

## Heights bouncer Anna fired for drinking

BY STEPHEN SNOWDER  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

A single drink may have cost Morningside's most infamous bouncer her job.

Anna Washington, who was known for her strict door policy at The Heights, was fired last week after taking a shot when she was off the clock—which managers said is strictly against the restaurant's policy.

"I was told that I was let go because of a drink," Washington said. After working a full shift Feb. 6, she clocked out, put on her jacket, and asked for a shot at the bar before going home.

"There was a memo posted that, due to the nature of certain things that had taken place, no employee should drink," Washington said. "It was not worded in specific detail. I believed that it was OK for me to not be on the clock and drink." The next day, she said, the owner called her and fired her for taking that drink.

It came a week after she accepted a bribe to return a student's fake ID, for which she was reprimanded and asked not to come to work for a day. Washington had worked at The Heights, the bar on Broadway between 111th and 112th streets, for five years.

"It's the end of an era. It's true. Anna represents the Heights," Ludovica Pagni, BC '14, said.

The memo to which Washington referred is on the

SEE HEIGHTS, page 2



YAN CONG / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

POLICY | Five political groups debated American interventionist methods in Low Library on Monday night.

## At debate, political groups clash on U.S. role in Mideast

BY MELISSA VON  
MAYRHAUSER  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

A host of campus political groups gathered in the Low Library rotunda on Monday night to discuss President Barack Obama's foreign policy in the Middle East, but they ended up debating if and where the U.S. even has the right to have a presence in the region.

Moderators from Turath, an Arab student group, posed questions for discussion for panelists from the Columbia

University College Republicans, CU Democrats, CU Libertarians, Columbia International Socialist Organization and the political and Jewish affairs magazine The Current.

While the moderators asked panelists specific questions about extremism, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, democracy, religious freedom, rights for women, and markets and development, panelists often debated more general American foreign policy concerns about intervention.

"With all these talks of other's countries' borders,

ethnic relations, diplomatic relations, military, why is this is any of our business in the first place?" CU Libertarian Jordan Goodspeed, GS, said. "I have a map of the United States, and I don't see Palestine or Israel anywhere on it."

"I don't usually like imposing Western values on these countries, because some are not ready for this liberal democracy that we have," CUCR executive director Tyler Trumbach, CC '13, said. "But I do believe that these countries will eventually reach this state."

Students talked about how

America should respond to democratic movements that turn violent, such as Hamas, and discussed their citizenship rights.

"People have a right to challenge their situation," editor in chief of the Current David Fine, CC '13, said, "but they don't have the right to lob missiles into civilian populations. They don't have a right to target and eliminate civilians."

Representatives of CU ISO countered that people have the right to respond to political conditions by whatever means they

SEE DEBATE, page 3

## Delbanco awarded national medal

BY JILLIAN KUMAGAI  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

Andrew Delbanco was excited to return to the White House this week—though for a different reason than the last time he visited, when he took a public tour as a child.

President Barack Obama, CC '83, presented the National Humanities Medal to Delbanco, the director of Columbia's Center for American Studies and the Julian Clarence Levi Professor in Humanities, in a ceremony at the White House on Monday.

Delbanco was one of nine recipients, including poet John Ashbery and economist Amartya Sen, to be honored for work in the humanities.

"Many of the ideas in my work about education and American literature and history have been worked out over the years in my classes at Columbia with help

from Columbia students and colleagues," Delbanco, who has taught at Columbia since 1985, told Spectator. "I have felt very lucky for a quarter-century and feel that my time at Columbia has made me a better writer. I'm very thrilled to be getting this honor."

"My time at  
Columbia has made  
me a better writer."

—Andrew Delbanco,  
American studies professor  
and recipient of National  
Humanities Medal

Delbanco is a regular contributor to the New York Review of Books and other publications,

and was named "America's Best Social Critic" by Time Magazine in 2001.

According to a statement from the National Endowment for the Humanities, which decides the recipients, the medal "honors individuals or groups whose work has deepened the nation's understanding of the humanities."

Eric Foner, the DeWitt Clinton Professor of History, said that he was very pleased to see Delbanco's scholarship recognized.

"He has a great breadth of interest in knowledge, and he has the kind of public persona they're looking for," Foner said. "He's a public intellectual in an old-fashioned way both inside and outside the academic world. It's great to see that recognized."

Casey Blake, a history professor, said that Delbanco has

SEE DELBANCO, page 3

## LGBT Riverside Church ministry celebrates 30 years

BY EMMA STEIN  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Riverside Church has long been known for its socially progressive policies: It was one of the first churches to perform civil union ceremonies and the first Protestant church in America to ordain an African-American, a woman, and an openly gay person. But the church's journey to acceptance and inclusion has been long and difficult.

So the 30th anniversary of Maranatha, a ministry of the church committed to LGBT equity, was cause to celebrate on Sunday. In a panel moderated by Rev. Robert Coleman, members of the ministry recounted their struggle for inclusion both at the church and in their own personal lives.

Virl Andrick, a member of Riverside Church, on Claremont

SEE MARANATHA, page 3



HENRY WILLSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

AMEN | Panelists at Riverside Church's Maranatha, a ministry dedicated to LGBT equality, reflected on their long history.

## Financial Aid review lunches begin

BY MARGARET MATTES  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

The first step of the comprehensive review of the Office of Financial Aid began Monday afternoon with a student lunch hosted by Dean of Financial Aid Laurie Schaffler and Columbia College Student Council President Aki Terasaki, CC '12.

Ten students met with Schaffler in Lerner and discussed their experiences with the office and how it could be improved.

"These small groups are really an opportunity for me to listen and to hear what the student experience is," Schaffler

said in an interview last week. "Hopefully people will talk candidly and honestly about their experiences," she said.

"The first half was people trying to find a link between the issues that they had, and the second half was more how this could be resolved," Roko Rumora, CC '14, said after attending the discussion. "A major part of the meeting was spent focusing on the fact that financial aid is not a mechanical [process] for students, it's a very much emotional process and a lot of students who had significant delays mentioned that it was a great source of anxiety not knowing in August whether

they would be able to come back to school."

Karishma Habbu, CC '13 and CCSC Student Services Representative, was the first CCSC member to spearhead the issue of a review of the Office of Financial Aid and is continuing to collaborate with administrators.

"I've been very, very happy with how many people have signed up," said Habbu, noting that she had to turn people away from the lunch this Thursday because there is not enough space.

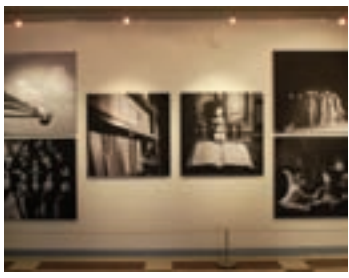
The lunches, which students can sign up for online, will be

SEE LUNCH, page 2

### A&E, PAGE 6

#### Chinese activist debuts artwork at SoA

The art of Liu Xia, the wife of a Nobel Peace Prize winner and Chinese political activist, is being presented for the first time ever in America at Columbia.



### OPINION, PAGE 4

#### Getting laid

Alex Collazo challenges students to have more sex.

#### Modern classroom

Arvin Ahmadi urges professors to allow more technology.

### SPORTS, BACK PAGE

#### Columbia cheer to compete nationally

After finishing last place at nationals last year, the Light Blue cheerleaders look for a stronger finish this year.

### EVENTS

#### Forum on Migration: Not Feeling at Home

Professor Jan Willem Duyvendak talks about belonging and nostalgia for immigrants to Western Europe and the U.S.

Sulzberger Parlor, Barnard Hall, 6 p.m.

### WEATHER

#### Today



42°/34°

#### Tomorrow



50°/34°

## Fin. aid delays strand GS students

In the dark on award amounts, some students must drop out

BY MADINA TOURE  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

At the end of May, Sierra Scott, GS, found herself in a predicament: She had to sign a new lease on her Columbia apartment, but she still wasn't sure if she could afford to live there.

As a result, University Apartment Housing permitted her to continue her month-to-month lease but requested that she inform them of her plans at the end of June.

Though she submitted her financial aid documentation during the first week of April, by June 27 she had yet to receive her notification. When she approached Alice Gamret, director of residential leasing, she informed her that she had to move out by June 30.

Scott's troubles did not end there: In the fall of 2010 the school lost her paperwork as a result of an office transition and did not process her Pell Grant disbursement, so she did not receive her Federal Pell Grant money for the spring 2011 semester until the middle of July.

Because the school did not catch the mistake until February—well after the course registration deadline—she wound up being a part-time student enrolling in University Housing, an exception the school grants only once.

