



Patrick Yuan / Staff photographer

**HELPING HAND** | After the devastating earthquake in Haiti, Kessandra Agenor, BC '10, and April Simpson, CC '11, began planning relief work.

## Students, professor recall harrowing experience in Haiti

BY LEAH GREENBAUM, ELIZABETH SCOTT, AND AMBER TUNNELL  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

School of International and Public Affairs professor Elisabeth Lindenmayer and six SIPA students were on their way to a meeting at the United Nations Development Programme in Haiti.

They had just stepped out of the car when they were thrown to the floor. The earth was shaking. The UNDP building cracked. The building that housed the United Nations Stabilization Mission In Haiti, or MINUSTAH, had seven floors, but within an instant, it had one. In a daze, Lindenmayer realized that all of her colleagues were under the rubble.

"The car behind us was crushed. We spent the night there trying to release them. We were told the palace had crashed ... the government

was dead," she said. There could be rioting, she was told.

**'We played chess with death and won by a hair'**

When a magnitude 7.0 earthquake devastated Haiti on January 12, killing tens of thousands and decimating the country, Lindenmayer had arrived just days earlier with a handful of students eager to take part in the UN Studies program, where she is the director. Lindenmayer brought the students to learn about peacekeeping operations in Haiti and assess ways to address Haitian poverty. Since last year, they had been working with MINUSTAH, which is a relatively new UN peacekeeping mission there.

"2009 was a very quiet year," Lindenmayer said, despite the natural disasters MINUSTAH has

seen since its conception in 2004.

And Haiti had begun to improve, she said. In between her two visits to Haiti, she said that she saw the country change radically. "The difference was amazing. You could see there was a hope for Haiti," she commented.

This year, the UN Studies Program group was researching the opportunity for the role of the private sector in the Haitian government. Lindenmayer said that they had a series of meetings with the army, the police, and the electoral team, along with many other groups in Haiti. They also met with people in the private sector, which they had never done before. "They are all dead," she said of the people they met.

Immediately after the quakes, her SIPA students quickly busied themselves with trying to best help those around them.

"I think the students immediately did everything they could to keep themselves busy. It was the only way to cope. I did not stop them," she said. "Less than five minutes after the earthquake, the boys were trying to release the people from the car which had been crushed. The women and the team were holding babies and helping the wounded. We were busy the whole night."

The next day, they started to evacuate to the MINUSTAH base. Along the way to this base, they met Marc Levy and Alex Fischer, workers at Columbia's Earth Institute's Center for International Earth Science Information Network. Levy and Fischer went with the group to the base.

They stayed at the base two nights and two days. "All the

SEE HAITI, page 4

## Columbia loses two undergrads

Fernandez, CC '12, dies of pneumonia

BY SARAH DARVILLE  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

John David Fernandez, a Columbia sophomore known as JD to friends, died of pneumonia Saturday night, University officials confirmed Sunday.

Fernandez, a wheelchair user, was vice president of the Columbia University Libertarians and was known on campus for his political convictions and his continual optimism.

He contributed to the Ludwig von Mises Institute website, which works on "advancing the scholarship of liberty" in the tradition of the Austrian school of economic thought.

"I know we are united in mourning the loss of such a promising and inspiring member of our community," Dean of Student Affairs Kevin Shollenberger wrote in a University statement Sunday night. "We will provide details regarding a funeral and memorial services planned to remember and honor David as they become available."

Fernandez's classmates, friends, and colleagues spoke of his inspiring nature and intellect.

SEE FERNANDEZ, page 4



Sinnott, GS, passes from natural causes

BY MADINA TOURE  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

To many, Michael Sinnott was a go-getter.

"I just think that when someone passes away, people always think about the person," said Leslie Limardo, Associate Dean for Academic and Administrative Support Services. "From my perspective, when someone passes I think you should look at something in their life that inspired you, and with him, I think it's just 'live life to the fullest.' He challenged himself academically, you know, he lived life."

Sinnott, 28, a senior at the School of General Studies, died Jan. 10 from a pre-existing condition.

Sinnott was from Pennsylvania, and attended Valley Forge Military Academy. After spending a short time in the French Foreign Legion and touring Europe, he graduated from the Swedish Institute's School of Massage Therapy in New York City, and went on to work as a massage therapist for cruise ships, spas, and chiropractors.

"I knew that it [massage therapy school] would not be

SEE SINNOTT, page 4



## Sen. Perkins calls for eminent domain reform

BY KIM KIRSCHENBAUM  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

Sometimes a court decision can lead to a movement.

At least, this is what State Senator Bill Perkins, who represents Harlem, said at a public hearing on Jan. 6 about the status of Columbia's planned campus expansion in Manhattanville.

The New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division recently threatened Columbia's vision with a surprising court decision not in their favor. Now, a movement for statewide eminent domain reform that Perkins has announced may prove to be a further roadblock for the University, supporters say.

### The first victory

The Jan. 6 hearing came on the heels of the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division's 3-2 decision last month that declared eminent domain—the process by which the state can seize private property for "public use" in exchange for market-rate compensation—in the 17-acre expansion zone to be illegal, a major setback for the

University's campus development plans.

It was a surprising victory for Tuck-It-Away Self-Storage owner Nick Sprayregen and gas station owners Gurnam Singh and Parminder Kaur, the last private landowners in the expansion area who have not struck land deals with the University.

University President Lee Bollinger said after the ruling that the project may not happen at all without eminent domain.

The Empire State Development Corporation—the state body that approved eminent domain for the project in December 2008—appealed the decision this month to New York's highest court, the Court of Appeals. Columbia is not a direct party in the case.

### The start of a movement

In the wake of this victory, Perkins has spoken out against the state's current procedures for invoking eminent domain. He wrote a letter last month to Gov. David Paterson, CC '77, urging him not to appeal the Appellate Division ruling.

SEE REFORM, page 3



Patrick Yuan / Staff photographer

**UNCERTAIN FUTURE** | The ESDC has gone forward with its appeal of a court ruling against the use of eminent domain in Manhattanville.

## State appeals anti-eminent domain ruling

BY KIM KIRSCHENBAUM  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

The Empire State Development Corporation is officially going forward with its appeal in favor of eminent domain in Manhattanville after losing in a surprise court decision in December.

On Jan. 8, ESDC—the state body that approved the use of eminent domain for

Columbia's Manhattanville expansion project in December 2008—formally appealed the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division's decision last month that ruled that such use is illegal.

The Appellate Division

ruled that the expansion of domain—the process by which the state can seize private property for "public use" in exchange for market-rate compensation—illegal in the 17-acre expansion zone, dealing a major setback to the University's campus development plans. The ruling argued that the expansion of

an elite private university does not constitute a public use, and condemned alleged "collusion" between Columbia and ESDC in determining blight in the area.

It was a surprising victory for Tuck-It-Away Self-Storage owner Nick Sprayregen and gas station owners Gurnam Singh

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### INSIDE

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#### Alumna film takes a stand on Rwanda

"My Neighbor, My Killer," the latest documentary by filmmaker Anne Aghion, BC '82, focuses on justice systems in a small Rwandan town after the genocide. The work opened locally at the Mayses Institute in Harlem on Jan. 12.



#### Sports, page 12

#### Unproven players rise as Lions stars sidelined

Columbia was forced to rely on its depth over the break, as both Patrick Foley and Brian Grimes were unavailable for several games. Despite solid contributions from untested players, the Light Blue struggled to find consistency.

#### Opinion, page 6

#### Whither tolerance?

Everyone's talking about religious tolerance, but Mark Hay wonders whether we practice what we preach.

#### Unmarriage equality

Neil FitzPatrick discusses why gay marriage is a no-brainer for our generation.

#### Today's Events

#### Starting up Wikispaces

Wikis: They're not just for last minute research.  
204 CCNMTL Faculty Support

#### Seminar on the invisible

Chemistry can help you see the invisible. Learn about bio-imaging.  
209 Havemeyer, 4:30 p.m.

E-MAIL  
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PHONE  
Daily Spectator (212) 854-9555

#### WEATHER

Today  Tomorrow   
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# Barnard student center finally opens its doors

BY CARLY SILVER  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Nearly three years after Barnard demolished its McIntosh Student Center, the Diana is finally open for business.

While the formal opening ceremony will not take place for another two weeks, the Diana—the new student center on Barnard’s campus—is set to open Tuesday for the first day of classes.

According to Barnard media relations manager Alyssa Vine, classes will be taking place in the Diana on the first day of the semester, and Liz’s Café, a new coffee shop, will be opening. The Student Activities office will also be up and running.

On a hard hat tour in December, Lisa Gamsu, Barnard’s Vice President for administration and capital planning, warned students that some elements of the facility might not be in place by January.

Though Vine said that audio/visual equipment for classrooms should be ready for use on Tuesday, she added that there are components of the building that are not yet complete, such

as the second floor dining room and student store.

The grand opening will be celebrated in February, and will include a ribbon-cutting ceremony with students, faculty, staff, community leaders, University Trustees, and public officials.

Students from both Columbia and Barnard said they were excited about the building’s opening.

