



CHRISTINA PHAN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
**NEW GIG** | Provost Elizabeth Boylan discusses her upcoming move to the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, where she will serve as program director. She will continue to serve on several advisory panels and will remain a tenured professor with a two year leave of absence.

## Committee considers revisions to Global Core

BY MELANIE BRODER  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Less than three years since the requirement's debut, changes are coming to the Global Core. The University's Committee on the Global Core is looking to change the size and number of classes focused on "non-Western" cultures that meet the Global Core requirement. "The ideal is to have those courses resemble CC [Contemporary Civilization] and Lit Hum courses," said Kathryn Yatrakis, dean of academic affairs at Columbia College.

**"There's such strong development in the Core Curriculum that the Global Core gets shafted, in a way, because it's so new."**

—Amanda Tan, CC '11

To accomplish that, the list of courses that meet the requirement will be getting shorter, according to Patricia Grieve, the chair of the faculty Committee on the Global Core and the Nancy and Jeffrey Marcus Professor in the Humanities. The committee also plans to increase the number of small seminars and form connections between Global Core courses in an effort to bring the requirement into line with other parts of the Core. Such changes would address criticisms like those of Kevin Zhai, CC '12, who said the Global Core doesn't build community like Lit Hum and Contemporary Civilization do. "I just think it's sort of bizarre where people have to choose [among different courses], and there is no unifying theme of 'Global Core-ness,'" he added.

SEE GLOBAL CORE, page 2

## DOE owes charter schools \$32 million

BY CHELSEA LO AND SONALEE RAU  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

New York's Department of Education owes charter schools—public schools that are privately managed—\$32 million, but the money might be coming out of public schools' pockets. Even as they face a 4 percent budget cut this year, the city's traditional public schools have to worry about additional losses after legislators accidentally allowed a freeze on charter school funding to expire at the end of the year. Former governor David Paterson had vetoed an education bill and inadvertently lifted the freeze—something lawmakers did not intend. Because of the mistake, the DOE legally owes charter schools \$32 million—an amount the city agency said it cannot afford—in the 2012 fiscal year, even as traditional public schools remain under a funding freeze. "Albany froze the total pot of money provided to all of our public school students this year, yet allowed the fee for charter school students to increase," DOE spokesperson Jack Zarin-Rosenfeld wrote in an email. If the state doesn't allocate extra funds to help the DOE meet its legal obligation to charter schools or somehow reinstitute a freeze, the money will likely be taken from urban district funds allocated for public schools, Noah Gotbaum, president of Community District Education Council 3 said. "Thirty-two million dollars across 1,500 schools—that's about \$20,000 per school," Gotbaum said of individual public schools' loss. Zarin-Rosenfeld said the DOE doesn't believe in instituting a freeze on charter school

funding, but that it will work with the state to alleviate the burden on urban districts to pay off the \$32 million. "We're now actively working with the State and our charter schools on a solution to meet the pupil funding under the law," Zarin-Rosenfeld said. Michael Regnier, who serves as the policy director of the NYC Charter School Center, said the organization actually supports recent politicians' proposal to reinstitute a freeze on charter school funding, though he noted that the freeze on funding should have come as more of a shock than the lifting of it. The temporary freeze was the first time in the relatively young history of the city's charter schools that the state did not follow the usual formula it uses to determine charter school funding, he said. "We just want fairness, it's about fair funding," he said. But Gotbaum said the divide between charter schools and traditional public schools' budgets are anything but fair. According to a study from the National Education Policy Center published this past January, charter schools that occupy space in public school buildings on average receive more than \$2,500 more per pupil than comparable public schools in the same neighborhoods. "Since the study was done from 2006 to 2008, if the freeze were lifted that amount would increase the funding advantage that charters have over public by an additional over \$4,000 per student, or some 30 plus percent," Gotbaum wrote in an email. "And that doesn't take into consideration a single penny of private funds that the charters raise, which in some cases amount to as much as \$10,000

per student." The gap between charter school and public school funds is already too big, said Ellen Darensbourg, who teaches third grade at PS 241 and has two kids of her own in public school. "It's really unacceptable," she said. "They're getting millions of dollars. Our budgets have been slashed as it is, we get slashed every year. It's crazy." Darensbourg said that's not

SEE CHARTERS, page 2

### TALKING ABOUT IT



ANDRA MIHALI / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
**V-DAY** | Emily Ellis, CC '14, lets it out in a performance of the Vagina Monologues.

## CU researcher drills Dead Sea for the first time, discovers it was once dry

BY HENRY WILLSON  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

An international team of researchers, co-led by Earth and Environmental Sciences Department Chair Steven Goldstein, has confirmed that the Dead Sea



dried up entirely during a prolonged hot and dry period preceding the last Ice Age. Their finding in the politically fragile region, demonstrates that, in past warm periods, the water sources feeding the Sea had been so depleted that the entire Sea disappeared. These same water sources are currently being aggressively exploited by the governments

surrounding the Dead Sea, including Israel, Jordan, Syria, and the Palestinian Territories. "Water is a scarce resource. ... That's the type of thing that people ... make wars about," Goldstein said. The Dead Sea, at 423 feet below sea level is the lowest point in the world. Goldstein said he and his colleagues hope to drill 1000 meters below the

sea floor. Goldstein's team is the first ever to conduct deep drilling beneath the Dead Sea floor. The drilling has produced sediment cores that extend hundreds of meters below the seabed and provide valuable data on past climate and seismic activity in the region, dating back up to a million years. According to Goldstein, the

Dead Sea offers unique opportunities for geophysical insight. In addition to its importance as a water supply, the Sea lies on the junction between two tectonic plates and has experienced many earthquakes, one of which may explain the ancient biblical story of the destruction of Jericho.

SEE DEAD SEA, page 2

### A&E, PAGE 3

#### Erotic cake competition

The Columbia Culinary Society hosted a competition in which students baked salacious cakes.



### OPINION, PAGE 4

#### Right to choice

We must take a stand against current anti-abortion bills.

#### Mental health check

Depression in college students is often ignored.

### SPORTS, PAGE 7

#### Moriarty records second best Ivy time ever

Senior Jeff Moriarty's time of 2:20.77 for the 1000m run was the second fastest time recorded in the nation this year.

### EVENTS

#### Glass House Rocks

Rock the house at CCSC's annual event.  
Lerner Hall, 9-1 a.m.

### WEATHER

#### Today



26°/16°

#### Tomorrow



34°/27°



## Committee reevaluating shape, direction of Global Core

GLOBAL CORE from front page

The two-course Global Core requirement was instituted in fall 2008, replacing the previous Major Cultures requirement, which the class of 2011 still has the option to fulfill. Grieve said that in 2008, the University made the list of courses “larger than we think is ideal” to make sure that all students were able to fulfill the requirement.

According to the 2010-11 Columbia College Bulletin, over 120 courses currently fulfill the requirement, though most of those classes are not offered in a given semester.

