

Community board votes against 94th St. shelter

BY GINA LEE AND
CHELSEA LO
Columbia Daily Spectator

Residents took another step Tuesday night in what has been a long—and loud—fight to keep another homeless shelter from coming to the Upper West Side. At its full board meeting, Community Board 7 unanimously passed a resolution strongly opposing a transitional shelter at the Hotel Alexander on 94th Street.

Plans have been stalled by protests from the Hotel Alexander’s current tenants and local residents after the landlord won a \$7.9 million contract.

“The community board is doing their part of the game,” 94th Street resident Itzhak Epstein said. The building’s landlord, Alexander Scharf, secured a nine-year, \$7.9 million contract from the Department of Homeless Services and nonprofit Samaritan Village to move a homeless shelter for 200 men into the building in January. But plans for the shelter have been



UNANIMOUS | Community Board 7 members voted 33-0 in favor of a resolution opposing the opening of a homeless shelter on 94th Street.

stalled by protests from both the Alexander’s current tenants and local residents. Locals see the situation as a result of a new state law that will prohibit landlords from renting rooms to tourists in single-room occupancy buildings—better known as SROs—like the Alexander. Intended to make

room for affordable housing on the Upper West Side, the law has instead encouraged landlords to seek more profitable options, including city contracts for homeless shelters. “We need investigations,” said Aaron Biller, president of neighborhood activist group Neighborhood in the Nineties.

“Upstate, we need a timeout before more damage is caused.” While Samaritan Village began moving beds into the building in January, the shelter has not been able to open because eight residents still remain in the hotel. Residents said they have been offered \$50,000 and free rent for three years to move

out, but none have conceded. DHS and Samaritan Village did not respond to repeated requests for comment on Tuesday. Representatives from DHS canceled a scheduled appearance at a CB7 committee meeting about the shelter on January 25.

SEE CB7, page 2

Students studying in Egypt return

NYU program’s students back, others en route

BY SAMMY ROTH
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

A group of Columbia students studying in Egypt returned to New York City Tuesday after evacuating the country, which has been consumed by anti-government protests. The students had been taking part in the Amheida project, a New York University-sponsored program which allows students to participate in the excavation of the ancient city of Amheida. According to Roger Bagnall, the project’s director, all of the students were evacuated to Dubai on Monday, and flew out of Dubai early Tuesday morning. “The Columbia and Barnard students in this year’s program all came back with me on the flight,” Bagnall said. One of the students evacuated, Jennifer Altman-Lupu, BC ’12, described the evacuation on her blog. “Although we weren’t in any present danger, they [NYU] were worried that the situation would change in such a way that would make it impossible to get us out in the future,” Altman-Lupu wrote on Tuesday.

SEE EGYPT, page 2

Core critic Bell remembered for wide intellect

BY RAKHI AGRAWAL
Spectator Staff Writer

When Columbia professor Mark Lilla walked into Daniel Bell’s class at Harvard in 1978, he remembers thinking immediately that Bell was “clearly the most encyclopedic mind I had ever encountered.” Bell, who was a professor of sociology at Columbia from 1959-69 and acted as both a staunch defender and chief critic of the Core Curriculum, died on Jan. 25 at his home in Cambridge, Massachusetts at age 91. In 1966, Columbia College Dean David Truman asked Bell to write a report detailing his ideas for revising the Core



BELL | Daniel Bell authored a 1966 report that proposed a radical restructuring of the Core Curriculum. The report, titled “The Reforming of General Education” and later known as the Daniel Bell Report, remains on display in the Core Curriculum display case in Hamilton Hall.

In the report, Bell identified problems with the Contemporary Civilization course—including that the course had “too much reading”—and presented a restructuring of the Core that would have essentially required a reorganization of Columbia College. As Spectator reported in 1966, Bell’s report stated that “expansion [of the Core] is a necessary condition for the survival of Columbia College as a first-rank school.” Bell’s restructured Core was presented as a three-tiered curriculum: four classes in the humanities (including modern literature

SEE BELL, page 2

Harlem locals, businesses feel effects of new restaurant

BY GINA LEE
Spectator Staff Writer

Hungry Harlem residents looking for celebrity chef Marcus Samuelsson’s cooking probably aren’t stopping at Harlem Gourmet deli—but some of Samuelsson’s employees are. A month and a half after Samuelsson’s Red Rooster opened at 125th Street and Lenox Avenue, local businesses and residents say they’re adjusting to the impact of the buzzed-about eatery. “It does give value to the area itself ... so we have more [higher] class people around,” Sami Alrowhani, Harlem Gourmet’s owner, said. Red Rooster employees have been visiting his deli during their lunch breaks, so he has already seen better business thanks to the new restaurant. Surrounding businesses, from African merchandise stores to other restaurants, say they’re looking forward to a similar boost—though many said they haven’t seen it yet. The restaurant has made overtures to the neighborhood, from the food, described as the roots of American cuisine influenced by the tradition of Harlem, to the prices, with entrees priced between \$14 and \$32. Since opening in December, Red Rooster has created over 80 jobs. Harlem locals comprise 80 percent of its staff, according to a representative from the restaurant. But while some Harlem residents have welcomed the



SEEING RED | Marcus Samuelsson’s Red Rooster Harlem, between 125th and 126th on Lenox Ave., has been open for over a month.

award-winning chef to the neighborhood, others are opposed to the new clientele and prices which they say are still well outside the budget of locals.

