



FILE PHOTO

WATERFRONT | City Planning voted to allow Columbia to waive zoning laws so that only 1.5 percent of the land will become a park.

Bloomberg to eliminate supplement to police officer pension plan

BY EMILY NEIL
Columbia Daily Spectator

Local police officers say they're furious about Mayor Michael Bloomberg's recent campaign to eliminate the Variable Supplement Fund, which provides \$12,000 a year to retired police officers and firefighters.

The mayor's office says that due to the economic recession and lack of funding, the city must do away with unnecessary costs and funnel all possible financial resources to its central programs and services.

"The reasoning is very simple: We can't afford it anymore," Marc LaVorgna,

Bloomberg spokesman, said. "We do not have the resources to pay for this. It's money that would otherwise go to pay for services the city needs."

However, many police unions disagree with the mayor's portrayal of the \$12,000 as a bonus and are angered by the disregard for the needs of the officers.

"We believe that the VSF is a good, fair, legal deal from which the city benefited tremendously and now wants to renege on the deal," Alfred O'Leary, media spokesperson for the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association said.

"We're particularly incensed over his characterization of it

as a Christmas bonus," O'Leary added. "To characterize it as a bonus is completely wrong, a flat-out lie ... the intent of which is to make it look like the city is paying this money for no reason."

Established in 1968, the Variable Supplement Fund has undergone some modifications over the years, but it has been a key component of pension plans for police officers since its creation.

As a part of the agreement, the city invests money from the police unions into the stock market. Officers then receive a defined amount annually once they retire, and the city is the beneficiary of the remaining

accumulated interest.

LaVorgna says that the economic situation is desperate, and that eliminating the VSF is one way the city can cope.

"We are in some very dire financial straits. ... It's a cost that's spiraling out of control, and we have to reign it in," said LaVorgna. "We understand the disagreement. No one wants to get cut back on compensation. But this is just the reality, because something that was created 40 years ago just doesn't work anymore."

Many who would be most affected by the change said they are incensed by the mayor's attitude.

SEE POLICE, page 2

Barnard on board for open housing pilot

BY AMANDA STIBEL
Columbia Daily Spectator

Come fall, Barnard will be the first women's college in the country to offer its students on-campus housing with men.

In November, Columbia announced it would allow students of the opposite sex to live in gender-blind doubles as part of an open housing pilot program, after a student-led campaign that began in 2009 with Barnard's Student Government Association. Administrators at Barnard say they were on board with "open housing" the moment Columbia gave their okay.

"As soon as Columbia 'ok'd' the program, Barnard was automatically in, since Columbia's resistance had been the only problem," Diana Rastegayeva, BC '11 and SGA's vice president of communications, wrote to Spectator in an email.

This semester, Barnard Residential Life had mentioned in emails to students that they would have the option of living in doubles with male students through the Barnard/Columbia Housing Exchange, and at the end of January, Annie Aversa, associate dean for campus and residential life, appeared at an SGA meeting to announce Barnard's official participation in Columbia's pilot program.

"The new policy will increase

housing options for Barnard students," Aversa said in an email.

Only select dormitories will participate in the pilot program, including Barnard's 600s and Cathedral Gardens and Columbia's East Campus, 47 Claremont, Woodbridge, 113th Street, and Ruggles. Administrators have said they will reevaluate the program next year and consider allowing students of the opposite gender to live together in any dorm, save for first-year housing.

"As soon as Columbia 'ok'd' the program, Barnard was automatically in, since Columbia's resistance had been the only problem."

—Diana Rastegayeva,

BC '11 and SGA's vice president of communications

Aversa said she is hopeful that open housing will increase incentives for Columbia students to participate in the

Barnard/Columbia Housing Exchange, which requires an equal number of Barnard and Columbia students to live at the opposite school each semester.

However, Aversa added that the odds of pulling male students into a Barnard residence hall may be slim.

"We want to provide students with additional options for housing, but we do not anticipate that there will be many students taking advantage of the Open Housing pilot program through Barnard because the number of CU students who can be pulled into suites at Barnard Room Selection remains limited through the BC/CU Housing Exchange," Aversa wrote.

Melanie Sedrish, BC '13, said she supports the exchange across Broadway.

"I think it's a great idea so that people who want to live in different company have that option," Sedrish said.

Avi Edelman, CC '11 and a long time advocate of open housing, said he is excited to see the program come to fruition.

"I'm so thrilled that after two years of work, the Open Housing pilot program will finally launch and will provide safe and comfortable living options for interested students at both Barnard and Columbia," Edelman said. "This has been a long time coming."

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Baker field plans move forward after 11-1 vote

City Planning votes to partially waive zoning laws for waterfront park, City Council to vote soon

BY CHELSEA LO
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

With a green light from the City Planning Commission, the University can start construction on the Baker Athletics Complex as soon as it gets approval from the City Council.

In an 11-1 vote Wednesday morning, the committee authorized Columbia to partially waive water zoning laws that would have required it to devote 15 percent of its land to public waterfront access.

Columbia has maintained that it cannot comply with current laws in its plans for Baker Field—located at 218th Street in Inwood—because too much of the site was built before the law passed. Pending final approval from City Council, the vote allows Columbia to instead provide about 1.5 percent of its land for a waterfront park.

