

Newspaper Goes To NYC

by Jen Mabe
Apprentice Editor

Twenty-six student journalists, members of the *Patriot Press* newspaper and the *Patriot Images* yearbook staffs, left for New York City by train on Tuesday, March 14. They were bound for Columbia University for the Columbia Scholastic Press Association's (CSPA) 71st annual convention.

This was the third time the newspaper attended the national journalism conference. Yearbook students came along this year for the first time. *The Patriot Press*



View from the Empire State.

was especially honored in that they received a First Place award in Columbia's National Student Newspaper Contest along with "All-Columbian Honors" in hands-on-production.

The real trip began when the train pulled into Penn Station, New York at about 5:30 p.m. Among the highlights for students who went to the convention were visits to Rockefeller Center with its famous ice skating rink, the NBC studio tour and the studio where the *Today Show* is broadcast.

Students met Sirajuil of "Around the World with Mujuibur and Sirajuil" fame. Lucky students including Senior Heather Crowe and Junior Adam Coleman got autographs. The second evening, one group of students met Lisa Ling, a newscaster on the Channel One news program carried in all county schools. She talked briefly to the students about journalism and posed for pictures.

Each day the group travelled by subway to Columbia for the convention's various sessions on journalism.

On Wednesday, Mr. Gary Clites, Northern's newspaper advisor, gave a session on how to liven up student newspapers entitled "Nobody Reads Our

Paper." About 100 students and teachers from around the country attended the session.

"I thought Mr. Clites was a lot more exciting than some of the other speakers. He seemed to grab your attention with his wit and humor," said Junior Jamie Skinner about Clites' session.

Clites was also invited to present a second session for advisors only on Wednesday afternoon.

After the convention Wednesday, students shopped in the gigantic FAO Schwartz toy store across from the Plaza Hotel well known by students our age as the location of *Home Alone 2*.

Two nights students went

"The two things on the trip I liked best were meeting Phil Donahue and going to the Harley Davidson Cafe."

--Senior Heather Crowe

to Broadway shows. The first night, half saw *Miss Saigon*, the other half *Les Miserables*. The second night the entire group saw *Damn Yankees* starring Jerry Lewis.



Jen Mabe, Jamie Skinner, Shannon McBain, Caitrin McAlexander and Kenna Brigham at Columbia.

Some of the group met Lewis briefly as he left the theatre after the performance. Junior Jamie Skinner shook his hand and wished him a happy birthday: "I was really excited because it happened so fast. I really wasn't expecting to meet Jerry Lewis."

"I loved *Les Miserables*! It was the best I've seen," said Junior Kristen Davis. Daniel DiCarlo added, "The casting in *Damn Yankees* was phenomenal!"

Thursday and Friday mornings the group watched

broadcasts of the *Today Show*, and some were seen on camera outside the studio. They then travelled back to the convention. "The sessions gave us a good insight on writing better captions and layouts," Davis remarked upon leaving one yearbook session.

Later in the day, yearbook advisor Rosemary Phelps took 16 students to see a taping of *Donahue*, while Clites took ten students on the NBC Studios Tour (many of these students had attended a *Donahue* taping last year). At the show, Phil Donahue talked with Northern's students



Christy Cochran and Laurie Prohaska meet the M&M's, and happily posed for pictures with them.

Students particularly enjoyed dinners at The Hard Rock Cafe, The Harley Davidson Cafe and Planet Hollywood.

The convention went well for students who attended sessions on all aspects of newspaper, yearbook and journalism. In addition, students were able to meet staffs of publications from across the country in what are called "swap sessions."

Skinner remarked, "A lot of the sessions had good topics, and the advisors and teachers seemed to know what they were talking about. I came back with a lot of fresh ideas for the paper that I hope to incorporate next year."

After leaving the convention on Friday, students went to the Empire State Building, Macy's and Greenwich Village. That evening they boarded a train back to Calvert County.

"The two things on the trip I liked best were meeting Phil Donahue and going to the Harley Davidson Cafe," stated Crowe.

"The trip to New York was a great experience for me, and I hope to go again next year," stated Skinner.