“It [Red Rooster] does give value to the area itself.” —Sami Alrowhani, owner of Harlem Gourmet deli

“That’s too much to pay for

any meal. They’re pushing it,” said Orville Harrison on his way to another restaurant up the street. “He [Samuelsson] took the chance... but he comes in charging that kind of money.” Resident Annie Wiggins argues that the prices are fair. “There’s nothing wrong with it. Thirty dollars isn’t bad for a meal,” Wiggins said, although she has yet to eat at the restaurant. However, Cathy Spencer, a longtime resident of 137th Street, is skeptical of claims that the restaurant will benefit locals in the long run. To her, Red Rooster is

SEE ROOSTER, page 2

OPEN HOUSING



OPTIONS OPEN | Residential Life’s Annie Aversa announced this week that Barnard students would be eligible to participate in the open-housing pilot program in dorms, including Woodbridge.

OPINION, PAGE 4

The perfect GPA

Let’s not jump to conclusions about the grade leak.

Egyptian revolt

Despite protests, Mubarak may still be Egypt’s best option.



SPORTS, PAGE 3

Two’s company and three’s a party

Columbia is looking to take the scoring burden off of guards Brian Barbour and Noruwa Agho by finding a third offensive threat down low, likely in sophomore Mark Cisco.

EVENTS

Resumés that Stand Out

A workshop for learning how to create an impressive resumé. CCE Conference Room, 4-5:30 p.m.

Novartis Chemical Sciences Lecture

Novartis researcher John Tallarico presents a lecture about chemical genetics. 209 Havemeyer, 4 p.m.

WEATHER

Today



39°/23°

Tomorrow



29°/13°



CONCERN | Itzhak Epstein speaks up against the homeless shelter set to open on 94th Street at a Community Board meeting Tuesday.

Neighbors’ concerns spark unanimous vote against shelter

CB7 from front page

Epstein said he’s glad the resolution passed, including the call for a “fair share” analysis to examine the concentration of homeless shelters on the Upper West Side, but he’s not convinced it will carry much weight since community board resolutions are non-binding.

“I’m in favor, but as I said, ‘strongly oppose’ means the community board can’t do anything,” he said. “What will the mayor’s office do? Nothing. It’s a done deal, the government will go on and do as it wishes.”

But local politicians will continue to push for residents’ concerns to be heard, said Jesse Bodine, director of constituent services and policy for City Council member Gale Brewer.

“Gale has met with DHS, has met with the mayor’s office—we’re going to fight,” he said. “We don’t want to create a vacuum where this happens again and again, at least not automatically.”

The community board will also be following up with elected officials, CB7 chair Mel Wymore said.

“We’ll also be working with a group that we’ve started to address some of the things in that amendment,” he said, referring to an amendment to the resolution that failed to pass, which would have expanded the

resolution to include objection to future situations similar to that of the 94th Street homeless shelter.

Biller had planned a rally at the meeting, but with the board voting 33-0 in favor of the anti-shelter resolution, he said there was no need to protest.

Ben Wolinsky, a member of Neighborhood in the Nineties, said there are more issues to be discussed, particularly security. Unlike the homeless shelter for mentally ill people on the Alexander’s block, the proposed shelter will be unsupervised.

“There’s no legal requirement to have security officers,” he said, adding that the residents’ living conditions will be determined by the landlord. “There’s nothing to stop the new owner from putting bunk beds in a studio room and putting four men in there.”

While increasing security concerns for locals, the shelter also creates an unsafe environment for the homeless men, Wolinsky said.

“I know some homeless teens, and I asked them, ‘Why don’t you stay in a shelter instead of sleeping on church steps?’ and they said ‘I don’t feel safe in there,’” Wolinsky said. “I would not want to live next door to an unsupervised, un-maintained building where homeless men are being warehoused.”

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Students evacuated from Egypt programs in wake of protests

EGYPT from front page

Bree Doering, BC ’12, Julianne Maeda, BC ’12, Roxanne Moadel-Attie, BC ’12, Sofia Pacheco-Fores, CC ’12, Wendy Rose, CC ’12, and Emma Spencer, CC ’12, were also on the Amheida trip, and returned with the group today.

Caitlin Burke, CC ’12, who was studying at the American University in Cairo, and Dexter Thompson-Pomeroy, CC ’13, who was studying at Middlebury College’s Arabic program at Alexandria University, also left Egypt.

Thompson-Pomeroy had been evacuated to Greece, according to his friend Sierra Kuzava, CC ’12. Burke said in a Facebook post that she was in Paris on Tuesday night but would be returning to Columbia today.

The ongoing protests against Hosni Mubarak, Egypt’s president of 30 years, have been largely nonviolent but have caused chaos throughout the country. Mubarak announced on Tuesday that he would not run for another term, but protestors continue to demand his resignation.

University spokesperson Robert Hornsby said Monday that at least seven students and one faculty member were in the process of being evacuated from Egypt, adding that multiple University offices were arranging transportation out of the country for students

not already being evacuated by Columbia affiliates.

Amheida project students will live in NYU housing as they continue the program there, Baggnall said. He said that students will stay in hotels until that housing is ready within the next day or two.

Pacheco-Fores’ close friend Sofia Cecchi, CC ’11, heard from Pacheco-Fores that the students had to fly home from Dubai because it was too difficult to get a flight out of Egypt.

“Sofia told me today, since everyone wants to leave the country right now, getting airplanes, it’s not the easiest thing at the moment,” Cecchi said.

Altman-Lupu wrote on her blog that the group woke up in Egypt at 5 a.m. and were told to prepare for a six-hour bus ride to the Egyptian city of Assiut.

“We had a full police brigade with us, but we never actually needed to utilize it,” Altman-Lupu wrote.

From Assiut, the group took a short flight to Dubai, which, students report, was chartered by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Cristina Ramos, CC ’12, a friend of Maeda and Rose, said the group flew out of Dubai International Airport via Emirates Airlines.

“Needless to say, all their family and friends are so happy and relieved ... myself included,” Ramos said. “It’s been a scary couple of days.”

