

Sports center construction ahead of schedule

BY GINA LEE
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

It's already topped out, and now Campbell Sports Center is ready to be enclosed.

Construction of the new Columbia athletic complex at 218th Street and Broadway, on the southeast corner of Baker Field, recently hit a milestone called "topping out," meaning the structure has reached its maximum height.

"The crane was removed this past weekend with the completion of steel and concrete plank deliveries," University spokeswoman Victoria Benitez said in a statement. The crane had been at the site since November.

With no more need for the crane, and the steel and concrete structure completed, the construction is moving on to the next phase ahead of schedule. Olaf Schmidt, a senior associate at Steven Holl Architects, the firm designing the structure, attributed the speed of the project to the type of structure being built.

"The construction has been progressing quite rapidly."

—Olaf Schmidt, senior associate, Steven Holl Architects

"The construction has been progressing quite rapidly mainly because of the type of structural system that was chosen, steel and precast concrete plank. Both can be erected quite fast," Schmidt said. "Another factor was that the schedule gave us time to

SEE BAKER, page 3



HENRY WILLSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

TOPPED OUT | The Campbell Sports Center, which is being built next to Baker Field, has reached its maximum height.

Fifth-year study abroad program to be offered next fall

BY MELISSA VON MAYRHAUSER
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Seniors graduating this May will have the chance to spend a fifth year in school, traversing Columbia's network of seven global centers and doing research projects.

Up to 10 students could be accepted to the new Fifth-Year Fellows program, which will emphasize the liberal arts over career specialization. The price tag for the program will be roughly \$40,000, although admission is need-blind and there will be financial aid.

Between October and March, participating students will spend time at several of Columbia's global centers—located in Nairobi, Beijing, Paris, Istanbul, Santiago, Amman, and Mumbai—depending on their research interests. The

program, which is open to students in Columbia College, the School of Engineering and Applied Science, and the School of General Studies, will be bookended by on-campus seminars in September, April, and May.

Vice President for Global Centers Ken Prewitt, who worked on the program with history professor Charles Armstrong, anthropology professor Rosalind Morris, and English professor Gayatri Spivak, said the program is part of the University's effort to respond to globalization by internationalizing its educational program.

"The global centers themselves are a platform to help facilitate, in effect, a new educational philosophy for the conditions of the 21st century," Prewitt said.

According to Morris, part of that international philosophy is

providing a strong liberal arts education, rather than being too concerned with career competitiveness. Fifth-year fellows will receive a certificate at the end of the program, not a degree.

"We do not think of it as mere job training, and we do not think of education as that which is limited to market value," Morris said in an email. "For those who are only interested in enhancing their capital for the market, this is probably not a good program."

Morris added that fifth-year fellows will use the year abroad to evaluate the Core Curriculum, and that their feedback on the Core might impact the way professors teach it to future students.

"[The program] is also intended as a vehicle through which [the Core] curriculum can be re-activated," Morris said. "It will also help us to reflect on the relevance of the Core, so that we

can consider ways of enhancing it."

Students said the program could be a chance to internationalize and add depth to their Core experiences.

"I think the program's international travel is interesting because a lot of the Core is Western-based," Allison Scott, CC '15, said. "They have Global Core, but it's not really that much outside the West."

Kofi Opoku, SEAS '14, said the ability to study at different global centers would be a welcome addition to the Global Core.

"If they'll find a way to incorporate [the program] into the Core, I think that a lot of people will take advantage of that," Opoku said.

Some students, though, are worried that the program would just force them to put off finding

SEE STUDY ABROAD, page 3



DAVID BRANN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

RENOVATIONS | John Jay Dining Hall was closed Tuesday, forcing students to eat at JJ's Place.

Dining halls renovated over winter break

BY BEN GITTELSON
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

John Jay Dining Hall was closed Tuesday as the finishing touches were put on its new terrace floor, leaving students to get the normal John Jay food at a busier-than-usual JJ's Place.

Executive Director of Dining Services Victoria Dunn said that several renovations were made to the dining halls during winter break, including the floor installation at John Jay, the addition of waffle, grilled cheese, and noodle bowl stations in Ferris Booth Commons, and the removal of railings in John Jay. Dunn said the changes went according to plan, except for John Jay remaining closed on Tuesday.

"I don't think everybody's happy about it, but this [Tuesday] is a day where people are trickling back," Dunn said. "It's the day where it's the least amount of effect."

John Jay's usual meals were served in the much smaller JJ's Place, which some students said led to overcrowding.

"It was extremely crowded and everyone was stealing each others' chairs because there weren't enough. The food was all right ... kind of the same," Isaiah Muzikowski, CC '15, said. "I didn't really care that much, but I do understand why some

people think it is inconvenient."

"It seems like everything has worked out," JJ's manager Robert Bell said Tuesday night. "We are a little bit cramped for space but everything is great."

Dunn said she originally tried to get John Jay's new floor finished last summer.

"We wanted to get the floor done last summer, and we ran into a couple of timing issues," Dunn said. "When we can, we want to be able to bring you new things, not just over the summer but midyear also."

Dunn also noted that this summer, JJ's will add seating and a "virtual c-store," through which students can order cereal, chips, crackers, and other packaged foods over the summer.

"It's better to do it over the summer so it doesn't inconvenience students," Dunn said. "When we come back in the fall, it'll be a whole new JJ's."

Dunn said Dining Services is working on improvements for next year to John Jay as well, including renovating the dish room and serving area.

"If you do anything in one room, you have to keep going," Dunn said. "This is going to be a long project."

Margaret Mattes contributed reporting.

