Perils of Protecting Children* has been named one of the 40 most influential books on sexuality by the Sex Information & Education Council of the U.S.

1983

Jean Nathan is the author of *The Secret Life of the Lonely Doll* (Henry Holt), a biography of the photographer and children's book author Dare Wright whose best-known book for children was called *The Lonely Doll*.

1985

Photojournalist **Nina Berman** is the author of *Purple Hearts: Back from Iraq* (Trolley). The book is a series of

photographs of American soldiers gravely wounded in the Iraq war who have returned home. The images are accompanied by interviews with the soldiers.

Evelyn C. White, a visiting scholar at Mills College, traces the life of *Alice Walker* in a biography that extends from Walker's early days as the eighth child of Georgia sharecroppers to the international triumph and her tenth book, *The Color Purple*, and its stormy aftermath.

1988

Ken Foskett, an investigative reporter for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, has just published his book *Judging Thomas: The Life and Times of Clarence Thomas*.

1990

Frederic Frommer is author of *Red Sox vs. Yankees: The Great Rivalry*.

1991

Sheryl Huggins is co-editor of *The Nia Guide for Black Women: Achieving Career Success on Your Terms*, a practical primer for workplace success, developing leadership skills, and achieving career empowerment for working women.

1992

Stacy Perman is the author of *Spies Inc., Business Innovation from Israel's Masters of Espionage*, a business book that reads like a thriller. Perman looks inside the Israeli military intelligence complex.

Julian Rubinstein is the author of *Ballad of the Whiskey Robber* (Little, Brown). It is the true story of an animal pelt smuggler and professional

hockey goalie who became a folk hero in Eastern Europe in the 1990's by robbing banks in outrageous fashion.

1994

Jennifer Cohen's *Lying Together: My Russian Affair* was described by the New York Times as "riveting."

Anthony Lappe is the co-author of *True Lies* which examines what has become a cultural phenomenon of mass denial by investigating some of the biggest stories the corporate media is ignoring.

Geralyn Lucas wrote *Why I Wore Lipstick — To My Mastectomy* (St. Martin's Press). The book is described as "a soulful, coming of age journey by a dynamo who used her own adversity as a platform for examining issues all young women face."

1995

David Lefer is co-author of *They Made America: Two Hundred Years of Innovators from the Steam Engine to the Search Engine*. It's the basis of a four-part series on PBS.

1996

Phyllis Vine is the author of *One Man's Castle: Clarence Darrow in Defense of the American Dream*. It received a Great Lakes Book Award.

2002

Kerry Sheridan's book *Bagpipe Brothers: The FDNY Band's True Story of Tragedy, Mourning and Recovery* has been published by Rutgers University Press.

2004

Jessica Snyder Sachs has received a contract from Farrar Straus & Giroux for *Living with Microbes*, her book about how the effort to eradicate germs is actually creating public health risks. She is the 31st student from Sam Freedman's book seminar to receive a contract.

President's Column

Two catchwords that are popular around the Alumni Office these days are "outreach" and "connect."

"We want to reach out beyond the New York area to increase alumni interest in the School" says Jeffrey Richard, associate dean for development and alumni relations, "not only across the country, but also across the world."

Adds **Irena Choi Stern ('01)**, the new assistant director of alumni relations (see story on page 6): "We're hoping to get more alumni to reconnect with the School and with their classmates."

Sounds good to me. In fact, that outreach attitude just happens to extend right now to the Executive Committee of the Journalism Alumni Association. The committee is discussing ways it can

extend the association's activities beyond the New York metro area, have a larger representation in regional events, and generally enlarge its support of the Alumni Office's outreach.

Within the context of the exciting new developments at the School, these combined efforts reflect the importance that Dean Nicholas Lemann attaches to alumni for the School's future. As he said in a letter to me as president, soon after he arrived at the School, "Alumni are essential to the Journalism School's success, and its future will not be secure without your support."

One new outreach effort is the Alumni Office's invitation this year to ALL alumni — not just the five-year classes, 1945 through 2000 — to attend the reunions on Alumni Weekend, April 14-17. While any graduate has always been welcome to participate in any Alumni Weekend, this is the first time that a call has been issued on such a broad scale. As recent returnees can attest, Alumni Weekends keep getting bigger and better.