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UPTOWN EATS | Red Rooster, a new and much-hyped restaurant in Harlem, has been an object of complaints for some residents.

Locals, businesses have mixed reactions to Red Rooster’s impact

ROOSTER from front page

On a broader scale, Spencer said she felt that Harlem residents were being kicked out by encroaching retail development catering to the more affluent.

“Once you’ve been displaced from the brownstones that you’ve grown up in, where you going to go?” she added. “We don’t want to move from our neighborhood.”

However, other locals find claims like Spencer’s to be exaggerated.

Alrowhani said he has heard both sides of the gentrification argument from his customers, and has nothing against the restaurant’s presence. Harlem

resident Marie Bee also looks favorably at Red Rooster, seeing it in its simplest form: a great restaurant.

“They serve a good meal,” Bee said. “It’s worth the money.”

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Bell wrote ’66 report on Core

BELL from front page

and Oriental Humanities), four classes in the social sciences, and four classes in the sciences.

But Columbia faculty, including University Professor I.I. Rabi and then-Dean of Faculties Jacques Barzun criticized the report, charging that it “does not look toward the preparation of students for the world in which they live.”

Lilla, a professor of humanities and religion and one of Bell’s colleagues and longtime friends, said that the report was left on Truman’s shelf and never looked at again.

Nevertheless, Bell’s colleagues remember him as someone who advocated for a college that encouraged intellectual exploration, within a university that he felt was placing too much emphasis on its graduate schools and not paying enough attention to undergraduate education.

That curiosity was reflected in Bell’s own thinking, according

to Lilla, who described Bell as always able to take a large-scale view of what was going on in society.

In fact, Bell “seemed a little out of place in a sense, in the academy, because his wings were so wide,” recalled Lilla. “He wasn’t a particular specialist in anything.”

Growing up in Manhattan, Bell was a socialist who argued on street corners in the Lower East Side. A graduate of Stuyvesant High School, Bell went on to attend City College before earning his PhD at Columbia.

A lifelong academic and defender of the liberal arts, Bell also taught at the University of Chicago and Harvard University.

Lilla described his legacy simply: “Taking the large view—either of history or society or culture—is important with respect to the academy where the incentives are to be specialized and narrow.”

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Why we should look beyond marquee sports

Sometimes you come across that one guy or girl that everyone really likes. Everyone, except you, that is. You don't dislike this person, but you don't see what everyone else does in him or her. Because everyone else adores this person, you really don't have a choice.



MRINAL MOHANKA
Word on the Street

As a result, you give in. You become a “fan” as well. Still, you always question why you can't see what they do.

That's really how I feel about Columbia's marquee sports.

By marquee, I mean the headlining, or major sport of a given season—football in the fall, basketball in the winter. Baseball, on the other hand, is the marquee sport of the spring, but nobody takes it nearly half as seriously as they take the other two “major” sports, so that's something to think about as well. I genuinely think it's a more fun sport to watch than the other two, but maybe that's just me.

Kunal Gupta's sports column yesterday (“Basketball isn't Columbia's only sport”, Feb. 1) really highlighted this point well, describing the world outside that of Columbia men's basketball. Even before that column, it was clear who reigned supreme. Every day's paper had at least one story related to basketball, and it's only the exception when the columnists write about something other than Kyle Smith's team being amazing (that's an observation, not a judgment!).

Sometimes you come across that one guy or girl that everyone really likes. Everyone, that is, except you. That's really how I feel about Columbia's marquee sports.

While I'm not so opposed to having marquee sports that people are passionate about, I really needed the opportunity to analyze what makes a marquee sport. Why is it special? What factors are responsible for it being the main attention grabber? The Phanatic pointed out that the men's basketball team isn't going to win the Ivies this season, and while I'll say he's probably right (though don't ever count a team out), it definitely suggests that success isn't the only (or most important) factor in this discussion. Is convenient access for fans crucial? I wouldn't think so, given football's playing facility isn't really conveniently located.

Let's look at some of the things that are certainly important.

Student interest, first and foremost, will determine whether something is, or can become, a marquee sport. Contrary to popular belief, Columbia students actually do go to games, albeit selectively. As you'd imagine, it's the marquee sports that attract them more than any other, and year after year, students flock to Baker for homecoming. Whether it's for the tailgate or the football is open to debate.

I was at Levien for the women's basketball game against Harvard this past weekend, and it was one of the most exciting basketball games I've ever seen. Decided by a point in the closing stages, it really was a thriller. But there weren't too many students there. To be fair, they weren't to know that it was going to be that exciting, but all that shows is the lack of awareness about how non-marquee sports are doing.

Alumni interest is another crucial factor. While alumni from up and down the coast make sure they're present to watch their alma mater for football and basketball, the other sports (including baseball) sometimes are forgotten. I remember being at Baker Field for an entire day in October, when the Light Blue hosted Dartmouth in football, men's soccer, and women's soccer, back-to-back-to-back (feel free to judge me). Our alums were out in force for football—for the other games, the crowd was almost 75 percent green. The men's soccer game that day was another thriller, decided in the last minute by Columbia's freshman Henning Sauerbier. Again, there were barely any

SEE MOHANKA, page 6



ALYSON GOULDEN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SCORING SOPHOMORE | The Lions hope center Mark Cisco can step up to be a consistent scorer alongside guards Noruwa Agho and Brian Barbour.

Columbia looks for third scoring threat to emerge
Coach looks to sophomore center Cisco to complement Barbour, Agho

BY LUCAS SHAW
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Most people try to avoid being the third wheel in any context, but the Lions need someone on the roster to step up and fill that role—quickly.

Noruwa Agho and Brian Barbour have shouldered the scoring load over the past month, but as Friday's game against Harvard proved, two consistent scoring threats are not enough to be an Ivy contender.

