Bye Bye Betty

Online! Riding the Information Super-Highway
The SLUG staff has been called a group of misfits by Department Chair Erna Smith, and we are proud to agree. Despite our different personalities, ideologies, and sleep deprivation, SLUG has managed to produce a 40-page department newsletter.

Perhaps the SLUG team reflects the kind of talent found in SF State's journalism department. It wasn't hard to find writers and photographers to contribute to the pool of quality student work.

We created the fall '94 issue of SLUG to highlight "us," the journalism department. We believe our readers will agree.

Mamie Huey

Journalism Department Awards:

Prism magazine won Best Student Magazine, and Roberta Reiger won for Feature Photography, National Magazine Pacemaker Award, and SPJ's Mark of Excellence Award.

Other SPJ regional award winners were: the Golden Gater won Public Service, Student for the Malcolm X mural controversy in May, Laura Hodgson, second place for Spot News Reporting; Lisa DeMaree, third place for Non-Fiction Article; Lucinda Clares, third place for In-Depth Reporting, Sven Helseth, third place for Editorial Writing; Carlos Gonzalez, third place for Feature Photography, and Gordon Mah Ung received the Outstanding Young Journalist, Daily Print award while working at the Contra Costa Times.

Prism also won two other national awards, first place from the American Collegiate Press Association, and third place from the Association of Educators in Journalism and Mass Communications.

Golden Gater sportswriter Marc D'Agapitelli won the Gary Niver Memorial Sport Journalism scholarship sponsored by the Forty Niners and the SF State journalism department.

About the cover...

The cover concept and photographs were done by Tom Pendergast. Photojournalism student Tara Sinn fiercely charges down the Information Superhighway. In the headlines, Sinn is using the tool that makes it possible, a computer. Computer graphics were done by Matt Petty.

David Guralnick and Jennifer Cheek
Eddie Adams workshop
Cheek won an assignment for Life magazine at the workshop.

Jennifer Zdon
Eddie Adams workshop

Mark Jordan

Christina Koci-Hernandez
Richard Hernandez
Koci won second place in the Hearst competition and does freelance work for the S.F. Examiner. She recently married Richard Hernandez, whom she met while attending S.F. State. Hernandez is a former Eddie Adams workshop participant and is now a staff photographer at the San Jose Mercury-News.

FALL '94 39-39-39
Award winning Photographers

Shelly Eades
Eddie Adams workshop

Lea Suzuki
Eddie Adams workshop
At the workshop, Suzuki won an assignment for National Geographic.

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Journalism Department

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Betty Medsger

by Rob Waters

When classes began on campus this fall, a familiar face was missing from the journalism department. Betty Medsger, who first woman hired to a tenure-track position in the department and the chairperson who led the department through years of astonishing change, is starting a new career. She resigned after serving as chair for nine years.

Medsger's career at San Francisco State University began in 1977 when she was hired as a part-time lecturer after a nine-year career as a newspaper reporter.

In 1982, when she became a full-time instructor, the department had no women and no ethnic minority faculty, it was, former journalism professor Jerry Wurthman said, "a network of white male people." It was also a department that had along history of giving preference to academic credentials over professional experience.

At first, Medsger devoted her attention to teaching. But change was in the air at SF State in those years, and the journalism department's female students were breathing it in. In 1982, a group of them organized a forum that took aim at the department's lack of women faculty. The next fall, when depart- ment chairman Bud Libe resigned and at- tempted to assist his successor, Professor Leonard Sellers, Medsger decided to run against Sellers. It was a pivotal decision and one that, for a time, would split the depart- ment.

"Some of the men in the department felt insulted that she should want to run against the former chair's choice," remembers long- time department secretary Edna Lee. "But Betty felt she should be democratic."

One man on the spot was Jerry Wurthman, who had been in the department for a number of years and counted himself as a friend of the former chair and his allies but Wurthman kept an open mind.

"I went to Betty and asked her what she would do if she were elected chair," Wurthman recalls. "Betty said she wanted to change things and to hire minorities. She was going to break up this network of white male guys who had dominated the department for all those years." Medsger won the election by a narrow 4-3 margin and began to do exactly what she had said. Shortly after her selection as chair, depart- ment members held a retreat at Wurthman's home to talk about the future. They discussed ideas for changes in the department's publications and the need to get into emerging computer technology. Medsger led a discussion on the importance of diversifying the faculty and improving the retention rate of minority students.

"We wanted to make a real effort to do special programs for minority students but felt we couldn't unless we had diversified ourselves," Medsger recalls. To do otherwise, she said, would have been hypocritical. Medsger officially began her career as chair in fall 1983.

The next year, Vernon Thompson be- came the first ethnic minority hired to a ten- sure-track position in the department; he was followed over the next few years by Enna Smith and Austin Long-Scott. The number of minority lecturers also increased.

Medsger's awareness about issues of race and its impact on journalism was one of the things that most impressed Enna Smith, who was recruited by Medsger from the Wall Street Journal in 1989.

"Betty had a real social consciousness about journalism and who it should be serving and the understood this in order for journalism to keep up with changes in society it had to keep up with changes in demographics," Smith said.

"She was the first person I've worked with who really, sincerely believed in diversity and wasn't just coming from this patronizing, condescension, liberal, bullshit point of view. She believed that part of what she had to do was to white people was to explain it to other white people."

In her early years, Medsger spent consid-erable energy trying to heal the wounds that opened up within the department and today she prefers not to talk much about the fights of the past. But she does remember, with just a hint of anger, a comment made by a visiting professor in the department the day she was elected chair.

"He said, 'As of this day, the only people who will get hired here will be women and other mongrels.'"

Medsger and the department's commit- ment to addressing the issues of race and jour- nalism led to the idea of starting a research center that would be devoted to studying ethnic diversity in both the staffing and coverage of American media. But coming up with the idea was only half of the battle; the next step was to raise the funds.
LIKE A PEBBLE ON A SANDY BEACH, I AM ALL ALONE AND OUT OF REACH AS THE WAVES CRASH AND ROLL TO SHORE. THE LOVE I HAD IS NO MORE AS I SIT AND WATCH THE TIDE I CONTEMPLATE. SUICIDE.

—Straycat, age 16, is homeless, has AIDS and Hepatitis B.

Here she gets her kicks after a fix.

I am a camera...

Photo by Jennifer Chu

Working patiently and strategically, Medger used her connections and set out to re-establish the department's reputation in the journalism world. She schmoozed, charmed and lobbied and her efforts paid off. In 1990, the Center for Integration and Improvement of Journalism opened its doors with $10,000 from the Carnley Foundation and more on its way from the Knight Foundation. Jon Panack, a reporter at the San Diego Union, was hired and still serves as its director.

But Medger's leadership went beyond diversifying the faculty: it was Medger who developed the department's much-acclaimed (some students would say hated) Reporting class, a rigorous, make-or-break course designed to prepare students for the tough, deadline pressure they would face working on publications.

The photojournalism program, a poor stepchild to the department's worn-down, was upgraded and equal partnerships producing award-winning photojournalists.

Betty breaks out

by Lisa R. Dorr

A erste career that made the journalism department what it is today was celebrated on November 18th with a party thrown in Betty's honor.

"I said, 'This lady's crazy,'" he told the gathering. "I asked her where we'd get the money for it, and she said people would give it to us." And I said, 'This lady's crazy.' I will still think this lady's crazy, and crazy is just like any known form of insanity.'"

Chip Johnson, a former student of Medger's who was working for the Los Angeles Times, remembered her as "one of the most influential journalists and educators of a generation." Ramirez, who worked with Medger at The Westinghouse Post, added his own thoughts to the letters.