Another indication of Dean Lemann's goal of fostering relations with the alumni is his schedule of visits to regions with the largest alumni populations. In the fall he attended alumni receptions in the Boston area, Chicago and Washington, DC. (See story on page 4). In the spring he's scheduled to travel to Philadelphia (March 16), San Francisco (April 2) and Los Angeles (April 3).

These regional events help the Alumni Office create data bases from which the valuable alumni class lists serve are assembled. They enable alumni to keep in touch with one

another, and, along with the newsletter, 116th & Broadway (which includes a "Dean's Note"), to report on the School's happenings.

Of course, one of the anticipated outcomes of alumni involvement is increased financial support for the school. It has always been thus with private educational institutions, so nobody should be surprised. The J-School's need is particularly acute right now because of the decline in outside gifts, plus the rising costs of implementing the planned M.A. program, and providing sufficient student aid to assure that the best applicants can attend the School regardless of their economic level.

Because of the national economic downturn, grants from foundations, and contributions from media companies and other sources, have been hard to come by, particularly for core education

needs like financial aid and faculty. Dean Lemann has had to devote much of his time to fund-raising.

The need for student scholarships has led the dean to direct that all Journalism Alumni Fund contributions go to student aid. Richard says proceeds so far are encouraging, but much more is required. Tuition has risen to around \$37,000. Add the high living costs and the 10-month school year costs a student at least \$56,000.

"Scholarships are especially important in allowing us to maintain a student body that is richly diverse in every way," Dean Lemann said in a letter to alumni early in the fall.

Recent signs have pointed toward a growing alumni interest in the School, its students and its activities. One sign is the strong attendance at the regional receptions and at the association's Fall Meeting on Nov. 16 (See page 1). Another is the impressive number of volunteers — over 215 — who responded to the association's augmented mentor program, the highest in years. For the first time, alumni living outside the New York area were invited to work with students via phone and e-mail, and many are participating — including several overseas residents.

All of this is buzzing against a background of Low Library plans to enhance alumni relations on a university basis and to bring together the many facets of the alumni community — i.e., school associations and regional clubs — to form a new Columbia University Alumni Association. Stay tuned.

Donald H. (Pete) Johnston ('50) Is President of the Alumni Association



ALUMNI JOURNAL, Winter 2005

Columbia University Journalism Alumni Association
2950 Broadway, New York, New York 10027 (212)854-3864
alumni@jrn.columbia.edu

THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Donald H. (Pete) Johnston ('50), President
Jeffrey Bogart ('64), First Vice President
Tami Luhby ('97), Second Vice President
Lauren Coleman-Lochner ('93), Secretary
Judith Bender ('64), Treasurer

JOURNAL COMMITTEE

Edward Silberfarb, Editor
Judith Aita, Kevin McKenna ('77)
Pete Johnston, Max Nichols
Tami Luhby, Marianne Sullivan

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Nichole Bernier Ahern ('93), Judith Aita ('79), Judith Crist ('45),
Wayne Dawkins ('80), Sandy Edry ('99), June Erlick ('70), Keith Goggin ('91),
Frances Hardin ('77), Marcy Kerr ('79), Judith Leynse ('62), James Madore ('88),
Eve Orlans Mayer ('52), Max Nichols ('57), Ted Phillips ('03), Amy Resnick ('90),
Jacqueline Rivkin ('88), Philip Scheffler ('51), Edward Silberfarb ('52),
Marianne Sullivan ('92)

PRODUCTION: Ted Phillips ('03)

THE JOURNAL IS PUBLISHED BY THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF
THE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AS A SERVICE TO ITS MEMBERS
AND AS PART OF ITS GENERAL SUPPORT OF THE SCHOOL.

Obits

1930

Josephine Daneman Herz died in Arizona, on May 14 at the age of 96. Although known as a lifelong bird lover and pioneer in birding abroad, Herz worked as a freelance journalist after graduating from the J-School, and wrote for the Milwaukee Journal. She moved to Minnesota and in 1950 she co-authored *Where to Find Birds in Minnesota*. She worried about human impact on the environment and supported education programs for children, resource managers and restoration biologists. She is survived by her son, Michael.

1937

John Tebbel, former chairman of the New York University Journalism Department died on Oct. 10 at his home in Durham, N.C. He was 91.