Agho and Barbour combined for 46 points in the 77-66 loss, but the rest of the team managed just 20. On the other side of the court, the Crimson had four players in double figures.

Harvard is not alone in boasting a

wealth of scoring options. Princeton has four different players averaging double figures in points this year, as does Penn. Not by coincidence, those three are the Ivy League's undefeated teams.

“We need a third guy to emerge and we're counting on it to be [Mark] Cisco,” coach Kyle Smith said.

After the first league game of the season, Smith identified Agho, Barbour, and Cisco as the core trio for the Light Blue moving forward. Agho and Barbour have lived up to expectations early on, combining for more than 37 points a game in Ivy play thus far.

Cisco, on the other hand, has struggled. In games at Cornell and Harvard, he played well for much of the first half only to disappear after

the intermission. Against Dartmouth, he never even got going.

“We need a third guy to emerge and we're counting on it to be [Mark] Cisco.”

—Kyle Smith,
men's basketball coach

“Usually guys, when they come off the bench, are excited and make things happen,” Smith said. “It's really hard to










sustain it and do it as a starter. He's going through that.”

Smith said he thought the blame for Cisco's uneven play should be spread around evenly. The coaches need to tell the guards to pass it inside more, the guards need to have confidence in their post players, and Cisco has to be more assertive.

If Cisco is unable to provide a consistent third scoring option, an alternative may present itself on the outside. Many Lions have played far worse on the road, but in particular, the Light Blue's freshman shooters have struggled. Steve Frankoski and Dyami Starks were 0-for-11 in the team's first two league road games.

SEE MEN'S BASKETBALL,
page 6

WHERE DOES THE IVY LEAGUE RANK?

HARVARD

PRINCETON

COLUMBIA

YALE

PENN

BROWN

CORNELL

DARTMOUTH

IVY LEAGUE*

2010-2011	52	65	147	156	176	221	255	262	14
2009-2010	100	133	252	267	299	257	46	335	22
2008-2009	246	284	289	230	258	307	115	315	29

*Out of 32 conferences

GRAPHIC BY YUMA SHINOHARA

Senior captain Barry's heart, hustle key to her success

BY SARAH SOMMER
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

In the last seconds of the first half against Dartmouth on Saturday, freshman center Nicole Santucci took what appeared to be the Columbia women's basketball team's final shot. Then, seemingly out of nowhere, senior guard Kathleen Barry ran across the paint and, from mid-air, tipped the ball into the basket.

It was a smart, athletic play, and it fired up the crowd at Levien Gymnasium. Most of all, it was a perfect example of Barry being Barry.

“She does all the little things,” freshman guard Brianna Orlich said. “She obviously does a lot of big things, too, but she's just one of those players that really does the little things in the game, which can lead to a lot of success.”

Barry's last-second layup gave Columbia a 35-28 lead, undoing some of the damage that a 6-0 Dartmouth run had done in the final two minutes of the first half. The Lions led by as many as 13 points in the second half and survived a last-minute rally by the Big Green to achieve a 67-61 victory.

Barry finished the game with 14 points and 11 rebounds. The double-double was her third in a row and her fourth in the past five games. In the one game in which she did not have a double-double during that stretch, against St. Francis (N.Y.) on Jan. 19, Barry had 13 points and nine rebounds.

SEE BARRY, page 6



KATE SCARBROUGH / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

FOCUSED | Kathleen Barry has impressed teammates with her work ethic.



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Evaluating our choices on the right

Perhaps obviously enough, being a conservative in the modern academy is not the easiest path to tread. To be a conservative is to be stodgy and anachronistic, a believer in antique superstitions swept away by the progress of the modern age. It is remarkably démodé to adhere to tradition, for it confines the imagination and stifles man's power to perfect the brave new world. There is, though, a safe corner of conservatism for the collegian, for the pillar of libertarianism stands strong.

In the recent past, college kids have come out in droves for libertarianism, manifested perhaps most visibly in the support among young men and women for Ron Paul's quixotic 2008 presidential run. Libertarianism is acceptable largely in academic circles, for it is the "third way," a slightly edgy philosophy that rejects the silly remnants of tradition but embraces the freedom principle, be it in social activity or economic markets. It is an alternative spin on an old ideology, and universities love nothing more than modifying and "updating" existing structures to get a new hybrid philosophy. Libertarianism, of course, is not a novel idea, but between the conventional left-right political divide, the libertarian falls somewhere outside of the normal spectrum.

In many regards, libertarianism is the perfect ideology for the young. It sheds the dead weight of the accumulated wisdom of the ages, for the here and now is what is important and what is to be evaluated by fresh young minds. It places the focus exclusively on the self—libertarians are concerned with limited government and external authority so people can be left alone to do whatever they want. It rejects modern liberals' demands for universality, be it in some iteration of collective "human rights," or "dignity," or other nebulous buzzwords. It is, in the end, a remarkably solipsistic viewpoint that, at heart, turns inward.

The fact that we have choice is all that matters to the libertarian.

Such an ideology is naturally attractive to college-age students. After fleeing home, we are endowed with incredible freedom at Columbia. There are no bedtimes, no watchful first-period attendance monitors, no reproving looks when stumbling into bed after a night of revelry. There are just a thousand choices in one of the greatest universities in one of the greatest cities on earth.