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Engineers travel to Hong Kong

Winter break trip allows SEAS students to study abroad

BY MARGARET MATTES
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Five engineering students explored Hong Kong over winter break, as part of the School of Engineering and Applied Science's inaugural Winter Global Education Experience.

Administrators started the program to create an additional way for SEAS students to study abroad, since SEAS' rigorous course requirements make it difficult for students to find time to do so. The five students spent ten days in Hong Kong earlier this month, visiting research and manufacturing centers and attending networking events, alongside engineering students from the City University of Hong Kong (CityU).

For Ben Aguilar, SEAS '14, the trip provided a study abroad opportunity that he would not have had otherwise.

"I had a big interest in getting abroad and exploring things while I can," Aguilar said. "This seemed like a good way to not only get to Asia, but good for professional purposes, in terms of learning about the industries in Asia and the educational opportunities in Hong Kong. It seemed perfect for me."

After touring the city on the first day, the students generally spent mornings participating in seminars and talking with professors at CityU, before conducting site visits and attending professional networking events later in the day. The students' site visits included a nuclear power plant, a factory where trains were being built, and wind tunnels in which research was being conducted.

According to earth and environmental engineering professor Xi Chen, who led the trip, the goal was for students "to see a different culture and see the field from a different perspective."

"Some of the stuff there really opened our eyes to how popular science is being used to generate the next generation of movies and images, for example," Chen said. "The program also introduced students to corporations and how they become successful."

Aguilar said that one of the highlights of the trip was attending a leadership forum with three professionals who spoke about their own experiences. The speakers included a sustainability expert from the Hong Kong subway, an environmental investment officer, and a Columbia alumnus who is a business consultant.

"I'm coming out of it with more of an understanding of what it means to be a leader from all kinds of different perspectives," he said.

The trip was part of a larger SEAS initiative to encourage students to study abroad and to introduce students to foreign infrastructure plans, business, engineering, and culture, SEAS Assistant Dean Leora Browman said in an October interview.

SEE SEAS, page 3

OPINION, PAGE 4

Face to Facebook

Emily Tamkin ponders over the (not so) wonderful use of social networking.

Animal House?

Greek life at Columbia is nothing like the commonly perceived caricature.



SPORTS, PAGE 6

Sluggish start to Ivy League season for Lions

An important part of the Lions' success this year—strong perimeter shooting—was absent in the Light Blue's Ivy League openers.

EVENTS

Columbia College Senior Fund Kickoff

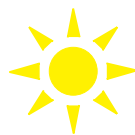
CC Interim Dean James Valentini will discuss ways for seniors to donate. Roone Arledge Auditorium, 6 p.m.

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ON SCHEDULE | The Campbell Sports Center at 218th Street and Broadway should be ready for use this fall, according to Columbia spokesperson Victoria Benitez.

University athletic complex should be ready for use this fall

BAKER from front page

coordinate things in detail before construction started.”

Next, the structure will be enclosed, and the interior will be built out with partitions

and mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems, “all of which have their own challenges and require close coordination between all trades,” according to Schmidt.

The enclosure—which Schmidt said includes the

exterior walls and windows—is designed to give Columbia athletics more visibility uptown. The interior will include meeting and conference rooms, a strength-and-conditioning center, a lounge and study center, and

other facilities for the athletic department.

Despite architectural and engineering challenges which Schmidt discussed at a December lecture, the building “is on track for fall 2012

occupancy,” Benitez said.

“We are excited it has been moving fast and look forward to completing the building,” Schmidt said.

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5 students participate in inaugural winter break program

SEAS from front page

Brovman, who manages SEAS’ study abroad programs, planned and attended the trip.

“Students have an opportunity through these shorter programs [winter break trips] to meet engineering professionals in an international context, to see what’s happening in engineering in an international context and really to get some cross-cultural exposure,” she said.

CityU engineering students served as ambassadors to the Columbia students, which Aguilar called “one of the better parts of the trip.” During their free time, the Columbia and CityU students explored the city together.

“Those were our contacts in Hong Kong on where we should go, what we should do on our own time ... what life was like for those students in Hong Kong,” Aguilar said.

Brovman said in October that this “cultural exposure” would be an important part of the trip.

“Any academic program should also be grounded in a little bit of experience of the environment into which one is going,” she said.

Although Chen thought the trip was largely successful, he said there are ways the program could be improved. More discussion between Columbia and CityU faculty and administrators could make the trip “more closely [aligned] with the students’ education,” possibly by making it more focused on engineering, he said.

This “would make the program more relevant to the educational programs of the students,” he said.

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Price tag for fifth-year program unclear

STUDY ABROAD from front page

a post-graduation job, especially in a time of economic uncertainty. Adwoa Banful, CC ’13, said that she would consider participating in the program, but only if she could also remain focused on her career. Columbia, she added, might help interested students do that.

“Let’s say they could work with CCE [the Center for Career Education] to get people on track to getting a job after they finish so that it’s not neglected—just

so people would be a little less concerned about what happens after,” she said.

Administrators have not yet released detailed information about the cost of the program, and some students are questioning whether paying tens of thousands for a fifth year of liberal arts education is worth it. Prewitt, in a Bwog comment that he confirmed he wrote last month, rejected the idea that the program is a Columbia scheme to make money.

“If you actually believe that [the University] paying all

expenses for a year overseas ... can, at \$40k a person, make a profit, we haven’t educated you very well,” Prewitt wrote.

Prewitt also clarified that qualified students will receive financial aid from the University, possibly for plane tickets, food, and housing.

“We don’t want this to be a program only for those with the luxury to afford it,” Armstrong said. “We just haven’t gotten into quite the nitty gritty of where this aid would go.”

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GLOBETROTTING | VP for Global Centers Ken Prewitt helped design the fifth-year program.