“This year, the Committee is looking to reduce the number of courses on the list in consultation with the faculty who teach them, as new courses are developed, and as the criteria for Global Core become fully articulated,” Grieve said in a statement.

But overhauling a major curriculum requirement comes with challenges.

Though the committee wants to encourage small seminars, Grieve noted that some departments offering important Global Core courses don’t have enough instructors to replace all of their large lectures with seminars. One option is adding discussion sections to large lectures, though the committee is still determining the best way to make the changes.

“The Committee is currently examining ways to help faculty include a substantive discussion component in courses ... in order to allow for the kind of student interaction that is the hallmark of other Core courses,” Grieve said.

The Global Core is feeling pressure from more than just the faculty committee.

Columbia College Student Council sent out a poll in early December asking students their opinions on the Global Core. Of the 171 students who responded to the survey, 65 percent said they did not feel the Global Core has a clear mission or purpose.

Just over 70 percent said they felt that the best format for Global Core classes is “small seminars, like Lit Hum and CC [Contemporary Civilization].”

“There’s such strong development in the Core Curriculum that the Global Core gets shafted, in a way, because it’s so new,” Amanda Tan, CC ’11 and CCSC’s academic affairs representative, said.

Tan and Alex Jasiulek, the president for the Class of 2013 have been communicating about reviewing the Global Core, and hope to encourage more student participation in the revision process by holding a schoolwide open forum.

The CCSC survey also showed a large divide among students about what the Global Core should accomplish.

Almost 56 percent of respondents said they thought its main purpose is to “introduce students to ‘non-Western’ cultures,” and just over 45 percent said they think its purpose should be to “give students a theoretical framework for examining both ‘non-Western’ cultures and the ‘Western’ culture that informs our own thinking.”

Tony Baker, CC ’13, agreed that a sense of ambiguity in the Global Core made for a superficial treatment of non-Western culture.

“I just think that two semesters is kind of token,” Baker said. “If you want to major in those areas, then you can really get a deeper appreciation of those subjects, but everyone just kind of does like a one year huge gloss-over survey.”

Barry Weinberg, CC ’12 and student representative to the University’s Committee on the Core, said he hopes discussing the Global Core is part of a larger discussion on what the Core Curriculum means to Columbia students.

“There is an interest in the students for kind of a large event or a campus-wide dialogue on what the Core really means to Columbia and how it applies today,” Weinberg said. “And part of that would be how the Global Core fits in.”

Sammy Roth contributed reporting.  
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## Provost Boylan to leave Barnard for NYC science nonprofit

BOYLAN from front page

“Her support has been the key to our major accomplishments,” Jakobsen said.

Boylan’s departure marks the third major administrative change at Barnard in the past three years. Debora Spar is entering her third year as president of the college, and Avis Hinkson will replace Dorothy Denburg as dean on Monday.

Patti said she was surprised at the timing of Boylan’s departure, but said it may be for the best.

### “She’s almost like Solomon in her wisdom and judgment on tricky issues.”

—Peter Connor,  
chair of the French department

“All these transitions will happen at once, and then the new administration can move forward together, and maybe that’ll be better than having a new person coming in every few years,” she said.

Boylan said she feels she will be leaving Barnard at a time when the school is well equipped to handle the transition. By June, the college will have completed its reaccreditation through the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, a procedure that is required every 10 years.

“I would have felt bad about leaving someone with that job in the middle of the process, so I’m glad Sloan will allow me to start after the reaccreditation will be complete,” she said.

Spar said in a press release that Barnard’s loss is Sloan’s gain.

“Liz is an extraordinary example of what it means to be both teacher and scholar,” Spar said. “Her steadfast love of academia and her passion for her work have been gifts to Barnard, and have truly shaped this institution into a place where devoted faculty can be scholars on the cutting edge.”

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## Drilling project uncovers prehistoric sediment in Dead Sea

DEAD SEA from front page

During glacial periods, the level of the Dead Sea rises as the climate becomes more humid —it falls in warmer, drier interglacial periods. These variations are revealed as alternating sedimentary layers of varying thickness, oscillating between muddy sediments in glacial periods and laminated salt in the interglacial periods.

Goldstein said his team was able to date the layers of sediment over millions of years through radioactive dating, since they contained Uranium. The typical method of Carbon-14 dating is only reliable within about the last 40,000 years.

The drilling project, funded by the International Continental Scientific Drilling Program, was the product of years of advocacy by Goldstein and fellow lead investigators Zvi Ben-Avraham and Moti Stein. The drilling will resume in the coming month after a pause to maintain equipment, and Goldstein says his team hopes to gain more detailed information about the conditions of the dry-up during the next round of drilling.

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## After legal snafu, state owes \$32 million

CHARTERS from front page

the case for charter schools, like the Harlem Success charter school that shares building space with PS 241.

“They’re doing okay—they already have more than we have,” Darensbourg said of Harlem Success. “They’ve got two teachers in every room and all these programs that our school can’t even begin to afford because DOE won’t fund it. We’ve given up our music programs. We don’t have an art studio anymore. There’s no place for the kids’ artwork to be stored from week to week.”

Robin Shweder, a schools activist who lives on 110th Street, said the unequal distribution of resources between charter schools and public schools will only widen the perceived gap between the two types of institutions.

“We had more need. We need more,” Shweder said. She worked with various public schools as part of the Attendance Improvement Dropout Prevention program before she retired. “We were working without books, we had to copy everything, we didn’t have computers. Our principals had to go out of the system to get money because the public school funding system was not enough.”

Eric Chenoweth, who has a son in the Manhattan School for Children, said he wasn’t pleased either.

“We’re against it,” Chenoweth said. “This is disastrous—the whole Bloomberg policy is disastrous.”

He said the news did not strike him as surprising.

“What they’re doing is turning a public system into a private system,” he said, adding that his son was only recently able to get a spot in the public system. “So if the public wants a private system, you got it.”

Shweder noted that the divide in resources between charter and public schools will only widen the perceived gap between the two types of institutions. “If that’s what’s facing the system, that’s enshrining a two-tier system—people already think it’s a two-tier system.”

Gotbaum expressed dismay over how the plight of public schools tends to go unnoticed. “Our public school kids continue to get cut and cut and cut,” he said. “All of this, it’s a smoke screen.”

Shweder said that considering the budget difficulties she encountered while working with public schools across Manhattan, the possibility of losing \$32 million doesn’t bode well for the public school system.

“A situation where the public schools would be financing these charter schools doesn’t sound right to me,” she said.

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# A ‘Dog Day Afternoon’ with producer Martin Bregman

BY YLENA ZAMORA-VARGAS  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

Producer Martin Bregman's first venture into the film production business was obtaining the rights to “Serpico” in 1973. Now, best known as the man behind “Scarface,” Bregman will join the School of the Arts’ film department for a Q-and-A session on Friday, Feb. 11, after the screening of his second film “Dog Day Afternoon.”