Construction “has been a bit frustrating,” Meredith Kurz, BC ’12, said. “But at this point, I’m excited for the new space. We certainly need it on our side of the street.”

As a Columbia College Student Council member and representative to Student Government Association, Brandon Christophe, CC ’12, said he is also eager to see the final results.

“I’m very excited and hope that, as a CC student, I will be given a lot of access to this building,” he said.

Beginning Tuesday, the building will be open from 8 a.m. to 2 a.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. on weekends. Access to the tunnel link will close nightly at 10 p.m.

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# State files M’ville appeal

APPEAL from front page

and Parminder Kaur, the only remaining private property owners in the expansion area who have not struck land deals with the University. Singh and Kaur filed a separate lawsuit, but it was substantially similar to Sprayregen’s, and the Appellate Division ruled on both cases simultaneously.

Norman Siegel—Sprayregen’s attorney and former director of the New York Civil Liberties Union—served ESDC with a “notice of entry” on Jan. 5, a step the winner of a court case takes to officially start the 30-day period in which the loser can appeal the decision. ESDC, which had announced its intention to appeal immediately after the Dec. 3 ruling, formally did so on Jan. 8, according to ESDC spokesperson Warner Johnston.

Now that the appeal has been filed, new legal briefs will be exchanged between the two parties.

“The ESDC has requested that we prepare new briefs and all parties have agreed to that,” David Smith, the attorney for the Singh family, said.

ESDC will first submit their briefs, then Sprayregen and Singh will respond with their briefs, and then the state will have another opportunity to respond. At that point, the case will be scheduled in May or June before the court goes on holiday for the summer, Smith said.

Echoing language he and Sprayregen have used throughout their multi-year fight against eminent domain in Manhattanville, Siegel said he was “cautiously optimistic that we will prevail in the Court of Appeals.”

Sprayregen cited as a point of concern the recent Court of Appeals ruling which upheld the use of eminent domain for the Atlantic Yards development in Brooklyn, but he said he sees reason for a favorable outcome.

“It concerns me only to the degree that virtually all cases up until now have been decided in favor of the state and the private beneficiary,” Sprayregen said. “But we’re the exception and we’re making a difference and I do think that the Court of Appeals will be able to see the significant differences between the fact pattern in Brooklyn and the fact pattern here and will uphold our decision,” he said, adding, “we think we have a strong legal position.”

Though Columbia is not a direct party to the case, University spokesperson Robert Hornsby said Columbia supports ESDC’s decision to appeal.

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Patrick Yuan / Staff photographer  
FULL DISCLOSURE | ESDC must disclose documents about Manhattanville that it has withheld for years.

# ESDC must release M’ville documents

BY KIM KIRSCHENBAUM AND  
SAM LEVIN  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

The New York State Court of Appeals ruled unanimously on Dec. 15 that the Empire State Development Corporation must hand over documents it has refused to disclose for two years.

Now, the recipients say that these documents could potentially turn the tide of a different case in their favor.

On Dec. 3, the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, ruled that eminent domain — the process by which the state can seize private property for “public use” in exchange for market-rate compensation — is illegal for Columbia’s 17-acre campus in Manhattanville. That ruling also faulted the state’s blight study of the area, which was used to determine whether the neighborhood is in an economic condition beyond potential for natural repair.

And on Dec. 15, Tuck-it-Away Self-Storage owner Nick Sprayregen — one of two remaining Manhattanville property owners that have not yet struck deals with the University — received news of a further court decision in his favor.

The Court of Appeals ruled that, under the Freedom of

Information Law, or FOIL, ESDC must disclose documents regarding a 2004 agreement between the ESDC and Columbia on seeking eminent domain for the Manhattanville campus.

The West Harlem Business Group, an unincorporated association of businesses, made several requests under FOIL for these specific documents. The ESDC made a large portion of the agreement available, but had continually refused to disclose seven of these documents, arguing that they are exempt based on the Public Officers Law, which grants exemption from FOIL when disclosure “would impair present or imminent contract awards or collective bargaining negotiations.”

But Sprayregen and his lawyer, Norman Siegel, challenged the ESDC’s right to withhold these remaining documents, and the court on Dec. 15 unanimously agreed with them.

The Court of Appeals decision noted that “this litigation could have been avoided, or significantly limited, had ESDC in the first instance complied with the dictates of FOIL.” It added that ESDC gave no explanation for the denial of these particular documents, beyond citing the language of the Public Officers Law.

“This, without more, constituted a failure by ESDC to ‘fully explain in writing’ to WHBG ‘the reasons for further denial’ as required by FOIL,” the court ruled, adding that the WHBG had a right to bring suit to either obtain the documents or receive an explanation for the ESDC’s denial.

“Only then, in the context of this lawsuit, did ESDC claim that the documents sought were exempt under Public Officers Law,” the document said, adding that the “access officer’s initial determination was superficial, at best.”

ESDC spokesperson Warner Johnston defended the initial refusal to release the documents in an e-mail, writing, “ESDC made public over 8,000 pages of documents before it affirmed the General Project Plan for this Project. Only seven documents, totaling 30 pages, which were withheld by ESDC as exempt under FOIL, were the subject of this litigation.”

He added, “This was a transparent process and none of these documents affects the merits of ESDC’s findings.”

Since the Court of Appeals ruling, Siegel and Sprayregen have been reviewing the documents. They noted recently that one particular document has raised some questions that will require further research, and this research will likely provide answers to their questions within the next week.

“We have identified some questions that we have to research as a result of the seven documents which could impact on our case in a positive way for us,” Siegel said. “But we haven’t completed the research yet so I can’t specifically say what that is.”

Sprayregen added, “There are certain documents in there that shed additional light on the processes and methodology used by the state and Columbia in this condemnation,” and they could potentially explain “the processes that the state used in the condemnation and whether they did something improper.”

Yet even if these documents do ultimately contain information that can strengthen their argument, it is still uncertain whether they could be taken into consideration at the Court of Appeals hearing for the eminent domain case in the spring.

The record for this case was closed on Oct. 30, 2008, the point at which no additional evidence could be submitted to the courts. Because the court had ruled that they should have had those documents from the outset, Siegel said that if they wish to use the documents, they will likely have to ask the court to open up the record. Siegel said that they are researching this process as well.

Columbia officials declined to comment on the ruling, citing the University’s policy of not commenting on litigations.