THE PROGRAM'S THREE PHASES

The Fifth-Year Fellows program is a capstone experience for selected Columbia graduates—linking back to the foundational knowledge acquired in the Core Curriculum while presenting an opportunity to reflect upon and extend that education in the changed contexts of today's world—before they move on to careers, graduate school, or professional training.

September 2012

PHASE 1

A three-week Pro-Seminar: The specific content of the Fifth Year will be determined by each Fellow, to be refined on a case-by-case basis in consultation with faculty after the Fellow is selected. Fellows will refine their plans over the spring and summer, and begin to establish appropriate contacts in the sites they will visit.

October 2012-March 2013

PHASE 2

Travel Phase: The fifth year differs from study abroad programs. It is individualized and it offers the opportunity to spend time in multiple sites. It differs from internships: It is not career training, but can make use of scholarly institutions in various parts of the world, using that term broadly to include universities, research centers, museums, laboratories, and libraries.

April-May 2013

PHASE 3

A six-week Pro-Seminar: Fellows will discuss their study experiences, reflect on those experiences with reference to their original plans and the questions raised in the preparatory Pro-Seminar, and produce a written account and analysis. In this wrap-up seminar, faculty will connect current interdisciplinary knowledge and thinking about globalization to what the Fellows bring to the table.



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Study abroad enriches

BY DANIEL CARPENTER-GOLD

Jan. 17—dreaded by some, anxiously awaited by others, the start of spring semester is now upon us. And for some Columbia students, this means planning for the summer. Leapfrogging ruminations on the definition of justice and the true nature of man, “Temp job or unpaid internship?” will soon become the question on Columbia’s collective mind. But I would like to add a third option to the typical dilemma: spend the summer, or even next fall, studying abroad. “What?” I hear you ask, “Columbia has study abroad programs?” Indeed we do, and they should be seriously considered by any student looking to spend a few months improving herself, as well as having a great time.

At Columbia, relatively few people study abroad. There is little time for it in the hectic rush from matriculation to graduation—by the time Columbia students have finished the Core, they are often already specialists, and unless their specialty is regional studies, they are unlikely to have a reason to go overseas. But as the world gets globalized and job competition gets tight, time spent overseas is more important now than ever.

Columbians understand that the reason we work so hard in college is to work even harder when we get out—to become employable. And study abroad helps you do just that. Living in a foreign country demonstrates an ability to adapt to new situations, to work outside of your comfort zone, and to interact with people from different cultures. Employers consider study abroad to be an important element in evaluating prospective employees, and “cross-cultural experience” and “strategic international understanding” are considered to be among the most important attributes for a professional. Regardless of how much concrete material you learn overseas, you will develop a more global perspective that, as vague as it sounds, is both recognized and desired by employers.

I remember my father saying, after touring Columbia with me four long years ago, “they think you won’t learn anything worthwhile outside of New York.” But you will. You will learn from the classes you take, because they are rooted in the culture that you work with every day. You will learn from living in a new place—what food is good, where the bad parts of a city are, how to avoid

Debunking Greek life

BY SPENCER WOLFE

As another semester begins, fraternities and sororities are opening their doors to prospective brothers and sisters. Amid the parties and small talk, it can be easy to lose sight of what it means to go Greek at Columbia. The orientation elevator pitch for Greek life focuses on four selling points: networking, philanthropy, leadership, and social opportunities. While these are all important to consider, I have found, as a newly initiated brother of Sigma Nu, that the value of a fraternity or sorority runs much deeper. I joined Sigma Nu not as a star-struck freshman eager to drink away from my parents’ watchful eyes, but as a seasoned sophomore looking for something more meaningful. For this reason, I approached the pledge process with more solidified goals in mind. Though the act of becoming a brother or sister is often fraught with negative stereotypes perpetuated by those with an incomplete understanding of Greek life, I am happy to say that the stereotypes are not only inaccurate, but are also contrary to reality. In short, “Animal House” should not to be taken at face value.

Columbia Greek life gives students the chance to enter into an egalitarian collective. Contrary to the traditional image of a fraternity as a hierarchical machine, the power structure of a fraternity is decidedly horizontal because each member is first and foremost a brother—a respected equal. Pledges do not have to “earn” equality through ridiculous actions or drinking feats (especially at non-hazing fraternities like Sigma Nu). Rather, their fraternity represents a group of individuals that offers trust and unconditional support. Going to one of the planet’s best schools in America’s largest city is nothing short of daunting. My fraternity brothers helped me get a grasp on New York by sharing their urban insight and making me, someone from a small Colorado town, feel at home in a city of millions. Fraternities and sororities offer support on a broad spectrum of issues, support that cannot be mimicked by other student groups united by only a common interest in a particular field or activity. Columbia’s inherently overwhelming nature makes Greek life at our school incalculably valuable.

A second benefit is an understanding that a collective is only as good as its parts. Being a member of a fraternity or sorority is unique in the comprehensiveness of the obligations of this membership. In everything I do—as a student, as an athlete, as an employee, or just as a human being—I am a Sigma Nu. A Greek’s identity, Sigma Nu or not, follows a person everywhere. Furthermore, this sense of comprehensive obligation is incredibly important in the world beyond college. Life is not as neatly compartmentalized as the college bubble. The different elements of my life will collide in countless ways and my success in each element will be contingent upon my success in others, unlike in school, where I can neatly divorce my performance in Greek History from my performance in Mind, Brain, and Behavior, and my work-study from Pre-Law Society.