Plans for the Baker Athletics Complex include the park, known as Boathouse Marsh, and the 48,000-square-foot Campbell Sports Center, which would include new weight rooms, coaches' offices, and study space for athletes.

City Council will now have 20 days to bring the issue up during one of its meetings—something Council member Robert Jackson is sure to do, his chief of staff Susan Russell said.

"From the time that we receive it from City Planning, we have 20 days to call it up and thereafter we have 30 days to take a vote," she said.

The University has not yet released a timeline with expected start dates for the project.

In a statement to Spectator, University spokesperson Victoria Benitez wrote that

Columbia is pleased with the vote and expects that the additions to Baker Field will enhance the neighborhood.

"The Boathouse Marsh will provide seating and passive recreation areas. It will also restore and extend the area's native marshland and educational offerings by creating an environment for learning about wetlands and plant species that once flourished in the area," Benitez wrote. "We are committed to continuing to work with Community Board 12 and the Inwood community to provide long-term enjoyment of the Boathouse Marsh Park and Columbia's athletic facilities by both local residents and the University community. We now look forward to working with City Council to address any questions they might have regarding this innovative environmental project."

"I would hope that the Council would push the University to provide more benefits for the neighborhood."

—David Brodherson,
community activist

But according to David Brodherson, founder of the Inwood Mobilization Committee that advocates for residents' concerns about Baker Field construction,

SEE BAKER, page 2

SOMEBODY'S GOING TO EMERGENCY



JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SLICK | A combination of warm weather and rain has melted most of the snow left on campus.

A&E, PAGE 3

SoA bridges gap with new outreach office

Marcia Sells, BC '81 and Law '84, will head the newly created Office of Community Outreach at SoA, in the hopes of connecting Columbia with the neighborhood.



OPINION, PAGE 4

All hail king of Macs

When Steve Jobs goes, Apple might self-destruct.

Ph.D. or not to Ph.D.

With so many ways of learning, grad school may not be for everyone.

SPORTS, BACK PAGE

Lions led by pair of superb scorers

Columbia basketball adds two new names to the 1,000-point club.

EVENTS

Editor of Wired speaks at J-School

Chris Anderson, editor in chief of the popular technology magazine, examines various aspects of magazine journalism.

J-School auditorium, 12:20-2:30 p.m.

WEATHER

Today



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Tomorrow



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Police officers say they deserve more

POLICE from front page

“We go out and put our lives on the line every single day. Every day. Every day I put this uniform on and I walk out on the streets to protect you, the mayor, and every other citizen. ... It’s the job,” said a local officer, who requested anonymity because he fears for his job security.

“I’ve given the city 20-some years of my life to keep it safe, and after I retire, or just as I’m about to retire, you’re going to tell me, ‘Thanks for your services but I’m going to take this from you.’ What would you do?”

O’Leary said that, despite the city’s attitude, the money is essential for many retired officers.

“I ran into a retiree who is now 70 years old and retired in 1987. The VSF represents a full third of his income, so if that goes away he’s going to be in a very difficult set of circumstances, trying to live in New York City,” said O’Leary.

The local officer said the mayor’s campaign is disheartening.

“New York City is safe ... but who keeps New York City safe? The New York City Police Department, that’s who keeps New York City safe. And this is the punishment we get for it.”

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City Council to vote in next two weeks

BAKER from front page

the vote from City Planning does little to comfort Inwood residents who worry about Columbia’s construction plans.

“I’m deeply disappointed,” he said, though he added that he’s not surprised. “I learned of several instances when Columbia University representatives were able to meet privately with City Planning Commission representatives without members of the community present.”

Brodherson said the IMC has completed a set of recommendations that it hopes to send to City Council.

“I would hope that the Council would push the University to provide more benefits for the neighborhood,” he said.

The Council plans to work with all parties involved in order to address any lingering concerns, Russell said.

“They will certainly have an opportunity,” Russell said of residents voicing their concerns. “We’ll be meeting with Columbia University, we’ll be looking at the City Planning report, and we’ll be talking to community boards and residents in an attempt to resolve any outstanding problems.”

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RIVERSIDE | Baker field is located along the confluence of the Harlem and Hudson rivers. Plans for the new complex include a park.

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ST. PAUL'S CHAPEL

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Marcia Sells will head new SoA office engaged with local arts scene

BY ALLISON MALECHA
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Columbia's and Harlem's art scenes may be physically adjacent, but they can feel entirely disconnected. A new School of the Arts department hopes to bridge the gap by facilitating interaction between the arts scenes on and around campus. This Office of Community Outreach at SoA was officially announced on Feb. 14 and will have Marcia Sells, BC '81 and Law '84, at its head. Sells currently serves as the associate vice president for program development and initiatives in the Office of Government and Community Affairs (GCA).

According to Sells, the office came about through conversations between SoA Dean Carol Becker, SoA Dean of Academic Administration Jana Wright, and GCA Executive Vice President Maxine Griffith. "Something that Carol said was the idea of really helping the School of the Arts be at the forefront of showing what very well-trained arts practitioners in a range of fields can do to support a community," Sells said.

Although Sells will maintain a joint appointment, two other key members from her arts-focused office at GCA—Orit Yakuel and Lamar Lovelace—will now dedicate all of their time to the Office of Community Outreach. "We see it as a natural fit—we're continuing our work, and we have more resources and wonderful colleagues to work with on it at the School of the Arts," Yakuel said.