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# MUSIC DEPARTMENT

## FEATURED NEW AND ELECTIVE COURSES

# SPRING 2010

 <p><b>V2034 Music and Myth</b> Call #: 96448, 3 pts, TR 4:10pm-5:25pm, 620 Dodge The course explores the relationship between music and myth in Western culture, from ancient Greek cosmogony to 20th-century opera. Special emphasis is placed on the way the West, in the footsteps of the ancients, strove to create ritualized images of itself and of its worldview. Specific topics include works by Monteverdi, Gluck, Beethoven, Schubert, Liszt, Offenbach, Wagner, Strauss, Stravinsky, and Enescu.</p>	 <p><b>V2500 Women and Music</b> Call #: 77851, 3 pts, MW 2:40pm-3:55pm, 404 Dodge This course focuses on women and music in the Arabo-Islamic world. We will challenge conventional accounts that suggest women's participation in musical activities in Islamic societies is either restricted to the domestic sphere or related to a disreputable professional sphere that often includes dance and prostitution. Behind these clichés lies a more complex reality: the relationship between women and music is multifaceted and shifting.</p>	 <p><b>V3129 History of Western Music: Classical to 20th Century</b> Call #: 87304, 3 pts, TR 2:40pm-3:55pm, 622 Dodge A survey of Western music from the Classical era to the present day, focusing on the development of musical style and thought, and on analysis of selected works. Required for all Music Majors; open to non-Majors.</p>	 <p><b>V3136 The Operas of Verdi</b> Call #: 83037, 3 pts, TR 6:10pm-7:25pm, 620 Dodge This course will provide a historical and critical introduction to the operas of Giuseppe Verdi. The course will be organized around four operas: Macbeth (1847), La Traviata (1853), Don Carlos (1867), and Otello (1887). The course will emphasize not only the popular Verdi but also a more innovative figure, one influenced by Shakespeare and by developments in nineteenth-century spoken theater.</p>	 <p><b>V3168 The American Musical</b> Call #: 93049, 3 pts, MW 2:40pm-3:55pm, 622 Dodge A historical survey of American musical theater from its origins in the late nineteenth century, through the integrated musicals of figures like Kern, Gershwin, and Rodgers &amp; Hammerstein; to Sondheim and a new generation including Adam Guettel and Michael John LaChiusa. Focus will be on selected works, through which broader cultural and musical trends will be examined.</p>	 <p><b>V3305 Theories of Heinrich Schenker</b> Call #: 97550, 3 pts, M 4:10pm-6:00pm, 620 Dodge W 5:10pm-6:00pm, 814 Dodge An examination of Schenker's concepts of the relation between strict counterpoint and free writing: "prolongation," the "composing-out" of harmonies, the parallels and distinctions between "foreground," "middle ground," and "background," and the interaction between composing-out and thematic processes to create "form."</p>	 <p><b>V3320 Asian Humanities: Music of East Asia and Southeast Asia</b> Call #: 29571, 3 pts. (Section 001), MW 6:10pm-7:25pm, 622 Dodge Call #: 24695, 3 pts. (Section 002), MW 6:10pm-7:25pm, 814 Dodge This course surveys the histories and current aspects of some of the musical traditions of East and Southeast Asia, in a series of intensive case studies. We examine the relationships between music and society, and music and the other arts (notably dance, poetry, and theatre) with examples drawn from the cultures of mainland and insular Southeast Asia (from Burma to Indonesia) and East Asia (principally China, Japan and Korea) with further considerations on the bordering cultural regions of eastern Central Asia (especially Mongolia and Tibet) and Siberia. No prior musical training is required.</p>	 <p><b>V3330 Advanced Counterpoint</b> Call #: 79538, 3 pts, T 9:10am-11:00am, 620 Dodge Prerequisites: MUSI 13322 or instructor's permission. Fulfills the requirement of the 3500-level advanced theory elective. The study of tonal counterpoint through exercises and style-based composition: fugues following Fux's pedagogy; fugue expositions and complete fugues following Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier.</p>	 <p><b>V3630 Recorded Sound</b> Call #: 66840, 3 pts, M 1:10pm-4:00pm, 328 Prentiss The main objective is to gain a familiarity with and understanding of recording, editing, mixing, and mastering of recorded music and sounds using Pro Tools software. Discusses the history of recorded production, microphone technique, and the idea of using the studio as an instrument for the production and manipulation of sound.</p>	 <p><b>W4242 Advanced Composition</b> Call #: 62194, 3 pts, W 1:10pm-3:00pm, 620 Dodge Composition for larger ensembles, supported by study of contemporary repertoire.</p>	 <p><b>G4505 Jazz Composition And Arranging</b> Call #: 90556, 3 pts, M 10:10am-12:00pm, 620 Dodge In a seminar and hands-on workshop setting, this course offers an introduction to jazz arranging and composition techniques. Different historical styles will be covered, including, swing, bebop, hard bop, modal, fusion, Latin, and free jazz. Each week will focus on a different ensemble with varying instrumentation, different performance style, and various compositional forms. This class is geared for music majors, pre-professional musicians/composers, and those pursuing Jazz Studies. Some previous music experience, not necessarily in jazz, will be required.</p>	 <p><b>W4526 Orchestration</b> Call #: 63547, 3 pts, MW 10:35am-11:50am, 814 Dodge Classical and Romantic music is normally studied with an eye to the vertical and horizontal organization of tones (harmony and counterpoint) and to the organization of form and rhythm (musical analysis), as well as under a historical perspective. Rules of orchestration are a further crucial aspect to fully understand a work of this music. The goal of this course is to study different principles of "functional" orchestration, with examples taken mainly from eighteenth and nineteenth century music.</p>
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# Perkins kicks off hearings on eminent domain reform, criticizes blight studies

**REFORM from front page**

Soon after, he wrote a letter to the editor of the New York Times, criticizing a Times staff editorial that had called the court’s decision “weakly reasoned.” Perkins argued that the state’s process of invoking eminent domain “lacks accountability, transparency, or meaningful public participation.”

The public hearing in January drew Harlem residents, business owners, and University and state officials to the Adam Clayton Powell State Office Building. As part of a series of public hearings Perkins plans to hold, the meeting featured a slew of testifiers and witnesses who spoke to the need for legislation to reform the state’s eminent domain laws.

“Today is the first step in shifting the pendulum of power away from the unrestricted and abusive use of eminent domain back to a proper balance that protects the rights of tenants, property owners, and businesses,” Perkins said.

In an interview after the hearing, he commented, “There’s a momentum building like I’ve never seen before. People are coming from all over to share, people from all over the state.”

**Impetus for reform**

In a 2005 case, *Kelo v. City of New London*, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in a 5-4 decision that land could be transferred from one private owner to another through eminent domain to promote “economic rejuvenation,” as Justice John Paul Stevens wrote in his decision.

Supporters of eminent domain have cited this case as precedent for the idea that the seizure of land for a private entity can still constitute “public use,” but Perkins said the ruling contained language that encouraged states to review their own eminent domain statutes.

Since then, 43 states have reformed their eminent domain laws, but New York has not, he said.

Under New York State Eminent Domain Procedure Law, prior to a property’s

acquisition the condemnor must hold a hearing with the affected property owners, who can then file a petition to raise an appeal at the Appellate Division of the State Supreme Court. But many advocates of reform assert that New York state law should offer a trial prior to the case reaching the Appellate Division, as they say most other states do.

“Anybody who is threatened with loss of property should have the right to a trial—it’s an unconstitutional taking,” David Smith, Singh’s and Kaur’s attorney, said in an interview after the hearing, explaining that according to the state’s current law, “you don’t have the right to question the other side. It’s outrageous.”

Sprayregen said at the hearing, “The continued failure to pass reform will undoubtedly result in more eminent domain abuse.”

Further compelling the state to take action was the recent 6-1 Court of Appeals ruling upholding the use of eminent domain for the Atlantic Yards development in Brooklyn. Atlantic Yards is a mixed-use commercial and residential development.

“Since the decision [in the December Appellate Court case] was 3-2, there were two judges who did in fact think that the state should win the case, and when this case gets to the Court of Appeals, one possibility is that they will decide it is consistent with Atlantic Yards and reverse the decision,” Lance Liebman, a Columbia Law School professor and director of the Parker School of Foreign and Comparative Law, said in an interview after the hearing.

While those in support of eminent domain use in Manhattanville contend that the legal precedent of Atlantic Yards should be applied to Columbia’s case, opponents argue that the two cases are distinct, citing such differences as the methodologies used to conduct the blight studies and the blight findings themselves.

But the New York Times, which used ESDC to invoke eminent domain in order to develop

its new headquarters in Midtown, stated in its editorial criticizing the Manhattanville ruling that the decision was “out of step with eminent domain law.”

This reflects an underlying dilemma in New York’s judicial system: As court rulings continue to contradict each other, what is the role of legal precedent in eminent domain cases—or does it have a role at all? This was one of many systematic ambiguities that Perkins said needed to be addressed.

**Conflicts of interest?**

Unclear precedents are problematic, but conflicts of interest in eminent domain cases have also created urgent needs for reform, Perkins said.

The ESDC hired the consulting firm Allee King Rosen and Fleming (AKRF) to conduct a blight study, which was used to determine whether Manhattanville was in an economic condition beyond the potential for natural repair, thus justifying state seizure of properties for the public good.

But the University also hired AKRF to assist in preparing the expansion plan and an environmental impact statement. Perkins questioned ESDC’s rationale for choosing AKRF given this potential conflict.

“If they [AKRF] say blight over here, and you hire them to do the same study, why use the same consultant and make it so colluded?” Perkins asked. “There are no other firms in the world who can do this?”

ESDC representatives countered that there was no such “collusion,” maintaining that their decision to hire AKRF had to do with what they saw as its unparalleled ability to carry out the blight study, pointing to the firm’s large staff and its unmatched level of expertise.

ESDC General Counsel Anita Laremont said that blight “is not a static kind of measurement that can be provided with specific criteria and different factors in a specific environment,” and explained the importance of selecting a firm that can accurately

determine “empirical” data. “We would be very happy if there were more capable firms,” she added.

Perkins also asked about AKRF’s track record concerning blight studies, to which Laremont responded that to her knowledge, the firm has ruled affirmatively in all cases. She added that ESDC hired another firm, Earth Tech, to conduct a secondary study of the area, and it also ruled affirmatively.

“That’s unfair—you could have just gone with Earth Tech and we wouldn’t even be having this conversation,” Perkins responded, adding in an interview after the hearing, “I’m not sure if they don’t get it, or if they get it and they’re trying to get away with it.”

Tom DeMott, a member of the local activist group Coalition to Preserve Community, testified for reform, saying, “The very possibility of conflict of interest should be taken out of the realm of the process.”

And while Columbia is not a direct party to the case, Maxine Griffith, the University’s executive vice president of government and community affairs and special advisor for campus planning, and Marcelo Velez, associate vice president for Manhattanville capital construction in Columbia facilities, also testified at the hearing.

When questioned, Griffith said that legal issues were outside her area of expertise. She told Perkins that the University would get back to him on questions that could not be answered at the hearing.

**A need for clarification**

Beyond reforms to the blight study process, Perkins said there was also a need for clarification of the definition of blight itself—or lack thereof.

Perkins and many testifiers at the meeting asserted that the state’s blight definition is vague, which he said is problematic given blight’s pivotal role in eminent domain cases.

Without reaching an agreement with the two holdouts,

Columbia was forced to rely on eminent domain to build on those sites, and eminent domain can only be invoked if the area is designated as blighted.

Sprayregen, who called for updated language, said, “As things stand now, an agency can pretty much declare any neighborhood to be blighted.”

The problem is historically rooted, some argue.

“Particular legal criterion should have been rethought years ago,” Julia Vitullo-Martin, a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute and director of the Center for Rethinking Development, said in an interview after the hearing.