"She's been my teacher, my colleague, my boss, my editor. I could not be more happy, so I'll just say, See you later, Betty."

Later, when Medger spoke to the group, she thanked Ramirez, saying he'd been like a brother to her, and embraced him. In her closing remarks to the group that had come to honor and wish her well, Medger gave special thanks to Erma Smith.

"I am just so grateful to have had her as a colleague and a friend. She is a bright, warm, and tremendously giving person. I wish to thank her very, very much."
Erna, finish this statement. I am the first...
**BETTY from Page 5**

"Betty has been the protective angel for the photo program," Ken Kobes, photogra-
phism instructor said.

Kobes was recruited into the department in Fall 1986. Together with Medger, they created courses for a photographic major.

"I know right off that Betty would be a soul mate," Kobes said.

Medger's colleagues said she accomplished as much as she did in part because of her incredible scheduling. "She was a maniac worker," Smith said. "I've never seen anyone who worked like her."

**STRIKE from Page 17**

The strategy was based on cutting off newspaper revenue by calling advertisers to cancel ads and encouraging subscribers to cancel their subscriptions.

"It's not like the old days, when you just put up a symbolic pickle line," Hall said.

The San Francisco Chronicle, a landmark publication incorporating writers, editors, and designers from both competing papers, was a collective idea.

"I can walk in a room and suddenly be working shoulder to shoulder with complete strangers, all of whom have put aside their personal ambitions and everything else and suddenly put out a newspaper with people they've never talked to before in their lives," Dick Rogers, assistant metro editor for the Examiner said. Rogers teaches editing at SF State.

The idea of combining the staff of two competing newspapers, people who usually work against each other, are now working side by side to produce the news. It's really an unusual thing, and I think that's something the people of San Francisco are going to want to pick up and read everyday," Marinucci said.

Other Bay Area news media took advant-
ge of the strike crisis and benefitted.

"Any time you get a major news source drying up, people are still going to go out and look the news," Chris Arnold, a free-lance reporter for KQED Radio said. "Depending on how you look at it, it's either an obligation or an opportunity for the other news media to expand and try to get some of that audience."

Back in SF State's Golden Gate newsroom, employees of the Examiner, like Golden Gate staffer Edward DeWolff, took time to ask class members to cancel their newspaper subscriptions.

Later, a rumor circulated in the journalism department about Chronicle and Examiner majors trying to recruit recent gradu-
ates and former interns to cross the picket line.

-listed for fall semester at an actual hands-on multimedia course and possibly follow-
ing that, a permanent course in the depart-
ment. DeWolff hopes to gather all of this information in a central place.

"I'm hoping to present this seminar to DeWolff, this seminar will innovate "the best from the old world of journalism standards with the best of the new world of technology and how we blend them together."

Be there. Spring 1995.
Organizations

Multimedia

Upcoming seminar merges sound, art and text
by Denise Sternad

It's 15 minutes to deadline, and you've just clicked "print" on your computer screen. With a sigh of relief, you gather up your story and hand it to your editor. The editor, in turn, hands the story to that crust group of copy editors and then the assembly line begins. Finally, the designer logs in and the visual process starts.

Rather than being just a part of this process, the multimedia journalist of the future will be part of the whole realm — the capability to mix sound, art, text and photographs in one medium. Everything will be electronically connected and the process will be integrated into one. Journalists will not only collect information by using information, but the job as reporter will require new skills and imagination and thus, become more rewarding.

Multimedia via San Francisco State University is coming to the journalism department next spring in the form of a five-week seminar. This once-a-week seminar, headed by Roland De Wolfe, SPJ State journalism lecturer and producer and writer for KTVU television, along with John Burks, journalism professor and contributing writer for Multimedia World magazine, will explore the ways journalists are going to be telling stories in the future.

This seminar will introduce journalists to the needs of news directors for entry level jobs.

She said the best training for journalism students is working on a college newspaper or yearbook staff. The skills learned from these mediums give students the experience needed to succeed in the job market.

The two panel discussions most relevant to students were "Tips for the Job Interview" and "Researching the Job Market and Writing Resumes."

William Ehlen, director of recruiting at The Washington Post; Rich Holder, executive director of the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund; and Amy Fielding, SPJ Region II, Eleanor in Maryland led the discussions.

Erikus Hines from the department of journalism at Howard University spoke on resume writing. "When an employer gets your resume, they want to know your qualifications in a short amount of time," Hines said. "It must be tightly written and concise and show a stable pattern of your growth."

Crierer speakers at the convention were Terry Anderson and Dan Melders. Anderson, the Associated Press reporter held captive in Lebanon for nearly seven years, has been battling the government since his release to obtain information about his captivity.

"I got very little information (from the government), and they responded very slowly and reluctantly," Anderson said.

Melders spoke at a panel discussion concerning his Bible case against the New York Times. Melders sued the Times after a book review claimed his book about the National Football League contained "slapstick journalism."

The discussion ended with Melders asking one of the Times' lawyers to step outside to discuss the matter further.

SPJ National Convention UPDATE
by Jennifer Donovan

On the first night of the Society of Professional Journalists National Convention in Nashville, Tenn., more than a thousand journalists hopped onto the oldest paddle boat in operation, The General Jackson, for a two hour cruise down the Cumberland River.

On every floor, around every corner, cruisers could find food, music and some great two-stepping action on the dance floor.

The big surprise came when the boat docked at Opryland, U.S.A., a theme park honoring country music, and singer Tanya Tucker took the stage. Half of the audience stomped their feet while the other half sat and smiled because they didn't know who she was.

The free food didn't end on the ship, though. At a formal banquet the next day, San Francisco State University received two Mark of Excellence awards. Pran won for best All Around Student Magazine. The second award went to the photojournalism student Mark Jordan, who won for best Spot News Photography.

Jane Pauley of Dateline NBC, the key note speaker, spoke about the perils of journalism today. She said she isn't impressed with the skills journalism students learn in college today.

"I have been told that professional schools are teaching broadcast journalism," Pauley said. "They offer too many skills courses that only answer to the needs of news directors for entry level jobs."
JOURNALISM STUDENTS CAN JUMP-START THEIR CAREERS

By Ian MacKenzie StewArt

Students looking for that one thing that will propel them to the top of the hiring heap, should think about joining one of the Bay Area’s many journalism organizations. These specialized organizations offer students workshops with working professionals to scholarships and networking events that include job fairs and workshops on how to write a winning resume.

The Asian American Journalist Association, started in 1981, dedicates its energies to the vastly underrepresented Asian American journalist by fighting for better affirmative action in news media coverage and better job positions in the newsroom.

Executive Director Lisa Chung believes now is the time for students to be making contacts in the business. “The more chance you have to share your work, the better off you’re going to be,” Chung said.

The cost for students to join is $12. AAJA consists of more than 1,400 journalists and students in its 15 chapters nationwide.

Some of the opportunities in the San Francisco chapter are a 24-hour job hotline, an online newsletter, a weekly newsletter, a national convention, fellowships and a mentor program where journalism students are matched with working professionals.

Other bonuses the organization offers include national and local scholarship awards, grants, fund-raisers, lectures, social events, and a student newspaper.

Another organization worth investigating is the California Chicano News Media Association. Like the other organizations, CCNSA offers students workshops on news topics and events. One of its last workshops related to the O.J. Simpson case. It focused on sensitivity in newswriting, ethics, and judgment.

CCNSA helps minority students with job placement during its annual Journalism Opportunity Conference. Journalists from all over California attended the two-day workshop and fair in October. Over 1,000 students, professionals and 100 recruiters, including people from the San Francisco Chronicle, KPIX, and The Los Angeles Times attended the event in Southern California.