"It was so shocking. If I could have banked on getting two and a half time more aid, you bet I would've stuck around."

—Sierra Scott,  
GS student on leave

When she emailed Daniel Rodriguez, associate director of educational financing, on June 30, she received an email saying that he was out of office from June 20 to July 4. She contacted the Office of Educational Financing, and the person who answered the phone was new and unable to help her.

Scott—who is now on a leave of absence due to financial duress—is one of many students at the School of General Studies whose financial planning for this academic year has been made more difficult as a result of the school's delay in announcing financial aid packages and responding to students' inquiries in a timely manner.

When she finally received her notification on Aug. 11, she discovered that her award was two and a half times the award she received for the previous academic year.

"It was so shocking," she said. "If I could have banked

SEE GS AID, page 2



# Washington claims ID bribe played role

## HEIGHTS from front page

billboard next to the bar's entrance. It reads, in a large font and all capital letters: "Absolutely no drinks for any staff member at any time. It will result in immediate termination."

The bar's owners, Feras Samad and Larry Good, said that the memo has been there for at least a month. Samad said that he had personally informed Washington of the policy on one occasion.

Samad and Good would not say what the reason for Washington's dismissal was. They did take issue with Washington's claim that the policy was unclear: "If you speak English, the sign is pretty clear," Good said.

According to Samad, although the policy had always existed, it had not always been enforced. However, he said, he made it clear to all employees over a month ago that they would begin to enforce the policy again.

Washington said that she believes the drink she had was not the only reason for her firing—and that the owners were also reacting to a situation that had occurred the previous weekend when she accepted a bribe to return a confiscated fake ID.

A man tried to enter the bar

with a fake ID, according to Washington. "Everyone knows I have zero tolerance for that," she said. "I'm not knocking what anyone does—I know college life is stressful—but I didn't see the urgency for an underager to drink."

After she refused to admit the man, he grew confrontational, arguing that his identification was real and insisting that he be allowed into the bar.

"I know by law that I can confiscate these IDs," Washington said. "But I know what they go through, what have you, so I gave the ID back to the young man." After he refused to leave the establishment, however, she finally did confiscate his ID.

The man, Washington said, pleaded with her to get it back and offered to pay. "Finally I just gave it back to him and accepted the \$40," she said.

According to Washington, the bar's management called Washington into a meeting after the allegedly underage patron's father called the bar. "They said I was wrong for accepting the bribe," she said. "I heard the story become a little racist, like, 'How can this black girl extort my son, and she can't even afford to go to Columbia?'"

Washington said she was told that the money would have to be

donated to a charity and that she would be required to present a receipt to the bar's management and to the father of the patron whose ID she had confiscated.

"I didn't have anything to say about that. I was like, 'Go figure,'" Washington said. She was reprimanded and not allowed to work the next day.

Samad and Good said they would not explicitly confirm or deny this incident, but they did deny that racism was ever involved in their decision to fire Washington. "Her firing had absolutely nothing to do with the fact that she was a black woman," Good said.

Washington says she's done with the bar scene. She has a grandmother with Alzheimer's and a young daughter to attend to, so she plans to spend more time with her family.

In September, she hopes to go back to school to become a social worker. "Everyone goes off into their profession," she said, "but always keep in mind: Do not back down or stand back and allow what you stand for to be overlooked."

For their part, the bar's owners aren't looking back. "It's unfortunate," Good said, "but rules are rules."

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ZARA CASTANY / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

IN THE HEIGHTS | Anna Washington, the well-known Heights bouncer, was fired last week.

# Schaffler talks financial aid over lunches

## LUNCH from front page

held each Monday and Thursday this month.

"What we really aim to do is to get people to talk about their experience, their experience with the financial aid office ... and to talk about some of the challenges," Schaffler said, noting that both students who receive financial aid and those who do not can attend the lunches.

"We are trying to target both students who are on financial aid and even students who are not on financial aid because part of the services that that office provides are not only for students who are on financial aid," Dean of Student Affairs Kevin Shollenberger, who is also involved with the review, said.

Increasing financial literacy and familiarity with the cost of education are two such services, Shollenberger said.

The lunches are part of a larger-scale review of financial aid that was initiated by the Columbia College Student Council this fall and subsequently adopted as part of the administration's agenda.

"I hope that will really help us get students more involved."

—Kevin Shollenberger, Dean of Student Affairs

Loosely modeled on the review of the Center for Student Advising that took place last year, the review will include a survey and student focus groups

in addition to the lunches. The survey, which is in the final stages of preparation, is scheduled to go out in early March to all students who receive financial aid.

"I feel really good about our relationship that we have with the councils in moving us forward," Shollenberger said. "I hope that will really help us get students more involved."

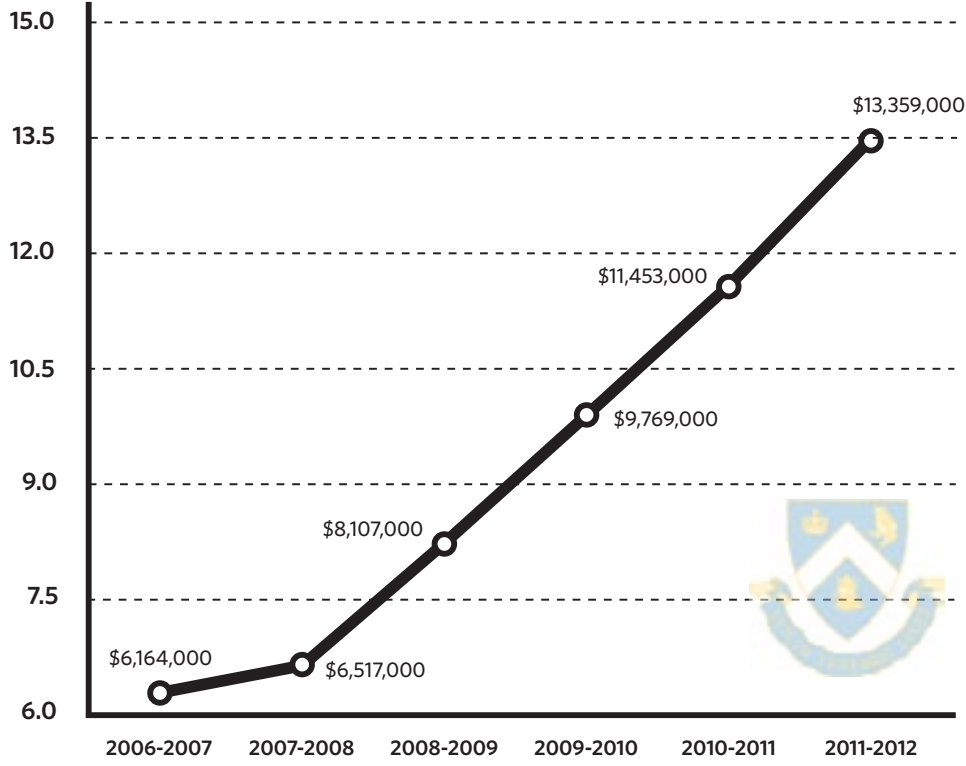
Although Habbu was not able to attend the lunch on Monday, she has heard from others that the lunch went well. "The fact that there was really good conversation says a lot about the relevance of this topic on campus," she said.

Rumora also remains hopeful. "It was a very positive, optimistic meeting," he said. "Dean Schaffler really seemed like she was enthusiastic about making any changes to the situation."

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# FINANCIAL AID GROWTH AT GS

FINANCIAL AID BUDGET (MILLIONS OF DOLLARS)



From 2006-2007 to the current academic year, the General Studies Financial Aid Budget grew by

▲ 116%

The GS Financial Aid Budget for the 2011-2012 year represents a growth over the previous year of

▲ 17%

GRAPHIC BY YUMA SHINOHARA

# GS fin. aid not transparent, students say

## GS AID from front page

on getting two and a half times more aid, you bet I would've stuck around."

### NOTIFICATION DELAY

In March 2011, Skip Bailey, director of educational financing at GS, sent an email to students indicating that the school anticipated that responses to financial aid applications would be mailed out in mid-June. Any students who applied after the priority deadline of April 15 would have reduced awards or awards would not be available to them.

But the school started sending out notifications not in mid-June but on Aug. 8, even for those students who had submitted their documentation on time. By Aug. 12, almost all students had received their financial aid packages.

Roughly 20 students were not packaged by Aug. 12 due to late or missing materials or technical issues preventing their packaging, according to Dean of Enrollment Management Curtis Rodgers.