Looking back on his earlier films, Bregman said, “I don’t know if any of the films have a special place in my heart. Films are like children: I love them all—all 35 of them.”

His newest project to add to the list is “The Gold Coast,” a film based on Nelson DeMille’s book of the same name. When asked what drew him to it, Bergman said succinctly, “Story.”

As a producer with over 35 years of experience, Bregman has a vast knowledge of what it takes to make a movie. “The material is more important than the budget,” he said. “First you find the material, then you find a way to implement it.”

In terms of actually setting the film process in motion, Bregman said, “The first thing you want to do is find a screenwriter. Secondly, you want to find a director that sees your material and is as impassioned as you are. Then, you attach the talent.”

Although filmmaking is a complicated and difficult journey, Bregman feels the rewards are obvious. “There are different phases of being satisfied. There first comes the satisfaction of finding material nobody has found before. That’s one level,” he said. “The next is reaching

that—getting it done! That’s a big sense of accomplishment.”

The key to “Dog Day Afternoon” involves the first type of satisfaction—Bregman found material that hadn’t been done before. Discussing the movie, he said, “The reason why I did it was because nobody had done a film about homosexuality before. They had, but it had been full of silly jokes.”

Bregman wanted to tell a specific, serious story that would stimulate audiences to reflect seriously on core issues. “For ‘Dog Day,’ the fact that it was real was what drew me to it—it was a bizarre story,” he added.

With regards to the challenges that “Dog Day Afternoon” presented, Bregman said, “Nothing is ever the way it should be. We had to build the bank and shoot in Brooklyn. Detailing is extraordinary.”

Shifting the topic to the contemporary industry, Bregman was asked whether he thought the business had changed for the worse since he got his start in it. “Yes I do. We don’t seem to be interested in content anymore. We’re more interested in profit and entertainment now,” Bregman said, responding swiftly and adamantly. “There was a time when film was very confined to story, and that no longer seems to be of any interest to those that are making films.”

Throughout the interview, Bregman continuously stressed the importance of the story in filmmaking. It is the element he finds to be most pertinent to filmmaking success and the one that originally draws him into a project. Bregman was thrice interrupted by phone calls during a 30-minute interview—a testament to his busy commitment to telling stories, even after almost 40 years.



COURTESY OF KATHRYN KOLBERT

FILM FIENDS | Barnard’s first Athena Film Festival will celebrate female actors, directors, and other filmmakers from Feb. 10 to 13.

# Athena Film Festival not just for feminists

BY ANDREA SHANG  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

Barnard is no stranger to seeing female leaders on campus, and this week’s “Athena Film Festival: A Celebration of Women and Leadership” will bring another host of female luminaries—this time, from the film industry—to its doorstep.

In its first year, the festival will run from Feb. 10 to 13 and includes around 20 film screenings, along with panels of actors, directors, and other filmmakers.

The festival is partially the brainchild of Barnard’s Athena Center for Leadership Studies director Kathryn Kolbert, who conceived it when she attended a reception last year in honor of Oscar-nominated director Jane Campion. Campion’s sensual films, from “The Piano” (1993) to “Bright Star” (2010), are noted for their unforgettable female characters.

“Many of these women [at the event] talked about the paucity of women leaders in the film industry and the lack of recognition for women filmmakers,” Kolbert wrote in an email. “After the event, head of Women and Hollywood

Melissa Silverstein and I put our heads together, and the Athena Film Festival was born.”

For Kolbert, Barnard was the natural pick to host the film festival: “What better place to showcase women’s leadership than the Athena Center for Leadership Studies at the most sought-after women’s college in the U.S.?” It was a foregone conclusion that the majority of the events would be hosted in the Diana Center, a recently built symbol of Barnard pride and progress.

Rah-rah feminism aside, the festival lineup of strong movies with the occasional dash of Hollywood intrigue may also hold attraction for casual cinephiles or the merely star-curious. Debra Granik is one of only 10 women to have ever directed a Best Picture nominee. She and the co-writer of “Winter’s Bone,” Anne Rosellini, will discuss the film with Anne Thompson of the blog Thompson on Hollywood after its screening in Miller Theatre.

Barnard alumna Greta Gerwig, BC ’06, who was tapped to become the next “big” actress after turning in one of last year’s most ballyhooed breakthroughs

in the Noah Baumbach vehicle “Greenberg” (2010), is scheduled to receive an award and talk about her career with Vanity Fair’s Leslie Bennetts.

Further highlights of the festival will include a screening of the film “Desert Flower,” which chronicles the journey of an African nomad-turned-international-model and advocate for women, and “Pink Smoke Over the Vatican,” a documentary about impassioned Roman Catholic women who defy the Church by illicitly becoming priests.

2010 was a remarkably robust year for women in front of and behind the camera, with female-directed movies ranking up among the most critically acclaimed of the year. Female characters also dominated the buzz boards, ranging from the assertive teen heroines of “True Grit” and “Winter’s Bone” to the endlessly talked-about women characters in “The Fighter” and “Black Swan.”

Festival student coordinator Ashley Bush, BC ’11, said that despite receiving hundreds of film submissions from around the world, selecting films that conveyed a sense of female empowerment was not an easy task. “Too

few films feature women in prominent roles,” she said.

She hopes that the Athena Film Festival will rouse a dialogue about the importance of women leadership, within and outside of the film world. “Film is a medium in which nearly everyone can relate to and certainly has the power to inspire, reveal truths, and most importantly, create conversation,” she said.

Kolbert is uncertain of the film festival’s prospects in the future. “We hope to make this a tradition at Barnard, but no firm decision has been made about the next installment,” she said.

Addressing a concern that the festival’s girl power sensibilities might be unappealing to some, both Kolbert and Bush urged men to look into the film festival—Kolbert took particular note that the festival’s dates coincide with Valentine’s Day weekend.

“Perhaps men can celebrate the holiday by attending the festival with the women they love,” Kolbert suggested. “On top of seeing some amazing films, men might get some brownie points with their female friends,” Bush added.



COURTESY OF CHRIS LASZLO

STORY TIME | “Dog Day Afternoon” producer Martin Bregman has been in the film business since 1973 and has plenty to say about it.

# ‘Vagina Monologues’ liberate for a good cause

BY DEVIN BRISKI  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

They are “private parts” cloaked in “unmentionables”—but what is it about vaginas that makes people so uncomfortable?

In this year’s production of Eve Ensler’s revolutionary “The Vagina Monologues,” Columbia and Barnard actresses and activists will not only mention vaginas but scream, chant, whisper, and sing about them. On Feb. 11 at 8 p.m., Feb. 12 at 2 p.m., and Feb. 13 at 3 p.m. in Roone Arledge Auditorium, the annual production will be a part of V-Day, a global movement founded by Ensler that performs the monologues in an effort to raise awareness and funds to end sexual violence against women.

Tickets are \$5 with CUID at the TIC, but director Gita Deo, BC ’12, warns that this will be more than just a play. “It’s not really a production—it’s more of an experience,” she said.