“Most of the college students looking for jobs, do get the jobs,” said Rosanna Madrigal, head of the local chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

The next conference will be held in October 1995, in Northern California at an undetermined location. Membership for students is $15.

“What we want is to provide a strong voice for Black journalists.” — Waldon DeAdwyler, BABJA

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If investigative reporting is your passion, the Center for Investigative Reporting might be the organization for you. CIR offers six-month paid internships to college students with a heavy desire to go digging through records.

“Princeton Review put us in the top 100 internships in the country,” said Rick Tolsky of CIR. “Each of our reporters picks an intern for the whole six months, so it’s more like an apprenticeship than an internship.”

One of the largest minority journalism organizations in the Bay Area is the Bay Area Black Journalists Association. BABJA has 150 paid staff, according to chair Lori Waldon-DeAdwyler.

“What we want is to provide a strong voice for Black journalists,” Waldon-DeAdwyler said. “We are the watchdogs on the local media.”

If a story about an African-American is presented unfairly in any form of media, BABJA sets up a dialogue with the news outlet responsible to discuss the story’s problems.

Funds raised from events like its upcoming cabaret, go toward student scholarships at BABJA. The cabaret will be held on December 3, from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. at San Francisco’s West Bay Convention Center. Tickets for the event cost $15.

For students who don’t want to travel to Bay Area colleges, other SF State students who have an interest, to more than just print, photography, video and radio alone rather than combining all of these elements and seeing multimedia as an entire news source, an entire new medium in and of itself.

“There’s a reason to believe that we’re not going to simply be telling stories one way or another. But rather we will be telling stories increasingly by using all the various mediums in a whole new mass media,” De Wolk says, who has been with the journalism department for a year and a half.

Virtuality, in five weeks, the student taking this class will have a clear idea of what multimedia entails, which direction it is going and, most importantly, they’ll know what type of questions to ask and be ready to use the different mediums. This seminar will exhibit multimedia as an important medium in the future, journalism, according to De Wolk, who believes it is important for today’s student to have the skills to survive in tomorrow’s world of journalism.

The idea is to give journalists a glimpse, an introduction into this medium that is virtually changing every day on the hour, De Wolk says. “It’s absolutely bewildering, confusing and intimidating,” he says and “before it starts controlling us and we’re lost in it, we want to start having a handle on it.”

But what does one go about teaching this massive and rapidly-moving world of multimedia?

Aside from organization, De Wolk emphasizes the “working syllabus” already in the making. Ideally, he notes, "We’re here to educate the journalists of tomorrow.”

The course will begin with a national expert who will demonstrate where we are now in multimedia and then, quickly moving away from journalism, the seminar will explore the way other mediums are looking at it — how to get information across in multimedia such as multi-media artists, history on CD ROM — the idea according to De Wolk, "to expand our imagination.”

Back into journalism, the major players emerging in the future of journalism will be explored along with tomorrow’s technologies; the idea that we’re not so far ahead of technology in the same way that the technicians took over broadcast. Finally, where will multimedia take us?

“DE WOLK BELIEVES WE CAN BRING THE DISCIPLINE OF MODERN AMERICAN JOURNALISM — INTEGRITY, ACCURACY, FAIRNESS — TO MULTIMEDIA, TO NEWS AND INFORMATION OF THE FUTURE.”

Roland De Wolk, who has spent 15 years as a newspaper reporter, has a strong feeling that the field of multimedia journalism will merge. He believes there is a "tremendous wall between the two [departments], and it would be a serious mistake to compartmentalize many different mediums.”

Burks, who writes the learning column for Multimedia World, is not interested in the technology behind multimedia, but in how you can make creative use of it — "how to get information across in a real telling way.”

"Kids, on storytelling terms, using multimedia can invent their own narratives,” Burks says. "They get to thinking at the age of three, four, five, six, they’re trying to teach college students how to do their own narratives. If college students interacted with hands-on multimedia at a young age they would have a much better sense of how to organize stories and know how one thing leads to another.”

He also poses a question in regard to multimedia: the same way De Wolk talks about combining the various mediums together, is it television the minute the picture starts moving? Burks says, who feels multimedia will become the principal stream of information. He also believes there will be more work for the journalist in the future.

Burks feels multimedia will be something he can use to elevate students into even higher concepts than is currently possible, depending on how long the seminars run and how prepared students are.

De Wolk believes we can bring the discipline of modern American journalism — integrity, accuracy, fairness — to multimedia, to news and information of the future. It was last spring when De Wolk developed the idea for this seminar. He devoted the last week of his History of Journalism course to multimedia and one day, over a long lunch with Photographic Journalism Instructor Ken Kober, he discussed the possibilities and the challenge to go further with multimedia.

Burks is an important component of the class. Roland says, because he has a strong background in multimedia. De Wolk has also received support and interest from the entire journalism staff, including Ken Kober, who was involved in the actual idea, and Department Chair Ema Smith. Other staff members that have taken an interest are Tom Johnson and Austin Long-Scott.

Just as fast as information is traveling by multimedia, so is the journalism department, already planning ahead for several follow-up courses. The first would be
A former Department of Defense project, and later encouraged by the National Science Foundation, the Internet is like a global switchboard that allows computers in different places to communicate with each other. The number of computers on the Internet are growing at an astonishing rate.

According to America Online (AOL), a commercial online service offering Internet access, in the early 1990s, approximately 200 host computers existed on the Internet. By 1991, approximately 100,000 host computers were on the Internet.

Now, just three years later, more than 3 million host computers with perhaps 50 million people are logging onto the system. From election results to pornography, university research to poems about the Manson family, the resources available online through the Internet cover the range of human interest.

Today, journalists are finding ways to incorporate online resources into their work. But with so much information on the Internet, "navigating" or knowing where and how to look can be daunting. With a little perseverance, the online world can open up to reveal information gathering capabilities only dreamed of a couple of years ago.

"Find a good over-all Internet guide book and read it." -David Plotnikoff, an SF State alumni and San Jose Mercury News reporter

"If you don't make the cut (a six rating) then we don't even enter you in the computer." -Mike Townsend

"The students have learned to be very versatile, from working on the school newspaper to being a part-time worker," Liddick said. "We get some good hires from San Francisco State." According to the Gannett recruiters, they keep an eye out for upcoming and talented. The editors follow students' graduating dates and class standing so they don't lose track of good candidates.

"It was like a cattle call," McGuire said. "Working for a Gannett newspaper is not my dream, it's on the Washington Post." Another senior who is ready to hit the job market is Audrey Wong, who was interviewed by Liddick. She said her interview went well, but was not overly confident. "You don't know if they're really nice or not feeling sorry for you," Wong said. "It was a great opportunity anyway."
Magazine editor not worried about a degree, just making a lot of money by Jennifer March
Photo by Alice Lam / Slug

Gopher is one of the most powerful tools used to find resources on the Internet. Named after the mascot at the University of Minnesota, where it was developed, Gopher is a giant menu system for the Internet.

"Gopher servers" are set up with menus listing their contents. Great contents could be documents or other menus. Gopher searches can help locate FTP sites, people, research or newsgroups.

When a Gopher search is initiated, different tools can be used. For example, the InterNIC directory can be located on the SF State Mercury Gopher. Veronica is another tool which searches Gopher servers by looking for key words input by users. When the word "lard" was put into the AOL Veronica tool, one entry came back with a 66-alphabet number for a hardware-producing company. By contrast, when the word "beer" was put in, 201 items came back, from documents containing beer jokes to an explanation about brewing from a brewer.