“The blight analysis comes out of *Berman v. Parker*, and it was rather cavalierly set out in that decision,” she added, referring to the U.S. Supreme Court’s unanimous 1954 ruling that declared private property could be taken for a public purpose with just compensation.

Further complicating the matter is federalism, a cornerstone feature of American government in which sovereignty is divided between state governments and the federal government.

“The United States Supreme Court has not insisted that eminent domain can only be used on something that’s an ugly slum—eminent domain can be used to pursue a public policy of economic development that dates back to the first case in the Supreme Court,” Liebman said. “That’s the question of national, constitutional law. The states are free to decide how they define blight.”

ESDC’s Laremont acknowledged during the questioning session that the blight study “doesn’t include the opinions of property owners,” but is determined by a board of people who rarely examine “the scene of the crime,” instead relying on photographs to make their judgments. These judgments explain the ESDC’s July 2008 decision to declare Manhattanville blighted.

In defending the blight designation at the time, an ESDC statement said, “The high percentage

of lots with deteriorating, insubstantial and/or underutilized property conditions indicates that the Project Site has been suffering from long-term poor maintenance and disinvestment.”

“The blight studies have evolved over time,” Laremont said at the hearing. They did not start out as a requirement, but rather became a part of the process for the purpose of documentation.

University officials did not say anything with regard to blight designation at the hearing.

Michael White, CEO and managing director of the blog Noticing New York, said at the hearing that the term “blight” has lost meaning, and “now simply means any land coveted for by a developer.”

**Just the beginning**

Though the number of attendees at the hearing dwindled by the third hour, the calls for reform did not.

Among the many reforms suggested, Ruth Eisenberg, a member of the Coalition to Preserve Community, called on the state to prohibit the use of eminent domain on affordable housing units, though Columbia has promised not to seek eminent domain on residential buildings in the area.

DeMott called for complete disclosure of all eminent domain correspondences.

And Vitullo-Martin said that while reforms are important, it is also necessary to convince the public of the importance of a project.

“Eminent domain always combines the legal questions with the political ones, and for eminent domain to be successful in America, both sets of criteria have to be met,” she said.

Perkins emphasized that, while the proposed reforms are promising, it will be a long road ahead toward achieving legislation that incorporates these ideas.

“This is not like instant rice. It’s going to be an uphill battle,” he said, but added, “We’re going to win, without a doubt.”

*kim.kirschenbaum@columbiaspectator.com*

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# CU students organize relief efforts for Haiti

**HAITI from front page**

wounded started to arrive and we started to take care of them. But we had practically nothing. No bandages. No medicine. ... We talked to them. We held their hands. The earth continued to crumble." Hundreds of wounded arrived at the base. There were only two doctors present to help them.

Lindenmayer realized she would have to get her students out of the country as soon as possible. Lindenmayer arranged a helicopter to Santo Domingo, where they stayed with the Clinton foundation. They arrived back in the United States on Saturday night.

Lindenmayer acknowledges the enormous impact the devastation had on the students, who she calls on a daily basis. "They have seen what they have been through. We came so close to death ourselves. We are alive and others are not. All the people they have met have disappeared in one second. They have seen the suffering of the people of Haiti. We left people behind. You feel guilty by leaving," she said. "If they can go over the trauma, they will be stronger people and will be inspired to continue the work of their colleagues that are no longer."

"We played chess with death and won by a hair," she added. "About 150 of the UN staff is dead and thousands of the people of Haiti. Their agony has no words. We are coming back from hell. But we are alive. We were lucky."

**'We need every single person on board'**

The earthquake in Haiti has led to an outpouring of support from campus groups.

A handful of student groups will try to hash out details this week for a unified plan to support the people of Haiti, where chaos and mass suffering continue.

"This is an emergency, so things have to happen quickly," said April Simpson, CC '11, president of the Caribbean Students Association.

Simpson said the first test of a student-led relief effort will come on Wednesday night, when the CSA, working in tandem with the Haitian Students Association, will

hold a forum open to the public.

CSA and HSA are still in the process of selecting which charity to work with exclusively.

Kessandra Agenor, BC '10 and president of the HSA, said she hopes to form a partnership with Howard University and other schools. Students at Howard have been working closely with the Haitian Embassy in Washington, D.C.

The CSA holds an annual music showcase called 2 Dollarama to support developmental education in one Caribbean nation a year.

Until last Tuesday, this year's beneficiary was supposed to be Simpson's homeland of Jamaica. But the group soon agreed that the \$2 entrance fee should be changed to \$2 and a canned good or \$4 to benefit the people of Haiti. The groups changed the fees to collect more funds and canned goods.

According to Aviva Buechler, BC'11 and president of Columbia/Barnard Hillel, their group started talking with HSA in the days after the quake, and are hoping to raise \$1,000 in the next few weeks for Haiti relief.

"Generally, whenever disaster strikes whoever it affects, it's important for groups across Columbia to unite and collect funds," Buechler said.

Agenor said that it's been a hard week for Haitian students, whether they were affected directly or indirectly. Their friends and family are mostly safe, she said.

But Agenor said that several hours after the quake, her family learned that her grandmother in Haiti did not survive. She said that she hopes relief efforts at Columbia will let students know that they can make a difference.

"We need every single person to be on board," she said.

**'The government has nothing. Their palace was destroyed. The president is homeless'**

Columbia experts have been weighing in, and for at least one, response has been lacking.

According to Irwin Redlener, founder and Director of the National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia's Mailman School of

Public Health, reaction to the crisis, particularly the U.S. response, has been lackluster. According to Redlener, the response was initially an assessment of the extent of the disaster, rather than an immediate mobilization of resources.

"It was very clear within the first couple of hours that this was going to be a catastrophic disaster, that not only was an enormous earthquake in a city and country already impoverished, but it was striking the capital city and seat of government, the only source of stability in the country. The response should have been more rapid and efficient than we've actually been observing. ... Wasting time doing a detailed assessment instead of sending in search and rescue teams, that was not appropriate," he said.

Redlener is also the president and co-founder of Children's Health Fund, a philanthropic organization that helps to develop health care programs in under-represented areas. A delayed response is also catastrophic from a medical standpoint. The concern for lives hinges on potentially fatal injuries like crush and penetration injuries to the chest and head.

Lindenmayer said that the Haitian government has done everything it can do in the aftermath. "The government has nothing. Their palace was destroyed. The president is homeless," she said.

She thinks the largest problem Haiti will face will be keeping international attention long enough, stating that she believes that the rebuilding will be "a 20-year enterprise."

The coming months are critical for effective ongoing response, as Haiti is only seeing the beginning of secondary and tertiary effects of a disaster of this proportion. Redlener explained that following a disaster like this, there are often many public health concerns, ranging "from contaminated water supply, to infections, water-borne illnesses, and a host of other things that will require substantial public health understanding to keep in check."

Long-term goals for Haiti are multitudinous and will require an integrated effort. Redlener said, "The notion is to rebuild better."

*news@columbiaspectator.com*



Courtesy of Patricia Barnett  
**REMEMBERED** | Students and family mourn the loss of John David Fernandez, CC '12, left, who died of pneumonia.

## Family, friends remember Fernandez

**FERNANDEZ from front page**

Syed Hossain, CC '12 and a fellow member of the Libertarians, said he had been best friends with Fernandez since they went to high school together in Queens.

"I think he would want me to describe him this way: extremely political, a libertarian who was always against the government, always for the people, always wanted to end the Fed, always wanted a free market, who wanted to legalize marijuana just out of principle, who wants to be a free person," Hossain said. "Back when Xanga was popular, he wrote this: 'Here lies John David, a free man.'"

Stephan Vincenzo, CC '12, said that he and Fernandez had been friends for two years, first connecting online over their early decision acceptances and family ties to the same city in Colombia.

"The first party I ever threw at Columbia was the Thursday of orientation. He ... showed up in a special car and an hour early. He served as a huge inspiration to me—I never heard him complain once," Vincenzo said.

He added, "I can't help but also be a bit happy, because he was such a huge advocate for liberty, and now he is liberated."

Casey Smith-Dube, a high school classmate of Fernandez and a sophomore at SUNY Albany, wrote in a Facebook message to Spectator, "I looked at David as a warm soul. ... He will be missed by everyone who knew him, whether they knew him well or not," she said.

Smith-Dube added that Fernandez participated in SING, an inter-grade singing, dancing, and acting competition at their high school. Their grade won two years in a row—mostly due to Fernandez's script and dedication, she said.

Fernandez invited CJ Maloney, a blogger who wrote for the Mises Institute, to speak at a Libertarians event at Columbia in October 2009.

"He was a whirlwind of energy confined to a wheelchair," Maloney wrote in an e-mail. While Maloney was at Columbia, Fernandez told him that economist Murray Rothbard had worked on papers in Butler Library.

"Every time I'm on the grounds of Columbia, I'll think of JD ... and wonder if we might have just lost someone who could have been a Rothbard," Maloney said.

In the summer of 2009, Fernandez attended Mises University, a week-long program

sponsored by the Mises Institute.

Eric Staib, a senior at the University of Oklahoma, attended Mises University with Fernandez. He wrote that other alumni of the program are being contacted to raise money to create an award in his name.