By extension, my brothers have pleasantly surprised me. They are not mindless binge drinkers, but an eclectic group of talented individuals united by character—not race, religion, culture, or socioeconomic status. Columbia Greek life is populated by Africans, Asians, and Indians, by homosexuals and heterosexuals, by 1 percent-ers and 99 percent-ers, and by people from the Deep South, or the Bay Area, or just down the street. I was refreshingly surprised to find that my peers are some of the most talented musicians, athletes, writers, and artists that I have encountered, not only at Columbia, but in my 20 short years of life. I can say with honesty that I am proud to call these men brothers. Rather than being institutions that promote exclusiveness, fraternities institutionalize bonds of deep friendship between diverse students at Columbia. We aren’t just members of a club—we are brothers, and will forever view and support each other as equals.

Leadership, networking, social opportunities, and philanthropy are salient aspects of Greek life, but by no means are the entirety of what it means to be a brother or sister. To Columbia first-years looking to party, know that Greek life is much more meaningful commitment. Be aware that members of Greek life are not looking for party animals or even merely friends—they’re looking for brothers and sisters.

The author is a Columbia College sophomore majoring in history. He is web historian and assistant social chair of Sigma Nu and is a member of the Columbia Pre-Law Society.

offending people and being offended. If you have a job or internship, you’ll learn how to behave in a different professional culture. (My Russian boss’s reaction when I was all of five minutes late to work once is forever etched in my mind.) More than anything else, you’ll be able to see your own habits and assumptions through the eyes of a foreigner. These are things that can be described to people who have never lived in the country, but can never really be understood without getting out of Manhattan.

And then there are languages. Language study does more than simply expand the number of people with whom you can communicate. Just as living in a different culture makes you see your own behavior in a different light, learning a new language can give you a better understanding of your first language. It develops vital abilities like memorization and logical analysis. It shows commitment for job, internship, or fellowship applications. It

Call me, beep me, if you wanna reach me

During winter break, I finally embraced the technological ways of the future. While I’m not entirely sure whether this was because it was my last winter break or because I relented and realized that planners are not coming back in style after all, what I am sure of is this: The one futuristic feature that stuck out to me, as I downloaded and synced and restarted and repeated, was how many ways there are to talk to people without actually talking to people at all.

There’s an instant messaging function on Words With Friends for passive aggressively suggesting to your playing partner that he stop using “qi” on a triple word tile. There’s the ever powerful “@” symbol on Twitter for sending a pithy rejoinder. There’s email on LinkedIn. I’m not sure how Skype, Google’s video chat, and Apple’s FaceTime differ, but you now have the capability of choosing which product you would like to use to see your loved ones’ pixelated faces.

Imagine, I thought to myself—while asking my friend whether or not her illness was subsiding as I played “qi” on a double letter tile—how this will help us stay in touch after we graduate, after we naturally and rightly grow apart, after it stops being so easy to see one another. And, in some sense, it will. Simply acknowledging that you “like” something on someone’s Facebook page is a reminder of your continued presence in that someone’s life. A tweet can sustain collegiate rapport. How can we possibly fall out of touch when staying in touch seems so simple?

It is, of course, not so simple. Because it is also possible, and maybe even probable, that we will indeed use Twitter, Tumblr, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Google+ (well, maybe not Google+). That we will rely on them. And that we will come to view them as acceptable forms of communication. As substitutes for letters and phone calls and chats over coffee. That, by constantly being in communication with one another, we will not actually be communicating. The whole thing is highly reminiscent of the fourth installment of “The Sisterhood of the Traveling

STAFF EDITORIAL

Ongoing registration woes

As grudgingly as any Columbia student confronts a new semester, one would at least hope we had enough time to mentally prepare during winter break in order to ease smoothly back into the brisk tempo of college life. But when so many students constantly refresh Courseworks only to find blank class “Intro” pages, it’s understandable why so many of us go back to school grudgingly—when professors fail to give us even basic information about a class’s scope, expectations, or necessary textbooks, unnecessary mental and financial burdens mar the beginning of our semester.

Adding to this frustration is the fact that Columbia’s shopping period exists only in theory, not in practice. It is often not until the first day of class that professors give us the syllabus, yet by the second day they expect us to have finished a dozen or so pages of readings, or have started on the first problem set. Hypothetically, students can add a class by the end of the second week but chances are no one will add a class this late and face lagging behind. Although CCSC has made commendable efforts to increase the availability of course information before registration times, enforcement measures fall short. If professors then neglect to provide information, we are left feeling anxious at not knowing what to expect.

makes the two years you spent satisfying your language requirement worthwhile. If nothing else, it makes everything else seem easy.

So, in between spamming Joe Biden’s email asking whether he needs a personal assistant for the summer and wondering if that research position listing really meant “applicants with less than two Ph.D.s need not apply,” check out the offerings from Columbia’s Office of Global Programs. They have programs in all sorts of exotic locales, and will even help you find a scholarship to cover some of the tuition. It might well be the best opportunity you have—for your education and for your career.

The author is a Columbia College senior majoring in political science. He studied abroad in Beijing with the Columbia Summer Language Program last summer.



EMILY LAZERWITZ

Pants” series, in which the girls stop actually making time for one another because they have a magical pair of pants to mail around the country. (After writing that, it appears this comparison is not quite as apt as I originally thought.)

I have not, to be honest, decided whether all of the aforementioned is a blessing or a curse. I do not know if I, or any of us, will ever be able to know. I know that there are friends, acquaintances, and mortal enemies who graduated last year to whom I would not speak anymore if it weren’t for Twitter and Gchat. I know that, for all of my protestations, I take advantage of the convenience that today’s technology offers. I know that texting and Tweeting and posting and reblogging are easy and fun. I know that this way, at least, we will be saying something to each other.