Newsgroups and Listservs are used by people as a way to keep up with new developments in interest areas, as well as keeping in touch with their peers. They generally contain posts which revolve around a topic. For example, "listserv@gvwm.gatech.edu" is a listserv address for the Society of Professional Journalists.

"The difficult part is deciding what is right for hip kids, yet not too provocative for a kid in a small town in Missouri." — Jon Phillips

"Do not rely on just one tool. You've got to play all the instruments in the band." — Tom Johnson

To subscribe to a listserv, send e-mail to the listserv's address, including a phrase like "subscribe" in the message section. That is it. At the list gets updated, a subscriber gets an e-mail. Keep in mind, though, that although FTP, Gopher and newsgroups / listservs can yield a great deal of information, they are only three of the many tools used on the Internet.

"Do not rely on just one tool," cautioned Jon Johnson. "You've got to play all the instruments in the band." Learning to use all the tools and learning how to navigate can be time consuming, but Bryant and Johnson both agreed the secret is not to get frustrated.

"Find a good overall media network," suggested David Plotnikoff, an SF State alumni working at the San Jose Mercury News. Just two years ago, Plotnikoff said he did not even use a computer, but now he writes "Modern Driver," a weekly online column.

"It has been gratifying to me to know that someone with no experience can take this curiosity and grow in unexpected ways, get this new literacy," Plotnikoff said. "I never expected two years ago to be doing this."
OF RAPE
Ethical dilemmas of the Golden Gater
by Renita Sandasham and Brad Boyd  Photo by Cindy Russell/Slug

Rafael Kohn, Golden Gater editor-in-chief, made a controversial decision when he decided to publish the name and photograph of an accused rapist — a decision which divided the Gater staff and journalism faculty.

The paper ran "Rape in the residence halls," the first story in a series about an alleged rape on Sept. 22. A detailed account of an acquaintance rape in a fourth floor study room in Mary Park Hall indicated two male students were arrested and released in connection with the rape of an 18-year-old woman.

At that time, the Gater editorial staff decided to withhold the suspects’ names because they were released pending further investigation.

On Oct. 25, more than a month later, the Gater published one suspected student’s name after the district attorney’s office decided it had insufficient evidence to file charges.

Another article, "Wible: Accused tourist community," checked one out of six SF State alumni who attended this year’s Eddie Adams Photography Workshop in Jeffersonville, New York, from October 6-10. Only 100 applicants out of 900 were accepted for admission to the workshop, and she was one of three from SF State that were assigned from publications.

Cheek was granted an award to do an assignment for LIFE magazine.

"Perseverance really pays," Cheek says, "I applied three times to the workshop only to be accepted on my third try."

Cheek entered her documentary on the coverage of homeless teens on San Francisco’s Park Street for her workshop application. She also has been a news editor for the non-profit group Domestic Abuse Awareness Project.

Gordon Ung

Gordon Ung, awarded "1994 Outstanding Young Journalist, Daily Print," by the Northern California chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, is now working at the Contra Costa Times as a police reporter.

He was given the award for his coverage of local gun dealers and the one-year anniversary of the 101 California shootings. Ung’s responsibilities at the Contra Costa Times include writing weekend stories, Q&A’s, spot news and general assignment stories.

The Contra Costa Health Department also nominated him for his commitment to the public safety of children for the gun dealer series. While at San Francisco State University, Ung was co-editor of Slug and managing editor of the Golden Gater in the fall of 1992. He is also a member of the Asian-American Journalist Association.

Ung urges students to become involved in the Golden Gater, Slug or Prism.

He says tools that students need to learn at SF State are spelling and style.

"Keep your stylebook and dictionary handy," he says. As an editor recently told me, "Don’t learn to rely on mindless spell checkers, most papers don’t have them anyway. The dictionary is your friend."

Ung says the writing coaches and advisers are very helpful in getting a full measure from SF State. Go to the job fair put on by school, Ung says, because "Nobody attracts recruiters like SF State."

The Society of Professional Journalists job fairs were also strongly recommended. But the single most valuable asset that SF State offers was summed up when Ung said, "My Classmates; I made life-long friends at SF State. I’ve never met a better kind of people. They all had so much passion for their craft and were willing to give up so much."

SF State Alumni

Jennifer Cheek

Jennifer Cheek, former San Francisco State University student and photographer, is planning a trip to Cambodia in January. She is going with alumna Paulo Vasco to see their friend, and alumna, Doug Hines in Pnom Pheu. Cheek says Vasco is trying to arrange it so he can replace a Reuters photographer who is leaving in January. Cheek is also going to free-lance and shoot any stories she can find.

Cheek, who graduated this past May, is currently working at the full Moon Bay Review, a weekly that covers the coastside fishing and

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The Contra Costa Health Department also nominated him for his commitment to the public safety of children for the gun dealer series. While at San Francisco State University, Ung was co-editor of Slug and managing editor of the Golden Gater in the fall of 1992. He is also a member of the Asian-American Journalist Association.

Ung urges students to become involved in the Golden Gater, Slug or Prism.

He says tools that students need to learn at SF State are spelling and style.

"Keep your stylebook and dictionary handy," he says. As an editor recently told me, "Don’t learn to rely on mindless spell checkers, most papers don’t have them any way. The dictionary is your friend."

Ung says the writing coaches and advisers are very helpful in getting a full measure from SF State. Go to the job fair put on by school, Ung says, because "Nobody attracts recruiters like SF State."

The Society of Professional Journalists job fairs were also strongly recommended. But the single most valuable asset that SF State offers was summed up when Ung said, "My Classmates; I made life-long friends at SF State. I’ve never met a better kind of people. They all had so much passion for their craft and were willing to give up so much."

Other awards for Cheek include the Gordon Parks Photography Competition, the Society of Professional Journalists' U.S. Mark of Excellence Award for First Prize Photo Story Photography, SF State journalism department for Prizen Magazine (Spring 1993), First Prize Photo Story and First Prize News Photography for the Golden Gater (Spring 1991).

Cheek was also a staff photographer for Prizen, the Golden Gater, and the Tenderloin Times where she was the photo editor. She has also been editor-in-chief for a student documentary project called "Adventures in Self-Discovery." Cheek thinks journalism students should become involved in school publications like the Golden Gater, Prizen or Slug.

Congratulations 1994 graduates!

Fall

Laurie Clarke
William Cracraft
Bayardo Estrada
LaTasha Johnson
Erie Doyle
Monica Giannella
Wendy Melton
Daryl Lindsey
Leslie Elb
Kendra Stone-Hinds

Summer

Craig Lazzaretto
Denia Sonenthal
Christopher Sam
Mark Prado
Mark Prado, a writing coach for San Francisco State University's journalism department, is giving back to the school that provided him with an education and the opportunity to meet his wife, Theresa H. Yim. Both are 1988 SF State alumni, and Yim is the editorial/page editor for the Alamedac newspaper group. After graduating from SF State with a news concentration, Prado began lecturing on his degree — collecting low pay and practical experience, he says. First at the Turlock Daily Journal in 1989 and two years at the Tri-Valley Herald.
Prado now works as a reporter for the Stockton Record. Since he started in June, he has covered the Lawrence Livermore Laboratories, Tracy city government and commute issues.
Prado says employers in the job market are really experience-oriented, but sometimes it can come down to "back and who you know," he says. "Schmoozing may be awkward, Prado advises, but "getting to know people in the business and making contacts with them," can be the key to employment, he says.
Prado says like most reporters, he became a writer to make a difference and "help folks live their lives." This idealist is still enthusiastic about newspaper reporting and describes it as "a fun job, it's different each day and it's always a challenge." 