"JD was someone who ... had been compared to some of the intellectual heroes of young libertarians," Staib said.

Fernandez was planning to major in economics and philosophy. On his personal blog, "The Liberty Review," he described himself as "a stormtrooper of the Yankee Universe and a classic liberal of the Misesian strand."

He also wrote three submissions for Spectator on the proposed campus smoking ban, same-sex marriage, and the role of government, respectively.

Jeffrey Tucker, editorial vice president of the Mises Institute, wrote in an e-mail, "He touched many lives, urging people to read more, work harder, and think of ever-higher ideals. In the inspiration he provided others he is immortal, because what he believed in and what he did during his too-short life continues to live on."

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## GS student had unique spirit, friends say

**SINNOTT from front page**

challenging enough for him," said Sinnott's mother, Sharon DeFino.

DeFino said Sinnott went to Manhattan Community College to further his studies.

"Then he decided to apply to Columbia," she said. "I was thinking, 'Michael you have a GED ... are you sure? Maybe you should have a backup plan.'"

An environmental biology major with a concentration in sustainable development, Sinnott had been a student at Columbia since the fall of 2006.

"The first time I met him was actually at Glass House Rocks," Nicolle Rountree, Sinnott's best friend and a fellow GS student, said.

"I was sitting at a table in Lerner and my best friend had a class with him ... He kissed me and proceeded to talk about me like he knows me for five years," she recounted. "He asked for my phone number. I said 'no.'"

"By the time I got home I had seven e-mails from him," she continued. "It was like that every day—it wasn't more than four hours before I heard from him, got a text or an e-mail." But soon, she said, they became close friends.

"His adventure for life was contagious," said Chad Miller, who graduated from GS in 2007. "There was a sense of adventure he had about him ... I think hanging around him allowed me to explore those qualities within myself."

While he found academics difficult, according to friends, he is remembered for his staunch determination in class.

"Classes weren't easy for him at all," Rountree said. "The time commitment and physical commitment and the ability to survive on sleep deprivation was something that was really draining on his system, but [he felt that] it was all worth it."

"He and his [lab] partner were the ones who stayed in lab every single week to finish their lab," said Sidney Hemming, associate professor of earth and environmental sciences, referring to Sinnott's Solid Earth System class.

Sinnott was also known for his strong school spirit,

consistently providing the General Studies Student Council with feedback.

"He was sort of like the pseudo-delegate," Rountree said. "He was there to voice his opinion whether someone asked for it or not."

"He was very interested in our policy initiatives, and he was one of the few GS students to respond to my e-mails with questions and suggestions for the GSSC policy committee," GSSC president Katherine Edwards, GS '10, wrote in an e-mail.

Sinnott was also very active outside of the classroom, spending some time in the military before he came to GS and participating in community service programs, such as New York Cares.

Outside of the classroom, Sinnott was known as a charmer, constantly putting smiles on people's faces with numerous jokes.

"He was very funny," Limardo said. "He always had a joke."

She recalled his costume for his first Halloween at Columbia. "He came dressed up like a woman, like decked out," she laughed. "Boobs, hairy legs, skirt ... I was just like, 'I can't believe you were walking around campus looking crazy like that!'"

Rountree agreed, adding, "A lot of people had preconceived notions of him being a bit ... off the handle," she said, noting how he was always "flirting with the girls at the café in Butler," "making statues out of the food in John Jay," and even signing his e-mails, whether they were sent to professors, friends, or family, with "sin-seriously."

"For many of us at the wake and the funeral, there was always this aspect that the final joke hadn't been played ... that



Courtesy of Nicolle Rountree  
**MISSED** | Students and family remember Michael Sinnott, a GS senior who died of natural causes over break.

Michael was going to jump out of the coffin," Miller added.

Family also noted his large heart for strangers.

"I don't care if you were gay, straight, black, or green, Michael always looked for someone's heart," DeFino said. "At the end of [his] shift [at Starbucks], Michael would collect all the sandwiches and give them out to all these homeless people on the way home."

What stood out the most to his family and friends was his ability to push them out of their comfort zones and expose them to new adventures on a daily basis.

Rountree added, "A couple of times we ended up on the top of Butler, in the top of Low—that's just not something that normal Columbia students get to experience."

Columbia will hold an on-campus memorial service for Sinnott on Feb. 1 at 2:30 pm.

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As we think about where we want to take Spectator over the next year, these concerns are at the forefront of the decisions we make. The newspaper economy affects us, too. We entertain the same struggle professional papers do over how best to adapt our decades-old reporting model to the Web. And how can we hope to attract Columbia's most talented undergrads to the Spec offices when the journalism job market is drying up?

We'll be the first to admit, as every Spec board has done before us, that we don't have all the answers—but that's not going to stop us from trying to find them. Look out in the months ahead for big, splashy stories that cut to the heart of the issues that matter to Columbia students and the people of Morningside Heights. And watch our website—yes, that's [www.columbiaspectator.com](http://www.columbiaspectator.com)—for innovations that will set the Spectator apart from other college newspapers.

The truth matters, of course, but the truth doesn't have to be so, well, boring. We hope—no, we absolutely expect—that Volume 134 will possess an energy and passion unmatched by any group that has ever led this newspaper.

And if you don't think we're succeeding, then comment, write letters, stop us on campus—we're just two editors waiting to hear from you. We want to be visible, and we'll put ourselves in the firing line when necessary, because we want to know what you think. Better yet, whether you like what we're doing and want to be a part of it or think we're just awful and are determined to make us better, come and join us.

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**Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle**  
Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

**ACROSS**

1 Somewhat warm  
6 Polio vaccine developer  
10 Wheel edges  
14 Like top-quality beef  
15 Prefix with logical  
16 Jacques's state  
17 Pts Beta  
18 Earth inheritors, with "the"  
19 Water barrier  
20 MAGIC  
23 Saint Francis's home  
25 Little Red Book follower  
26 TIGER  
30 Madri's brother  
31 Silky synthetic sedan  
32 Volkswagen  
36 Stuff of headlines  
38 Cooking apples  
40 Teen detective  
41 Palmer with his own "army"  
43 Stories  
45 Hagen of Broadway  
46 PRIME TIME  
49 Glossy cotton fabric  
52 Bath sponge  
53 YOGI  
57 Akron's state  
58 Nastase with a racket  
59 Tells really badly, as a joke  
62 Suvari of "American Pie"  
63 Society oddball  
64 And the following, in bibliographies: Abbr.  
65 Pipped out (on), as junk food  
66 Takes one's turn  
67 Cinema chain

**DOWN**

1 Rd. often spanning an entire state  
2 Historical span  
3 Shuts up  
4 Damage  
5 Letter opener?  
6 California's Valley  
7 Yemen's Gulf of  
8 Actor Cobb  
9 City north of Indianapolis  
10 Like Rudolph  
11 "Who's calling?" response  
12 Strong sharks  
13 Surgical tube  
21 Goldsmith's Wakefield clergyman  
22 Trip to Mecca  
23 Health insurance giant  
24 More devious  
27 Former Japanese capital  
28 "Witchy" ...  
29 Law school beginners  
33 Test type with only two possible answers

34 Aquarium fish  
35 Covered with water  
37 Hardly a main drag  
39 Black Panthers co-founder  
42 Very wide shoe  
44 Coral reef  
45 explorer's device  
47 Unit with six outs  
48 Frito-Lay chip  
49 NFL replay feature  
50 Responded to a massage  
51 Strong string  
54 Egyptian played by Liz  
55 Green land  
56 Dream worlds? formerly  
61 Four-sided figs.

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AMCS	SFPD	THERE
MEOW	TARO	WOMAN
ETRE	ALOG	EPICS
SUGAR	PLUM	FAIRY
SPIRAL	DARK	
NEB	YELLOW	
BABY	GRAND	DIANA
EURO	STEAD	CLICK
ATALL	HONEY	TREE
MONKEY	ASU	
	GELD	ERUPTS
SWEET	HEART	DEAL
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# Barnard alumna film tracks Rwandan justice after genocide

**BY LEARNED FOOTE**  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

**FILM** “I never really wanted to find out who killed whom, and that sort of thing,” said documentary filmmaker and alumna Anne Aghion, BC ’82. Her latest work, “My Neighbor, My Killer,” takes place in Rwanda, where approximately 75 percent of the Tutsi population was murdered in 1994, often by neighbors who had known their victims all their lives. “One of my intentions was never to substitute myself for justice,” Aghion explained.

She has nevertheless spent the last decade working in Rwanda. Her latest film tracks the procedures of the Gacaca courts, an informal system of justice established in 2001. Roughly 11,000 small courts held proceedings throughout the country, but Aghion readily acknowledges the limited scope of her film—it focuses on one tiny community in the countryside, which had limited media exposure in the wake of the genocide.

The documentary’s micro-perspective heightens the conflicted intimacy of the proceedings. “What I wanted to see was how people found a way to re-knit the social fabric of their communities,”

Aghion said. One purpose of the Gacaca trials—which continue to operate today—is to provide reconciliation and to unite a battle-scarred Rwanda.