But I also know that saying something is often not

Staying in touch and continuing to touch one another’s lives are not necessarily synonymous

good enough for relationships forged at one point in a person’s life to matter thereafter. I know that staying in touch and continuing to touch one another’s lives are not necessarily synonymous. And I know—with certainty that the smartest of smart phones could not afford me—that there is no instant message of any kind that could ever communicate what the smile on my suitemates’ faces did when I saw them for the first time after winter break.

Emily Tamkin is a Columbia College senior majoring in Russian literature and culture. She is the general manager of the Columbia Political Union, vice chair of the Senior Fund, literary criticism editor of The Birch, and Spectator’s former editorial page editor. Back to the Future runs alternate Wednesdays.

Ultimately, professors should be held accountable. As the arbiters of our grades, they are the ones who decide whether that final will be worth 40 percent or whether they will even give a final. As students, we have the right to know beforehand what we can expect from a class. Otherwise, we blindly register for classes without enough time to make an informed decision about our educations before assignments pile up.

This right is also a legal right. In 2008, the Higher Education Opportunity Act was modified to include that all professors should post ISBN numbers and textbook prices before course registration. So whether a student needs a stoichiometry manual for general chemistry or a tower of books about a variety of isms, every Courseworks should indicate that before we even set foot in the classroom. When we know in advances which classes we’ll take, we can order our books both ahead of time and at cheaper prices. This way, we can avoid the stress of long lines at the bookstore and the financial burden of overpriced materials.

Every professor should be accountable to both this law and to students. The very least he or she can do is provide a provisional syllabus consisting of basic requirements like papers with page counts and weekly readings—sometimes, course descriptions are not enough. Syllabuses presumably require departmental approval, so they must exist weeks in advance—yet many professors fail to post them ahead of time. Even if they can’t give the specifics on every deadline and assignment, they should at least provide the bare minimum. Every informed decision made with enough time keeps students from getting caught up in the start-of-semester madness.

The Columbia Daily Spectator accepts op-eds on any topic relevant to the Columbia University and Morningside Heights community. Op-eds should be roughly 650 words in length. We require that op-eds be sent exclusively to Spectator and will not consider articles that have already been published elsewhere.

Letters to the Editor should be no longer than 350 words and must refer to an article from Spectator or The Eye, or a Spectrum post. Submissions should be sent to opinion@columbiaspectator.com. Please paste all submissions into the body of the email. Should we decide to publish your submission we will contact you via email.

Columbia sees Agho Theory in effect

No story is good without a twist, and very often it's the twist that makes the story. I don't think there's a bigger twist in the world of sports than a season-ending injury to a key member of a team. Columbia basketball teams were dealt their own critical injury blows this winter when senior guard Noruwa Agho from the men's and sophomore guard Brianna Orlich from the women's basketball teams, respectively, became long-term injury casualties.

The effects of injuries can vary, though. Unanticipated as they always are, injuries often rattle a team—a former juggernaut can suddenly struggle to put together two wins in a row. History is littered with examples of big-name athletes getting injured and their teams suffering tremendously as a result.

However, there are some examples of teams actually performing better after the loss of a key player. I'm a die-hard fan of Liverpool Football Club, and, unfortunately, Steven Gerrard—the club captain and heartbeat of the side—has had more than his fair share of injuries in the past few seasons. I would never dare to question Gerrard's footballing prowess—he is single-handedly responsible for much of the club's success in the past decade—but I can't deny that in some circumstances, it does feel like the team does better without him than it does with him.

The last time a Columbia men's basketball squad won 11 of 12 games was in 1981-1982. Ewing Theory in action? I think so.

There are several potential reasons for this: It may be that Gerrard tries too hard when he's on the pitch, sometimes trying to do too much and ignoring the most efficient options for the team. It may be that others try too hard when Gerrard is around, and thus make questionable choices when they have the ball. It could even be that Gerrard's teammates understand that he wants the ball more, and they trust him more than they should.

Bill Simmons, better known as the Sports Guy, and a friend of his—Dave Cirilli—came up with a theory in the 1990s to explain situations like the one I mention above. Cirilli was convinced that basketball player Patrick Ewing's teams (both Georgetown University and the New York Knicks) did better when the star wasn't around. Thus, the Ewing Theory was born. The theory essentially states that when a superstar who has created limited success for his or her team leaves due to an injury, trade, or free agency, that team will play better.

Columbia's basketball star for most of the past three years, Agho got injured in the home opener against Furman, the Lions' second game of the season. He led the Ivy League in scoring in 2010-2011, and the torn patellar tendon he suffered was understandably considered a huge blow to the Light Blue basketball program. However, prior to last weekend, the Columbia men's basketball team had won 11 out of its last 12 games—an incredibly impressive feat. To put that in context, the last time a Columbia men's basketball squad won 11 of 12 games was in 1981-1982. Ewing Theory in action? I think so.

Take nothing away from Agho, who is a fantastic talent and a huge asset to Columbia. I'm not saying the Lions don't need him, but give credit to his coach and teammates for their ability to adapt. Coach Kyle Smith changed the way his team plays, and sharing responsibilities across the entire squad has seemed to make the Light Blue a more formidable force than when it relied so heavily on Agho. Junior guard Brian Barbour has stepped up to shoulder most of the offensive responsibility, and he's been ably supported by sophomore guard Meiko Lyles and junior center Mark Cisco, among others. Considering Barbour's new role, should the Lions

SEE MOHANKA, page 7



MRINAL MOHANKA

Word on the Street



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HANDS IN THE AIR | Harvard senior forward Keith Wright was named Ivy League Player of the Week for the second time this season. He leads the Crimson in scoring.