This community outreach department is a first for SoA, but having community interaction is nothing new—and neither is the participation of Sells, Yakuel, and Lovelace. "This now formalizes what we've been doing for a while," Sells said, citing a situation

from last spring as an example: P.S. 125 called GCA asking for assistance in a poetry month event, and GCA reached out in turn to the Columbia Artists/Teachers Program, run by SoA professor Alan Ziegler.

"Within hours, a student volunteer [Chris Garrecht-Williams, SoA '11] agreed to go to P.S. 125 the next day, taught a whole course in poetry and creative writing, and really inspired a lot of students," Yakuel said. "The teachers who got to work with this student had rave reviews and are really looking forward to working with Columbia students in the future."

"We're continuing our work, and we have more resources and wonderful colleagues to work with on it."

—Orit Yakuel, Office of Community Outreach

The Office of Community Outreach intends to structure these types of connections and encourage more of them. "We just hope we can grow something and not have it be a last-minute thing," Sells said, adding that the Office of Community Outreach will also allow "bigger approaches to assisting funding to help the students connect."

Sells mentioned that the office was created with an eye to further SoA's efforts on the Manhattanville campus as well. It is about "recognizing the

opportunity for the University to use the arts as a way to connect with the community in the same way that the University is going to use science and other things," Sells said.

The initiatives and overall mission that Sells, Yakuel, and Lovelace have employed at GCA should transition well to the SoA office. "Only now we will have a base—which is important since we are a university—from a school that is focused on the arts and to place them at the center," Sells said.

Since the office is so new, its specific functions are still a bit ambiguous—Sells first wants to find footing for the new department. "We'll be spending at least the first three months or so really getting to know and talk to people," Sells said. "Carol and Jana ... really want to see us learn and understand the School of the Arts and see what, from within, are some of the things that people would like to do and add our ideas from what we have done before."

Which is not to say that they will be program-less in the coming months—instead, events already in the works at GCA and involving SoA will infuse a new perspective. The annual summer Children's Art Carnival, for example, is sponsored by GCA but held at SoA's LeRoy Neiman Gallery and showcases a multitude of artworks from 14- to 18-year-olds from Harlem.

One goal is to get more SoA writers and artists out into the community and to give them recognition for being there. "We get the awards at the Oscars and the people mentioned at the Best Writers Under 40, but you know, our artists, our faculty are in the trenches—they're there, they're working, and they're also working to build communities," Sells said. "So this is a great opportunity."



COURTESY OF MARCIA SELLS

IMPACT | Marcia Sells takes on an associate dean position at SoA's new Office of Community Outreach.



FILE PHOTO

NEW LEGENDS | The Apollo Music Café series brings new talent to the acclaimed Harlem theater.

Different taste of Apollo with music cafés

BY TAYLOR HARVEY
Columbia Daily Spectator

The Apollo Music Café series presented a treat for music-lovers on Valentine's Day with its first featured artist, Blitz the Ambassador, a Ghanaian-American rapper. A new addition to the famed Apollo Theater in Harlem, the Apollo Music Café is a more intimate music series that showcases innovative and underground artists in disciplines as diverse as spoken word and comedy. The next series installation will take place on Friday, Mar. 4 at 10 p.m. and will feature Future Now.

The Feb. 14 night opened with remarks from the Apollo Theatre president, Jonelle Procope, and the night's curator, Lisa Yancey, who reminded the audience that they were witnessing history by attending the venue's first ever music café show. Not long after, Yancey was interrupted by the Change Agent, a spoken-word artist from Amsterdam, who

emerged from the crowd to recite a poem and introduce Blitz. Although her poem was charmingly optimistic, the transition from curator to spoken-word artist was awkward—the only connection she had to Blitz was her love for his music.

Blitz opened with an upbeat song from his latest album "Breathe" with his band Embassy Ensemble. The song set the tone for the rest of the night as its hard-hitting afrobeats, vivid melodies from the brass section, and socially conscious raps excited listeners. Although the horn section's energy was distracting later in the set, it helped during the opening act.

The rest of the show was devoted to the promotion of songs from Blitz's upcoming album, "Native Sun." Blitz took the audience on a musical and visual journey with his set, talking a little about himself and the idea behind each song. He found a way to simultaneously recognize his Ghanaian roots

and share his heritage with the American audience, performing songs like "Akwaaba," meaning "welcome" in his native Akan. He also encouraged the crowd to participate and brought them on a musical tour of Ghana with songs from artists he grew up with, from A Tribe Called Quest and Pete Rock to Fela Kuti and Miriam Makeba.

Blitz the Ambassador's set was inventive and original, and his cultural influences complemented the Apollo Theatre's distinctive musical history. At times his delivery was difficult to understand, but the crowd was sold after hearing songs like "Free Your Mind" and "Best I Can."

Overall, the Apollo Music Café's first showcase met with approval from the audience. The sultry nightclub ambiance that put listeners at ease was starkly different from the rousing scene at Apollo Theatre amateur night. But students who enjoy an intimate musical atmosphere should enjoy this series.