Deo described how the lasting power of “The Vagina Monologues” comes from its presentation of an activist subject matter through a creative medium. “V-Day is a play, so it reaches a different type of audience that wouldn’t necessarily come to a discussion by Take Back the Night or the Rape Crisis Center,” Deo said.

Many women who have participated in “The Vagina Monologues” testify to the liberating power of freely discussing the typically un-discussable. “Vaginas, for girls, are pretty much the most uncomfortable subject ever,” actress Morgaine Gooding-Silverwood, CC ’14,

said. “It ties in incredibly directly with that overall sense of repression and shame you are supposed to have as a woman.... Vagina hatred, it’s something so bizarre,” Gooding-Silverwood said.

After leaving an emotionally abusive relationship, Gooding-Silverwood put on a production of “The Vagina Monologues” at her high school. She was amazed at how powerful the experience was not just for herself but for the participants and the audience as well. “It was interesting because all those kids were at the point where they were really learning how to interact with each other. The girls are learning how to interact with men and the men are learning how to interact with women,” she said.

This year, Deo and producer Luyang Liu, BC ’12, attempted to instill this sense of openness in their cast early on, asking them to artistically portray their vaginas as they would appear at the MoMA. But this is not where the vagina imagery ends. Sherill Marie Henriquez, CC ’13, constructed a giant vagina the performers are set to walk through.

Deo and Liu, co-coordinator and outreach director for Take Back the Night respectively, volunteer alongside many of the actresses at St. Luke’s-Roosevelt Hospital’s Crime Victims Treatment Center, where they voted to donate the majority of this year’s proceeds.

Gooding-Silverwood said the center is currently facing a massive budget cut, and knowing the proceeds will help the victims inspires the cast. In addition to selling tickets, the cast



ANDRA MIHALI / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PRIVATE SHOW | Student actors prepare for Feb. 11 premiere.

petitioned to local businesses for donations. “We wanted to get the whole community involved,” publicity director Tehreem Rehman, CC ’13, said. The monologues themselves are capable of changing with the times. This year, “The Vagina Monologues” will spotlight the tragedy in Haiti, and the cast will donate an additional 10% of the proceeds to reconstruction. Also, an anonymous student monologue written about the recovery process after rape will be performed alongside Ensler’s originals. Gooding-Silverwood said the audience can expect more interactive participation and surprises than past performances.

“Some people may watch ‘The Vagina Monologues’ and say it’s granola-eating hippies talking about their pussies,” Gooding-Silverwood joked. Little do they realize that punning, chanting, and drawing are also involved.

# CCS contest brings food porn to Lerner

BY KIMBERLY TOPILOW  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

Can cake be sexy? The Columbia Culinary Society challenged student pastry chefs to answer in the affirmative with an Erotic Cake Competition, hosted in the Lerner East Ramp Lounge on Tuesday, Feb. 8.

The criteria was to design a cake that was delicious, well-constructed, and X-rated. Seven teams competed, each hoping to outdo the others in terms of raunchiness and shock value.

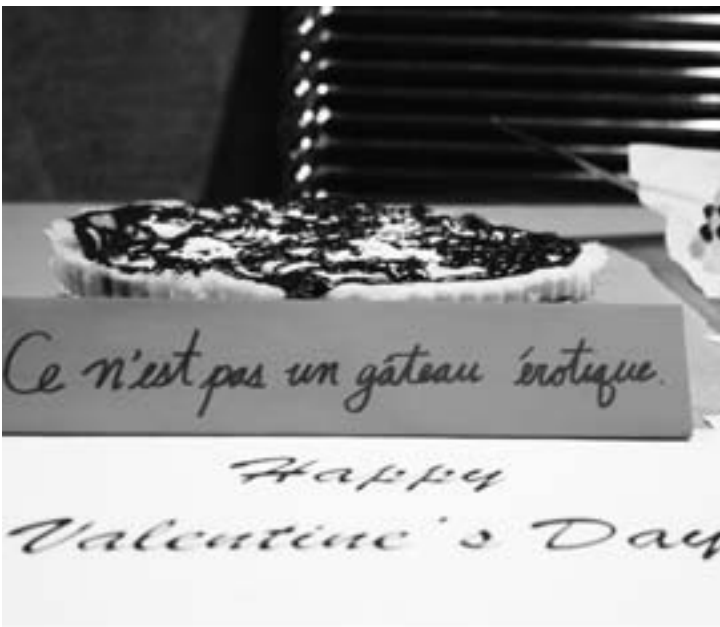
This was not Columbia’s first erotic cake competition. “We did it during my freshman year and it was super fun! Things fell through sophomore year due to financial issues, and last year, CCS’s presidents did not know about it,” said Claire Bullen, CC ’11, an executive board member. “I decided to bring it back.”

Board members Bullen, Matt Powell, CC ’12, and Amanda Tien, CC ’14, explained that the top spot would go to the sexiest cake that people would actually want to eat. “I wouldn’t want to feel like I was cutting into a vagina!” Powell said.

A member of C-Spot, Columbia’s resident sexy magazine, joined the CCS board to help choose an erotically superior cake.

Two tables displayed the carnal creations. Each team had a suggestive name, such as Yeast Infection or Doggie Punches.

Yeast Infection’s cake was a bodice-clad torso with exposed boobs and an approaching penis. It consisted of a vanilla base,



MARIA CASTEX / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

CAKE WALK | A sexy French cake entered in the Columbia Culinary Society’s Erotic Cake Competition, held Tuesday, Feb. 8.

chocolate Rice Krispies, strawberries and cream, and buttercream icing. Down below, the male genitalia were made of Rice Krispies. Two strawberries topped off the crispy cylinder. The taste was palate-pleasing with contrasting layers and berry-infused creaminess. Despite the cake’s salaciousness, it only won third place.

Bullen, Powell, and Tien provided a list of ingredients—strawberries among them—that are thought to be aphrodisiacs. The others mentioned were raspberries, asparagus, oysters, sea scallops, cinnamon, and cayenne.

Second place went to an even racier concoction from team Doggie Punches. The rectangular cake featured a dense chocolate interior with a hint of espresso. While tasty,

the cake’s design vastly outshone its flavor. A yellow fondant was molded to resemble a bed sheet. Condoms were placed where pillows usually are and two white sugar-sculptures were leaned over the bed, sharing a tantric embrace.

The Spinsters’ “Persian Love” took the figurative cake, though, winning its team \$75 worth of gourmet chocolate. A Picasso-esque icing painting of a naked woman graced the cake’s top. Apart from the artwork, the judges were impressed by the highly original flavor combination of rosewater and saffron—culinary and artistic talent united in one sexy, edible masterpiece.

Once the judges had seen all the cakes, a hungry student mob rushed to partake in the sexy sweetness.