We are told that college is a time for experimentation, for trying things we never imagined and seeing how they turn out. We should take classes in unfamiliar subjects and attempt new activities. This type of mentality reinforces the dominance of libertarianism, for trying novel ventures without much consequence is at the essence of this philosophy. It also matters not what is chosen, for primacy is given to the act of choice alone. Whether we explore "Paradise Lost" or Myra Breckinridge is irrelevant—no value judgment is attached to the selection. The fact that we have choice—in books, in cannabis use, in marriage partner—is all that matters to the libertarian. The underlying conclusion about its goodness or badness is disregarded, for these are the stuffy conservative evaluations about propriety of the thing that is liable to upset. Conservatism, in its older, purer distillation, does not shun these judgments but embraces them to its core. That is the enduring truth of traditional conservatism, and that is the element that libertarians reject. The libertarian focus on choice, and choice alone, misses the distinction about the rightness of action that defines old-style conservatism. This indispensable element, the simple verdict of good or bad, is what makes conservatism unpalatable to young people in general, who would like time to stretch out and experiment, freed from the strictures of authority that necessarily constrain and require that the young take advice more or less on faith.

Now in the real world, libertarians and conservatives will agree on eight or nine out of 10 policy issues, which makes for about as good a political alliance as is practically possible. But the philosophical underpinnings of the ideologies diverge pretty dramatically, and it is no shock that university students, if inclined toward the right, will choose the looser, less moralistic of the two. The college and the city, particularly, offer a plethora of choices, and it is unsurprising that the established ways of stability and prudence fall aside quickly to temptation. Restraint is not this generation's strong point, nor is it really the natural disposition of 20-year-olds. Conservatism, in its traditional form, is not an easy set of beliefs, for it demands those impulses most difficult to repress to be constrained, unlike its libertarian cousin.

In many ways, Columbia retains vestigial conservatism, which transitively instills some modicum of tradition in her students. Our required courses do value what is taught for what it is, and generations of Columbians share some common bond. If we don't mind direction and know where to look, the great tradition shines bright.

Stephen Wu is a Columbia College sophomore. The Remnant runs alternate Wednesdays.



STEPHEN WU
The Remnant

Egyptian protests leave few options

BY AHMED KHALIFA

Egypt's president, Hosni Mubarak, has held his position through four elections and nearly 30 years. His rule, however, has lately been thrown into question as years of dissatisfaction over controversial elections and the country's standard of living provoked widespread protests and eventually full-blown riots. Unrest and violence aside, Mubarak should remain president, at least temporarily. He has worked tirelessly for the betterment of his country, and the lack of a competent successor should at least deter the crowds of angry protestors from baying for his blood, as is happening now.

Although small, isolated demonstrations have been commonplace in past years, the massive protests that have been sweeping Egypt since January 25 are very different in that they represent a unique demographic spread. While young and old, rich and poor alike turned out to show their support, the most prevalent group by far was young, internet-savvy activists, college students, and fresh graduates much like ourselves, who spread the word through social media outlets, such as Facebook or Twitter. This perhaps explains the government's decision to completely shut down the Internet and disrupt phone services on Jan. 28, as protestors depend heavily on these tools. Can you imagine one of the many Columbia activist groups attempting to stage a protest without a Facebook event or without being able to call their friends? But while their actions are admirable, the relative youth of these protesters, as well as the fact that they have known no other president than Mubarak, leads to a host of more pressing issues.

I think Mubarak is a great president. He may not be ideal, but while conditions in rural areas are dismal, assessments show a steady improvement in economic, health and literacy sectors. Internationally, Egypt is the military bulwark of the Middle East, as well as the United States' biggest ally in the region. Finally, Mubarak has a strong and diplomatic foreign policy, maintains cordial relations with Israel, and takes a harsh stance regarding Iran's less-than-comforting warlike behavior. Without Mubarak, stability in the Middle East would come into question, a hit the current situation cannot afford to take.

The grade of "A"

BY AARON LISKOV

A simplified view of ambiguous data, the Spectator's initial report on the number of students earning A-level grade averages last term was regrettable. The strong thrust of the article, "Beyond Straight A's," is that the quality of A-level work must have declined for so many undergraduates—482 at Columbia College and SEAS—to have earned these grades. Hence, the article ends by quoting a CC student, "To me, it was just further proof of huge grade inflation." That day's front-page graphic, a long list of tiny "A's" illustrating the abundant supply of the grade, added an implicit echo to the quote. But this picture of the data is presumptuous—the fact that so many people get certain grades says nothing conclusive about the meaning of those grades until the actual courses and the larger academic context are considered as well. The Spectator article shows how such sensationalized and sound-byte renderings like "grade inflation" both conceal the nuance behind academic life at an institution like Columbia and carry an even greater risk of marginalizing whole sections of our community.

At a certain point, shouting "grade inflation" is just a divisive way of saying the obvious: we are a happily diverse and complicated community.

For example, a scandal about "grade inflation" may forget the large majority of students who strangely missed getting A's. We might forgive a B-level student who came away from Spectator's shiny graphic of A after A after A with a more diffident and uncertain sense of his status at Columbia. "If the A is easy, why did I have such trouble getting a B?" Questions and doubts like these should find no occasion in genuinely educational settings where exploration, risk-taking, and imperfection are the accepted prerequisites of intellectual growth. The hasty inference that an abundance of high marks can only mean low standards is dangerously

Finally, if not Mubarak, then who? The protesters are furious and they demand an immediate replacement for the aging president, but they fail to properly assess the situation. The man who poses the biggest threat to Mubarak is Mohamed ElBaradei, former director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency. To the youth, ElBaradei seems like a breath of fresh air and has become something of a rallying point in recent times, coming to represent change and reform.

If not Mubarak, then who? The protesters are furious and they demand an immediate replacement for the president, but they fail to properly assess the situation.

But is ElBaradei really a good candidate for the presidency? Although he did an admirable job with the IAEA, he is a political newcomer who has only recently returned to Egypt after a considerable absence, leading to questions of whether or not he is really in touch with the average Egyptian. Political beliefs aside, if ElBaradei is elected president, the novelty of a new face in power would soon wear thin and expose his political incompetence.