From Columbia, Tebbel went to The Detroit Free Press as a reporter and then to The Providence Journal as a writer and editor. He moved on to be managing editor of The American Mercury and a book editor at E.P. Dutton. In 1943, he became a staff writer in the New York Times' Sunday department. He taught journalism at Columbia and New York University, becoming chairman of NYU's journalism department and the first director of the university's Graduate Institute of Book Publishing in 1958. His highest profile work was *A History of Book Publishing in the United States* (Bowker).

He is survived by his wife, Kathryn; a daughter, Elaine; brother, Robert, a grandchild and two great-grandchildren.

1947

Longtime journalism professor **Dick Manley** died on Sept. 10. He was 83 and suffered from Alzheimer's disease.

After graduating from Columbia, Manley worked at The Omaha World-Herald, the Alliance (Neb.) Times-Herald and the Ralston Recorder before becoming an English teacher at Wayne State College (Neb.) in 1958. Twelve years later, he became the sole journalism and photography teacher. He retired in 1986.

He is survived by his wife, Marian, sons Eric and Joe, daughter Meredith and seven grandchildren.

1958

Leroy Aarons, 70, who founded the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association, died on Nov. 28 from complications from bladder cancer.

A Bronx native, he served as a national correspondent at The Washington Post for 14 years, at times heading the paper's New York and Los Angeles bureaus. In 1983, he moved to The Oakland Tribune, where he was executive editor and senior vice president for news. While at the Tribune, he coordinated an American Society of Newspaper Editors survey of gay journalists to assess the coverage of gay issues in their papers and the conditions in their newsrooms. It found that coverage was mediocre at best and antigay bias existed in many workplaces.

In 1995, he wrote *Prayers for Bobby: A Mother's Coming to Terms with the Suicide of Her Gay Son* (HarperCollins). He also wrote the libretto for the opera "Monticello."

He is survived by Joshua Boneh, his partner of 24 years.

1970

Carol Morton, who was a producer for KABC-TV's (Los Angeles) "Eyewitness News," died on Oct. 25. She was 57. She began as a reporter for "Tony Brown's Journal" in New York. Then joined WQED-TV in Pittsburgh. She moved to Chicago as associate editor of Ebony and then to Los Angeles, where she won two Emmys as producer-reporter for KCET-TV. Morton also worked at KNBC-TV and at the Discovery Health Channel. She is survived by a daughter, Kimrie, and a son, William Lewis.

1979

Leslie Reif died on Feb. 7 of complications from an epileptic seizure. After J-School graduation, Reif reported for stations in St. Louis and Los Angeles, as well as CNN and the Financial News Network in New York. In 1986, he moved to San Francisco, where he taught elementary school in Oakland. He is survived by his wife, Millie Phillips, son Daniel, stepson Jeffrey Morgan, mother and brother.

1984

Torri Minton, who wrote for the San Francisco Chronicle, died of a rare form of cancer on Aug. 4. She was 47.

Minton was a reporter for the Associated Press and Bay City News Service before joining the Chronicle in 1986.

Her article on earthquake survivors earned her a National Mental Health Association Gold Award and a yearlong series about a 5-year-old girl with leukemia brought her honors from the Leukemia Society of America. Two years ago, Minton began teaching journalism at three California colleges.

She is survived by her parents, John and Mary, her partner, Steve Stallone, a brother and two sisters.

At press time, the Journal learned of the death of **Lester Tanzer ('52)**, former managing editor of U.S. News and World Report. A remembrance will be in the next issue.

CLASS NOTES FROM PAGE 8

"South Florida USA" column for The Miami Herald.

2003

Daniel Evans' photo show opened September 11 at the Passport Coffee House in Long Beach. Included are 14 photographs from his trip to Russia.

Shoshana Guy traveled to Haiti for Frontline World and a multimedia Web page titled "Haiti: The struggle for water." It can be viewed at www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/fellows/haiti.

Aina Hunter, a staff writer at Philadelphia Weekly had her first cover story for the magazine — "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," a two-part series about a school principal in West Virginia who is on trial for the murder of a 12-year-old boy.

Amos Jones is a student at Harvard Law School where he serves as executive editor of the Harvard BlackLetter Law Journal and primary editor of the Human Rights Journal.

Teresa Tritch has joined The New York Times as an editorial writer.