General Studies Student Council President Jacqueline Thong, GS, said Rodgers had told her the delay was a "one-time thing."

"We don't foresee the same issues in 2012-2013 in terms of the delay. We're on target," Rodgers said.

Last January, the University adopted a new system called PowerFAIDS, which helps schools and administrators award and track financial aid. Rodgers called it "unbelievably complicated."

Now, it is "fully up and running and implemented, and a lot of issues have been ironed out and sorted out with the system," he said.

A student at GS, who spoke on condition of anonymity because his financial aid package had not been resolved, applied for a scholarship appeal. Given that the last day to drop a class and receive a tuition refund had already passed, he was concerned that he would find himself locked into a semester that he could not afford.

"Lucky for me, my private loan situation had been resolved at the beginning of the semester in that I would be able to apply and get a loan," he said. "However, the financial aid office was unaware of that so it would not have impacted their ability to provide me my appeal, and the appeal is still ongoing."

Receiving notification of financial aid packages so late in the summer makes taking out loans far more difficult, Scott said.

"It felt like they just don't ever consider, from the student's point of view, what it's like to take on huge loans and debt and how it might feel to them that they can't make a decision without being fully informed of their awards," she said.

Rodgers said that he was unaware of any students dropping

out as a result of the delay.

### COMMUNICATION ISSUES

But the struggles students face with financial aid extend beyond the notification delay. For some, the issue is simply a lack of communication.

When Grace Oliver discovered Columbia at a job fair hosted by her community college in California, she was certain that Columbia was the perfect school for her. One year later, the excitement of going to a prestigious school has lost its luster. Oliver has now been forced to drop out of GS so that she can work and pay for her education.

"I couldn't get my classes this semester, and it is only a matter of time that I am going to be shoved out of housing."

—Grace Oliver, former GS student

Oliver met with Bailey, who told her to consider attending a state school if she could not find a co-signer on a private loan. Oliver said she was "gob-smacked" by the idea that a financial director would make such a suggestion.

"I just poured my heart into writing an admissions essay to change my life to come to New York City," she said. "I moved 3,000 miles and left behind a community college that I went to for free to come to this school, and you tell me to go to a fucking state school? You've got to be out of your damn mind."

Oliver applied for a scholarship appeal, but Bailey told her that they are still waiting to make a decision. It was simply too late for her.

"I couldn't get my classes this semester, and it is only a matter of time that I am going to be shoved out of housing," she said.

If she had stayed in California, she would have had \$10,000 to pay for her education: \$5,000 she already saved from last year's Federal Pell grant, and the other \$5,000 that she got for this school year.

For Namiko Suzuki, GS, receiving her initial financial aid package on Aug. 12 was late enough, but she was pleasantly surprised to receive an email almost two months later telling her that she was the recipient of a named scholarship.

Since she had not received notification about the scholarship before, she assumed that it was going to be added to her financial aid package. But she was dismayed to discover that

the amount was already included in her award.

She learned that "just getting a name for my scholarship doesn't mean that I'm getting additional scholarship," she said.

### BUDGET INCREASE

Despite students' complaints about the office's slow responses, the financial aid budget for GS students has been steadily increasing since 2006.

It saw a 17 percent increase from \$11.5 million during the 2010-2011 academic year to \$13.4 million during the 2011-2012 academic year, according to Rodgers. Since the 2006-2007 academic year, the budget has experienced 116 percent growth from \$6.2 million.

During the 2008-2009 academic year, GS launched a program to increase aid awarded on the basis of need, an initiative that has already grown from \$1.2 million in the 2010-2011 academic year to \$2.25 million in the 2011-2012 academic year, an increase of 87 percent.

Still, some students say that they are not benefiting from it.

Wojtek Skrzypczak, GS, said that the increase in the financial aid budget has not translated into meaningful help for him. He received \$8,200 in institutional aid for the 2010-2011 academic year. This year, he received \$11,200.

"Given the rise in tuition and cost of credit, we haven't really been awarded higher scholarships," he said. "It looks higher on paper but unfortunately the bills that we get for school also look higher on paper."

Though Skrzypczak said he knew what his financial aid package was going to look like, he said it was disappointing that the packages reached students "very late."

"It was kind of beyond the point that most people would consider reasonable for financial planning for the subsequent year," he said.

Ultimately, Rodgers said that students' difficulties with financial aid extend beyond the timing of notifications.

"I think the far larger problem is not late notification," he said. "It's that GS financial aid is not yet resourced in the way that we would like it to be, and the priority for the school continues to be increasing our resources for financial aid so that we can better meet the need of the students enrolled."

But regardless of what causes difficulties for students concerning financial aid, Oliver said that it cannot change her present situation.

"Although I feel personally grateful that I have this opportunity to enrich myself and become more of an adult, I still think that it's tragic," she said. "That it's just wrong that any student, any student at a school like Columbia for any financial reason, would ever have to step down."

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Campus political groups spar over interventionist policies, women’s rights

DEBATE from front page

require.

“I think that occupied people have the right to fight back,” CU ISO member Akua Ofori, GSAS, said. “This isn’t a moralistic argument about violence or non-violence. I think people are going to fight back however they need to survive.”

The CU Democrats instead spoke about the need for the United States to remain flexible while working with foreign governments of different types of regimes.

“Yes, the United States would like to see democracies rather than monarchies,” CU Democrat Quitzé Valenzuela-Stookey, CC ’15, said. “That doesn’t mean that we have the luxury of working only with democracies,” he added. “We can’t just decide not to work with them, or we can’t just decide to change their form of government.”

A discussion of women’s rights led to similar tension regarding America’s right to influence foreign policymaker’s rights agendas.

“We need to pressure Saudi Arabia to grant more rights to women. We need to pressure these nations into it. I think that’s the best way we can do this,” Trumbach said.

The CU Socialists maintained that it is not for the U.S. to consider women’s rights abroad.

“I think this question doesn’t belong to the U.S., and it doesn’t belong to me,” Thaer Alsheikh Theeb, SEAS ’15, said. “It belongs to the women of Egypt. The women who have

taken to the streets in great numbers.”

When the moderators asked the ISO about America’s energy policy, the panelists discussed the legitimacy of American concerns about Iran’s nuclear program.

“The oil industry is what’s driving the intervention into the East right now,” Ofori said. “That’s what’s driving the intervention into Iran right now.”

“I think you look at the International Atomic Energy Agency, I’m sure you’re going to say that they’re ruled by elitist interests or whatever, but they have seen enrichment beyond the need for nuclear power,” Fine responded.

The event also included a question-and-answer section following the debate. One student asked the College Republicans to clarify a statement they had made earlier in the debate: “All extremists are Islamists.”

Trumbach responded that they had been taken out of context and clarified that they meant, “All Muslim extremists are by definition Islamists.”

Members of CUCR said after the event that they felt the audience had taken a position decidedly against their own. “The questions that other groups received were clearly anti-Republican,” Trumbach said. “The questions that we received were tailored to make us look moderate.”

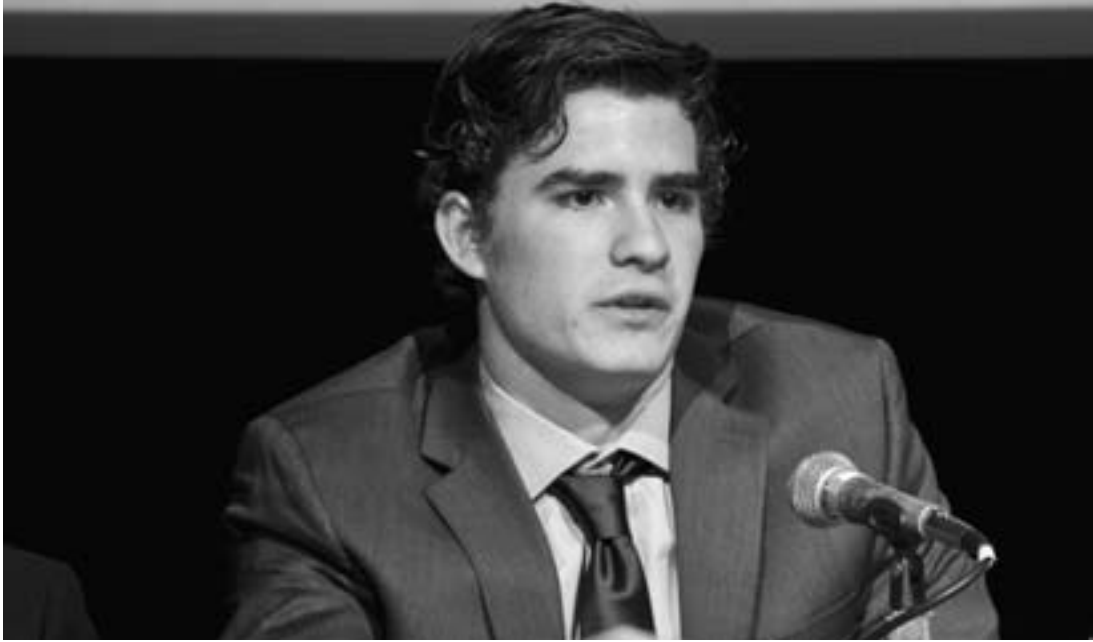
Students reacted in varied ways to the debate, ranging from saying that the event was a success to regret that the

event deviated from its initial goal.