The ethical implications of these trials are breathtaking, as ravaged communities come together to reconstruct history on the hope of forgiveness. Yet “My Neighbor” does not sensationalize its subject, instead remaining respectfully distant from the villagers. The static and visually arresting images do not pretend to recreate direct experience, but instead document the complex emotions at work in the village years after the bloodshed.

Aghion intentionally chose to avoid depicting overt violence in the work. She accumulated 350 hours of footage in the course of filming, and explained that much of the subtle psychology of the film took time to grasp. She worked with several translators, but admitted, “What I realized afterwards was that I zoned out. I didn’t really listen to the interpretation.” It was only as she worked to create the feature film that she fully grasped the emotions at work: “It’s in the editing room that I really understood what people had said, and in the editing room that I had the nightmares.”

Aghion observed, “It turned out that after a genocide—and I assume after any conflict of that magnitude and nature—people didn’t talk in front of people unless they have to.” Despite this initial caution, the villagers were eventually happy to have been part of the documentary. Aghion screened the film in a local church filled with 300 people. Afterward, she recalled, the secretary of the Gacaca said he was “happy the film existed, because the notebooks he had been making might get burned or torn or disappear, but the film would not go away. The story of the community was told.”

Success has followed Aghion’s film—she has screened it in Rwanda to audiences of prisoners, administrators of justice, and relief workers. She has also shown the documentary in Haiti, Lebanon, Israel, Uganda, and Kenya. She has even heard stories about bootleg copies being shown in Malaysia. This resonance earned the film the honor of being an Official Selection at the Cannes Film Festival.

Aghion does not know what her next project will be, but said that her first priority is to preserve the archive of 350 hours, whether in a university or online, for future research and study. “This work can have a real impact in creating a dialogue among people,” she said.



Courtesy of Anne Aghion

**FOCUSING ON ETHICS** | The latest work of documentary filmmaker Anne Aghion, BC ’82, takes a look at the justice system established after the genocide in Rwanda.

# NYC cultivates green chic with textile recycling

**BY ZARA CASTANY**  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

**STYLE** With the start of the new year comes the task of clearing out crowded closets to make room for bulky coats and boots. Instead of stuffing last year’s styles into a forgotten drawer, why not recycle them?

Material Mondays, held every Monday at the Union Square Greenmarket, is one eco-friendly place to bring used clothing. The result of a collaboration between the Council on the Environment of New York City and Wearable Collections, the market helps the environment by recycling clothing, supports a charitable cause, and can be an excuse to go out and shop for new clothes.

Wearable Collections collects all forms of textiles and recycles and sells them to raise money for a variety of charities. On Material Mondays, a tent is set up with a bright green bin to accept used clothing, shoes, hats, bedding, linens, and belts. Columbia has partnered with Wearable Collections and has a bin set up on the first floor of Jerome Greene Hall.

Donated textiles are either resold in third-world markets or broken down into fibers for materials such as fiberboard and stuffing for mattresses.

“We get lots of people every week, even in the colder weather. If your clothing isn’t recycled, it will just sit in a landfill, with seven percent of waste in New York City being textile waste,” said John Bawls, a representative from Wearable Collections at Union Square.

According to the organization’s president, Michael Sorel, Wearable Collections began five years ago and has bins set up at 125 locations around Manhattan, including 60 schools.

“We began Wearable Collections as a means to raise money for a close friend of ours who was hit by a car, with funds



Tina Gao / Senior Staff Photographer

**WINTER CLEANING** | In addition to the campus drop-off in Jerome Greene Hall, students can recycle old clothes at the Union Square Greenmarket on Material Mondays.

going to the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis,” Sorel said. “As of 2009, we have raised approximately \$25,000 for charity through clothing fundraisers.”

Shelly Xu, CC ’13 and a member of CU Couture, who is currently designing a line of clothing made from recyclable materials, said she appreciates the stylistic advantages of recycling clothing. “Products pieced together from used clothing really have a unique quality to them,” she said. “They are kind of like a wearable collage.”

Mondays can be filled with classes and schoolwork, but CENYC also

conveniently hosts textile recycling collections at other Greenmarkets around the city on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, so interested students can give up old clothing and start off the year and decade with a cleaner closet and a clearer mind.

WHERE IT’S AT

Time: Mondays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Place: Union Square Park Greenmarket, Broadway to 4th Ave. from East 14th to 17th streets.

# No reason not to wine at Bistro 1018 Pinot Noir tasting

**BY SHANE FERRO**  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

**FOOD & DRINK** It’s not the cheapest way to get drunk, but it may be the classiest: Bistro 1018’s wine tastings are among the best kept secrets in Morningside Heights.

For less than the retail value of most of the bottles offered, the restaurant offers two hours of unlimited wine tasting and food pairing. Monday night’s theme was “The Versatility of Pinot Noir.”

The tasting, run by Bistro 1018 owner Craig Skiptunis and his wine-importing wife Stephanie, featured 12 different kinds of Pinot Noir, from light and sparkling to aged and heavy. Along with the wine came a spread of foods hand-picked by the owner, from aged Bücheron goat cheese to chicken meatballs and pulled pork.

“Pinot Noir is one of the world’s most famous grapes,” Skiptunis said. “It is used everywhere—from Burgundy to California, Oregon, and Chile. And it comes in many different styles—rich and earthy, delicate and fruity. There may be no other grape that is quite so diverse.”

With each wine came a different story. Stephanie, who is currently working on a master’s degree in wine, could describe the specific hill on which each of the vineyards were located, how they were produced, and by whom. She described the process of micro-oxidation used in the Canterbury from New Zealand, and the reason the Mercurey would be cheaper in a store than the Pierre Morey (it is grown in a region of higher yields).

With all the wine talk, it was hard to steal away to the food table, but as plate after plate was brought out—each different but strangely complementary to the Pinot—even the most attentive

drinker did not leave hungry. Just as I was about stuffed, the chicken sausage balls filled with cheese and dunked in tomato basil sauce came to the buffet.

It was at about this time that Craig began discussing the frequency of the tastings at Bistro 1018. “We have them about every two to three months,” he said. Mostly they focus on wine regions, but they have also hosted a couple of beer tastings, which they hope to do more of in the future.

As far as tastings in Morningside Heights go, the bar has been set.

WHERE IT’S AT

Time: Every two to three months—look for them about six weeks in advance.  
Place: 1018 Amsterdam Ave. at the corner of 110th Street.  
Cost: \$30-\$40 range.



Shane Ferro for Spectator

**WINE AND DINE** | Bistro 1018’s Monday wine tasting featured Pinot Noir.

# After 20 years, ‘The Simpsons’ stays strong

**BY FRANK NESTOR**  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

**TV** This season, “The Simpsons” celebrates both its 20th anniversary and its 450th episode, surpassing “Gunsmoke” as the longest-running American primetime series. Created by Matt Groening in 1989, the Fox animated sitcom has since become a living TV legend.

With fans all over the world, the extent of the influence is immeasurable. In 2001, “D’oh”—Homer Simpson’s catchphrase—was added to the Oxford English Dictionary. “I was born the same year as ‘The Simpsons’ first aired,” said Emily Rood-Matza, BC ’11. “I literally grew up with this show, and this series was a large part of my childhood. ‘The Simpsons’ was one of those programs that we always talked about at school.”

Four hundred and fifty episodes later, as Groening put it in the documentary “The Simpsons 20th Anniversary Special—in 3D! On Ice!,” which aired before the Jan. 10 episode, Homer is still “pure id” and Bart is still a troublemaker with a sassy mouth. Though there has been some development—Lisa is now a vegetarian and a Buddhist—the relatable characters are still the flawed individuals viewers met in 1989. Yet the American public has changed over the last 20 years and so has a majority of the rest of its programming.

When “The Simpsons” first aired, it was revolutionary. Animation had not been on primetime for a generation and the idea of an adult-oriented cartoon seemed ludicrous. Instead, the medium of animation provided a freedom for the writers to have dysfunctional characters that both embodied and criticized American society. “Family Guy” creator Seth MacFarlane pointed out in the documentary that Bart talking back to Homer was considered offensive 20 years ago, yet this is relatively tame compared to today’s standards.

MacFarlane and the creators of “South Park” credit “The Simpsons” with paving the way for the satiric and comedic animation that is currently on TV. These newer cartoons are more crass, crude, and blunt than “The Simpsons” has ever been. Such shows use the rude humor to which more recent generations have grown accustomed.

“The Simpsons” is still funny, but some viewers feel it does not pack the same humor it once did. “I feel like ‘The Simpsons’ doesn’t have the same punch it had in the ‘90s,” said Ari Frydman, GS. “All those adult cartoon shows seem like the same thing to me.”

Nothing in American culture is safe from the satiric pen of the writers. When they do not care who they offend, “The Simpsons” tends to be its funniest. While this confidence is sometimes lacking in recent episodes, the sitcom possesses one more unique quality: heart.