Ingrid Becker
Zoe Zee Gober, Redney King and Pal Kgenes are some of the names that drop from Ingrid Becker's portfolio. This 1986 San Francisco State University graduate originally intended to go to law school, but pursued journalism, a field in which she could spend her time "educating people and fighting for civil rights," Becker says.
"The bug bit me and I didn't look back," Becker, 31, says of journalism.

Rachelle Kanigel
Rachelle Kanigel says journalism is both, a career with lofty opportunities, and the best job in the world.
These two statements may seem contradictory, but this 1983 San Francisco State University graduate has found her niche as a health and science writer for the Oakland Tribune in a very competitive field.
Kanigel, 33, was interested in several majors in college including English, film, and psychology, but she settled on journalism after taking the newswriting class.
Says Kanigel, "I made the right decision because I love what I do." And loves reading medical research as much as she loves writing about it. The controversy surrounding the suspect's name has been a constant theme in the last few months.

Kuhn and Perez discussed the decision to print the suspect's name extensively with Austin Long-Scott, the lead adviser to the Gater.
"It wasn't just a flippant decision," Kuhn said. "It mainly came down to this weighing of a right to privacy and a right of the public to know. I felt the public was better served by releasing the name." 

"This is the worst decision they've made in the past five years."
— Erna Smith
Long Scott also discussed the issue with journalism faculty who were there that day.
"Our jobs as advisers are not to make decisions if we can help it," Long-Scott said.
When Kuhn made her decision, she felt comfortable that she had discussed the issue extensively with the appropriate people. She came to the decision in three stages.
"I did have a very strong feeling in the last story we ran that we should use the name because the police chief was stating that person had a history," Kuhn said. "We went through several reports where victims were saying they were given alcohol; there were two women in particular who said they thought their drinks were spiked, and with that information I felt there was a story."
City editor Ken Alltuck was uneasy about Wible's statements because the Golden Gater had been having trouble obtaining information from her during the investigation, "and all of a sudden, she just turned around with open arms."
"I just don't think Wible acted to the benefit of the whole campus community," Alltucker said. "She was tight lipped about information which is fine, but at the same time there were people in the dorms and...they wanted to know if there was a ring of rajists going around. There was a big lack of cooperation between campus officials and students."

The opposing opinions surrounding Kuhn's decision to print the name caused some tension in the newsroom, but one editor said it quickly dissipated.
"It was a controversial decision, but I don't think that it caused any long-lasting tension," April Allison, managing editor, said. "It was certainly argued over before it happened, but as far as any long-term tension, I don't think so."
Gater staff weren't the only ones divided about printing the suspect's name.
Erna Smith, the journalism department chair, said adamantly against the printing the name, believes the Gater acted unprofessionally.
"This is the worst decision they've made in the past five years," Smith said.
"We're going to go by professional standards, but there's things that always happen every semester that make you realize that we're not dealing with professionals."
As a journalist, the trick is to find out whether [the information] serves some purpose other than simply furthering your source's political agenda," Smith added.
If the source shared the information did, but his name did not. They could have done the same story without the name, and it would have served the same purpose. Smith also made it clear that the advisers would not interfere directly with the newspaper's decision-making process.
"As much as I disliked that decision, it never occurred to me for a moment that the student should have the right to make it," she said. "It's the only way they'll
reporting job since I stayed local."

Some applicants see network anchors like Connie Chung and Diane Sawyer, and they want to be like them. "They ask 'Do I need to know news, I just want to be an anchor,'" Yee says. "Yee points out that Chung and Sawyer were street reporters before hiring prime time."

Yee's drought story comes on after the commercial break. She watches the story closely, turns down the volume when the next story comes on, and listens back in her chair.

"This was a non-news story, but I had to make something out of it," Yee says. "I tried to explain to the assignment desk that the first rain of the season doesn't mean anything, and they won't know whether or not the drought is ended until April when they take the measurements." She shakes her head in frustration when she recalls the assignment desk's insistence on the story.

Yee has several stories that she's proud of including 101 California, another on adoptions that went wrong, which won an Emmy and several other awards, and another story dealing with juvenile delin-
Television news is unpredictable when a radio call changes your day.

by Carole Parker

She was headed out to San Francisco General Hospital with her camera operator to tape a piece when the call came over the radio at 2:30 p.m. "Shots fired! Head over to 101 California."

With her adrenaline pumping, Linda Yee, a 1973 San Francisco State University graduate, and the KRON-Channel 4 was headed for 101 California Street with her camera operator—and pulled up the same time as the police did.

This is how Yee recalled the story recently in the KRON newsroom as the 6 p.m. news broadcast in the background.

"About five minutes after we got there, the live truck was there, and I was on the air two minutes later after interviewing the only police officer available," Yee says. "We were the first to go live at three in the afternoon."

Yee worked without breaks from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., reporting live every five minutes. She spent a lot of time waiting for information because it was sketchy.

"I interviewed witnesses as they were coming out of the building," Yee says. The witnesses told Yee different stories about what was happening inside.

"You have to be dedicated; you have no life," Yee says. "You can't make lunch or dinner dates because you don't know what your day is going to be like."

Yee stops talking and turns up the volume on the nine-inch television on her desk and pays close attention to Anthony Moor's lead story about a San Francisco priest accused of molesting a boy, now in Mexico. Yee comments on the priest. "Here the priest's lawyer says the priest can't talk about the case, and he's taking away," Yee says.

Yee said her duties by working as a stringer at the San Francisco Examiner while a SF State student, working for three months at the Fremont Argus/ Hayward Daily Review, and then working on the ground floor at KRON in the public affairs department where she produced a weekly show for four years.

After a low-paying trainee reporting/producing position at KRON, Yee worked at KGO and KPIX in temporary producer positions for three years before returning to KRON. "Broadcast journalists have to learn how to write, gather news—understand what news is," Yee says. She also suggests that students take part-time jobs while going to school.

Working on the school newspaper is a good way to get the discipline down, Yee says. "You're not born with the journalistic traits, but you need the instincts," Yee says.

Another way to develop good journalism skills is with an internship. An internship involves basically working for free, Yee says. It gets you in the newsroom, and you get to know people. Yee tells the story of one successful intern who started at KRON, then worked at some other stations, and is now a CBS correspondent covering the O.J. Simpson trial.

The conversation stops again for Yee to listen to the teaser for her story airing after the commercial break. Subjects (courses) that help reporters are economics and politics, especially if you want to cover politics. "A general liberal arts background will help," she says.

Yee said one news director in the 1970s told her "we already have our female Asian reporter," as the reason why she wasn't getting the job. "Being a number doesn't help you keep a job," Yee says. She pointed out that some people interview well and look good on their tapes, but they wash out in a matter of months because they don't know how to be reporters.

"This profession doesn't have room for mediocrity," Yee says.

Some reporters don't make it because they don't have the talent, and others don't because it's also a combination of being in the right place at the right time. Still others have unreasonable expectations.

"You need at least five years of reporting experience before you can break into this market," Yee says. "This is the fifth largest market with New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Philadelphia being the four largest markets. I probably took longer to get a..."
Presses fall silent
Workers unite after 25 years of competition

by Manie Hovey and Mark Friedman

"And a wondrous sound is to be heard amid the familiar voices of the city: the deep-throated roar of the presses. May they never fall silent again." — Herb Caen, February 28, 1968.

Twenty-six years later, the roaring of the presses fell silent once again when the San Francisco Chronicle and Examiner went on strike. The shutting down of the presses meant no money for 2,600 workers who walked off their jobs at 10 p.m. Nov. 2 — for some, leaving behind years of dedication and taking with them a sense of family. You don't have a place to go anymore," Rob Morse, Examiner columnist said. Reality hit home for Morse when he saw the security officers and barred wire around the parking lot entrance.