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# Depressed and in denial

Anxious college students have been in the news since UCLA's annual self-reported mental health survey was published a few weeks ago. Researchers and journalists offer numerous putative causes for our depression and anxiety, including the economy, a sense of social responsibility associated with political change, social isolation, and, perhaps ironically, media overstimulation. Closer to home, the Furman Counseling Center at Barnard cites "stress" as students' most common complaint. These discussions belie the fact that stress, anxiety, and some forms of depression are reflective of our own coping skills and only indirectly of the external factors that prompted them.

Proposing that a student is stressed out because of the economy has the ridiculous implication that the economy will have to improve before the student can feel better. In the press, reports on psychological studies tend to emphasize how very out of their hands students' mental health is, but with the increasing reliability of well-researched coping tactics that can often be self-taught, the reverse is true. For Slate Magazine, Taylor Clark points out that the commonness of anxiety in today's population (at 18 percent, the U.S. is the world's most anxious nation) has an upside: An unprecedented wealth of resources are available to help us cope with that stress.

Freud fought a difficult battle for the mentally ill, insisting that they were not to be feared or ostracized, and he became the forerunner of a continuum view of mental health.

## Although we are more communicative than before, we also feel pressured to put our best foot forward and make light of issues that bother us deeply.

Unfortunately, the vestiges of that stigma, which separates mental health from mental illness, have led to a Catch-22 in student health: If we admit that something is wrong, we can unwittingly commit to self-perpetuating therapy or medication for a behavior that could have been fixed through life-style modification. If we don't seek treatment, we associate guilt and shame with our negative emotions or pretend to ignore them entirely, which, especially in the case of mood disorders, can make symptoms worse. This month, a set of studies by Jordan et al. highlighted the latter situation with the phenomenon of social comparison: "People may think they are more alone in their emotional difficulties than they really are." Although we are more communicative than before thanks to social networking, which seems to relieve stress, we also feel pressured to put our best foot forward, and so we make light of issues that bother us deeply or avoid discussing issues that make us uncomfortable. Shared concerns about settling into college and, later, making arrangements for life after college are often trivialized in Facebook exchanges. We also tend to glamorize our stress, ridiculing our workload and making comments about having a college life outside academic commitments while taking on even more work.

Although professional guidance should always be sought for serious psychological illness or impairment, smaller behaviors that lead to mood problems associated with stress, anxiety, time management, and sleeping patterns should neither be ignored nor pathologized. Distress and impairment are the criteria for diagnosing a mood disorder, but we can be distressed or impaired by behaviors that don't merit a diagnosis. Research-backed coping skills, underemphasized by the media and school systems, have flourished in recent years, and students can fruitfully take advantage of them. Cognitive behavioral therapy, for example, sees behavior modification as a three-step process: identifying problem behaviors, collecting information about what reinforces them, and taking gradual steps toward eliminating them. In addition to the tried and true nutrition, exercise, and meditation, psychological studies focused on wellness have found that a sense of religious community and a set of stable and stimulating relationships can alleviate anxiety. It seems that the particular senses of failure that lead to anxiety among college students are often associated with self-regulation: lateness, a loss of focus, or regrets about poor judgment. In a 2010 study titled "I Forgive Myself, Now I Can Study," Wohl et al. found higher test scores among procrastinators who chose to devote their self-berating energy to studying for their next exam. Problem behaviors are often a symptom of our lifestyle at large, and we shouldn't expect to become different people when preparing for an exam than when finding a way to relax that's still engaging. Bill Watterson pointed out in a speech that "we are never taught to recreate constructively ... but the mind is like a car battery; it recharges by running."

Pryor et al.'s UCLA study found another, less popularized phenomenon: A "record number" of anxious college students now see greater earning potential as the chief benefit of attending college. The loss of the intrinsic value of education is poignant, but to some extent, anxiety is adaptive. It further motivates us toward our goals, provided that our goals are our own, and it encourages introspection, provided we don't sink into self-pity. Acknowledging loneliness or maladjustment today is almost as difficult as communicating these feelings to a society that avoids them. In ignoring that part of ourselves, we are mirroring the fear and estrangement we once imposed on the seriously mentally ill, isolating ourselves from ourselves as well as from one another.

*Zeba Ahmad is a Barnard College junior majoring in psychology and philosophy. Any Road Will Take You There runs alternate Thursdays.*

**CORRECTION**  
Yesterday's staff editorial, "GI Bill Harms GS," misstated the extent of GS's financial aid program. GS offers need- and merit-based financial aid to its students. The editorial also omitted the role the Yellow Ribbon program played in fully funding veterans' tuition. The Yellow Ribbon program, under which the Department of Veterans Affairs matches funding provided by the University, augmented the post-9/11 GI Bill's benefits to pay students' tuition. Spectator regrets the errors.



**ZEBAH AHMAD**

## Any Road Will Take You There

# Stop anti-abortion bill H.R. 3

In the midterm elections, Republicans hammered President Obama for his handling of the economy and spoke unceasingly about the dire need for jobs. So where is the Republicans' focus now that they have control of the House of Representatives?

Abortion. That's right. Abortion. Great. After all their talk about the economy, one would think newly-elected Republicans would have their priorities straight. Yet House Speaker John Boehner says banning taxpayer funding for abortion will be one of the GOP's highest legislative priorities.

Boehner is referring to the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, or H.R. 3. This act would make permanent the Hyde Amendment, which has been renewed each year since 1976 and bars the use of federal funding for abortion, primarily through Medicaid.

When it was first introduced by Representative Chris Smith, R-NJ, on Jan. 20, H.R. 3 attracted a great deal of negative attention. Most of the outrage was directed toward the bill's language, which bans taxpayer funding for abortion except in the case of forcible rape. Forcible rape?! Last time I checked, rape is forcible by definition. This is a slippery slope with serious implications.

Under this legislation, a rape victim would be forced to demonstrate to her insurance company that her rape was, in fact, "forcible." The wording also excludes victims of statutory rape or date rape from the exemption. These facts have special implications for people our age. College-aged women are four times more likely to be raped than any other group, and one in four will experience sexual assault. Imagine if you, your friend, classmate, or sister was a victim of rape. Imagine seeking an abortion, having to prove the assault was "forcible," and then being denied coverage because there was alcohol or a date rape drug involved.

As a 21-year-old woman, I find this terrifying. And so should other Columbia students.

Rep. Smith eventually changed the wording in response to intense criticism and outrage, but the damage has already been done. His attempt to redefine rape was appalling and demonstrates just how insensitive and obtuse the proponents of this bill are.

In addition to trying to make the lives of rape victims significantly more difficult, Smith and the other 173 cosponsors of the bill seek to limit Medicaid abortion coverage to victims of incest over the age of 18. How can these members of Congress consciously make a distinction between adult and minor victims of incest? Why should a



**ALEXANDRA KATZ**

## Umm, Excuse Me

19-year-old victim be forced to have a baby, the product of incest, simply because she is a legal adult?