“I thought it was fairly productive. I like that they were able to respond to different points,” CU Republican Jamie Boothe, CC ’15, said. “Overall, I think it was a well-done event.”

“It was a little broad in the sense that it was trying to cover a wide array of issues,” Narayan Subramanian, CC ’13, said. “This is great in a superficial sense, but in terms of actually delving into the issues and having a full-fledged debate, it was a little tough.”

Megan Kallstrom contributed reporting.  
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LOW POLITICS | Quitzé Valenzuela-Stookey, CC ’15, above, argues on behalf of the CU Democrats. Below, Jordan Goodspeed, GS, Arej Zeitouni, GS, Thaer Alsheikh Theeb, SEAS ’15, and Akua Ofori, GSAS, discuss the Arab Spring.

LGBT church group ‘like brothers’

MARANATHA from front page

Avenue between 120th and 122nd streets, since 1988 and a co-convenor of Maranatha between 1997 and 2001, explained the importance of the group to its members.

“It’s always created a safe space for people to talk and support each other and the church,” he said, “but more importantly, it’s communication to the outside world that people can be together in a church that believes in inclusion, over many issues—it’s not just about sexuality.”

In particular, their conversation centered around the passage of the Church’s Statement of Inclusion, which affirmed that gays and lesbians have a place in the church community and was issued in 1985.

Sandy Miller—a participant and activist in Maranatha since 1979—recalled when the issue of inclusiveness “started to develop” in 1984. “I think it was a time when a lot of congregations, especially progressive congregations, started to struggle with the issue of sexuality in general,” she said.

As a member of the Adult Education Commission at the time, Miller worked in “a process

of dialogue” with the Board of Deacons, then the governing body on the issue, to develop the Statement of Inclusion.

It was not easy. Miller recalled the tension and hostility in certain factions of the church, especially in the Church School’s parents’ group. He said there was a “tremendous amount of hostility,” and he can “never forget some of the things said in the meeting.”

Despite the struggle and his worries that “the statement might not pass” a vote, the congregation overwhelmingly chose to support it.

Today, while there are still stumbling blocks, church members and officials pride themselves on Riverside’s inclusiveness, not just in terms of its LGBT members but in its “Three I” policy, which declares it an interdenominational, interracial, and international church. Since July, when New York legalized same-sex marriage, the church has regularly performed marriage ceremonies between homosexual couples.

Participants also recounted the importance of the group in their own personal lives. For Miller, Maranatha was integral in helping him through the difficult time when he was just coming out.

“When I came out it was a very traumatic time for me, I felt like I’d been born again ... but on the other hand, I felt very guilty,” he said. “My son and I would come to Maranatha, and I think Maranatha was tremendously important for my son and I.”

Ruth Joseph, another member of the organization and a panelist, said, “For this church to get to the point to approve the statement was like a miracle in my life because I was having my personal problems at home with my mother.”

“When she asked me what my lover was in my life and I told her we were partners for life, she totally stepped away from my life, and it was not until five days before her death, many years later, that we even got a foot to talk,” Joseph said.

It was Maranatha that helped her through. “Sandy, Virl, they’re like brothers. I can’t even describe how close we were at that time. We could cry, we could laugh, we could dance,” she said. “Our homes, our hearts, our ears were always open. We didn’t always agree, but we were always open to each other.”

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FLAG OF MANY COLORS | Panelists at Maranatha, the LGBT ministry at Riverside Church.

Delbanco honored for work as public scholar

DELBANCO from front page

contributed greatly to Columbia as director of the Center for American Studies, which Blake founded in 1999.

“I would say that he has quite dramatically expanded the scope of what American studies does,” Blake said. “He has made it an important site for the interdisciplinary study of American civic culture ... by bringing in distinguished practitioners in the arts, in journalism, and in public affairs to teach undergraduates at Columbia, and by forging partnerships between American studies and community-based organizations, like the Double Discovery Center.”

Students in Delbanco’s Equity in Higher Education class, which he teaches with former Dean of Students Roger Lehecka, spend four hours a week working with DDC students, getting one-on-one experiences with those who may have significant obstacles in getting to college.

Delbanco has often turned his critical eye to Columbia as well. In October, he gave a speech arguing for the University to devote more resources to the Core Curriculum and criticized administration for minimizing faculty input on admissions and financial aid issues.

Lehecka said that faculty debates in 1992 over whether to end need-blind admissions

influenced Delbanco’s view of higher education.

“For the entire time he’s been at Columbia, he’s been a responsible citizen,” Lehecka said. “At a time when need-blind admissions was threatened, faculty members had made sure that it didn’t end.” It was then that Delbanco realized that he wanted to understand more about the issues involved, Lehecka said.

“He had to understand how universities worked to be a responsible faculty member,” he recalled.

Delbanco noted that the medal was originally named after Charles Frankel, a professor and chair of the philosophy department who taught at Columbia for over 30 years.

“It’s kind of a Columbia prize in a way, although most people don’t realize that.”

Jeremy Budd contributed reporting.  
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Jeremy Budd contributed reporting.  
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HIGHER ED | American studies professor Andrew Delbanco at a speech on the state of the Core in October.

Did you ever use  
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## Sex more, sex harder

Valentine's Day is upon us, and one can't help but wonder how many of us are actually going to have sex tonight. There are plenty of narratives to choose from: Fox News says we're locked in the grip of a licentious and dangerous hookup culture, but Trojan Condoms congratulates us on being the most sexually healthy campus in the United States. Rumors of public sex in the stacks imply a student body entirely free of social limitation, but are directly contradicted by the shocking number of people in Butler in the first place. On the Internet and TV, college is sold as four years of free-wheeling experimentation—an endless orgy of young and beautiful people having lots of young and beautiful sex. But this turns out not to be the case, and not just because most of us are rather plain. Despite the University's very thorough safe-sex programs, Columbia students are almost certainly having sex less often than they think they do, less often than their non-student peers do, and less often than their parents did. We can and should work together to reverse this tragic backslide.

Let's look at some statistics. It's very hard to say much about Columbia's sex life in particular—the only recent data comes from online polls intended more for humor than edification (Bwog, for example, reports that only 23 percent of Columbians will have “My bf/gf <3” as their Valentine). There are, however, a number of studies on American sex life in general. Go Ask Alice! and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention helpfully compile a lot of this data—Alice! with a focus on relevance to the Columbia student body, the CDC from a more statistical STD-prevention angle. Using these broader measures, it is possible to get a rough idea what Columbia students are up to.

In response to a question about this topic, Alice! is quick to point out that college students often greatly



ALEX  
COLLAZO

I'm Just  
Saying

## Wired classrooms

On Oct. 14, 2011, I woke up at 5 a.m.

and trekked down to the Upper West Side Apple Store. Prepared with my sleeping bag and \$200, I was camping out to purchase the iPhone 4S. This may have been excessive, but after my iPhone 4 was stolen in China last summer, I was forced to function with an ancient, mammoth-sized Blackberry. As hipster as I looked, I wasn't going to wait another day to re-enter the 21st century. (Definitely a #firstworldproblem.)

I secured my new phone at 10 a.m., and after playing around with Siri, the new voice recognition software on the 4S, I made it back to campus for a Friday morning discussion section. It turned out that we were discussing emerging technologies. When we got to the slide about voice recognition, I was quick to raise my hand and mention the new Apple software. Before I knew it, my Siri was making her first Columbia cameo, demonstrating her sassy retorts and helpful skills to the class.

In most cases, technology use in the classroom isn't so seamlessly relevant. Professors, especially older ones, generally have a view of technology as inhibitory, distracting, and annoyingly click-clacky in the realm of academia.

Take laptops. It is standard for professors to ban them in smaller classrooms and discourage them in larger lectures. I have a problem with any sort of laptop limitation. I am aware of the reasons behind shunning laptops in the classroom. Faces are constantly glued to screens. The sound of a million fingers typing can be irritating and may require extra skill to lecture over. And of course, Facebook, Facebook, and more Facebook.