What Egypt needs now is a firm hand to guide it out of these choppy waters, a seasoned contender well versed in politics to ensure a smooth transition of power. But with the this volatile situation's current fluidity, and without any apparent plan of action, it seems less and less likely that Egypt will retain its position as a bastion of stability and strength in the Middle East.

Why should Columbia students care? Places like Columbia are where the best and brightest are forged into tomorrow's politicians, policy makers, and proponents for peace. If nothing else, we can take away some knowledge of international politics from this ordeal. The political future of this country and the world cannot depend on individuals who are blind to the bigger international picture. Apathy is the enemy of progress, so do your country a favor and pick up a newspaper every now and then.

The author is a first-year in Columbia College.

insensitive to students who did not attain these marks. We should not be surprised to find that the source of "grade inflation" laments is so often an academic super-elite. It is the Ivy League's translation of Ayn Rand: "We're on strike against your creed of unearned duties...I ask for nothing less than what I earn."

The problem with the "grade inflation" charge is that its underlying desire for a single, common, "gold" academic standard is at odds with the diversity of a large elite American university like Columbia. All of the adjectives in that description—large, elite, American—contribute to the diversity of Columbia students and the many academic backgrounds they bring with them. Students come from competitive feeder schools, under-performing public schools, and international programs with entirely different academic systems. Multiply this level of diversity by the fact that many classes at Columbia include students from different colleges within the university—CC, SEAS, GS, and BC—each which has its own mission, constituency, and admissions process with varying emphasis and competitiveness. So asking a professor and his or her TA's to impose one uniform and meaningful grading "currency" is like trying to set a common currency for the economies of Greece and Germany. There's bound to be some inflation or deflation. At a certain point, shouting "grade inflation" is just a divisive way of saying the obvious: we are a happily diverse and complicated community.

None of this is to say that in any particular class, the grades may not be determined more or less fairly. But that question must be referred to the courses themselves. A statistic like the one above may mean many things including and besides "grade inflation." And whether or not it means grade inflation may not be the most pressing question to ask. Alternatively, does it mean that all students, regardless of their background, find a sufficiently wide outlet for their potential here? Does it acknowledge the value of taking risks? Does so much attention to students getting A's represent a community that acknowledges that value? At the very least, we should be sure that our interest in the issue is consistent with the inclusive and nurturing premises of undergraduate education. This is just some, and definitely not all, of the essential context that must be considered before a discussion of academic assessment at Columbia will bear ripe and edible fruit.

The author is a senior in Columbia College majoring in history.



AMALIA RINEHART

STAFF EDITORIAL

Bring back Postcrypt

Because of a simple mistake, the student-run Postcrypt Coffeehouse has been unjustly banned from campus for a month. The eclectic folk music club had planned on holding its long-standing weekend concerts in the basement of St. Paul's Chapel on the nights of Dec. 17 and 18 of last semester. It turns out, however, that Postcrypt unknowingly overbooked the room, and upon finding it locked, called Public Safety and opened the doors. As a result, the University Chaplain's office has suspended the group until March 4, a date which, for many Columbia students, cannot come quickly enough.

This is not the first time Postcrypt has encountered troubles with the campus administration. Last year concerns were raised about underage drinking problems and worked out a plan to hire a security guard and discontinue beer sales. But this more recent situation is much less serious, and the punishment in no way fits the crime. As part of the Student Governing Board, Postcrypt should not be treated more harshly than any other student group that who might mistakenly book a room during finals. The chaplain maintains that this sort of disciplinary action is customary for violations of this nature, but we have never heard reports of measures this extreme being taken.

Postcrypt is truly one of the few aspects of campus that we can proudly call a Columbia tradition. The New York Times has praised our quirky gathering of artists and coffee drinkers several times. The fact that Jeff Buckley played there long ago also says something about

its meaningful, historic contribution to the music world. Perhaps even more important for Postcrypt's legacy as a campus group is that, for first-years and other students who are tired of the usual raucous EC party, the cool, casual vibe in the depths of the chapel provides a welcome retreat.

Even though Postcrypt will soon return to our campus, suspending it for a trivial violation means bad public relations for our school, something we don't need in light of recent campus events. Furthermore, hosting Postcrypt is one huge opportunity to live up to our name—Columbia University in the City of New York. We reside in this city, and that draws students to venues like this and enables these cultural traditions to exist. It's a chance for us to participate in the culture of New York even on our somewhat isolated campus. If we drive away this group, we sacrifice a part of what makes our location so ideal.

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5	9	4	2	3	6	1	8	7
8	7	6	5	1	9	2	3	4
2	8	5	6	9	7	4	1	3
7	1	9	8	4	3	5	2	6
6	4	3	1	5	2	7	9	8
4	6	8	9	2	5	3	7	1
1	3	2	4	7	8	6	5	9
9	5	7	3	6	1	8	4	2

su | do | ku

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Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 grid contains the digits 1 through 9. That means that no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

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	4	2	1		8	9		
	5	8		6				

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Aditya Mukerjee, President

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Purchases
5 One way to cope
10 Key of Brahms's Symphony No. 3
14 Midwest native
15 Speeder's downfall
16 Attorney general under Clinton
17 Long story
18 African title of respect
19 Earth, in Essen
20 OPIE
23 China's Sun ___ sen
24 Gallery administrator's dog.
25 City of success
26 "Wait, there's more ..."
29 Ring 5-Downs
32 Last. Abbr.
34 OBIE
40 ___-B: dental brand
41 Trail
42 In charge of
43 OKIE
48 Just fine, at NASA
49 Hors d'oeuvre spread
50 Fairbanks-to-Anchorage dir.
51 To the rear
54 Afternoon break
56 Sportscaster Cross
58 ODE
65 Leaf-to-branch angle
66 Threshing instrument
67 Sculptor's material
68 Anatomical blood carrier
69 Specialty
70 Queen's home
71 Blue-pencil
72 Shore eagles
73 River to the North Sea