Despite the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act's name, the bill doesn't simply focus on permanently banning federal funding of abortions. The bill also places restrictions on Americans with private health insurance plans. Under H.R. 3, Americans who choose to purchase or keep a private health care policy covering abortion will be given a tax hike.

Another abhorrent anti-choice bill introduced by Rep. Joe Pitts (R-PA) is ironically titled the Protect Life Act. Currently, hospitals are required to treat all patients, regardless of their ability to pay. What happens if a woman requires an emergency pregnancy termination to save her life? According to Rep. Pitt, anti-abortion health care providers should simply be able to do nothing, essentially letting the woman die. Emily Stewart, public policy director at Planned Parenthood, said, "These bills would take comprehensive private health insurance coverage for abortion away from millions of American women—even those who face serious health problems from a pregnancy—and make existing restrictions even worse." These bills would not only continue to severely limit the rights of low-income women on Medicaid—they would affect all American women.

H.R. 3 and the Protect Life Act are not the only actions anti-choice legislators have taken since the midterm elections. In states where the previous governor had opposed and vetoed anti-abortion bills, lawmakers are reviving bills and reintroducing them to new, anti-choice governors. State governments have seen a powerful change. While 21 governors were anti-choice last year, now 29 governors strongly oppose abortion. According to NARAL Pro-Choice America, 15 states have both anti-abortion legislatures and governors. Last year, there were 10. Anti-choice groups are giddy over what Michael Gonidakis, executive director of Ohio Right to Life, called "the best climate for passing pro-life laws in years."

Anti-choice groups and lawmakers should hold off getting too excited—Democratic members of Congress and pro-choice groups are gearing up for a fight, and the Columbia community must take a stand.

The conservatives who whine about the dangers of "big government" intrusions into health care and tax increases on the super-wealthy are the proponents of these disgusting bills. This is the ultimate hypocrisy. Talk about overreaching—telling a woman she cannot use her private money to purchase a private health care plan of her choosing.

Alexandra Katz is a Barnard College senior majoring in political science. Umm, Excuse Me runs alternate Tuesdays.



WENDAN LI

# Bring math to the Core

BY YLENA ZAMORA-VARGAS

Problem-solving skills, the most useful types of knowledge one can possess, are best acquired through rigorous math courses. Math is the only subject that is studied in all countries in the world and at all levels of education—it is a basic pillar in the teachings of all other subjects. The reason math has such a universal presence is that it is a powerful, concise, and unambiguous language whose expression is consistently the same, save some notational differences.

Because of math's universal importance and the critical thinking skills it fosters, mathematics courses should be given a special place in Columbia's Core Curriculum. Instead of having three science requirements, the university should have one math requirement and two science requirements—because, after all, math is indispensable to most science classes.

## Columbia should have one math and two science requirements.

Problem solvers are the most successful people in life. Since life is about constant confrontations and conflicts, those equipped with strong problem-solving skills will have higher resolution rates in the real world. Through weekly problem sets, students train their minds to develop methods of critical thinking in order to most efficiently solve the problems and obtain reasonable solutions. This skill is one that transcends its use in the realm of mathematics and applies to daily life. In the book "Gödel, Escher, Bach: An Eternal Golden Braid," Douglas Hofstadter says that the basic capacities of intelligence are enhanced by the study of mathematics, and after the successful resolution of the first problem, that sense of accomplishment becomes an addictive phenomenon that propels mathematical discovery. I believe that every Columbian should experience at least a semester's worth of that addiction. It seems extraordinary to me that Columbia students can graduate without ever taking a math course.

*The author is a Columbia College sophomore and an arts & entertainment writer for Spectator.*



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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Get used to it  
6 PBS moderator  
18  
10 Go for  
14 Martinez with three Cy Young Awards  
15 By \_\_\_\_ from memory  
16 Sale modifier  
17 Delta location  
19 Actor Siba who appeared in numerous Three Stooges films  
20 Source of showroom shock?  
22 Healthy routine  
25 "Catcher in the Rye" author  
26 Make \_\_\_\_ dash for  
27 Hersheiser with a Cy Young Award  
30 Wind instrument vibrator  
31 Send  
33 Battle gp.  
35 Standing by for an on-air appearance  
40 Bauble  
41 Citi Field org.  
43 Central Chinese city  
46 Jazzman Stan  
48 Some are named for music genres  
49 Carrying limit  
51 Fit for consumption  
53 Risk calculation  
56 Beard-preventing brand  
57 Its components are hidden at the ends of 17-, 20-, 35- and 53-Across  
61 Forest denizens  
62 Capri, e.g.  
63 Quilt filler  
64 Used too much  
65 USNA part: Abbr.  
66 Put in a hold

DOWN

1 Mortgage no.  
2 "De Civitate \_\_\_\_," "The City of God," St. Augustine work  
3-ly word, usually: Abbr.  
4 Spanish fort  
5 Rich dessert  
6 Food merchant  
7 "The Caine Mutiny" novelist  
8 Cigar tip?  
9 Early Indian leader  
10 Strong-arm  
11 Wired for sound  
12 Did a deli job  
13 "Total Eclipse of the Heart" singer  
18 Camera company that merged with Konica  
21 With some sauce  
22 One of many jobs, in metaphor  
23 Jewish social org.  
24 Things to wear  
28 Wear away  
29 Relay runner's assignment  
32 Wheel securer  
34 Spokane university  
36 Play with a dog toy, maybe

37 Response to "You were kidding, right?"  
38 Word of action  
39 And friends, facetiously  
42 Capt.'s heading  
43 Like DVDs in a restricted room  
44 "We can talk now"  
45 Terrified, to the bard


47 Designated  
49 South American grilled meat dish  
50 Croesus' kingdom  
52 Exhausts  
54 "Happy Days" mom, to the Forz  
55 Auel heroine  
58 Altar promise  
59 Fresh  
60 Letters seen in many forms

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

I	D	E	A	L	V	C	H	I	P	H	O	W
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*THE MILITARY ON CAMPUS?*  
**UNIVERSITY SENATE  
HEARINGS ON ROTC**

The Task Force on Military Engagement of the University Senate cordially invites you to participate in our spring deliberations on the Reserve Officers Training Corps. The goal of this process is to provide the Senate with adequate information and context to issue recommendations regarding Columbia's relationship with the U.S. military, particularly the issue of formal participation in ROTC. The Task Force has begun a series of University-wide public hearings. These are forums for open and constructive discussion of the issues. They are open to all Columbia University ID holders, but also endeavor to address specific segments of our community. Each of the two remaining hearings is hosted by a University leader.