Neurobiology prof doubles as edgy musician

BY CYDNEY HEDGPETH
Spectator Staff Writer

By day, professor Dave Sulzer explores the intricacies of neurobiology. By night, his musical alter ego, Dave Soldier, composes jazzy violin pieces, writes hip-hop with elementary school Harlem students, and conducts a 14-elephant orchestra. Amidst the dozens of neuroscience books on Sulzer's desk are a variety of avant-garde jazz, classical, hip-hop, and punk CDs—two of which are Dave Soldier originals, titled "The Complete Victrola Sessions" and "Water Music," which will make their debuts on Feb. 25.

Music brought Sulzer to New York City, and New York City led him to Columbia for graduate school. Sulzer's professional and musical successes came after years of touring with a band, bartending, and making cappuccinos in the city. "When I was 20 and 21, I left college and went on tour," Sulzer said. "I was on tour for a year and a half. One day I came home,

looked at my life, and realized I didn't want to be on tour for the rest of my life."

Through trial and error, he found a niche in the neuroscience community at Columbia University Medical Center, where he began exploring the mechanisms of addictive drugs. Sulzer's interest in the effects of drugs on the brain developed over many years and influenced his latest musical project, "The Complete Victrola Sessions." The album recreates early 20th-century culture by bringing together elements of jazz and violin. "The Complete Victrola Sessions" was also motivated by Sulzer's fascination with bringing the virtuoso tradition into a contemporary music scene.

The virtuoso tradition is "less important now for a variety of reasons," Sulzer said. "Lots of fast notes being played one after another used to just be amazing and bizarre and superhuman, but these days it's not because we have electronica music and electronic manipulation."



COURTESY OF DAVE SULZER

SOLDIER ON | NYS Psychiatry Institute Professor of Neurobiology Dave Sulzer writes jazzy music and conducts an elephant orchestra.

"The Complete Victrola Sessions" is the soundtrack to a silent film, "The Violinist," that filmmaker Winsome Brown wrote and directed in conjunction with Sulzer's music. The uneasy nature of the film and the jazzy eeriness of the music make for an emotional and disturbed artistic experience.

"One thing I wanted to do was find a way to express my own love for the classical virtuoso," Sulzer said. "But the thing is, if you write that kind of music now, people don't really care about it anymore. It's a music of a former time. Why should someone around now be writing that kind of music?"

By combining film, live performance, and an antiquated violin tradition, Sulzer creates a piece that breaks down barriers between genres and art forms. With his two new releases, Sulzer takes twisted, seemingly unrelated ideas and turns them into reality.

Sulzer's slightly furrowed brow smooths out as he describes "Water Music," an album that features his 14-elephant orchestra from Thailand. "This is their [the elephants'] third and final album," Sulzer said with a rare smile. "We had a week where every afternoon, these 14 elephants were playing music together ... It's the ultimate record."

"Water Music" is the product of Sulzer's interest in animal behavior and a simple idea: If elephants can paint, then they can play music. Sulzer worked with the Thai Elephant Conservation Center to raise awareness of a beautiful yet dwindling population of elephants. "In one hundred years, the Asian elephant population has gone from 100,000 to 3,000," Sulzer said. "We need Westerners and people in southeast Asia to be aware of this."

Between taking a break in his undergraduate studies and becoming a neurobiology professor at Columbia, Sulzer has created Dave Soldier—an ambitious artist with a realistic goal for his new releases.

"As an artist, you need to get people to care about what you're doing and have it make sense," Sulzer said.



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The Mac in immaculate

Attend a Columbia lecture and you will see tens of MacBooks open as the speaker takes the podium, an array of little Apples casting a glow on the professor. On the screens, some combination of note-taking, Facebook stalking, and robot unicorn attacking dominates the attentions of the assembled minds. The ubiquity of the MacBook is astounding, and nowhere is it more evident than on a college campus. It seems that to be a college student is to own an Apple product. So great is our devotion to these devices that we largely self-constitute around them. The iPod, iPhone, and iPad all contain the nature of our subjects, the essence of our selves. Our lives are downloaded onto little hard drives of existential worth. Yet all of this is threatened—the integrity of our digital lives thrust into uncertainty, the future of Apple hanging in the balance.

Apple's market capitalization hovers at a little over \$300 billion, making it the world's second most valuable company, just behind hydrocarbon giant ExxonMobil. To put this into perspective, if Apple's market cap existed as a sovereign economy, the company would be the 31st richest country in the world as measured by nominal GDP. The hypothetical "Apple Republic" is more valuable than Greece, the cradle of Western civilization. At the helm of this economic behemoth is a single man: Steve Jobs. In the Apple Republic, there is no democracy—instead, there is a beneficent dictator who embodies the very essence of the national creed. His vision is paramount, his power unrivaled. In the eyes of his followers, Steve Jobs makes Genghis Khan look like a pansy and Mother Teresa look like a trollop. So great is his influence that a disciple went so far as to create job-sisgod.com, where it is proclaimed, "Yes, Steve Jobs is God! It is he who hath provided us with iPhones ... It is he who spun the Macbook Pro from aluminum ore ... Even though we all share the sin of having tasted Windows ... Steve Jobs forgives us and continues to do what it takes to set us free."

Yet all of this is threatened—the integrity of our digital lives thrust into uncertainty, the future of Apple hanging in the balance.