DOWN

1 Northwestern pear
2 Where Pioneer Day is celebrated
3 Teammate of Mickey and Whitley
4 Simmons alternative
5 Settler?
6 Early light
7 "Bonanza" brother
8 Flier until '91
9 Walter's burden
10 Thrown in
11 Like Hood's men
12 Tennis great Agassi
13 Down under kids
21 Thrown missile
22 ___ Cynwyd, Philadelphia suburb
26 Tiny particle
27 Dragster's org.
28 Campus VIP
30 Kodak product
31 Rascal
33 ___ "Clock Jump": Harry James recording
35 A, in communications
36 Cancón quencer
37 Miles per gal., points per game, etc.

38 Roger of "Cheers" perhaps
39 Made faces, in Rouen
44 Roast, in Rouen
45 Painter of Southwestern scenes
46 Puts down
47 "The King and I" actress, 1956
51 Desert growth
52 Sent, in a way
53 Pop singer Lopez
55 "It's ... nothing!"
57 French hot springs town
59 In need of tuning
60 Do some mending
61 Location
62 "The Whittierpool Song" collegians
63 Church section
64 Certain colorist

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

BOSS	HOB	SCALP
YOHO	IDEA	PURER
CHALK	TALK	ORONO
AERIE	LENO	NIN
BRIDGE	FINANCING	
	SNL	MFA
ANTI	GAGA	EMBED
POWDER	PUFF	PODERBY
TRAIN	STLO	LOBE
	OSS	ACH
CUETHE	ORCHESTRA	
OTB	RENO	ALIAS
STOLI	POOL	PARTY
MELON	ONCD	POSE
ORATE	PEAS	SLOT

xwordeditor@aol.com 02/02/11



By Bernice Gordon
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ALYSON GOULDEN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

HELP WANTED | Coach Kyle Smith hopes to find a third scorer to ease the pressure on junior guard Noruwa Agho, the team’s leading scorer, who scored 27 points Friday in a losing effort at Harvard.

Harvard, Princeton, Penn all undefeated as Ancient Eight ranked no. 14 conference in nation

MEN’S BASKETBALL
from page 3

Frankoski reversed that trend on Saturday at Dartmouth, sinking three shots from downtown.

“He was really wired before the [Dartmouth] game and as a coach it’s one way or the other—this guy is not going to have a good game and be a mess, or he’ll play great,” Smith said. “To have his enthusiasm on the second night of the road trip is really helpful.”

HELP WANTED: ON-BALL DEFENDER

For those wondering why Meiko Lyles has been getting significant playing time recently, the answer is pretty simple: he may be the Lions’ best on-ball

defender.

“It’s been our Achilles’ heel,” Smith said. “We’ve had games where we’ve been good and games where we couldn’t stop someone, like the guy from Elon [guard Chris Long] who just took over that game at the end.”

Though the Light Blue roster is filled with guards, the coaches have been struggling to identify who they can use on-ball against the opponent’s point guard.

Barbour is seen as good at defending shooters, but not on-ball. The same goes for Agho and slashing wings.

Steve Frankoski has drawn the assignment on most occasions, but he is unable to do it for 40 minutes. The rest of the time, Smith said the job is likely to go to Dyami Starks or Lyles.

So far it has been Lyles. After helping to force Harvard’s Brandyn Curry into five turnovers on Friday, it looks like Lyles will continue to play that role.

LAND SAFELY

The Lions start their weekend with Brown on Friday, a team with little size—much like Dartmouth. However, come Saturday, the challenge will shift to the paint, given Yale’s bruising front court talents.

The Bulldogs not only have 6-foot-10 Greg Mangano, the league’s leading scorer and shot blocker, but also Jeremiah Kreisberg, a 6-foot-9 freshman center/forward.

That means that the “aircraft carriers” will be back in service. By that,

Smith means his pair of seven-footers, Max Craig and Zack Crimmins.

“We gotta get [Craig] ready,” Smith said. “He’s been practicing well; it’s been tough. Whether it’s Zack or Max I probably need to give them a little more rope to make some mistakes.”

Crimmins has received scant playing time this season, and it seems Craig is likely to get the call. He began the season in the starting lineup, but was later replaced by Cisco before injuring his thumb a month ago. Since then, he has been working on getting back in the flow of things. Regardless of his statistical contributions, Smith thinks Craig’s size will be of use against Yale.

“If he doesn’t get the rebound, you still have to account for him,” Smith

said. “He wears out guys physically.”

TWO-BID LEAGUE?

“Maybe not this year, but I know Princeton is pretty darn good too,” Smith said, referring to Harvard as the other contender for a bid.

The Ivy League is currently ranked 14th out of 32 conferences in the RPI rankings. That is much higher than usual, when the league has been in the mid-to-low 20s. By comparison, the league was 22nd last year despite Cornell coming in at 46. One reason was that five of the eight teams were outside of the top 250.

This year? Not only are Harvard and Princeton both in the top 75, but Columbia, Yale and Penn are all in the top 200.

Soccer, squash, and other non-marquee sports deserve attention

MOHANKA, from page 3

home fans there to watch.

Worldwide interest in the sport is the final factor I’m going to consider. This is a little tricky since nobody anywhere else in the world cares about baseball, football, or basketball. They do care about football, but it’s the other one (the beautiful game—the one where you actually kick the ball around...). So if worldwide interest affected the marquee concept, we’d have a clear winner (and I would be much happier). Now that’s not the case, so we re-focus our attention to nationwide interest, and we see the big three—football, basketball, baseball (in no specific order)—emerge.