But none of these concerns are valid. Faces will be glued to computer screens or notebooks or clocks. Our high school teachers lectured over a lot more than keyboard noises. And I actually see Facebook and email checks as quick academic “palate cleansers” but anything more than a few seconds and the old folks have got a point.

The pros to laptop use in class far outweigh the cons. I, like many students, really don't like taking handwritten notes. I'm just not good at it. I was never nominated for any “Best Penmanship” superlatives in high school. Not only are my notes neater when I type them, but I can jot down more information. I can even spell things correctly. In my Chinese Foreign Policy lecture, it's nice to be able to quickly look up names like Jiang Zemin, Yang Shangkun, and Xi Jinping.

For those of us who take notes on our laptops, it always feels like a crime even hovering over Safari. No. Open it. The power of Google in a classroom lies beyond spell checking names. I once took a class with a girl whose sole, constant contribution to class was looking things up online. If the professor wasn't sure of something, she'd find it. If we were discussing a current event, she would give us the most recent and relevant news. This kind of technological support is most conducive to small seminars in which laptops, unfortunately, are banned the most often.

Laptops aren't the only technology that can enhance our classroom experience. Professors can initiate a class Twitter or hashtag, allowing students to express themselves academically in 140 characters or less. (Such brevity might even motivate classmates to listen to each other.) Funny YouTube videos are always successful as well—they definitely help professors garner a cool point or two. If you really want to knock your class out of the park, try a meme—they're somewhere in between a punch line and a tweet, and they're great for visual learners.

Some not-so-cool classroom technologies to take note of: clickers (cool for surveys, not for pop quizzes), PowerPoint presentations (quite the attention-loser), and class blogs. I mean, did you really think a blog about Thucydides could compete with Kim Jong-Il Looking at Things?

I asked Siri if she thought technology had a place in the classroom. She responded, “It's nice of you to ask, but it doesn't really matter what I think.” Well, Siri, it does matter what you think. Because every day, your role as an emerging technology is becoming more important. Academia needs to adapt and make room for new technologies because they are certainly capable of enhancing our classroom experience. Professors: Welcome Siri and other technology with open arms. Otherwise it'll be the classroom, not the gadget, that gets left in the dust.

Arvin Ahmadi is a Columbia College sophomore majoring in computer science and political science. He is a Spectator online staff developer. Tech Etiquette runs alternate Tuesdays.



ARVIN  
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overestimate the amount of sex going on around them. They cite a study by Scholly et al. which showed “that while 80 percent of students had zero or one sexual partner during the preceding year, only 22 percent of those students believed their fellow students had one or fewer partners.” Alice! also emphasizes the problems with collecting statistics on sexual behavior, summing up with, “Plenty of people are talking about doing it, but you can't prove that they actually did anything. And, for a host of reasons, far fewer people are talking about not doing it.” So, with those significant grains of salt, the data Alice! provides suggests that: 1) On any given day, approximately 60 percent of college students haven't had sex for a month, and 2) The vast majority of college students have had one or no partners in the last year.

## Columbia showers us with free condoms, private dorm rooms, and cheap morning-after pills—things those not in college might have a hard time obtaining—but most don't seem to be taking advantage.

CDC data from its Vital and Health Statistics survey in 2010 and the National Health Statistics Report in 2011 is helpful because it has a large sample size and is broken down very finely along lines like race, gender, age, and parents' sexual and marital history. The CDC's conclusions suggest a number of demographic variables that correlate with increased age of virginity loss and decreased sexual activity, including a two-parent home, an older mother, a higher parental income, and race (white and Asian respondents

are less active than African-American and non-white Hispanic respondents). Perhaps because America's college student body skews disproportionately toward these groups, perhaps because college itself has a dampening effect, college students were about 20 to 30 percent less likely than their non-college peers to have had sex within the last three months, and female college students were more than five times as likely to be virgins on their 22nd birthdays. So not only are college students having less sex than we think we are, we're also doing worse than others in our generation. Columbia showers us with free condoms, private dorm rooms, and cheap morning-after pills—things those not in college might have a hard time obtaining—but most don't seem to be taking advantage.

Another striking feature of the CDC data is the significant decline in sex among young people. Though the trend might have methodological roots, CDC surveys suggest that the number of sexually active college students has declined roughly 15 percent in the last two decades. This trend has no definitive explanation (rising awareness or fear of STDs, changing relationships between the sexes, and increasing lifespan have all been suggested), but I find it quite disturbing. I'd like to think that our social mores have been advancing steadily since the dark days of the Victorian era, marching ever onward toward the total sexual liberation imagined by the utopian science fiction authors I love to read. Sadly, reality disagrees.

So, if you were wondering how much sex was going to be had on this most romantic of days, here's your answer: not much. Not as much as is happening outside our gates, not as much as was happening a few decades ago. College may do a great job educating bankers and consultants, but it seems to fail when cultivating lovers. At Columbia at least, the college is doing all it can to foster healthy sex. Now we have to do our part. Go forth and fuck.

Alex Collazo is a Columbia College junior majoring in creative writing and economics-philosophy. He is the treasurer of CIRCA and a former Spectator head copy editor. I'm Just Saying runs alternate Tuesdays.

## Innovate in college

BY AKSHAY SHAH

Have you ever wondered why some of the best and biggest success stories of our generation are those of college dropouts who started a company, or people who started something right out of college? My personal experience with starting up EventSalsa, an event catalogue for Columbia that was relaunched last week, has led me to the conclusion that there's no better incubator than college—specifically, Columbia—for a startup. There are four very good reasons for this.

First, we don't have kids, nor do we need to pay rent. Founding a startup can be a very uncertain period when you don't have income and face the obvious risk of failure. For people with kids and a mortgage, the security of a more conventional job is all the more attractive. Young entrepreneurs at Columbia can work between classes and on weekends. Our opportunity cost of running the startup is very low, which helps considering the loans that some of us might have to pay back after Columbia. This might also mean that we are more likely to give up easily once we have started, as we haven't risked as much. But I believe that the overall effect is a large advantage and incentive for young entrepreneurs at Columbia.

Second, we live in an environment where people are open to adapting new technologies and ideas. Take my company, EventSalsa, for example (which has entered into an advertising partnership with Spectator). A friend of mine, Sid Shanker, and I started it, focusing it on crowdsourcing events for closed communities. Our idea works for any closed community, but we decided to start at Columbia—a college community—for the same reasons that Facebook went through the college route. Students are tech savvy and are willing to use something new and give honest feedback about a product or service. EventSalsa, initially launched at the end of November 2011, has a site that has since undergone many changes to incorporate the feedback from users. People wanted free food tags and wanted to know which of their friends were coming to an event easily—both features are now on the website. This shows how college

is also a place with the least stigma attached to failure. It might actually be cool to say, “I tried something, but it didn't work out.”

Thirdly, startups will have a .edu address attached to them, to which anyone in the world is ready to respond. We also have an amazing and protective institution to nurture us, and this is especially true for our college. Here at Columbia there are many programs to help entrepreneurs. Christopher McGarry of the Columbia Engineering Mentorship Program pairs students with alumni mentors in appropriate industries. Dave Lerner—himself a serial entrepreneur—runs Columbia Technology Ventures and gave me some of the ideas I mention in this article.

## We are old enough and knowledgeable enough to know how the world works, but still young enough not to be bogged down by it.

The last and most important reason why now is the best time for a Columbia student to start a company is that we are still optimistic enough to believe that we can change the world. We are old enough and knowledgeable enough to know how the world works, but still young enough not to be bogged down by it.

What this all means is that right now you are in a unique position. You have passion and drive, you can fail fast without leaving an enormous hole in your résumé, and you have some of the brightest minds in the country as your professors and friends to guide you and encourage you. The best time for a startup is right now, and there can be no better place for it than Columbia. So don't wait until you graduate.

The author is a School of Engineering and Applied Science sophomore majoring in electrical engineering. He is the president of the Engineering Student Council class of 2014 and co-founder of EventSalsa.