But, oddly for a god, Steve Jobs is dying. The ravages of pancreatic cancer have taken a toll on his health. Jobs has already handed off daily operations of the company to Apple's chief operating officer, Timothy Cook. When the news broke on Jan. 17, Apple's stock price plunged 4 percent before rebounding to a 2.25 percent drop the same day. These foreboding tremors shook the foundation of the company, and industry analysts were left wondering how Apple would fare without its messiah. As prominent Slate Magazine tech columnist Farhad Manjoo wrote after the first MacWorld trade show without Jobs, "On Tuesday, we got a glimpse of what Apple would look like without him, and it wasn't good. ... The big question for the company's fans and investors: What happens to a cult without a leader?"

For generations, Buddhists (who are admittedly faithful to something more than a cult) have dealt with the same dilemma faced by Appleites. The Buddhist solution to a leadership vacuum is reincarnation. When His Holiness the Dalai Lama, sometimes referred to as the "God-King," passes away, a search begins for his replacement. Monks scour the Himalayan plateau, roaming from village to village, looking for boys who were born in the weeks following the Dalai Lama's death. Among these boys, it is believed, the reincarnated spirit of the previous Dalai Lama has found a new corporeal home. When a possible candidate is found, items formerly belonging to the deceased Dalai Lama are presented to the boy among various other objects. Should the boy choose the items of the recently deceased Dalai Lama, it is taken as a sign that he is the Dalai Lama reincarnate. After confirmation by the council of High Lamas, the boy is pronounced Dalai Lama.

Apple employees, shareholders, and customers should learn from the Buddhist example. The man to whom Bono once referred as "the Dalai Lama of integration" will have a second coming. Somewhere in Silicon Valley, where the snow leopards roam, a young boy will be born. Two "geniuses" from the local Apple Store will come through his suburban subdivision. They will find the cherubic boy and present him with a selection of items. The boy's wide eyes will flicker across the varied goods. Suddenly, he will reach out to a nondescript black turtleneck, clutching it with his pudgy digits: salvation. When the time comes and Steve Jobs finally leaves the terrestrial world, before the tide of innovation ebbs, the search for his reincarnated spirit must begin. If not, we will live in a much darker world. Playing music on a Zune, answering calls with a Motorola, and reading books on a book—the horror is almost unimaginable.

Esfandiyar Batmanghelidj is a Columbia College first-year. He is a member of the rugby team. C.U. in Hell runs alternate Thursdays.



ESFANDYAR
BATMAN-
GHELIDJ

C.U. in Hell

Academia is the most slippery of slopes

With less than 100 days to go before May 18, graduation anxiety is really starting to kick in. Mix ibuprofen with ginger beer, rum, and philosophy readings, and you'll most certainly start fantasizing about Demosthenes and Homer crumbling onto the green grass where you used to lay down stargazing at 5 a.m. Or at least, I did. Who the heck is Demosthenes anyway? And can we replace him with Lady Gaga? About a year ago, I was thinking, man, I should really go to science grad school. I picked a cool field. I love learning. I've been doing learning all my life, I feel comfortable basking in the awareness of learning. Hell, I fetishize learning. It gives me a degree of control that I will never have in the real world. I can ask questions slowly, I can avoid politics, I can be aloof if I want to, and I can always convince myself that I came across some shard of truth. But I might have been doing the one thing they always tell us not to do around here: confusing correlation and causation. Learning mustn't and doesn't come only from academia. Old habits die hard, though, so in trying to decide what to do with myself next year and whether a graduate program would actually maximize my learning, I conducted an old-fashioned literature review. Here's what I found after asking the Internet.

There's the cognitive psychologist's perspective—those wearing that hat have barely begun to agree on how many kinds of learning our brain is capable of. There are about as many memory types as psychologists can measure, and we are only now starting to map out the ways in which our neurons construct knowledge out of memory. Much as I love it, though, arguing about what learning means in the neuro-philosophical sense seems way too abstract to be applicable to something happening three months from now. Plus, as Jonah Lehrer announced to the world in a recent New Yorker piece: Even scientific truth wears off.

Then there's The Economist. As usual, folks there put things in perspective using supply and demand. The numbers don't lie—for the 100,000 Ph.D.s awarded between 2005 and 2009 in the United States, only 16,000 new professorships were created. According to the same article, which picks on doctoral degrees for not being as straightforward as Martin Luther's 95 Theses, going the Ph.D. route is an entire waste of time and, very often, of taxpayers' money. The academic in me suddenly feels misunderstood.

Finally, there's Wired and the tech avant-garde. Before finding any Ph.D.-related advice there, I ran into one piece that seemed to suggest I have already spent



ANGELA
RADULESCU

The Rookie Brain

four useless years in academia. The author collects seven of today's awesome buzzwords and lists them as essential "skills" I could never have learned while reading Plato: among them, statistical literacy, self-expression in 140 characters, post-state diplomacy, applied cognition, and my favorite, remix culture. OK, statistical literacy I can agree with. A movie about a stuttering British monarch just won almost every BAFTA award. A movie about Facebook will probably sweep the Oscars. Britain's got kings, America's got Zuckerbergs—can we move on to the next construct, please? After Egypt, I'll even concede to Twitter as an object of study. But I refuse to believe we have to settle for cultural postmodernist mashups. If staying original requires a Ph.D., I may just take that pill some day.

But I might have been doing the one thing they always tell us not to do around here: confusing correlation and causation. Learning mustn't and doesn't come only from academia.