Harvard proves dominance, Penn starts Ivy season strong

BY ELI SCHULTZ
Spectator Staff Writer

BROWN

It was a rough week for the Bears (5-12, 0-1 Ivy), who suffered close losses to the Longwood Lancers (7-12) and Yale (11-4, 1-0 Ivy). The loss to visiting Longwood was particularly deflating, as Lancers senior guard Jeremiah Bowman hit a clutch layup with 2.2 seconds remaining to hand the home team a painful 79-77 defeat. Brown sophomore guard Sean McGonagill performed remarkably well in the loss, putting up a game-high 30 points, as did freshman forward Andrew McCarthy, who grabbed 19 rebounds to go along with 16 points. Brown suffered a similar late-game loss three days later in New Haven, blowing a seven-point halftime lead as the Bulldogs went on a 13-3 run in the game's final minutes to secure a 68-64 victory. The Bears will have a shot at revenge when they host Yale on Jan. 21.

CORNELL

The Big Red (6-10, 1-1 Ivy) started their Ivy season strong with a home win over Princeton (10-8, 1-1 Ivy) before falling to Penn (9-9, 2-0 Ivy) the next night. Freshman guard Galal Cancer had an

excellent Ivy debut for Cornell in its 67-59 defeat of the Tigers, leading all scorers with 17 points. While three Cornell players posted double-digit point totals against Princeton, only one did so against the Quakers, and the Big Red fell 64-52. Cornell's lone bright spot in the game was freshman forward Shonn Miller, who posted a double-double with 19 points and 10 rebounds. The Big Red look to bounce back at Columbia on Jan. 21.

DARTMOUTH

Dartmouth (4-13, 0-1 Ivy) posted a rare win this past week versus Longwood, snapping a six-game losing streak. The Big Green distributed the ball efficiently—only two players failed to score and five posted double-digit totals. Dartmouth also executed offensively, shooting 54.7 percent from the field and 62.5 percent from behind the arc as a team. The Big Green's two leading scorers were both freshmen—guard/forward John Golden and forward Jvonte Brooks, who put up 17 and 16 points, respectively. Dartmouth will look to build on its modest success on Jan. 21 against Harvard. The Crimson won the two teams' last matchup, 63-47.

HARVARD

With a decisive 69-48 win over George Washington (6-11), the Crimson

(15-2, 1-0 Ivy) demonstrated once again that it deserves the high praise its received this season. The victory marked Harvard's third consecutive win after losing to Fordham (7-9) on Jan. 3, and the Crimson is now ranked 24th in the nation by the USA Today coaches' poll. Harvard dominated the Colonials in the first half, entering intermission up 33-13. The Crimson got a key contribution from freshman forward Steve Moundou-Missi, who had 16 points coming off the bench in only 19 minutes on the court. Star senior forward Keith Wright also put up solid numbers, scoring 11 points and pulling down eight rebounds. Harvard will face Dartmouth in Hanover on Jan. 21 looking to continue its torrid start to the season.

PENN

The Quakers posted two huge road wins to kick off their Ivy season, quickly jumping to the front of the conference standings. In its first game, Penn narrowly edged the Lions (11-7, 0-2 Ivy), 66-64, behind a remarkable effort by the Quaker backcourt. Senior guards Zack Rosen and Tyler Bernardini and sophomore guard Miles Cartwright posted 15, 16, and 16 points, respectively, with no other Penn player scoring more than five. The Quakers posted a much more decisive 64-52 victory the following night in Ithaca, with Bernardini and Rosen leading the way once again for

Penn with 18 points apiece. The Quakers next play on Jan. 21, when they host crosstown rival Saint Joseph's (12-6) at the Palestra.

PRINCETON

After falling flat against Cornell, the Tigers managed to scrape out a win versus Columbia. Senior guard Douglas Davis led Princeton with 16 points in the 67-59 loss in Ithaca, despite making only seven of 22 shots on the night. Other Tigers did not fare much better, as the team shot an unimpressive 36.2 percent from the field. The team field goal percentage rose to 41.9 percent the following night in New York, as four Princeton players, including Davis, scored 10 or more points in a 62-58 victory over the Lions. The Tigers will have a 16-day break for finals before resuming play at Penn on Jan. 30.

YALE

The Bulldogs opened their conference schedule with a 68-64 home victory over Brown this past week. Junior guard Austin Morgan led the way with 18 points, while senior center Greg Mangano added 15. Senior guard/forward Reggie Willhite's strong all-around play in the game's final minutes helped the Bulldogs complete an impressive come-from-behind victory. Yale returns to action at Brown on Jan. 21.