There definitely is some correlation between how the nation views a sport, and how that sport is viewed at the college level. That’s probably never going to change, so we’re stuck with the marquees as they are. It really seems absurd now that I think about it, but it’s almost a vicious circle of being a marquee sport that ensures that you will always remain a marquee sport.

I’m still going to make it a point to watch Lions baseball, fencing, tennis, swimming and diving, squash, wrestling, and archery among others this term—they’re fun to watch and our teams have the potential for success (read: greatness).

That said, I guess I’ll also just have to make sure I’m there when the men’s basketball team begins its four-game homestand on Feb. 11.

Mrinal Mohanka is a Columbia College junior majoring in economics. sports@columbiaspectator.com

Senior guard earns respect of teammates with versatility, determination

BARRY, from page 3

definitely comes from her days playing inside as a high school player.”

While Barry has always had talent, her role with the Lions has changed over the years. In her first season, Barry played in 27 of 28 games. She did not make any starts, and she averaged only 8.3 minutes per contest.

That year, Barry was a young guard on a team with experienced perimeter players in seniors Michele Gage and Brittney Carfora and junior Katrina Cragg.

“Her freshman year, she was really able to come in and kind of ease her way into college basketball,” Nixon said.

Though Barry averaged only 2.7 points per game as a freshman, she

showcased her scoring ability toward the end of the 2007-08 season. At Harvard, she scored 13 points, a career-high at the time. One week later, when Columbia hosted Princeton, Barry tallied 14 points.

As a sophomore, Barry played in all 28 of Columbia’s games and made five starts. Her playing time increased to 16.6 minutes per contest. At Longwood, she scored a career-high 23 points.

In the 2009-10 season, Barry averaged 26.5 minutes per game and started all 25 contests in which she played. She was the Lions’ only full-time starter who had not been a regular member of the starting lineup in previous years.

“Last year, it was mostly just about

figuring out my role,” Barry said. “I was playing with a lot of players who have had a lot of success here before.”

Despite missing three conference games due to injury, Barry received all-Ivy honorable mention. She averaged 10.8 points and 5.3 rebounds per contest while also making 13 blocks and 47 steals.

Barry also posted the league’s fifth highest three-point shooting percentage, hitting a career-high 40.9 percent of her shots beyond the arc.

“That was kind of something new in my game, and I think it worked well with our strengths,” Barry said. “This year, obviously, I haven’t had as much success with the three-pointer, and also, we’re just a different team. I think it’s

just [about] finding different ways to make things work, and how I should fit into this offense.”

Barry has started every game this year but the one against Lafayette, in which an injury prevented her from playing. She and senior center Lauren Dwyer are Columbia’s only returning starters from last year. They are also the Lions’ two captains.

Barry is averaging 27.4 minutes per contest and has made 26 steals. She also already has tallied 14 blocks. Barry has the third-most blocks among Columbia players this season, but the most among Columbia players who are less than six feet tall.

“She has so many skills for basketball, and knowing just which ones she can use to really benefit the team in Coach Paul’s system—I think that’s where you’re able to see her improve, in terms of on paper,” Dwyer said. “That’s how she’s improved over the four years, is how she has been able to mold herself into the player that Coach Paul needs her to be, that the team needs her to be.”

One thing that Barry has never needed to improve is her work ethic.

“Sometimes, you sit back in awe of how much effort she’s able to put forth the whole game,” Nixon said. “A lot of players play really hard in spurts, but to have someone who’s just consistently going after it, every single possession, is something that all coaches try and push to get their players to that level. And for her, it’s something that’s come naturally.”

That effort does not go unnoticed among Barry’s teammates.

“I’ve played against—played with—a lot of amazing basketball players, but I really think she is probably the hardest worker I’ve ever seen—like, ever seen,” Orlich said.

Dwyer echoed those sentiments.

“I think everyone would love to be Kathleen’s teammate, just because she works so incredibly hard,” she said. “You want to be like her, and you want to play with her.”



ALYSON GOULDEN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ON THE MOVE | Senior captain Kathleen Barry has adjusted her game to be more of a perimeter player in college.

THERE'S NOT ENOUGH ART IN OUR SCHOOLS.

NO WONDER PEOPLE THINK

CARAVAGGIO

IS A GUY ON THE SOPRANOS.

It's hard to believe. Here's a 16th-century Baroque master whose bold naturalistic painting style first created a sensation, then a movement. A guy whose life was filled with the turbulence and excess of more than a dozen Mario Puzo novels. This guy who, while troubled, ultimately found redemption and immortality in his art. But does the average kid on the street even know who Caravaggio is?

Fuhgedaboudit.

Too bad. Especially when you consider how much our children can learn from the conflicted life of a great artist like Michelangelo Caravaggio.

He grew up in less than ideal circumstances. Most of his family died in the plague. Much of his youth was misspent on the mean streets of Rome. And as a

young artist he struggled for years to make a living. He was angry. Yet the angry contrast between light and darkness in his work is the very reason why it now hangs in countless museums around the world.

If nothing else, it's a case study of the importance of having art as an outlet. Unfortunately, one we're fast removing from our kids' lives.

If the arts are indeed a vital part of your child's education (and studies show you believe they are), then you should demand his or her fair share. To find out how to help, or for more information about the benefits of arts education, please visit us at AmericansForTheArts.org. Because, as Caravaggio would tell you, life without art is torture.

A self-portrait of Caravaggio as Boy with a Basket of Fruit. He would's last 10 minutes in The Sopranos.

If you're looking for Caravaggio, you're very, very odd.

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For more information about the importance of arts education, please contact www.AmericansForTheArts.org.

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