JASMINE MARIANO

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

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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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### Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

#### ACROSS

1 Place for family game night  
4 Book of poems partly by King David  
10 Farm grazer  
13 Egg cells  
14 Communicating regularly  
16 Fat Tire product  
17 Ballplayer's hat  
18 Wool, minstrel-style  
19 N.J. neighbor  
20 Dismiss an occult doll-making practice?  
23 Hanukkah money  
24 Govt.-issued ID  
25 Donahue and Collins  
26 Double-Stuf cookies  
28 With 57-Down, wealthy people  
31 Hair removal brand  
32 "What's that chocolate beverage you're drinking, 'Yogi'?" answer?  
36 Raggedy doll  
37 Debate side  
38 PC component  
39 Studio whose films get off to a roaring start  
42 Model train expert?  
45 Speed-of-sound name  
48 Wee, like bairns  
49 Sarandon of "Bull Durham"  
50 Snow-block home  
52 Hippie's home  
55 When Romeo meets Juliet  
56 Frilly Hawaiian dress?  
60 Small amount  
61 Temp.  
62 Fib, e.g.  
64 Dark time for a poet  
65 Kind of fiction  
66 Recreational transport, briefly  
67 Driller's dog  
68 More sexy  
69 Manhattan liquor

#### DOWN

1 Bespectacled dwarf  
2 Role for Patti LuPone or Madonna  
3 Layered pastry  
4 "Hogwash!"  
5 Scissors cuts  
6 Periodic table figs.  
7 Access with a pissword  
8 "Faster, huskies!"  
9 John Candy skit show  
10 Golf bag carrier  
11 World Cup chant  
12 Runner-up's news  
15 Earring style  
21 Texan's "From a different aspect"  
22 "Say it isn't so!"  
23 "La maja desnuda" painter  
27 Second-year student  
29 High, in Hamburg  
30 Spanish river  
33 Top Olympic medals, in Madrid

34 Rapid economic expansion  
35 Plains tribesmen  
39 Powerfully built  
40 Tip on a table  
41 City bond, informally  
42 Dynasties during Confucius' time  
43 Juliet's family name  
44 American territory in the Pacific  
45 Offended  
46 Signed a pact, say  
47 Circus performers  
51 Slay's, mob-style  
53 "Care for ...?"  
54 Numbskull  
57 See 28-Across  
58 Hodgepodge  
59 Mouse manipulator  
63 Night of anticipation

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**

T	H	U	M	B	S	G	O	R	P	H	O	N
O	O	L	A	L	A	A	V	E	O	A	L	E
G	R	A	N	U	L	A	T	E	S	U	G	A
A	N	N	E	U	L	E	R	S	T	U	F	F
A	S	K	A	K	L	E	E					
P	U	M	P	K	I	N	P	I	E	S	P	I
A	R	A	B	Y	A	L	A	S	A	W		
B	I	N	G	S	G	I	R	L	S	B	I	B
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By Matt Dugan-Carpenter  
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# Photography exhibit draws back the ‘Porous Curtain’

BY SARAH SCHMOLTNER  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

The art world in post-Stalinist Russia has been brought to center stage through the works of Russian photographer Anatoly Pronin, on display at the Harriman Institute in the International Affairs Building.

“Behind the Porous Curtain,” an exhibit of 18 photographs, depicts famous performers in theater, dance, and film backstage or in rehearsal in 1970s Russia.

“This is very important because it shows that in the ’70s, Russia started to open the doors a little bit,” said Regina Khidekel, founder and executive director of the Russian American Cultural Center and the curator of the exhibit. “The iron curtain became more porous.”

After Stalin’s death in 1953, Western influences started to make their way back into the Soviet Union, and artistic exchanges, though limited, began to reshape perspectives on art. It was in this environment that Pronin studied photography at Leningrad State University before moving to the United States, and later traveling the world taking and showcasing photographs. Part of the “Fragments of the Past” series, a collaboration between the Russian American Cultural Center and the Harriman Institute, Pronin’s photography exhibit draws back the curtain on a pivotal period in art.

Khidekel said that Pronin’s photography is the perfect artistic medium to illustrate this time period. “Photography brings time back,” she said. “It’s like a time capsule.”

Under Stalin’s reign, art in the USSR was strictly controlled and forced to conform to socialist realism. Four types of art were unrecognized by the state—religious, erotic, formalist, and political—which pushed abstract or expressionist artists out of the picture. Pronin captures the world of post-Stalinist Russian art with a strong use of lighting and shadow, and with lyrical and dramatic compositions, focusing more on the overall effect and less on the subjects themselves.

SEE ANATOLY PRONIN, page 7



HANNAH CHOI / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**IRON CURTAIN** | In a new exhibit at the Harriman Institute, Anatoly Pronin represents different Russian performers from the Soviet era.



HANNAH CHOI / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**POLITICAL ART** | Chinese artist and activist Liu Xia uses ethnically ambiguous dolls to demonstrate her people’s struggle and suffering.

# Chinese activist has first American exhibit at CU

BY JULIEN HAWTHORNE  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

From March 9-12, Columbia’s Italian Academy will exhibit the work of contemporary Chinese photographer Liu Xia for the first time in the United States.

Despite the exhibit’s tremendous importance to both her career and to the promotion of Chinese art worldwide, Xia does not know about it. Though Xia has not been charged with or convicted of any crime, she has been under house arrest, prevented from communicating with the outside world (with the occasional exception of her mother), since January 2010.

Xia is no stranger to the Chinese legal system. Her husband is Xiaobo, the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize recipient currently serving an 11-year prison sentence for advocating for democratic reform in China.

However, it would be wrong to call Xia’s exhibit, appropriately titled “The Silent Strength of Xia,” simply a political statement, according to Guy Sorman, the curator of the exhibition and the man responsible for bringing Xia’s work to Columbia.

“I would not define her as a political artist, I would define her as an artist,” said Sorman. “I would say that it is an unintended consequence of her work if it has political consequences or a political tone.”

“I wanted a place with an academic and artistic dimension ... It couldn’t be a place too politicized. Columbia University was perfect.”

—Guy Sorman,  
curator of “The Silent Strength of Liu Xia”

arranged in two rooms. The photographs are all black and white and were all taken at Xia’s home, using an old-fashioned camera without any additional lighting.

Sorman was the man who initially discovered Xia’s photography. According to Sorman, Xia is very shy and was initially reluctant to exhibit her photography because she did not want to distract from her husband’s political work.

“I went into their bedroom by accident, and her photos were on the bed and on the ground. It was a whole artistic universe surging out of nowhere.”

Though Xia gave her consent to Sorman in September 2010, she insisted that she did not want to know that her work was being displayed. Her work is censored in China, and if asked whether or not she has knowledge of the exhibit, she wants to be able to honestly answer no.

Xia’s subjects are a series of dolls she aptly calls “ugly babies.” The dolls’ expressions are mangled with pain and torment and represent the suffering of the Chinese people repressed

The exhibit consists of 25 photographs

SEE LIU XIA, page 7

# Students show off X-rated pastries with Culinary Club’s Erotic Cake Competition

BY KIMBERLY TOPILOW  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

On Feb. 7, the Satow Room in Lerner was looking a bit raunchier than usual. The Columbia Culinary Society used the space to host its annual Erotic Cake Competition, where teams of one to three bakers created tasty, beautiful cakes with a sexually charged design. This year, five teams submitted cakes to be judged by the Columbia student body, with one berry-inspired cake standing out from the rest.

The first team submitted a cake dubbed “The Banana Split,” topped with an artfully arranged banana. The bakers prepared banana

bread, on which they slathered both pink and white chocolate buttercream icing. Before serving, they informed everyone that the icing had been made with Kool-Aid. Unfortunately, this cake suffered the fate of many a bakery’s banana bread: It was too dry. The refreshing and light Kool-Aid icing, which tasted exactly like its namesake drink, saved the cake from being completely bland.

Another cake was entered by a one-person team. This baker had made her creation’s surface look like the cover of a romance novel. It consisted of chocolate cake layered with raspberry preserves. The icing, which was creamy

SEE EROTIC CAKES, page 7



YAN CONG / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**FOOD PORN** | Students faced tough competition at the annual erotic cake-fest. At left, the winning cake, and at right, Tim Gilboy, SEAS ’15, and Betsy Ray, CC ’15, work on their own masterpiece.



Political figure uses dolls to represent Chinese oppression

LIU XIA from page 6

by their government.

According to Sorman, in addition to their political connotations, these dolls appear ethnically ambiguous. “The dolls are universal in a way,” says Sorman. “Their suffering is universal. The Chinese are not just Chinese. They are human beings.”

According to Sorman, Columbia seemed like an ideal place for the first American exhibit of Xia’s work. After the first French exhibit, Sorman wanted an exhibit in New York, and Columbia fit the bill.

“I wanted a place with an academic and artistic dimension. It couldn’t be a commercial gallery, because this art is not for sale. It couldn’t be a place too politicized. Columbia University was perfect.”