Fourteen hours into the strike, the San Francisco Police Department and private security officers were called to

by Jon Funabiki

We discovered a big secret. It's a simple secret: Cheap student labor.

By cheap, I don't mean bad or inferior. I mean inexpensive. Our pay levels won't buy too much more than a dinner at McDonald's.

Several students, mostly at the new College of Humanities Building and the new Macmillan SE, log on, check jobs and internship announcements on the Internet.

Christina Arociz working on a project that gives high school and university instructors new ideas about taking a multicultural approach to teaching.

We explored student labor from the day the Center for Integration and Improvisation of Journalists opened five years ago. The journalism department had big ideas: Develop programs that will help bring diversity to American journalism, both in terms of who reports the news and how they do it.

We knew that many of our programs would deal directly with SF State's own journalists: students by helping them get through school and find internships and jobs. But other programs reach beyond the confines of the campus.

Our budget always has been small. We exist because of the generosity and vision of The Freedom Forum and The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and news companies.

So, student help has always been critical. Using students, we're able to accomplish work at a price we can afford. There are other intangible benefits, too.

Shawna McCoy and Zenaida Gonzalez, for example, both cited "networking" as one of the spin-off benefits they got from working on one of our largest research projects, "News Watch: A critical look at coverage of people of color."

"I got to meet a lot of new people," said McCoy, who graduated last semester and is interning at the American News in Aberdeen, South Dakota. "Some people I met are more like mentors." "News Watch" is an example of a center activity that bridges our campus to the professional world.

The project was a year-long examination of stereotyping, bias and one-sided reporting in print and broadcast news coverage of people of color. Funded by the Ford Foundation, it was produced for last summer's Unity '94 convention, the first joint meeting of minority journalist associations.

McCoy and other students researched, participated in discussions, interviewed journalists and wrote comments that worked their way into the final report. They worked side-by-side with top journalists and professors and professionals from around the nation.

The networking gave me an opportunity to talk to reporters, editors and even a few readers around the country," Gonzalez, another 1999 graduate who recently completed an internship at the Albuquerque Tribune said. It was also a chance to use the different skills that we learned in the department.

The Washington Post, a respected Native American news outlet, "News Watch," said the experience complements her current work toward a master's degree in ethnic studies. She received a B.A. in journalism in 1993.

"My thesis for the M.A. is looking at how coverage of native people in colonial times was used to justify the settlement and colonization of the United States," Arociz said. So it was really interesting to see how people of color are portrayed in the news currently.

Another spin-off: Arociz is working with a "News Watch" colleague, Stanford University Professor Robert Warrior, on a proposal for a public radio program about Native American literature.

Dana Cunningham, a 1993 graduate, was hired as "News Watch" project coordinator, a full-time job that put her in charge of most day-to-day operations. She found that the assignment not only tested her skills as a journalist, but as a manager as well.

"I was learning how to manage people I (had) sat in classes with, and that wasn't always easy," said Cunningham, who now works for the Los Angeles Sentinel.

"Working at the Center can also be exhilarating. More than one student researcher has faced the task of interviewing a journalist whose article or broadcast has come under attack for being racially offensive or biased.

"I thought journalists were arrogant," Northrop Kozuma said.

Kozuma, who graduated three years ago, worked as a researcher on Project Zinger, the Center's annual critique of media coverage about Asian-Americans. "Some journalists do have a "good" complex.

Over the years, journalism students have served as the backbone for the Center's youth programs, which are designed to encourage young people to consider careers in journalism.

Every summer we operate the Bay Area Multicultural Media Academy, a two-week training program. This past summer, we inaugurated the Rainbow Institute which brings some of the nation's top student journalists to SF State for three weeks of intensive training. The Rainbow Institute is sponsored by The Freedom Forum and the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

Ten SF State students served on the staff of BAMMA and Rainbow, they helped high school reporters write and edit stories to organizing field trips and pizza parties.

Assistant editor Cecilia Suman enjoyed the challenge of producing BAMMA and Rainbow and thought the students "cuts out of their personal "coconuts" and learn something about each other.

"It was hard for them to come together as a unit, but they overcame that when we went on field trips," Suman said. "That barrier was broken down. They were able to act like teenagers are supposed to act. They became friends. They talked about things like race, prejudice.

This semester, Suman was hired to serve as the Center's high school liaison. The job was created by Minajha Jones, who graduated last semester, and has become the Center's main link to high school journalism teachers and students in the Bay Area. Suman will be visiting schools to talk up journalism and SF State's program.

"This job will help me stay in touch with young people — they are constantly changing and they need our help," Suman said. "I wish there had been a program like this when I was growing up."
The Tribune family

by Kimberly Williams

They don’t stay for the spectacular view from the newsroom windows, although on sunny days they can often glimpse away from a breaking story on their computer screens to see yachts sailing, and jet skis speeding across the otherwise calm water of the Oakland Estuary. Among the Tribune staff, the building is known as the “yacht club.”

Former San Francisco State University journalism students have different reasons why they work in the Oakland Tribune in Jack London Square offices. One of them is the family atmosphere in the newsroom and legacy of good journalism left by late owner Robert C. Maynard. SF State alumni Benny Evangelista, 38, graduated from SF State in 1980. He was midway through his junior year without a major when he “stumbled into journalism.” A friend suggested that he take Professor Tom Johnson’s newswriting course. Until then, he only knew that he liked to write, but had not found the avenue to make use of his talent. Taking Johnson’s class turned out to be the pivotal point of his college career, he said.

According to Evangelista, Johnson pulled him aside after reading one of his stories and told him that he had some of the best organizational skills he had seen. “You should really think about becoming a journalist,” Johnson said. From that moment on, Evangelista pursued journalism.

Evangelista has always been conscious of the same need for balanced minority coverage that drove Maynard to pursue change. Maynard’s theory was that ethnically diverse newsrooms equaled balanced minority community coverage.

“The atmosphere that Bob created at the Tribune encouraged that idea,” Evangelista said. “Other papers should not look at Bob’s business failure and say that diversity is a failure,” the San Francisco native added.

Maynard, who died in 1992 at 56, was the first African-American owner of a mainstream newspaper in a major U.S. city. He bought the Tribune in 1983 and was forced to sell to the Alameda Newspaper Group in 1990 because of financial problems. He spent his life trying to bring diversity into American newspapers.

Photo by Tom Pidgeon/Slug

State Alumni

S.F. State Alumni

to UC Berkeley

Benny Evangelista, Kim Sockwell and Howard Bryant now work for the Oakland Tribune.

Photo by Kendra Stone-Hinds/Slug

Newpaper worker on strike.

Photo by Cindy Russell/Slug

S.F. State and UC Berkeley student leader Lisa Nguyen, 21, helps ensure peace on the picket lines.

"It's very tough to see security guards who are being paid $150 a day to keep us out of work," Examiner investigative reporter Carla Marincucci, Examiner reporter said. Marinucci also teaches at San Francisco State University.

“I knew I wasn’t going to get a paycheck,” Liz Magierski, photographer for the Examiner and SF State photojournalism instructor said. “The strike could go on for months.”

“We’re on the other side of the fence like a bunch of caged monkeys over here,” Sebastian Mastrom, a paper handler for the Chronicle said. “I’ve been here for 37 years, and this is the payoff I get for busting my ass for this company?”

The dispute between the union and management officially began on Nov. 1, 1993, the expiration date of the last contract. Nine unions represent newspaper workers. The major dispute was from the Teamsters Union which represents the newspaper drivers.

According to the Teamsters, there was a 15-month pay freeze. Newspaper management offered the drivers a 30-cent an hour raise, an unsatisfactory amount for the union. But Teamsters’ negotiator Andy Cirkels wouldn’t say exactly how much more they wanted.