**Tuesday, February 15, 2011, 7:30 – 9:30 PM**  
Focused on the undergraduate population  
Opening remarks by Michele M. Moody-Adams,  
Dean of Columbia College  
309 Havemeyer Hall

**Wednesday, February 23, 2011, 8 – 10 PM**  
Focused on faculty and graduate students  
Opening remarks by Claude M. Steele,  
Provost and Dean of Faculties  
417 IAB (Altschul Auditorium)

The Task Force has established a web site with information about Columbia's relations with the military and ROTC at [www.columbia.edu/cu/senate/militaryengagement/](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/senate/militaryengagement/). The Task Force is also soliciting opinions from the Columbia community and has established the [rotc-taskforce@columbia.edu](mailto:rotc-taskforce@columbia.edu) e-mail address to collect feedback, statements, and other reactions. We encourage you to use this resource. The Columbia Senate is a University-wide legislative and policy-making body. It is mandated to consider all matters affecting the entire University or more than one school. Its 108 elected and appointed members represent faculty, students, administrators, research officers, librarians, and alumni. The Senate was established in 1969.

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SPORTS

## Women’s fencing secures sweep, men’s fencing struggles with 1-2 performance

In a tuneup meet before this weekend’s Ivy League Championships, Columbia’s men’s and women’s fencing teams faced off against NYU, Vassar College, and Sacred Heart University at the Historical Meet Plus.

The No. 6 women’s squad swept the competition by defeating NYU 17-10 and then dominating both Vassar and Sacred Heart by a score of 22-5 each match.

The No. 8 men’s squad did not have the same success. They beat Vassar 16-11, but lost two narrow matches to NYU, 14-13, and Sacred Heart, 15-12.

“I think having this meet today, just before this weekend, was a good shake-down for us,” coach George Kolombatovich said.

Surprisingly, the records of both the men’s and women’s teams have not been

stellar so far this season. At the NYU Invitational, the men and women each went 1-4, and at the St. John’s Super Cup, the women went 1-4 and the men 0-5. But those losses are deceiving, for they were against some of the top ranked schools in the country—Notre Dame, Ohio State, St. John’s, Harvard, and Penn State.

“We’ve lost more than we’ve won. We don’t have enough experienced people. You might call this a rebuilding year. However, I’m pleased with everything each individual fencer has done,” Kolombatovich said.

Both the men’s and women’s teams will travel to Princeton to compete at the Ivy League Championships on Saturday and Sunday, a meet that always includes some of the best fencing talent in the country.

— Spencer Gyory

## Former basketball standout pursues second career

**BY SARAH SOMMER**  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

As a Columbia women’s basketball player, Megan Griffith, CC ’07, spent little time on the bench. Now she spends all of her time on the sideline—in her first year as Princeton’s director of women’s basketball operations.

At Princeton, Griffith said, her position involves “a little bit of a lot of things.” She coordinates the team’s travel, works with Princeton’s recruiting database, sends letters to alumni and recruits, scouts opponents, and studies film, among other responsibilities.

Griffith, a point guard, was a starter since her sophomore

season at Columbia and was an all-Ivy second team selection in her junior and senior years. She ranks sixth all-time in career points at Columbia (1,061) and fifth in assists (373) and steals (151). She played in 105 games, tied for the fourth most in Columbia history.

After her illustrious college career ended with a 72-65 loss at Harvard, Griffith realized that she did not want her entire playing career to end at that point.

“It was something that had been mentioned to me before,” Griffith said of professional basketball. “And then, when the season ended, I just vividly remember sitting in Harvard’s locker room, and my team—the other

senior teammates—were crying. And I was just like, it doesn’t feel like it’s over for me yet.”

According to Griffith, “I took the necessary steps—finding an agent, getting in touch with people, putting my name out there, putting together film.” The result was three years of professional basketball, during which Griffith competed for teams in Finland, Sweden, and the Netherlands. Then she returned to the United States and shifted her focus to coaching.

“I haven’t ever really looked at it as an end of my playing career,” Griffith said. “I just feel like it was time for a change of pace for me, and I just felt like I needed to invest myself into something that was bigger than just me.”

Griffith—a native of King of Prussia, Pa.—also wanted to be closer to home. She seriously considered a volunteer assistant coaching position at Penn, though Princeton’s location was also ideal for her.

Columbia head coach Paul Nixon, who had coached Griffith in her final two seasons with the Lions, had learned of the opportunity at Princeton in an email from Tigers head coach Courtney Banghart.

“Coach Banghart ... reached out not just to me, but all of the Ivy League coaches, and asked if we had any former players who were interested in getting into coaching,” Nixon said. “She was looking to add another person to her staff who had also played in the league.” Banghart, a 2000 graduate of Dartmouth, was a three-year starter for the Big Green herself.

Nixon contacted Griffith and Banghart, setting in motion the process that led to Griffith’s joining Banghart’s staff.

“It made me feel very comfortable to know that he [Nixon] believed it would be a very positive learning experience and a

place where I could really grow,” Griffith said. “So I think that kind of gave me the final push to really put myself out there and be like, ‘Okay, Princeton, let’s give it a shot. Let’s see if we fit, and we’re compatible. And, thankfully, Courtney thought we were,” she said, laughing. “So it worked out.”

“It made me feel very comfortable to know that he [Nixon] believed it would be a very positive learning experience and a place where I could really grow.”

—Megan Griffith, CC ’07

Though Griffith’s long-term goal is to be a coach, she is enjoying her time at Princeton. Working with the Tigers also gives Griffith the chance to be a part of something that she never experienced as a player: a trip to the NCAA Tournament. Princeton, the 2009-10 Ivy champion, is contending for another automatic bid this season.

“I’m hoping very much that I get to experience that,” Griffith said. “That was always a dream of mine, I guess you would say, when I was a player in the Ivy League, and I don’t think it ever will stop being one—whether I’m a coach or director of basketball operations, working at Princeton or any other school. So I’m hoping that that’s in our cards this year, but we have a battle every night—every Friday and Saturday—and [we’ll] see where it takes us.”



**SUCCESS** | Griffith finished sixth all-time at CU in career points. She is now the director of women’s basketball operations at Princeton.



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**SIMMONS** from back page

happened, but the owners got together teams of replacement players so that they wouldn’t keep losing money like they had five years prior.

Yet the question that comes to mind whenever I read anything about this is simply “Why?” Why is greed such a prevailing force over these kinds of negotiations? And what happened to playing for the love of the game? This type of turmoil gives me a whole new perspective as to why people prefer the college game to the pros.

Actually, I can understand the NFL players’ gripe with the owners when it comes to money. They average only four to five years in the league, and many of their contracts are not guaranteed. Clearly I’m not talking

about the Tom Bradys and Peyton Mannings of the league, but those special teams players that are part of the team too. I don’t see why they can’t have a nice slice of pie.

When it comes to the owners, I have a hard time seeing what more they could want. They make millions—if not billions—each year from the obscene amount of money fans dole out to just get into the stadium, let alone the \$20 for a hamburger and soda. Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones just shelled out over a billion to build Cowboys Stadium. You can’t tell me those owners don’t have money to pay the players more and provide them with better retirement benefits. Someone should just shake the owners and say, “You’re rich! You’re still going to be rich! Who cares?!”