Despite their imperfections, the characters—and, more importantly, the



Courtesy of FOX

**D’OH** | Animated sitcom “The Simpsons” celebrated its 450th episode in January.

Simpson family—stick together. Former writer Conan O’Brien said in the documentary that he believes the show works because of the genuine love between Homer and Marge. “If ‘The Simpsons’ were real life, I don’t know how the family would stay together,” Jackie Jacobson, CC ’11, said. “No matter how many times Homer messes up, Marge always forgives him.” As crazy as Springfield’s citizens are, they are always there for one another.

With 20 years, global syndication, and more seasons commissioned by its network, viewers all around the world enjoy the characters of Springfield on a daily basis. The writing quality may be debated, but one thing is certain: “The Simpsons” is a unique show that is a cultural institution and is a mainstay in the American psyche.

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# Lions keep busy over break

BY ZACH GLUBIAK  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

As the rest of the Columbia community returns to campus, the Columbia wrestling team stands at (4-4-1) following a busy early January schedule. After travelling to Nevada for the Cliff Keen Las Vegas Invitational on Dec. 4 and 5, the Lions took a break from competition until a Jan. 3 match against George Mason in University Gym.

Columbia started off the new year on the right note, beating their visitors decisively with a score of 27-11. Head coach

Brendan Buckley's squad did not have much time to celebrate, however, suffering a 37-0 loss at the hands of Ohio State — the no. 3 team in the nation.

On Jan. 9, Buckley took his wrestlers to western Pennsylvania to compete in the Pitt Duals. Columbia competed in four dual meets that day, starting at 10 a.m. and ending late that night. The Light Blue sandwiched a loss to Pitt and a 21-18 heart-breaker to Eastern Michigan with wins against Waynesburg and Duquesne. Columbia won each dual meet by identical scores, 31-15.

# Fencing off to good start

BY ZACH GLUBIAK  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

The Lions fencing team spent the past four days in San Jose, Calif., competing in the North American Cup. The Cup serves as the first official competition of the 2009-2010 campaign for both the men's and women's fencing teams.

Columbia had strong performances from several fencers from both squads. For the women, senior co-captain Daria Schneider lived up to her no.

4 national ranking, earning a silver medal in a close 15-13 championship match loss to no. 3 Dagmara Wozniak, from St. John's.

Schneider, an All-American and former NCAA champion, defeated Notre Dame's Sarah Borrmann, the 2008 NCAA champion, en route to the finals matchup with Wozniak. Sophomore Sammy Roberts also turned in a strong performance for the women. Roberts, ranked 13th nationally, fell in the round of 16 by just one touch.

# Columbia cruises in first meet

WOMEN'S SWIMMING from page 12

took first and second place for Columbia. Sophomore Paige Endsley also finished first for the Lions in the 200 free, with a time of 1:55.03.

Although first place in the 50 free went to Bucknell's Molly Goebel, Columbia's freshmen Lacey Harris-Coble and Bunge Okeyo and senior Allison Hobbs took second, third, and fourth places, respectively. Bucknell was also able to capture the top spot in the 200 individual medley, but Dunn and the Light Blue's captain, senior Caitlin Bertelsen, clinched third and second place, respectively, preventing the Bison from gaining a lead.

In 1-meter diving, Columbia's freshman Kristen Hehir and sophomore Stephanie Foster placed third and fourth. When the swimmers returned to the pool for the 200 butterfly, the Lions raged ahead, sweeping the top four places. Lukins won the event with a time of 2:08.27.

Meili, continued the team's lead by winning the 100 free in 52.35, and it was Endsley and Reilly who brought the 1-2 finish in the 500 free, allowing Columbia to gain an edge over Bucknell. The final win of the day went to Dunn in the 200 breast, and Meili, Hobbs, Harris-Coble, and junior Ashley MacLean ended the meet with a second-place finish in the 200 free relay.

The Lions will return to Uris Pool to compete in their annual Homecoming meet on Friday, Jan. 22, at 4 p.m. Columbia will look to gain their second Ivy win of the season as they face off against Ivy rival Cornell.



Jasper L. Clyatt / Staff Photographer

CLEANING THE GLASS | Junior Judie Lomax dominates the boards for the Lions.

# Lions primed for Ivy League run after impressive stretch

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL from page 12

in the Lions' next game, a tilt with American (10-7, 3-0 Patriot) on Jan. 2. She sank numerous jumpers and extended Columbia's lead to seven points with a trey at the start of the second half. Dwyer made six of her 12 attempts and finished with 15 points.

Columbia opened the matchup with an 11-4 run and led by as many as 12 points in the first half. Although American cut its deficit to just four points at halftime, Columbia built another comfortable advantage in the second half. Lomax led scorers with 24 points, and the Lions avenged last season's 87-66 loss to the Eagles with a 66-56 win that afternoon.

The Lions returned to their winning ways at St. Francis (NY) on Jan. 11. Last year, Columbia overtook St. Francis by 24 points. The Lions easily beat the Terriers (1-16, 0-6 NEC) again this year, 68-56, but Columbia struggled at the start of each half. St. Francis began the game with a 4-0 run and opened the second half with five unanswered points.

Lomax had another dominant performance, scoring 22 points and grabbing a career-high 23 rebounds—a Columbia single-game rebounding record—despite getting fouled almost every time she touched the ball.

"I think it would be a shame for one of the most prolific rebounders in the

history of the game to not have the school [single-game] record as well," Nixon said. "So I'm glad she was able to get that done."

Columbia opened Ivy play with a bang on Jan. 16, beating Cornell (5-9, 0-1 Ivy) 68-44 on the road. The Lions scored the first five points of the matchup and never looked back, stretching their advantage to as many as 37 points in the second half before achieving the victory. By halftime, Columbia had scored 43 points while holding Cornell to 20.

"The first half, we did a really great job of moving the basketball against their [Cornell's] zone defense," Nixon said. "I thought the ball movement continued to be solid at the beginning of the second half, and once we were able to extend our lead to 30-plus points, we really started substituting [players] pretty liberally."

Lomax and junior guard Kathleen Barry scored a game-high 17 points apiece for Columbia, while sophomore center Allie Munson led Cornell with 11 points. Lomax also pulled down a game-high 16 rebounds to finish with her 13th double-double of the season. She will likely be a top candidate for Ivy League Player of the Year honors as conference play continues.

Columbia returns to action on Jan. 23, when it hosts Cornell. Tip-off is set for 4:30 p.m.



Jasper L. Clyatt / Staff Photographer

SELFLESS | Co-Captain Bulger has accepted a smaller role this year for the Light Blue.

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Check out tomorrow's paper for a look at how Columbia's Ivy League competitors fared in the opening weekend of league games for six of eight teams.

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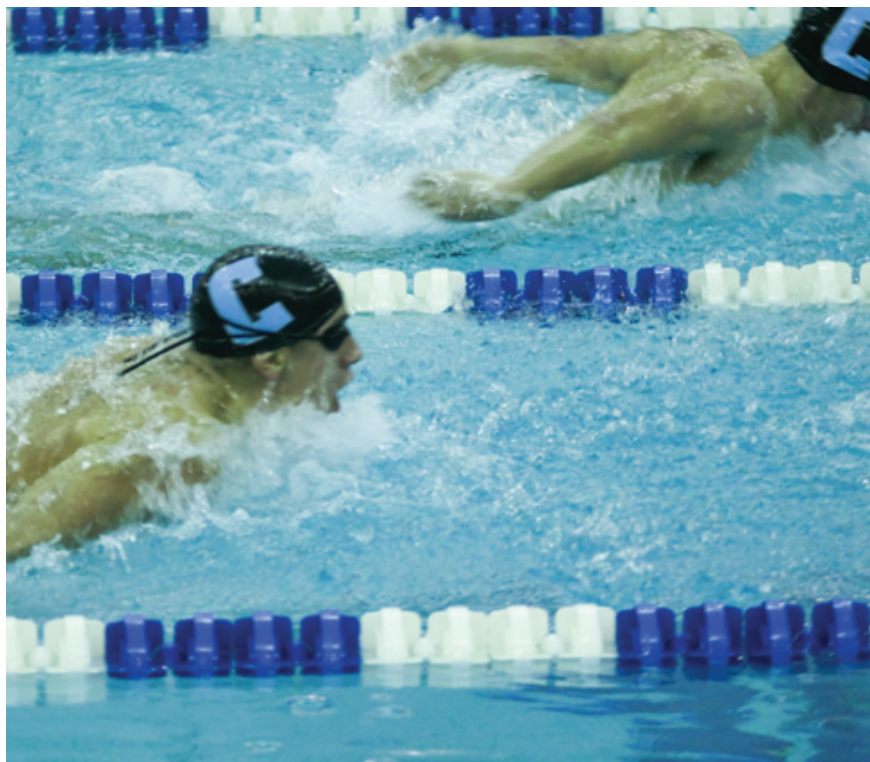
# SPORTS

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The Chicago Red Stars made three-time all-Ivy standout Sophie Reiser the first Columbia women's soccer player in school history to be drafted.

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Elaine Burchman / Staff Photographer

**ON THE PROWL** | Columbia dominated against Bucknell, winning all but two events.

## Light Blue opens new year with dominant win

BY VICTORIA JONES  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

After a six-week break from competition, the Columbia men's swimming and diving team returned to the pool this past Sunday in a dual meet against the Bucknell Bison. The men emerged victorious, winning all but two events and trouncing the Bison 158-83 in their first meet of 2010.