“Our responsibility is to serve the membership,” Cirkels said. “This is a serious matter. We don’t want to disrupt it in the press.”

Management also wanted to eliminate 150 drivers or move them to part-time status, which would make them ineligible for company benefits. They also wanted the same drivers to replace local youth newspaper carriers. This was unacceptable, according to the unions. The drivers walked, and the eight remaining newspaper unions supported them.

The workers banded together, taking non-traditional actions against management. Carl Hall, a guild officer said, “We’re not just standing around like monkeys, we’re trained experts!” Hall said. “We’re doing all kinds of things.”

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See STRIKE, Page 34

FALL '94
171717
Reported on November 6, 1994, in the height of the San Francisco Newspaper Strike, when he wasn’t picketing. Jason W. Loren is an Examiner copy editor. He graduated from Cal State’s journalism department in December 1992. The ghosts and goblins of last Halloween didn’t frighten me. The threat of a newspaper strike did.

As the Nov. 1 midnight deadline approached, fear and uncertainty grew, especially for me. I didn’t know whether to call it a night and show up or work at 5 a.m. as I was scheduled, or get a nice long sleep before going to my picket assignment.

We were lucky. My boss called me at 5:20 a.m. and told me to report to the copy desk as usual. “We’re trying to put out a paper and some of us are missing,” he joked.

The strike had been averted. Hope remained, but despite numerous negotiations between the unions and management, that hope died in the next 10 hours.

I learned of the new 10 p.m. strike deadline 10 minutes before it was to be tuned into the TV news and, sure enough, I saw fellow workers protesting at my assigned picket site at the Army Street production plant in the city.

Either out of boredom, exhaustion or a sense of solidarity, I changed from my sleepwear to my sweats and Nikes, and went to join the picket line at the Chronicle and Examiner’s main office buildings at Fifth and Mission streets.

I didn’t have a lot of force impressed me. It was dark and cold but there they were, picket signs in hand, demanding a contract, turning on the radio and singing simple messages down a middle finger.

The verbal firebombs ranged from the direct and simple (“Scabs must go!” to the vulgar (“F**k you and f**k your mother, you f**king scab!”)) to the inspired (“Hey, scab! I know that when you were in the fourth grade you wrote an essay and said when you grow up, you want to be a S-C-A-B!”). I easily got into the routine. But I couldn’t help think to myself: Why didn’t SF State teach me how to picket? Why didn’t my journalism professors tell me I’d be left behind if I wasn’t up to par in the picket line two years after graduation?

Heck, it’s bad enough they don’t have a separate class on copy editing. I could easily imagine Len Seltzer lecturing us on how to properly taunt scabs.

The next day, I showed up promptly for picket duty, four hours of mostly standing, chatting and fellow workers or chanting and straddling a unified picket line when the TV news cameras showed up.

“The guy who’s got the best story, the guy who’s got the best story, the guy who’s got the best story, the guy who’s got the best story,” the picket in the past couple of days were thin and scarce, almost impossible to find anywhere in the city. My dad, who lives 50 miles East in Pittsburg, said he couldn’t even find one and had to settle for an Oakland Tribune.

The worst thing about picketing, I found, is not the low picket pay, the uncertainty of knowing whether you’ll have a job or the looming possibility of violence (a photographer dying after being electrocuted by a transformer on a Bay Area television station). It’s the cold. And the darkness. And the pain inflicted on your feet, I was glad I wore comfortable shoes.

My report friends at other newspapers offered their kind words of sympathy. One friend sent a card: “Damn, I only spend eight hours covering the strike at the Richmond plant!” or “Hey, man, I was up til 4 a.m. covering the picket lines.”

Screw you, I told them. Your job is to cover the picket; my picketing means the difference between having a job and not having one. When the strike’s over you’ll still have your job. I may not.

But I continued to tote a picket sign and stroll the line, keeping my spirits up, although everything seemed gloomy at times. The funny thing about picketing is you begin planning your near-future in your head and calculating your next move, counting the hours you’ve been on the street. The Examiner, or I’m out of just a job, period. I’m moving to Seattle to find another newspaper job there. Yes, the death of journalism in the city didn’t have the end of my print journalism career.

Maybe, in the future, I can go back to SF State and teach Journalism 800: Introduction to Picketing.

The Examiner and Chronicle building stood behind an army of police and newly installed barbed wire fencing. And there we stood, hour after hour, chanting on the picket, hopeful o’ an eventual victory.

I truly believed my strike was strong and was fighting to win. The picket in the past couple of days were thin and scarce, almost impossible to find anywhere in the city. My dad, who lives 50 miles East in Pittsburg, said he couldn’t even find one and had to settle for an Oakland Tribune.

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Dick Rogers has a cubicule at the San Francisco Examiner with sign over it that says “Numerizer.” Tucked onto a wall is another sign that says “Don’t walk behind the numerizer, he may lose count.” Unlike him. He has come to vital challenges as a computer, not just a terminal. When the metro desk has no shortage of editors, you might find Rogers in his cubicule crunching numbers for a story. Rogers has used his computer to help reporters build what he calls a “factual foundation” for their stories.

On Sundays, he teaches a class on editing. Rogers is also an assignement editor at the San Francisco Examiner, in charge of special beat: health, environment, science and city government. He also handles the city’s sometimes very, very, very slow repair work, but then decided to retire to college to pursue a reporting career. He sought a position that valued his ideas, Rogers said.

“I was looking for something that satisfied my inner drive,” he said.

After graduating from California State University, Hayward, Rogers hired as a reporter at the Daily Review in Hayward. He covered local government and gained experience in writing as many as four stories a day.

From there, Rogers went to the Tri-Valley News Herald and reported on subjects from education to the Lawrence Livermore Laboratories. Later, he returned to the Daily Review and covered transportation issues. He was assigned to the city desk.

Being an editor required giving up the independence of being a reporter. Rogers has spread his influence on a larger, more diverse audience, the newspaper, developing ideas which impacts both reporters and his superiors.

“I had mixed feelings about it,” he said. “It was a hard transition to make.”

Rogers rose to become the Daily Review’s managing editor. This position took him out of “the number crunching” and required more attention to the administrative side of the paper. He left the Daily Review.

Dick Rogers
by Elizabeth Martin

Dick Rogers
by Elizabeth Martin

Eager Beaver, the 80-year-old Republican nominee for Congress challenging Pete Stark. Eager Beaver wanted his name changed and was able to do so when he was listed in a poker game.

Assisted in the interesting interview was a Hells Angel who was an official souvenir vendor at the Democratic National Convention. He told us came decorated with flowers. “He used to manufacture illegal narcotics, now he was manufacturing campaign souvenirs,” Haddock said.

The convention coordinators were unaware that the man had served time in a federal peniteniary before Haddock had them.

Haddock remembers being quite concerned about those reviews. But today he wasn’t concerned with much more — Haddock and his wife David are expecting their second baby in January. They are not the only ones excited about the new addition to the family: Lassley, their two-and-a-half-year-old daughter, had no idea what name to name her new brother or sister after her favorite Dinsey character was let in the house. This was a hard task explaining to Lassley that they can’t name the baby “Goofy.”

By Susan Sutton

by Elizabeth Martin

Dick Rogers

Dick Rogers

Dick Rogers

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New Faces

Gary Barker

Former Gator EIC returns to journalism department

by James Evans

W hen SF State journalism students reach out for help in comprehending the computers on the third floor of the Humanities building, they are reaching out to one of their own.

Gary Barker returned to the department in August as the new computer laboratory manager, in charge of assisting students in the day to day struggles of computer technology.