Class Notes

1937

Robert W. Reid, now 90 years old, retired 15 years ago from his public relations consultancy after winning many awards for creative work with school districts, financial institutions, political campaigns, and industries.

1942

Edward Alexander is writing his fourth book, a novel about the Greek dictatorship that ended in 1974-75. He is also an advisor to the Armenian Foreign Ministry and the Armenian Embassy in Washington.

1958

Wayne Cowan received the Veritas Medal from Dominican College in Sparkill (N.Y.). The citation read: who "in the spirit of truth contributed to the cause of peace and justice . . ."

Tom Korologos is the U.S. ambassador to Belgium. He was appointed to the post after working as a deputy to Paul Bremmer in Iraq for several months. A profile of him was in the winter 2004 issue of the Journal.

1966

David Denby is a staff writer at The New Yorker and the author of *Great Books* (Simon & Schuster, 1997) and *American Sucker* (Little, Brown, 2004).

1967

Paul Friedman is the executive producer of Paul Gigot's new program for PBS "Journal Editorial Report."

Len Iaquinta is manager of major gifts in the philanthropy department of Aurora Health Care in Kenosha (Wis.).

1969

Tom Goldstein, who spent the past year and a half teaching at Arizona State University after stepping down as dean of the Columbia J-School, is returning in January to the University of California at Berkeley where he had been the Journalism School dean before his Columbia post. As a professor of journalism there, he will direct the mass communications program, which is devoted to the study of the media.

1970

George Arwady was named publisher of The Star-Ledger, Newark (N.J.), on August 9, 2004.

1971

Joel Stratte-McClure writes that after living abroad for 34 years, he has finally arrived in Hollywood (Calif.) to cover something serious.

1973

Linda Wright Moore is director of communications for Philadelphia Citizens for Children and Youth.

Barry Rothfield is president and publisher of The Poughkeepsie Journal where he had been executive editor.

1974

Ron Claiborne is a Boston area correspondent for ABC News.

1976

Richard Wexler is starting his sixth year as executive director of the National Coalition for Child Protection

Reform, a nonprofit child advocacy organization he helped found.

1977

Andrew Meldrum won a 2004 Kurt Schork Award in International Journalism which recognizes independent and professional reporting that sheds new light on controversial issues.

1978

David Bohrman has been named chief of the Washington bureau for CNN.

Elana Lore is a senior copywriter at Euro RSCG Life Chelsea, a medical advertising agency in New York City.

1979

Bill Lichtenstein and his company, Creative Media, have received several major broadcast honors recently: "War," on the PBS series "The Infinite Mind" was cited as "best news and information programming for 2003" at the International Awards of the New York Festivals; two awards from the American Women in Television and Radio for "The Infinite Mind" program on domestic violence and for the documentary film "West 47th Street;" and an award from the National Mental Health Association for an episode of "The Infinite Mind."

Ann Mariager is a columnist and teaches style and language for mid-career journalists. She is currently writing a biography of the Danish-American journalist **Inga Arvad ('41)**.

1980

Karen Anderson is a web content producer for Apple Computer.

1981

Richard L. Berke was appointed associate managing editor for news at The New York Times.

LynNell Hancock is a tenured professor at the J-School.

1982

Anisa Mehdi produced a National Geographic Special, "Inside Mecca."

1984

Janet McDonald has put her law practice on the back burner while she writes novels for teenagers. Her latest book is *Brother Hood* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux).

1985

Robert Blau has been named managing editor of The Baltimore Sun. Blau was formerly an associate managing editor at the Chicago Tribune where he worked for 19 years and edited a series on air trends that won a Pulitzer Prize in 2001. He was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard in 1997.

Carolyn Boulger, Ph.D., is an associate professor of business in the Mendoza College of Business at the University of Notre Dame.

Stephen Reverand is vice president of production for the Discovery Channel.

Charlotte Golar Richie, chief of housing for the City of Boston and the director of the Department of Neighborhood Development, received the 2004 Good Housekeeping Award for Women in Government.

1986

Marc Prager is a producer of the History Channel series "Tactical to Practical," currently in its third season.

1988

Donnette Dunbar is senior editor at Life & Style magazine.

George Bundy Smith is the Chicago bureau reporter for ESPN.