Distribution key for Lions in streak of wins

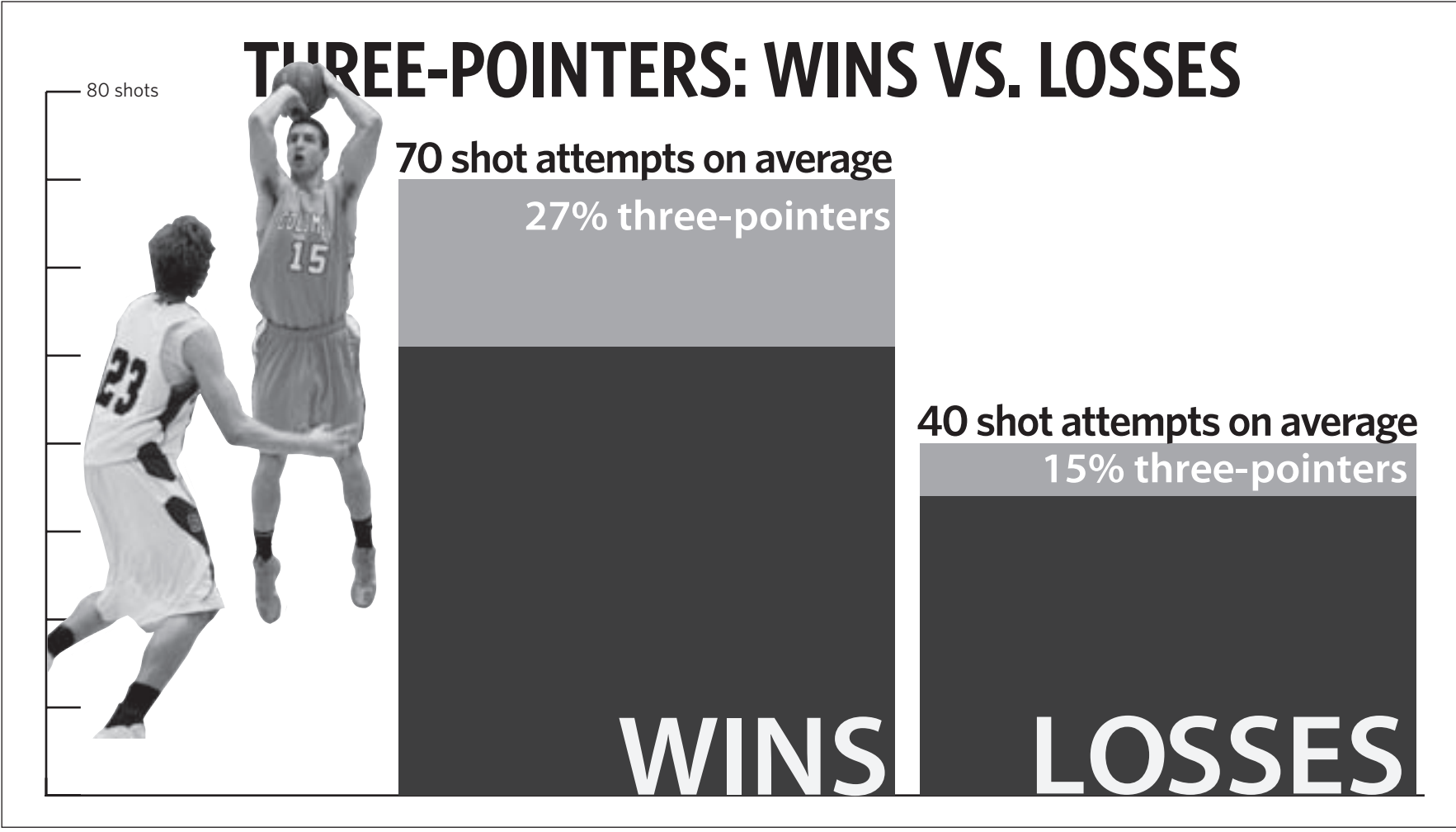
MOHANKA from page 6

worry about relying too much on Barbour, as they did on Agho? Maybe, but I think it's less of a concern than it was with Agho—at point guard, Barbour seems to be a better distributor and more of a behind-the-scenes presence than the injured senior.

This past weekend, though, the Lions dropped both games to Penn and Princeton. Unfortunately for the Lions, Lyles, who has averaged 10.2 points per game this season, was below his best. A possible pitfall of the Ewing Theory: When one part of the machine underperforms, there's no superstar to pick up the slack and take over. However, the 12 games prior to these two seem to suggest that the Lions are still capable of causing a stir in the Ivy League, even without Agho. The Light Blue's next chance to set things right is just around the corner, when it hosts Cornell on Saturday. If the Lions can recapture their pre-Ivy season form, they could very well stun those who picked them to finish a lowly seventh. What's most impressive is that they could cause that shock despite having been dealt what seemed like a killer blow to their season.

Of course, Agho will be back in 2012-2013. It'll be like having a new five-star recruit. You'd expect that the team will be even better with their star man... or will they? Coach Smith will need to overcome the Ewing effect, and I'm optimistic. Agho's injury has changed the way the team operates now. The adversity of this season has provided the platform to establish a new style of play for the Lions, with less reliance on individual talent. I see the return of the king as being more like adding a strong piece to a well-oiled machine, rather than building a new strategy around one player. Whether I'm right or wrong, only time will tell.

Mrinal Mohanka is a Columbia College senior majoring in economics. He is a former editor for Spectator and a daily editor for Spectrum.



Three-point shooting plagues Columbia in losses, propels it in wins

BY ZACH GLUBIAK
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Anyone who saw the Lions' first two Ivy League games this weekend must have been struck by the similarities. In both, Columbia took the lead in the final minute of the first half. In both, the Light Blue's opponent reversed that advantage with a mid-second-half surge. In both, a ferocious comeback from the hosts fell just short in the final seconds.

And lastly, both ended with a last-ditch three at the buzzer that would not fall for the Lions. Neither shot would have had an insignificant impact on the game's result—against Penn, junior guard Brian Barbour's three was after the buzzer, meaning it would not have counted even had it gone in, and the following night Princeton held a four-point advantage when Barbour's long-range runner rimmed out. Yet three-point shooting has become a startling

indicator of coach Kyle Smith's team's success.

In 11 wins, the Lions have shot 40.2 percent from beyond the arc, going 97-for-241 in those contests. In their seven losses, that percentage shrinks by nearly 10 points to 30.7 percent, on 35-for-114 shooting from long distance.

And as those numbers suggest, the Lions are not just shooting better when they are winning—they are also shooting more. In those 11 wins, they are averaging 21.9 attempts from three-point land, a 35 percent increase over their average in losing efforts of 16.2 attempts per game.

Head coach Kyle Smith saw his team's shooting as much more of an issue of playing at home versus playing away.

