

THE FEATURES PAGE

Leah Garchik

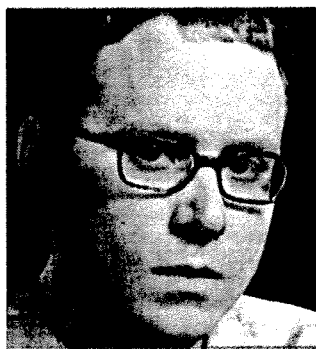
*The In Crowd*Lessons
from a pro

Magazine writer **Stephen Glass**, the imaginative journalist in whose muddy footprints **Jayson Blair** most recently tread, has turned his crashed career into a novel, "The Fabulist." Its first sentence — "A spectacular crash, I've learned, is the quickest way to incredible accomplishment" — seems eerily apt for the Blair case. The "introduction" to the fictional story is even more so:

"What I did was a terrible mistake — a serious, damaging wrong — and they are correct to say so. However, there are some individuals, journalists mainly, who think I should always be ashamed. . . . They cannot understand how after violating all their rules, fair and important rules, I go on living among them."

P.S. Glass has passed the New York State Bar exam and is working his way through the legal-credentialing process, which includes a "character fitness" evaluation. "When I walk into a room, no one believes me the way that they would anyone else," Glass told the Financial Times, personalizing his response when asked whether Jayson Blair should have apologized for his misdeeds. "An apology from me would be received with skepticism."

Where there's smoke: Berkeley firefighters have been so moved by Berkeley Rep's production of "The Guys" — about Sept. 11 and its aftermath — that the gang from Station 5 issued a dinner invitation to every pair of actors who will be performing the play, which runs through July 5. **Sharon Lawrence** and **Keith David** took them up on the offer, and the feast — "fantastic," said



CBS News

Stephen Glass: Learning curve

Lawrence — included barbecued ribs, sausage, potato salad, Caesar salad and corn bread. An alarm went off during this banquet, and Lawrence and David were allowed to tag along (to a very minor call). And in the end, the actors got to take home T-shirts autographed by the firefighters.

Finally: **George Bush** had 500 or so fellow Yale alumni to the White House for their 35th reunion last week, and don't call TIC provincial, but there is a local connection. Lone Star beer was served; it's owned by Pabst Brewing of San Antonio; chairman of Pabst is **Lou Giraudo**, who owns Boudin Bakeries.

The president has been off the sauce for years, and although the media was barred, spies report that liquor consumption at the event was minimal. A guzzling Deep Throat with a head for numbers told TIC only 50 cases of beer were ordered, so there were 1,200 bottles for 1,000 guests. Those Yale party animals are thirstier than the kings of the forest they become in middle age.

although his Web site provides information about his favorite restaurants and his birthday party photos, there's no word on where; TIC's inquiring.

Calvin Trillin, man about restaurants, was at Thanh Long in the Sunset District Friday night, and the proud granddad carried baby **Isabelle** around the restaurant so she could be admired as much as the roast crab.

Italian Consul General

Francesco and **Paola Sciortino** threw a jolly party Monday night for National Day, and the only thing more divine than the food and guest list (**Angela Alioto**, **Kamala Harris**, **Delroy Lindo**) was the solemnly sung Italian national anthem, followed politely by "The Star-Spangled Banner." TIC's a patriot, but the truth must be told: **Francis Scott Key's** chopped liver next to **Verdi**, whose "Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves" from "Nabucco" is considered the unofficial Italian national anthem.

And **Spike Lee** had **Johnny Cochran** and **Terry Gross** of the San Francisco firm Gross & Belsky file suit Monday against Viacom, which recently announced that TNN will become "SpikeTV." **Edward Norton**, **Bill Bradley**, **Ron Dellums** and **Ossie Davis** are among those who have filed affidavits supporting Lee, who claims that Viacom's using his name unfairly.

Nuggets o' gossip welcomed by Leah Garchik at (415) 777-8426 or lgarchik@schronicle.com.

Wretched stretch



"I just didn't want to put on the tights, I guess."

JOSH HARTNETT

in Details magazine, on why he turned down a three movie "Superman" contract.