1989

After four and a half years assigning and editing breaking news on technology, **Alex Rothenberg** has a new assignment at Bloomberg as a copy editor at Bloomberg Markets magazine.

1990

Emil Wilbekin will serve on the editorial board of Complex magazine in addition to overseeing the development of television, books, entertainment and video projects for Marc Ecko Enterprises and serving as head of development for Ecko's clothing line.

1991

Keith Brown is vice president, news and documentaries, for Spike TV.

Richard Kavesh is teaching social studies and journalism at a public high school in the Bronx and was recently elected to his third term as a trustee of the Village of Nyack (N.Y.).

1992

Lisa Cox is a first place NABJ award winner for "Beneath the Rubble: Birmingham Voices Then and Now," documenting the 40th anniversary of the bombing of the 16th St. Baptist Church that killed four girls in 1963. Cox is executive producer with WVTM-TV in Birmingham.

Jamie Kempton is the head coach of cross country, indoor/outdoor track and field for St. Thomas Aquinas College, Sparkill (NY).

William Markey is general partner at RelevantC Business Group which advises companies on the use of communications technology.

1993

Paul Kuharsky covers the NFL and the Titans for The Tennessean in Nashville.

Mickey Meece is currently weekend editor for Business Day at The New York Times.

Brian Steinberg is The Wall Street Journal's advertising columnist.

1994

Andrew Cooper now works for the People for the American Way Foundation in New York City.

Chul Hyun has been in Kampala since March 2004 as UNICEF spokesperson in its Uganda office.

Valerie Kellogg is the new editor of the faith and advice sections of Newsday.

1995

Micah Fink and **Amy Rubin ('01)** spoke to current J-School students following a screening of "Wide Angle: Redlines and Deadlines," a film about a fledgling newspaper in Iran.

Tricia Nelson recently left Walt

Disney Parks & Resorts Online to be the editor and site manager of Mary KateandAshley.com and The Mary-Kate and Ashley World on AOL.

1996

Rubaina Azbar has been promoted to assistant copy chief for the Los Angeles Times California section.

Ken Belson has returned from Japan after 12 years and joined The New York Times as a staff writer in the business section.

1997

Suzanne Bilyeu has joined the classroom magazines division of Scholastic Inc. as a senior editor of The New York Times UPFRONT magazine.

Deborah Creighton has moved from night editing to news writer at Wall Street Journal Online.

Andrea Mackris and TV talk-show host Bill O'Reilly, for whom she was a producer, have settled their opposing law suits. She was suing for sexual harassment, he for extortion. Financial terms were not disclosed.

Guillermo Osorno is the editor of DF, a bi-weekly magazine in Mexico City. The magazine was featured in an article in The New York Times titled "Mexico's Capital Gets a Taste of U.S.-Style City Magazines."

1998

Heather Dahl has been named managing editor of the Capitol Hill bureau of Public Radio International.

Margarita Martinez and Scott Dalton won the annual 26th IFP Market Award for best documentary feature for their 110-minute film "La Sierra," a story about the life of a young paramilitary leader in one of the most violent districts in Medellin, Colombia.

1999

Taslin Alfonzo won a National Academy of Arts & Sciences Emmy Award for outstanding news anchor in the academy's Lone Star Chapter.

Nicholas Chesla was appointed managing editor of The Bond Buyer.

Suzanne B. Kaiser is a financial advisor trainee at Morgan Stanley's Rutland (Vt.) office. She also writes for Stratton magazine on nature.

Dong Wang is an anchor at CCTV-9 Sports Scene in Beijing and covered the Olympics in Athens.

2000

S. Mitra Kalita is a general assignment reporter at the Washington Post

Lydia Polgreen, a Metro reporter at The New York Times has been named the newspaper's West Africa correspondent to be based in Dakar, Senegal.

2001

Roshni Abayasekara is a presenter and TV broadcast journalist/producer at BBC News, London.

Jaime Bedrin is a radio reporter with WFAE in Charlotte.

Daren Briscoe has joined Newsweek as a correspondent in the Washington Bureau. He had been at The Los Angeles Times.

Heather McBride is a reporter at News 12 in the Bronx.

2002

Jen Benepe is currently working on the "Gridlock Sam" column in the New York Daily News.

Albert Nicholas Spangler writes the

NOTES -continued on 7