Sorman said that “The Silent Strength of Xia” functions on two levels: It is a testament both to the agony of China and to the creativity of China.

“What I’d like to do with the exhibit is show that there is a lively Chinese

society that is completely apart from what you usually read about China and hear about China,” said Sorman.

“This society is suffering but also creating.”

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HANNAH CHOI / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

RAW TALENT | All of Liu Xia’s photographs were taken while she has been confined to her home for over two years.

Some sexy cakes outshine others in competition

EROTIC CAKES from page 6

off with a very thick layer of marzipan icing. The icing, while good, was so thickly applied and so intensely sugary that a few bites sufficed.

Next up was team “Berrylicious” with the “Cream Yourself” cake, which would end up taking home the top prize. The two Berrylicious team members baked a flourless chocolate cake, complemented by a berry fondant icing. It was impossible to just

have one bite: The hot, moist, creamy chocolate cake tasted like a brownie straight out of the oven. The berry fondant was rich, fruity, and fluffy but still refreshing, making it the perfect accompaniment to chocolate.

Team “Eat Me” got many laughs when they presented their cake. Cheekily dubbed “The Blow Job Cake,” it consisted of red velvet cake filled with sweet cream and crowned with raspberry “lips” and what one team member called a “phallus éclair.” Red velvet

cake is either a rich and delicious treat or a bland brick of sugar. This cake was the former. In particular, the sweet cream icing was dangerously addictive. Though well-done, it could not top Berrylicious’s “Cream Yourself.”

After the hungry hordes of students had their fill and the scores were tallied, Berrylicious was made the Erotic Cake champion. The team members won a Whoopy Pie cookbook and six bars of gourmet chocolate.

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YAN CONG/ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

1,000-POINT CLUB | Harvard’s junior forward Victoria Lippert posted 12 points against Penn this weekend, adding her to Harvard’s 1,000-point club.

Cornell and Penn fight to finish in top half, Dartmouth drops two straight

ATL from back page

host Big Green was only one-of-five.

CORNELL

Sophomore guard Allyson DiMagno led the Big Red with 12 points and 11 rebounds and junior guard Taylor Flynn added 16 points, but Cornell shot under 30 percent from the field in its loss to Yale. Junior guard Spencer Lane led the Big Red with 18 points against Brown as Cornell was hanging in the game before the Bears went on their game-winning surge.

DARTMOUTH

Senior forward Sasha Dosenko led the Big Green with 15 points and 12 rebounds in a tough matchup with Princeton, but freshman center Tia Dawson was shut down, with only two points and one rebound. Although the Big Green was able to rally from down nine points in the final minutes to force overtimeagainst Penn, capped by senior center Sasha Dosenko’s basket with 22 seconds left, it fell in overtime. Junior guard Faziah Steen had 22 points and five steals in the loss.

After tenth place finish at nationals last year, Light Blue cheerleaders look to break top five in Daytona

CHEERLEADING from back page

the spirit stick.”

The spirit stick is a decisive factor in who gets a bid and financial support to go to the championships. A squad can earn a full bid, which pays for all expenses to Daytona, or a partial bid, which covers some of the expenses. The team received a partial bid for the third consecutive year, winning the judges over with their spirit and ability to perform stunts with a small team.

“Not very many people can get to camp in the summer,” Nicol said, explaining the reduced squad. “A challenge is definitely only working with seven or eight people and trying to do stunts, whereas other teams have 30 members with them.”

“They have to be about Columbia athletics and the spirit that comes along with supporting an athletics program.”

—Yavonia Wise, head coach

Despite the cost of a hotel, new equipment, and the competition itself, the squad may not need to foot the bill for anything at all. The team fundraises by sending out letters to family, friends, and members of the athletic department, asking for financial support.

“We just sent out our letters a week ago, so we’ll find out in about two weeks how well that turned out,” Nicol said. “We’ve done it in the past, and we did well so I’m confident that we’ll be able to do it again.”

The senior also has high hopes for the team’s performance this year, hoping to crack the top five at finals. With harder tumbles, now including running and standing forms, the squad should be able to place at a higher level than last year, when they only made it to the preliminaries.

After falling in the first round, the Light Blue unsuccessfully cheered in the consolation Challenge Cup, in which teams compete for a second chance at finals. The transition from Levien Gym

Anatoly Pronin’s work showcases famous Russian performers

ANATOLY PRONIN from page 6

Khidekel said that these tight restrictions on art existed because the government “understood that style is important. If they kept you in the frame of socialist realism style, they had an idea that they controlled you. If you were doing something avant-garde, it was by association not conformist.”

George Balanchine is featured in some of Pronin’s photographs during his visit to the Leningrad Museum of Theatre. In performances of Balanchine’s “Agon,” which was shown in Moscow in 1962, the female dancers wore pink tights and black leotards, the men black tights and shirts. There were no elaborate costumes or detailed sets.

“In other words, it was stripped of what had remained, in the Soviet Union, considered necessary accessories for a performance,” said Lynn Garafola, dance historian, critic, and Barnard professor. Pronin’s photographs capture this changing ballet world—pared-down sets and costumes, complex

modern choreography, and international influences.

Leonid Jakobson, one of the other artists portrayed in Pronin’s photographs, was a Russian choreographer whose pieces were severely censored and who was forbidden from working for six years. Pronin’s photographs show him directing a rehearsal of a dance about a Jewish wedding.

Also featured in Pronin’s work are Russian performers such as Alla Osipenko and John Markovsky, and French performers Marcel Marceau and Roland Petit, who were able to bring their performances to Russia in the 1960s and ’70s.

Khidekel said that Pronin’s photographs of these artists bring the viewer back to an incredibly significant moment in history: “The fact that these exchanges took place in the ’60s and ’70s—it was a sign, maybe, that Soviet power was a little bit shaken, that they couldn’t really isolate such a big country from the world.”

The exhibit opened on Jan. 23 and runs until March 10.

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HANNAH CHOI / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PRIVIET | Pronin tackles multiple artistic media with his series of 18 photographs chronicling famous Russian performers.

may have contributed to the poor timing that hurt their first performance. Wise now helps her cheerleaders cope with the transition by holding a practice upon arrival to Daytona.

“The floor at nationals is a lot larger than our practice space so we have to redo all our formations, run our routine, and make sure that when they get on the mat for competition, they’re not thrown off by the differences,” said Wise.

Columbia came in last out of the 10 competing teams on the co-ed Intermediate level last year, its first year in the competition.

With their hopes hinging on this year’s routine, the Lions have nearly completed their choreography but have yet to perform it entirely. At practices, the cheerleaders work in small teams, rehearsing individual stunts. They began football season by learning fundamentals like their Roar cheer and New

York dance.

Basketball season marks a transition in focus, as the team can start practicing the basic skills and choreography for nationals. The audience at Saturday’s basketball game caught a preview of this year’s championship cheer.

“They saw a few of the stunts. I did a 360 up and right,” Nicol said. “It’s just a basic level where I spin in a circle on top of my bases, and I go back down into a squish but in the competition, I’m going to do a 360 on top of my bases and stop in the air.”

While there is crossover between the group’s dual roles as the University’s cheer team and as a competitive squad, the Lions always make school spirit their main priority.

“They have to be about Columbia athletics and the spirit that comes alongwith supporting an athletics program,” said Wise.



KATE SCARBROUGH/SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ON TOP OF IT ALL | The cheerleaders prepare for their own competitive season by working in small stunt groups.



Sex and sports, a winning combination

Happy Valentine's Day, everybody! As a lover of romance, I've always been a big fan of the holiday. And as a big fan and follower of sports, I've noticed a few occasions on which professional athletes' romantic relationships have directly affected them on the field. This effect is not always a bad one—it is often beneficial. The same thing happens here with the student athletes at Columbia.



RONNIE SHABAN  
Squeaky Bum Time

Arguably the best part of relationships is sex. Not even Columbia tries to deny it—from NSOP week on, students are encouraged to discuss healthy sex tips and learn that consent is sexy. So how do relationships and sex affect student athletes on campus? Let's find out.

Here are some ground rules for this column: 1) I won't be talking about any previous or potential sex scandals—it's all about healthy, regular relationships. 2) I won't be naming any names when using examples that I know have happened here, mostly so I don't get myself into any trouble. 3) I won't be separating "just sex" from a relationship—that never works anyway. 4) The safe word is "cantaloupe." If you see this word go ahead and stop reading.