The Lions took the lead from the get-go, winning the 400 medley relay in 3:27.40 with a team comprised of sophomores Johnny Bailey and Bruno Esquen and seniors Eric Tang and co-captain Darren Pagan.

Freshman Sean Mackenzie took first in the 1000 freestyle in 9:37.83 while teammates Chester Dols and Alex Smith closed out third and fourth respectively in 9:50.04 and 9:57.73. The trio teamed up again in the 500 freestyle with Mackenzie winning in 4:41.06. Dols (4:49.10) and Smith (4:49.27) grabbed third and fourth.

Bucknell may have gotten the best of the Light Blue in the 200 freestyle but freshmen Patrick Dougherty, Joe Beutler, and Mitch Phillips ensured the Lions didn't come up empty-handed. The three brought in a combined six points with third through fifth place finishes respectively.

Back on top again, Columbia junior Adam Powell dominated the 50-yard freestyle in 20.46 seconds, beating the Bison's top dog by nearly a full second. Powell also scored first-place points in the 100 freestyle with a 46.31 second time.

The 200 individual medley was

taken by Pagan in 1:54.52. A few seconds later, sophomore Erik Mai touched the wall in third in 1:57.71.

Next up, freshman Jason Collazo grabbed nine points for the Lions in the one-meter dive, winning with 266.25 points.

Collazo pulled off another win in the three-meter diving competition with 280.65 points. He was joined by teammates Michaelangelo Borghi and David Levkoff who finished third and fourth with 234.52 and 220.72 points respectively.

Sophomore Bruno Esquen and senior Nick Barron teamed up in the 200 butterfly to take first and second place, Esquen in 1:55.61 and Barron in 1:57.23.

Bucknell won its last event of the day in the 200 backstroke, with two swimmers touching the wall before Columbia's Pagan finished in 1:54.66.

The Lions rebounded in the 200 breaststroke with a sweep of the first four places. Tang and senior Ross Ramone were the first two to the wall in 2:08.05 and 2:08.15, followed by Mai in 2:11.35 and sophomore John-Howard Sidman in fourth in 2:13.26.

Columbia closed out the meet on a high note with the combined efforts of Esquen, Dougherty, Powell, and senior Jordan Kobb. The group won the 200 freestyle relay in 1:25.78 followed by the B-team in third in 1:29.14.

The Lions bring the competition back to Morningside Heights on Saturday when they take on Ivy adversary Cornell at their homecoming meet in Uris Pool.

## Lions play through loss of key players

### Columbia loses stars Foley and Grimes to injury

BY MICHELE CLEARY  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

It was a rough winter break for the men's basketball team. Injuries to two key starters and second-half struggles plagued the Lions (6-9, 0-1 Ivy) as they went 1-5 during the break.

Their most recent loss came on Saturday against Cornell, the unanimous favorite to top the Ancient Eight.

The Light Blue's only victory during the recess was a 56-51 win over American on Jan. 4. However, Columbia suffered two crucial injuries in that game, as both senior point guard Patrick Foley and junior forward Brian Grimes went down early. Trainers diagnosed Foley with a high-ankle sprain after stepping on an opponent's foot, while Grimes strained a calf muscle.

Though Grimes returned to the court this past weekend against Cornell, head coach Joe Jones is still unsure about Foley's status for this Saturday's rematch against the Big Red.

"We're hoping [he'll play]," Jones said. "But it's one of the deals where we don't want him to play and then he gets hurt again, and then he's out."

As tri-captain and starting point guard, Foley is a major component of the team. In fact, last season the Lions were only 3-6 without Foley, who only played 19 games due to injury.

"We weren't playing as well as we're capable of playing before they got hurt, but then, once they got hurt, we really have struggled," Jones said.

During the absence of Foley and Grimes, though, other players were able to step up and fill the void. Senior guard Kevin Bulger, who is averaging only 3.2 points per game on the season, has averaged eight points a game since Foley got injured. Last season, Bulger averaged 5.3 points a game, but, due to the emergence of Grimes and sophomore Noruwa Agho as offensive stalwarts, he has had to take on a different role this season.

"Kevin had to really tone his game down and try to fit with our team," Jones said. "Without even meeting with him, he recognized that and we tried to play a style that was conducive to us winning with some of the offensive fire power we're bringing in this year."

However, Bulger has returned to



Jasper L. Clyatt / Staff Photographer

**DOWN BUT NOT OUT** | Despite key injuries, Noruwa Agho continues to perform.

last year's form during the absence of Grimes and Foley.

"He was helping the team flow and now he's back to his old self," Jones continued.

Sophomore guard Matt Johnson is another player that got the chance to play a more significant role. After averaging 4.8 minutes a game last season, Johnson has seen a considerable jump in playing time—he averaged 11.8 minutes a game over break.

"Matt's been one of our better defensive players," Jones said. "He's got good size. He's

a pretty smart player. He needs game experience, and he's starting to get that, and so it's been good to have him out there because I think he can help us now and for the future."

Although health was a major problem for the Light Blue over break, lack of consistency, especially in the second half, also contributed to several of its losses. In the Lions' first game over break, a 63-51 loss at Quinnipiac, they led by four at the half

SEE MEN'S BASKETBALL, page 10



Lenny Pridatko / Staff Photographer

**FUN IN THE SUN** | After training in balmy conditions in Puerto Rico in early January, Columbia overpowered Bucknell in their first meet of the new year. The Lions benefited from the favorable weather, overcoming the Bison despite extensive travel.

## CU propelled to victory by trip to Puerto Rico

BY JULIA GARRISON  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

The women's swimming and diving team won its first meet of the spring semester on Sunday night, topping Bucknell 129-114 in Lewisburg, Penn. This advances the Lions' overall record to 3-2 for the season.

Having spent over a week training in Ponce, Puerto Rico, during winter break, coach Diana Caskey was a little worried about the team's fatigue going into the match.

"We flew in from Ponce late Friday night, trained Saturday, and got on a bus

to Bucknell at 8 a.m. Sunday. Despite eight days of hard training and travel fatigue, we swam well and beat a very solid team on the road. I was really happy with the team's performance at Bucknell."

Caskey thinks that training in warmer weather during winter break makes all the difference. "There are many benefits to training in Puerto Rico. There are excellent long-course facilities, which allow the athletes the benefit of 50-meter training. We are outdoors in fresh air instead of in a contained facility, and going to Puerto Rico ensures warm weather, unlike Florida this time of year, where teams trained outside in

40-degree temperatures. The trip to Puerto Rico really solidifies the good training we do during first semester."

The girls were clearly ready to compete after the long month of practice and dove into the pool with a vengeance, winning the first three events at Bucknell. In the 400 medley relay, sophomore Caitlin Rogers, junior Mariele Dunn, and freshmen Caroline Lukins and Katie Meili prevailed with a time of 3:55.87. Next up was the 1000 free, where junior Abby Reilly and sophomore Isabelle Vandenbroucke

SEE WOMEN'S SWIMMING, page 10

## Columbia crushes competition over break

### Lions turn out impressive record, picking up six wins since Dec. 8

BY SARAH SOMMER  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

After winning only six Ivy League matchups and finishing with a 13-15 overall record last season, the Columbia women's basketball team has become virtually unstoppable in its current campaign. The Lions (10-5, 1-0 Ivy) have been 6-1 since Dec. 8, with the only defeat in that stretch being a two-point loss to Atlantic Coast Conference opponent North Carolina State on Jan. 4.

Columbia lost a 60-58 decision to the Wolfpack, a team that enjoyed a 20-point victory over the Lions at Levien Gymnasium last season. This year, in Raleigh, the Lions showed that they were no longer a guaranteed win. Columbia trailed North Carolina State (11-7, 1-2 ACC) by just four points at halftime, and the Lions had several chances to tie or win the game in the final minute.

"They [North Carolina State] definitely handled us last season," Columbia head coach Paul Nixon said. "And for us to be a bit significantly more competitive...really is a testament to how far this year's team has come." The Lions also showed their strength by out-

**"For us to be a bit significantly more competitive... really is a testament to how far this year's team had come."**

—Head Coach Paul Nixon

rebounding the Wolfpack, 49-45. Junior forward Judie Lomax led Columbia's effort on the glass with 20 boards, a career high for her. She currently leads the nation with 14 rebounds per game after finishing the 2008-09 season as the NCAA Division I rebounding champion.

On Dec. 30, the Lions began their winter break schedule on the road against Robert Morris (11-6, 5-1 NEC). Columbia erased an eight-point halftime deficit to win 64-63 in the final second of regulation, when junior center Lauren

Dwyer beat the buzzer with a 3-pointer.

"When Lauren takes on-balance shots, she's just a tremendous shooter," Nixon said.

"And the thing about the shot she hit...at Robert Morris is, even though it was last-second, it wasn't off-balance. Like, she caught it, she was straight up, she shot it, and it banked in, but it still was an on-balance shot. And when she takes on-balance shots, I feel like she's as good a shooter as probably anybody in our league."

Dwyer continued to show her range

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