One can hardly be conclusive in 800 words, but here's what I made of this review. Assuming away the value of a degree as a simple qualification, liberal arts colleges and Ph.D. programs aren't for learning suckers like me because they necessarily teach us things. At the very least, they teach us how groups think collectively about things. At best, they facilitate the absorption of original ideas from a few very smart people we are lucky enough to call professors. Generally, they teach us a set of conventions for the complex communication of thoughts. From there on, it's up to us to own learning. But what academia is great at is giving us time to do just that in many, many ways. For example, this past week, while I spent most of my class time studying the financial crisis, what I really internalized was the concept of neural plasticity. My brain can change as it goddamn pleases in response to music, because guess what: Listening to Rihanna over Damien Rice makes it way easier to walk around with a bleeding heart. Seriously, though, my point about this topic, one I clearly have not made my mind up about, is: Time grad school well. It's many long years ahead of blissful, creative learning, yes. But also of missing out on other things. And other ways of learning.

Angela Radulescu is a Columbia College senior majoring in neuroscience and behavior. She is a former Spectator photo editor. The Rookie Brain runs alternate Thursdays.

An ideal atmosphere

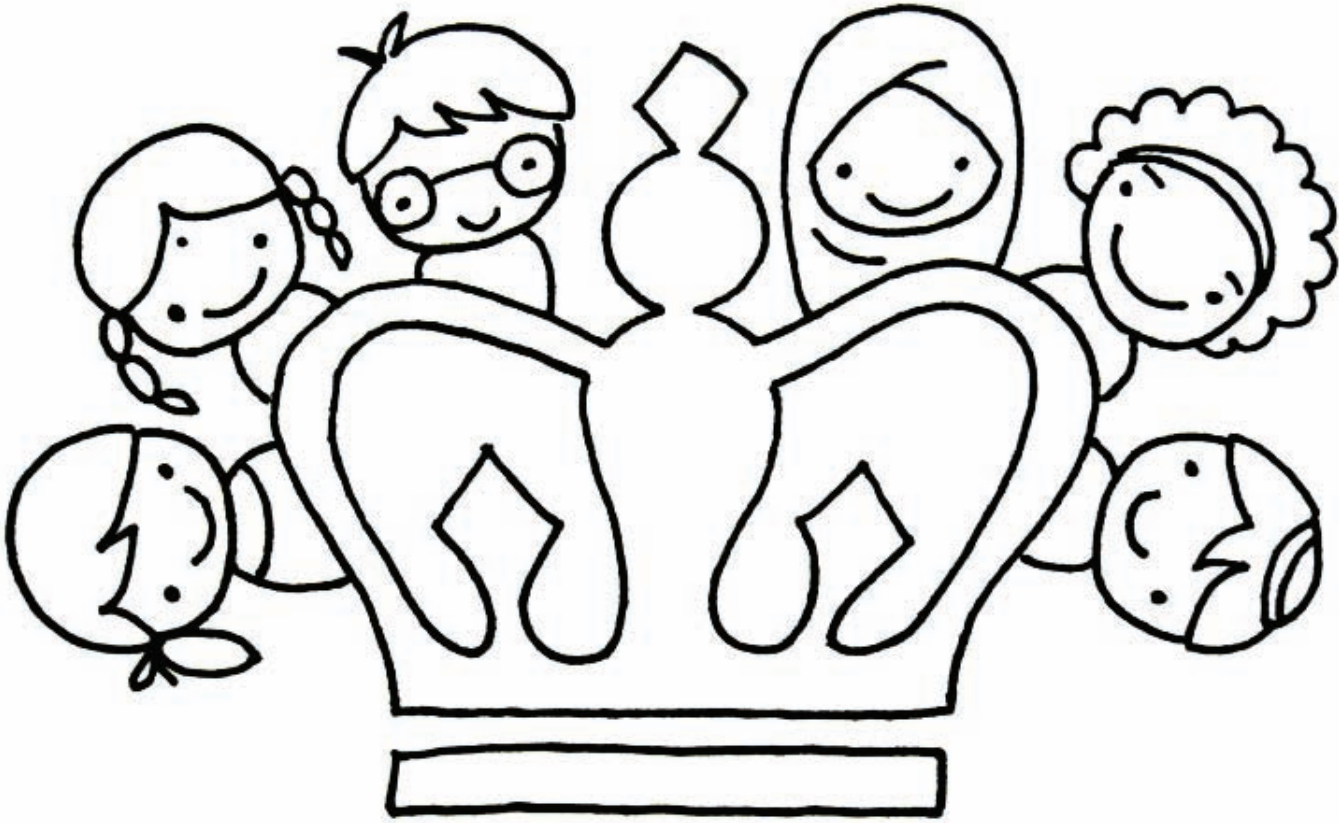
BY SWARA SALIH

Columbia offers more opportunities than most of us realize. Besides having access to first-class academics, we are immersed in a diverse community that not only exposes us to people of various cultural, political, and social backgrounds, but also helps us to understand this diversity. Such dissimilarities are valuable not only in their own right—the situations we will encounter after university make understanding diversity all the more important.

It is this type of audacity that truly helps a rising college first-year to prepare for the dynamism of a university like Columbia.