Barker, 29, has been in the department off and on since January 1990. A former spring 1991, editor-in-chief of the Golden Gater, he feels his own experience in the department will help him deal with problems which will inevitably come up during the semester.

"I understand most of the processes," Barker said. "Nobody had to tell me what paste-up was, nobody had to tell me what a deadline was.

The previous Barker learned in that semester have helped him in his new job, not just journalism included but in the way he approaches his work as well.

"One thing I learned is that I'm trying to apply to this job is that panic doesn't help anything," Barker said. "People come to me freaking out, saying that the computer doesn't do what they want it to do. I know that getting upset doesn't accomplish anything."

Barker learned his lessons the hard way. His stint as editor of the Golden Gater coincided with one of the most active and controversial semesters in recent history at SF State.

The newspaper was covering issues like the Gulf War, the shantytown outside the student union, protests every week of the semester, the infamous leg locker in the student dorms and SF State President Richard A. Corrigan's financial practices at his previous job.

"I was in constant touch with our lawyer, Jim Wagstaffe," Barker said. "It was kind of grim for a while. It was so grim that Barker deteriorated physically under the stress.

I lost 30 pounds. I had a couple of abscessed teeth, street throat and a really bad sinus infection all going on at the same time. If spring break hadn't come when it did, I probably would have needed to be hospitalized."

According to Department Chair Erna Smith, the faculty advisor for the Golden Gater at that time, Barker came through the semester well.

"I think what Gary learned from it was that he could deal with controversy," Smith said. "I don't think he realized that when he was told, he had a lot more guts than he thought he had. He came out of it less afraid of offending somebody."

Barker now has the challenge of getting the department technologically up to speed. It is a bonus for him that he gets to "learn more computer stuff" as he works, but the task is daunting.

"The labs, the computers and the whole technological aspect of the department has been neglected in so many ways for so many years that just playing catch up is taking a lot of time."

Barker says the people around him make the task of upgrading the department easier. The students in the classes have been "friendly and supportive," and his own experiences as a student enable him to understand their needs better.

"He has a lot of patience, and he is very logical," Smith said. "He can take the language of the computers and translate it so anyone can understand it."

According to Smith, Barker will be an important part in the expansion of the department in the areas of graphics and design. But his value to the department transcends his knowledge of the work. It seems that with Barker, it all comes back to communication.

"He knows how to deal with the students really well, and he has the respect of the faculty," Smith said.

With an academic interest in journalism and a computer hobbyist for years, Barker is perfect for his new position. Although he wouldn't necessarily want to be a journalist, he enjoys the people in the department.

"I like journalists, I like being around them, I like the dark sense of humor," he said.

"It is when somebody is doing something obviously unethical and they think they are getting away with it, and some journalist comes along and blows them out of the water," Barker said. "That brings joy to my heart."

Freedom Forum

Pacific Coast Center focuses on free speech and free spirit to "hold the line for the free press," editor-in-residence Beverly Kes says.

by Lisa R. Darr

The Freedom Forum Pacific Coast Center opened in January as a full-time center for programs aimed at supporting the ideas of freedom in the media. Serving as an Oakland-based outreach center for all Freedom Forum Centers and a center for the group's activities in the Western United States, the center has been a part of more than 30 programs and events, involving almost 2,000 people.

Beverly Kes, most recently a Freedom Forum First Amendment Center Visiting Professional Scholar, became the center's editor-in-residence in May. Kes has served as editor at The Fresno Bee, The Gary Post-Tribune and The Grand Forks Herald. She was also on the staff of the Minneapolis Star and Tribune. Her report on press coverage of politics, "Sacred Journalists, Politics and Public Trust in a Tell-All Age," was released in October.

As editor-in-residence, Kes planned training sessions with interns at The Oakland Tribune over the summer. Currently, she is responsible for producing the center's events and covering them for Freedom Forum publications.

The Freedom Forum was established in 1935 by the Gannett Foundation. In June 1991, the foundation's ownership and name were sold, and on July 4, the Freedom Forum was reborn. The group focuses on issues of free press, free speech, and free spirit. As a private, non-profit organization, the Freedom Forum is financed by interest earned on the group's investments. By accepting no private donations, the group avoids the conflict of interest problem.

The Freedom Forum has offices worldwide. Its office in Hong Kong has established a foothold in that area to "hold the line for free press," according to Kes.

"The programs that the Pacific Coast Center has been a part of this year, cover a wide variety of journalistic issues and concerns. Some of the programs have included a discussion of O.J. Simpson in the media, "The Future of Journalism" conference in April at SF State and a conference on political coverage based on the report by Kees and Phillips."

"News media are businesses. If they don't make a profit, they go out of business."

— Beverly Kes

The Pacific Coast Center has also held discussions on the media's role in informing and entertaining.

The line between newspapers telling people what they want to hear and what they need to know is an endless source of debate.

"News media are businesses," said Kes. "If they don't make a profit, they go out of business."

Kes went on to explain that there is definitely a need to blend what people need to hear with what's interesting to them.

"When we give them something that's important to them," Kes said, "We've done our job."

Fall '94
Some students are traumatized by him, and still others love him

by Mark Conley
Photos by Jeanine Brown/Slug

It may see the writing on the wall for aspiring journalists at San Francisco State University, but it's unlikely Professor Leonard Sellers has seen the recent clamor he's been stirring on an actual wall of the SF State campus.

"Reporting is cruel and unusual punishment," one student scrawled on the message board inside a third-floor women's bathroom stall in the new Humanities building, referring to a course Sellers teaches.

"I've met a student who hated me, who was ever worth a damn," says the 20-year-old professor, who has spent nearly two decades drilling SF State up-and-comers on the realities of the work place. "The ones who say I've heard you're a total fascist asshole, but I'm going to take your class to prove I can do anything..." those are the ones I like.

"And, perhaps surprisingly, those have often been the students who have gone on to prosperous careers in journalism."

"I remember thinking of him as the devil incarnate because he always wore black jeans, a black sweater, had this little pointy black cap on," said Carline Young-Ullmann, who took Sellers' reporting class last spring. "At first I thought, 'Here's someone who's going to really challenge me and make me a better writer.' But after a while I decided his whole approach was too negative and I wasn't being motivated by it."

But at least Elliott passed. Craig Schmalz wasn't quite as fortunate.

"I busted my ass in that class, but I guess I wasn't ready to be passed on in his eyes," said Schmalz, who edited thecou."

"I think Sellers takes into account your effort. He's aousy teacher."

Still, the sadomasochistic types are no stranger to Sellers' roll sheet either. "Maybe I sort of have a demented mentality, but I don't want to put him on the wall," said Ken Alltucker, a city editor for the Golden Gater. Alltucker earned a B in reporting from him last fall. "His delivery is definitely harsh, but he tells it like it is. He doesn't sugarcoat it at all."

Many students say Sellers' brazen honesty has led them to consider finding a major. His horror stories about the flegling job market and their minute chance of finding their way into it is too much to stomach for some. But Sellers chalks it up as the cold, hard truth.

"There are far too many journalism programs across the country that send students through without giving them the tools to succeed." Sellers said, a SF State grad himself. "For most of these students, there's no way in hell they're going to get a job, but no one ever tells them that. They just get passed through the system."

"That's worse than any nasty remarks I could write on their paper. They think that's harsh... try being unemployed."

But still, Seller's tactics have been known to drive students to tears on occasion.

Photojournalism student Stephanie Fredland thought she had endured Seller's newswriting course two years ago, when she found out he gave her a "C" on her decisive final story. She approached him after class to plead her case - not the wisest of choices, she now admits.