Now compare that to the world of collegiate athletics. Imagine if the NCAA threatened to shut down all of college football just because they wanted to make more money. One, they would never have the grounds since the players make zero dollars and zero cents. (Well, officially of course. Isn’t that right, Cam Newton and the Ohio State Five?) Sure, some colleges and universities give out athletic scholarships, but that’s just paying for school and is never going to fund life after graduation. Second, they would be shutting down sports that operate solely for the love of the game and display of school pride.

Isn’t that what sports are all about anyway? I know I played football in high school for the love of the game and the love of the camaraderie that came

with it. I know that I write about sports now because I love watching them. And I bet you’d be hard-pressed to find a Columbia athlete who doesn’t love representing the Light Blue.

So that’s why whenever the NFL comes back, whether the season starts as scheduled in mid-September or later, I’m going to have to give a second thought to putting it on my TV. If the owners want to flaunt their greed, I’ll gladly take my watching talents over to Saturday afternoons.

I truly believe that in the midst of all this collective bargaining nonsense, there has never been a better time to get interested in college sports.

*Myles Simmons is a Columbia College freshman.*  
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Labor drama allows college sports to shine

Those who regularly follow the National Football League know that there really isn't an offseason. Sure, the Super Bowl ends in February and the next real game isn't played until mid-September, but the free agency signing period begins in March, the first year player draft is in April, and there are organized team activities from May until late July, when players report for training camp.

Unfortunately, it's starting to look more and more like everything NFL fans are used to keeping track of during the summer—when baseball just is not entertaining enough—isn't going to happen. The NFL's collective bargaining agreement expires on March 4, which means that the owners will lock the players out of their team facilities until a new agreement can be reached. This also means that the only NFL offseason event to go on as usual will be the draft on April 28-30. That's right, no team will be able to improve by adding players through free agency or trade. Players will be adversely affected, as they won't even be able to work out with their team's athletic trainers and coaches.

I have never been a big college sports fan, as I've always enjoyed the pros more, but this situation really makes me reconsider.

All this collective bargaining business is about money, plain and simple. The NFL is one of the most profitable businesses in the U.S., with millions of fans spending billions of dollars annually on tickets and merchandise. And each time the agreement expires, the players want more money, and the owners don't want to give it to them. In 1982 the issue got so bad that the NFL players went on strike, shortening the season from 16 to nine games. In 1987, the same thing



MYLES SIMMONS

A Second Opinion

Moriarty runs second fastest 1000m in Ivy history

BY JEREMIAH SHARF  
Spectator Staff Writer

Get out the record book again. After QueenDenise Okeke's record-shattering performance in the triple jump last week, senior track star Jeff Moriarty has joined her, taking one of Columbia's oldest records with a time of 2:20.77 in the 1000m. Taking on opponents from nationally ranked teams like No. 2 LSU, No. 3 Texas A&M, and No. 25 Baylor, and national powerhouses Tennessee, Duke, and Vanderbilt, Moriarty torched the competition with his record-setting run. The next best opponent finished over a half-second behind him. Moriarty's time not only puts him nearly three seconds faster than anyone else in the Ivy League, but he also stands in second place among all competitors the Eastern College Athletic Conference.

A four-year varsity athlete at Westwood High School in Massachusetts, Moriarty has always been used to a high level of competition.

During the recruiting process, head coach Willy Wood saw that Jeff was more than just an outstanding athlete. "From my initial meeting with him, I could tell that Jeff had goals and aspirations that mirrored our program," Wood said. "He wanted to be at Columbia because he honestly thought we were the best middle distance program in the nation."

Junior teammate and friend Kyle Merber had nothing but positive thoughts about Moriarty. "Jeff takes every opportunity he can to improve his times and is religiously dedicated to the supplemental work that is done when the running stops—which is one component of the sport that many runners overlook," Merber said. "Jeff is passionate and intense, and this is evident on race day, at practice, in the weight room or during any conversation about running. He has a very business-like approach to the sport, and he knows what he wants to get out of each day, and he works relentlessly to get there."

Jeff saw Columbia as the best of both worlds. "After talking to the coaches and meeting the team on my recruiting trip,

there was no doubt that Columbia was the place for me," Moriarty said. "As far as I was concerned, it was the only school with a nationally competitive middle distance program that could also offer a high quality education."

That decision has only been paying off. Since coming in as a freshman, there have been dramatic time improvements in all of his events.

He used this experience to his advantage this weekend at the New Balance Collegiate Invitational, generally thought of as one of the most competitive meets in the country. The tough competition didn't seem to bother Jeff one bit. He not only finished first in the event, but now holds the new school and meet records, as well as the second fastest all-time in the Ivy League.

There was a small issue with the previous record—set in 1975. The year the record was set, they measured races in yards, rather than the metric measurements that are used in today's races. Because of this, the previous time had to be converted to meters. Though Jeff did not want to discount the previous record holder, he was glad he could clear things up. "I wouldn't go so far as to call it illegitimate, maybe a little suspect," Jeff said, "I'm just happy to have provided some clarity in the record book."

Although many athletes try to downplay such feats, according to Moriarty, "it's always nice to get your name in the record book."

For Moriarty, however, his goals reach further than just the Ivy League. "My main goal for this year is to mix it up with some of the best guys in the country at NCAAs and bring at least an all-American certificate back to New York," Moriarty said, though he was sure to add, "that also includes winning a few Ivy League titles and breaking some Columbia and Ivy League records along the way."

Moriarty was quick to put it in perspective, though.

"Last week was merely a stepping stone in the big picture," he said. "Coach Wood and I have our sights set on much bigger accomplishments this year. I was pleased with my performance this past weekend but by no means am I satisfied. Our training and attention is more focused on races months from now."



JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**HE'S FAST** | Senior Jeff Moriarty burst onto the national scene last weekend, running a 2:20.77 in the 1000m run at the New Balance Invitational.

Such high aspirations are not simply Jeff's. He also has support from Wood—who is already a school legend for his sub-four-minute mile. This weekend, Jeff will fly to Washington to compete in the mile run with hopes of qualifying for the NCAA Championships. Jeff also has hopes of breaking the four-minute mile. Though Merber is injured, he has provided assurances that he will be alongside Jeff to support him this weekend.

Merber hopes his support can be as helpful as Jeff's was to him in the past. "Last winter, despite struggling with injuries, Jeff lined the infield of the track during my breakout race, and eventually rushed the track to celebrate with me, even though he wanted to be in that race more than anything," Merber said. "Since I have been injured this year, Jeff

has been a presence and a friend that has consistently been there with support. This winter, we switched positions, and now it is my turn to reciprocate what he did for me when he was injured. Just like each day in practice, I am just following Jeff's lead."

Moriarty is unsure of which event he would like to compete in should he make it to the NCAA Championships. "If things go according to plan this season I should qualify in both the mile and 800. From there it becomes an issue of choosing to compete in the event which I can be most successful in."

"I would have to say the 800," Moriarty said when asked about his preference. "People argue that it is the hardest event in track, and I relish in succeeding at an event with that reputation."



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