Over winter break, I discovered the value of diversity on a visit to my Jordanian high school, King's Academy. As I walked the campus and met with classmates I hadn't seen in months, one question my friends frequently asked me was, "Do you feel King's Academy has prepared you well enough for college?" Pondering the question, I realized my high school had an advantage over most boarding schools. King's Academy strives to bring in as many students as possible from different cultures, nations, and social backgrounds. Living in such a community prepares a student for college, where new types of people are always encountered. However, while native Jordanian residents benefit from this community, it is the international students who benefit most. Regardless of the reason, they willingly thrust themselves into a diverse and foreign atmosphere. It is this type of audacity that truly helps a rising college first-year to prepare for the dynamism of a university like Columbia.

When I arrived on campus, I was not as nervous as I had expected. Attending an international high school gave me the confidence to believe there was no type of person



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9	3	6	4	2	5	8	7	1
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5	7	1	2	6	9	4	3	8
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8	4	9	5	1	7	6	2	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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Aditya Mukerjee, President

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 ... effort

5 Without restraint

9 "... lingo"

14 Merrill in movies

15 Microwave

16 "... Smith and Jones"; 1970s TV Western

17 List maker

18 Swank's "Amelia" co-star

19 Stealthy Easterner

20 Fancy greens dish

23 Storm hdg.

24 Out of sorts

25 Cloud in Orion

30 Spay or neuter

32 #1 tennis player for much of the '80s

35 "I can help"

36 2012 Ryder Cup captain Davis Love ...

37 News organ?

38 In reverse position

42 Cross over

45 Be less than healthy

46 Greek with lessons

50 Feminist's concern

53 ... myrtle: tree or shrub in the loosestrife family

54 Skirmish

55 Where Eth. is

57 Chess pieces

58 Bit of modern folklore

62 Howled

66 Upscale hotel chain

67 Without thinking, with "by"

68 Tequila plant

69 It often involves steady losses

70 Privy to

71 With 72- and 73-Across, what this puzzle does literally at six different intersections

72 See 71-Across

73 See 71-Across

DOWN

1 Supplementary items

2 He plays Lord Voldemort in Harry Potter films

3 Where the teacher might casually sit

4 Rajah's wife

5 Guardian, maybe

6 Vegan's morning meal

7 Cajun staple

8 Stabilizing part

9 "Water Music" composer

10 Clay, today

11 Offense

12 Atlantic City casino, with "The"

13 "... matter of fact..."

21 Sly female

22 Musical based on a comic strip

26 Blinge

27 A quarter of cuatro

28 Mormons, initially

29 Bar option

31 Corrects, as text

33 Instrument in Schubert's "Trout Quintet"

34 ... conditioning

39 Provocative sort

40 ... leaf

41 Mother-of-pearl

42 Certain NCO

43 Little, in Lile

44 "Jeopardy!" ques., really

47 Identical item

48 Summer shoe style

49 Hanging

51 Gets by

52 Gave one star, say

56 Moves like a moth

59 Portend

60 Exiled African tyrant

61 Dreadful

62 Bit of Lagasse lingo

63 Turkish title

64 Asian ox

65 First lady?

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

PEGS	ROMAN	ATTN
ECRU	IMAGE	SHOE
CHINESE	CHECKERS	
KOP	MENSA	HITIT
ZITI	LONI	
ANDILOVE	HEER	TBS
ROOMY	VEND	ALE
IOWA	TAERO	KNOX
ANN	HEIR	ONICE
LES	ARGYLE	SOCKS
TENN	ITAT	
CARLO	POTOK	SPA
PRESIDENTIAL	POLO	
ALAI	INTEL	SHORE
SOME	STEM	

xwordeditor@aol.com 02/17/11

A professional journalist’s view from above

Covering athletics at the collegiate level is rewarding in many ways, but we here at Spec Sports are still full-time students. We cover our beats, write our columns, spend some time editing in the office, and attend the required meetings, but for the most part, we have to put school first. What is life like for professional sports journalists who are able to grant their occupations full attention? Thanks to the friendly media relations people working for the New Jersey Devils, I was able to gain some perspective on this question. The Devils granted me press credentials for two games a month apart, and the following are some of my observations from the Prudential Center press box.

After arriving in Newark, N.J. about two hours before game time, I availed myself of the simple press meal of salad, pasta, and chicken for \$10. The room was full of broadcasters, journalists, Devils operations staff, and league officials. Adjacent to the dining area was a press working room with carrels where journalists could finish up any necessary pregame tasks before ascending the elevator up to press level. In hockey arenas, the press box isn’t rinkside or on the mezzanine level. It’s all the way at the top—above the club level, luxury boxes, and nosebleeds. I found myself high enough to look down on the championship banners hanging from the roof. The press level at the Prudential Center offers such a dramatically different perspective from any other seat in the house that it seems a God’s-eye view. From the first minute of play, I understood why journalists and broadcasters sit up so high.

Most sobering was the realization that the hockey game itself seemed to get lost in the shuffle.

Gameplay in hockey operates with a faster flow than in any other professional sport. The average player shift is around 40 seconds, meaning the pace is furious, and action is end-to-end and rarely settles in one area of the ice for long. I found myself appreciating the opportunity to see the whole ice at once and anticipate how a play might be unfolding on the fly. There are downsides to sitting above the balconies, though. The sheer distance means players can be hard to identify, whistles difficult to hear, and sounds arrive only after a short delay—sort of like the crack of a baseball bat when you’re watching from the bleachers. Additionally, the most prominent arena sounds creeping into the press area tend to be those generated from the cheap seats—think chants of “Bullshit!” after a New Jersey penalty is called. Overall, while the view was great, I was not too thrilled with the harsh separation between spectators and media. At times, it barely felt like we were in the arena at all.