"It's tough ... 0-2 [in the Ivies] at home is disappointing, but we haven't played great at home all year, to be honest. I don't know why that is," Smith said. "We had good support this weekend and couldn't capitalize. I don't think we've shot the ball that well from three this year. It's a little mind-boggling, because we've got

to figure it out."

A brief look at the numbers proves Smith is right, but the difference between his team's shooting at home versus on the road seems to be only slight. The Lions have shot 37.0 percent from beyond the arc in the friendly confines of Levien Gymnasium while they have knocked down 39.2 percent of their deep balls on the road. Although that 2.2 percent may not seem like much of a difference, the Lions lost their two Ivy League games by a combined margin of six points—proof that a few three-pointers can go a long way.

"We didn't shoot it well from three," Smith said after the Light Blue's loss to Penn on Friday. "If you told me that we would have gone 3-for-19 from three—it's going to be tough to win."

The importance of three-point shooting comes as a bit of a surprise for a team that has made its living on the defensive end of the floor. The Light Blue has held opponents to an average of 59.2 points per game, second in the league only to

nationally-ranked Harvard so far this season and down from just over 70 points per game during the 2010-2011 campaign. The Lions are also holding opposing teams to 39.6 percent shooting from the field, tops in the Ivy League by almost two percentage points (as a point of comparison, the second-ranked and sixth-ranked teams are separated by six-tenths of a percentage point in the category).

Going into the weekend, Columbia ranked 24th nationally in scoring defense and 37th nationally in defensive field goal percentage.

So is there a connection between Columbia's improved defense and the importance of its three-point shooting? While it's hard to tell, the combination of defense and three-point shooting has been the team's trademark this year. With only one chance at an Ivy opponent this weekend—Saturday against Cornell—it will be interesting to see how the Lions combine what has been a staunch defense so far this season with their talent, albeit inconsistent, to shoot the long ball.

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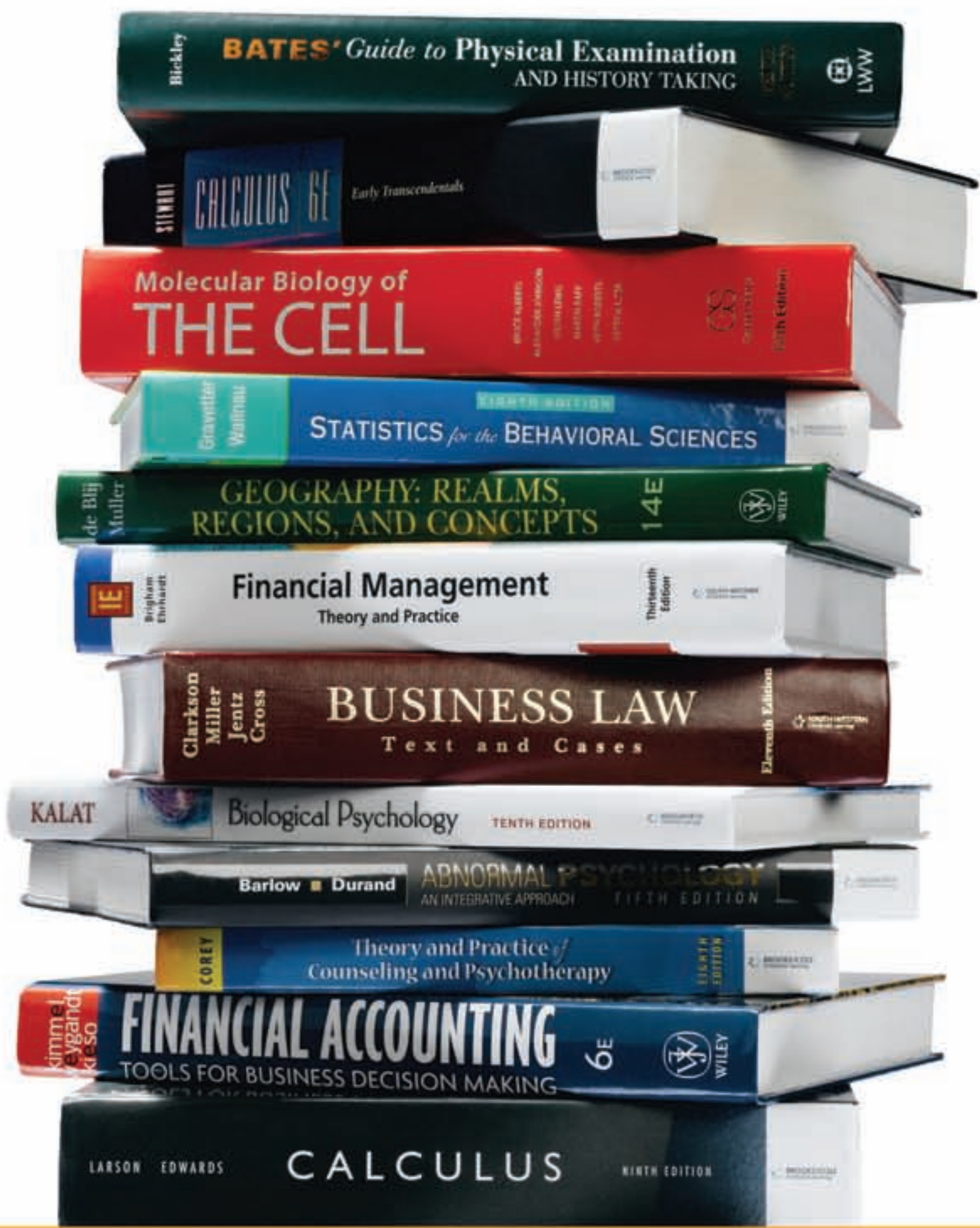
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