It takes two to tango, so who is tangoing with whom? Convenience can be a driving factor when it comes to meeting new people for a potential relationship, which is why you see so many athlete-athlete couples here on campus. Nothing wrong with that; it happens everywhere (even at Spec!). When people run (excuse the pun) in similar circles, they're more likely to meet and hit it off. The fact that someone plays a certain sport may make him or her more desirable as well. No, I'm not saying that soccer players have foot fetishes or that there's any particular reason a swimmer may swim the breaststroke. I'm referring to uniforms. The fact is that athletes wear short shorts, skirts, tight pants, or cut-off shirts, and they also tend to be quite fit—some people may consider that to be sexy.

A good, healthy relationship—with good, healthy sex—is good for a person's well being.

Moving on from how a relationship (however loosely you want to label it) is established, let's talk about the actual making of love. Does it harm an athlete to have sex the night before a game, or even the morning of? There are more than a few articles that say it absolutely does not. In fact, during the 2010 World Cup the players on Argentina were encouraged to have regular sex throughout the tournament as long as it didn't involve keeping them up too late. I even know of a student athlete here who claimed to have morning sex on game day and went on to score a goal that afternoon.

Of course, there is always the possibility of injury. For athletes, the negative effect is doubled—sex injuries hamper them both in the bedroom and on the field. This happened a few weeks ago when AC Milan midfielder Kevin-Prince Boateng received a groin injury that put him out for over a month. His Italian super-model girlfriend claimed that it happened because they were having sex around ten times a week. It was rumored, however, that Boateng's teammates and manager did not blame him at all. So, final lesson here is that sex is good.

Last year, another Italian soccer club, Napoli, issued a letter to each wife and girlfriend of its players letting them know that "behind every great man is great woman," and even went as far to tell them, "We are counting on you, so please avoid useless family tension." I hope I was a little less forward in this column, but I agree with the sentiment. A good, healthy relationship—with good, healthy sex—is good for a person's well being.

If one or both of those people happen to be a student athlete, that goodness could translate onto the field, court, or pitch. Happy Valentine's Day once again. Now go out, and enjoy some lovin'.

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MICHAEL DISCENZA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

LIGHT BLUE SPIRIT | Columbia cheerleaders maintain school spirit while supporting the basketball teams this season.

Columbia cheer brings more than just pep

BY LAURA ALLEN  
Columbia Daily Spectator

Not everything on campus is as it appears. There is an elite group of Columbia students specially trained in aerial tricks and backhand flips who masquerade as innocent sports fans. Really, they're much fiercer than that.

The cheerleading team, as it happens, is a competitive squad looking to place at the NCA/NDA Collegiate Cheer and Dance Championships this April in Daytona, Fla.

"Our goals for nationals are to do our best, have some fun while we're there, and see all the other amazing athletes [from] across the country," said head coach Yavonia Wise.

Wise, Law '09, came on four years ago to coach a team that now consists of 15 females and one male. Seven freshmen and a visiting student from the University of Melbourne have brought fresh spirit to the group this year.

A former Georgetown competitive cheerleader, Wise provides the encouragement and that has led to what will mark the Lions' third consecutive appearance at the championships.

To get there, the squad attended camp at Boston University this past August for four days, where they earned the coveted "spirit stick" on awards night.

"Camp is probably the most trying experience out of all the seasons because you're working what seems like 24 hours a day," said senior co-captain Kristen Nicol, who has been cheerleading since second grade.

"You get up at eight in the morning and you don't finish until eight or nine at night. And [we're] just doing stunts, jumps, dances, cheers all day, and you have to smile throughout it all because at the end of the day, you want

SEE CHEERLEADING, page 7

Trio of Ivies vie for second, Princeton wins tenth consecutive game

BY MUNEEB ALAM  
Spectator Staff Writer

Last weekend, Ivy women's basketball had a little bit of everything, from overtime games and blowouts to milestone-reaching performances. Penn and Cornell battled to sneak into the top half of the standings, while Dartmouth tried to build a cushion between itself and last-place Columbia, and Harvard, Yale, and Brown battled for second place behind Princeton.



PRINCETON

Although the Tigers took a few minutes to get into their matchup with Dartmouth, a 17-4 run in the final 5:47 of the first half pushed the visitors to a 30-16 halftime lead, which they rode to a convincing 72-41 win. Senior center Devona Allgood efficiently posted 10 points and seven rebounds in only 19 minutes of work as 11 Tigers registered at least 10 minutes of playing time. The Tigers won their 10th straight game with a dominant 84-56 win in Cambridge, Mass. Junior forward Niveen Rasheed scored 24 points to reach 1,000 points for her college career, leading 11 different Tigers to register at least three points. The Tigers shot 55 percent and sported a 46-22 advantage in points in the paint.

YALE

The Bulldogs rode a strong long-distance shooting performance to a win over Cornell on Friday, keeping them in position for a top Ivy finish. Junior guard Megan Vasquez scored 25 points as she, sophomore guard Janna Graf, and junior guard Allie Messimer each connected four times from beyond the arc, part of Yale's 16-of-30 performance from downtown. Yale led by 16 at halftime and loosened up in the second half. On Saturday, the Elis had a tougher time against Columbia than one might expect from the teams' record, trailing as late as 10:46 of the second half but eventually managed a 73-59 win.

HARVARD

The Crimson was up by the slimmest of margins heading into the second half but pulled away in the following 20 minutes against Penn, spurred by junior forward Victoria Lippert and senior guard Brogan Berry. Lippert scored 12 points and joined the 1,000-point club for Harvard, while Berry, already a member, moved into sixth on the Crimson's all-time scoring list with a game-high 26 points. In a Saturday loss

to Princeton, Berry scored 21 points and sophomore guard Christine Clark had 17 points and 11 rebounds as Harvard shot only 26.9 percent from the field.

BROWN

The Bears were almost shocked by the Lions on Friday. The two teams were tied at 57 heading into overtime, but the hosts put together a strong overtime to win 72-63. Another late surge from Brown on Saturday was enough to catapult the Bears to a weekend sweep at home, as Brown defeated Cornell 60-49. Brown

trailed by six at halftime thanks to 24 percent shooting but improved to shoot 65 percent in the second half. Junior guard Sheila Dixon scored 16 points to lead a quartet of Bears in double figures.

PENN

Although the Quakers were only down by one point heading into halftime against Harvard, the Crimson pulled away in the second half. Sophomore guard Alyssa Baron led the visitors with 18 points in the loss. Penn fared better the following evening

against Dartmouth. Despite ceding a late run by Dartmouth to tie the game, the Quakers rebounded in overtime, posting 17 points in the extra session to win 73-63. Freshman forward Kara Bonenberger led the Quakers with 17 points and nine rebounds, and senior forward Jess Knapp added 11 boards. The biggest difference-maker in overtime was fouls, as Penn had 12 attempts from the charity stripe in only five minutes, making 10, while the

SEE ATL, page 7



FILE PHOTO

PERSONAL RECORD | Yale's Megan Vasquez posted a career-high 28 points.

RK (LW)	TEAM
1 (17-4) 7-0	<b>PRINCETON TIGERS</b>  The class of the Ivy League, the Tigers posted a statement victory over the Crimson, one of the teams battling for second.
2 (14-8) 6-2	<b>YALE BULLDOGS</b>  The Elis kept rolling with another winning weekend, sinking three after three against Cornell and using a second-half run to top Columbia. The Bulldogs, however, still lag significantly behind Princeton.
3 (12-9) 5-2	<b>HARVARD CRIMSON</b>  The Crimson was almost shocked by Penn, but kept their title hopes well and alive by coming alive in the second half. It was completely outclassed by Princeton the following night, though.
4 (14-8) 5-3	<b>BROWN BEARS</b>  The Bears posted back-to-back poor first halves, but strong play to end each game put another two wins on the board for Brown, which clearly remains a notch above the teams below it in the standings.
5 (9-12) 3-4	<b>CORNELL BIG RED</b>  Very poor shooting sunk Cornell against Yale, and improved shooting kept Cornell competitive with Brown, but ultimately neither effort was sufficient as the Big Red dropped both games.
6 (9-12) 2-5	<b>PENN QUAKERS</b>  In both weekend games, the Quakers' defense suffered in the second half. Against Dartmouth, though, they had built enough of a lead to withstand the run.
7 (3-18) 1-6	<b>DARTMOUTH BIG GREEN</b>  The Big Green's only conference win remains against Columbia. It, like Columbia, pushed its opponents more than expected, but against a less impressive set of opponents.
8 (2-19) 0-7	<b>COLUMBIA LIONS</b>  Although the Lions dropped another two Ivy contests, pushing Brown to overtime and leading Yale through 30 minutes, it suggests the Light Blue is on the upswing.