The whole experience was also less glamorous than I expected. For some reason, I imagined that the press box at a professional event would feature leather seating, ample work space, and perhaps even in-seat food and drink service. The Prudential Center is less than four years old, but there is certainly nothing posh about the press level. The hallways were whitewashed, there wasn’t much elbow room between seats, and I nearly broke a hip when I sat down in my chair and learned the hard way that it was missing a wheel. Still, there are some obvious perks to being a sports journalist. Although cheering isn’t allowed and partiality in the press box is frowned upon, the chance to see some of the world’s best athletes in live action is unbeatable.

Postgame interviews with players and coaches provide additional perspective and access to some famous names. And there’s always a chance to see history happen on any given day.

Most sobering for me was the realization that the hockey game itself sort of seemed to get lost in

Freshman fencer Katya English shows promise in young career

BY SPENCER GYORY
Spectator Staff Writer

For members of the Columbia women’s fencing team, the question was not if, but when. It’s been clear the team would one day be a major force on the national level, but when the full potential of its young fencers would be unleashed was a major concern. For epeeist Katya English, the “when” came this past weekend at the Ivy League Championships at Princeton.

On the conference stage, English’s potential was on full display. On Saturday, she had a record of 5-4 against No. 8 Penn, Yale, and Cornell. English finished Sunday with a record of 8-1, which included perfect matches versus No. 3 Harvard and Brown.

English, a freshman from Pasadena, Calif., rounded out the weekend with an impressive overall record of 13-5. For her performance, English was named to the first-team all-Ivy League along with teammates Lowey Diedro (sophomore, sabre), Nzingha Prescod (freshman, foil), Alex Pensler (freshman, foil), and Alen Hadzic (freshman, epee).

English, who attended Blair High School and trained at the Beverly Hills Fencing Club, got involved with fencing at the age of 10 when her dad signed her up for a class at a local club. She starting competing in national events at 13 and went to her first World Cup event at 15.

Fencing has taken English across the world. She took the second semester of her junior year off so that she could train in Paris at the prestigious Lagardère Paris Racing Club.

“It’s the best club in Paris,” English said. “That was a big deal. It was a big step forward competing with people of a different level. It was very challenging.”

During her time in the City of Light, English trained with French epee legend Laura Flessel. Flessel, who has a total of five Olympic and 13 World Championship individual and team medals to her name, won gold in individual epee at the 1996 Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta, where fencing made its Olympic debut.

“I trained with her on a weekly basis. It was unbelievable. I only wish I had been older so I could have made more of the opportunity,” English said.

English left California for college so she could train and compete on the East Coast, where most of the top fencing schools in the nation are located. She chose Columbia over other schools because of its location. Fencers at Columbia have the opportunity to compete with teammates, but also can make use of the numerous local clubs throughout New York City that feature some of the world’s best fencing talent.

At Columbia, English has been training with associate coach Aladar Kogler, a Hungarian fencing legend and USFA National Fencing Hall of Fame member. Kogler coached the Czechoslovakian national team for 18

years, led the U.S. national team into four Olympic Games, and has been with the Lions since 1983. His coaching and recruiting have been instrumental to Columbia’s fencing success for the past three decades.

English has great respect and admiration for Kogler. “The beginning was tough. I was really burnt out at the end of last year,” English noted. But with Coach Kogler, she said, “I experienced an unbelievable renewal. He made me love fencing again.”

Since English arrived at Columbia, Kogler’s coaching has brought her back to the basics of fencing. In addition to adjusting to collegiate competition, English has had to adjust to a new style of training. English’s previous instruction style—a mix between Russian and French styles—was totally different from Kogler’s classic Hungarian style.

Under this new technique, English began the season with a solid 17-13 record. “One of the things that happens when you switch to a new coach is that you automatically have a decrease in performance. I don’t care if it is the best coach in the world. You have to get used to that coach. Having Aladar to work with Katya has been huge in the perfection of her technique and developing her calmness,” said head coach George Kolombatovich.

Her physical size and some intangibles have also helped.

“Katya has great height, which is always an advantage in fencing,” said junior epee Neely Brandfield-Harvey. “She is very passionate. She

gets focused under pressure and commits 100 percent. Plus, she has a long lunge.”

English is well liked by almost everyone on the team. “She is a very enthusiastic, bright, and bubbly person,” Brandfield-Harvey said.

Like her coaches and teammates, English believes her performance at the Ivy Championships was a breakthrough moment in her development. “It definitely was a huge step forward in a lot of ways,” she said. “Something I’ve struggled with a lot is the mental aspect of the sport. It’s held me back from performing to the best of my ability. I’ve underperformed a lot.”

On their first match Sunday, the women’s squad narrowly lost to No. 4 Princeton, which would go on to win the title 12-15.

English attributes her success on Sunday to her ability to relax and perform. “The pressure was off. There was a mental leap forward. I relaxed and fenced better than I did just one match earlier,” English said after the loss.

English’s record on Sunday was the best performance by the team. She also helped steer the Lions to a second-place finish overall. “She was so steady. She certainly did her part in our attempt at the Ivy title,” Kolombatovich said.

Looking ahead, English hopes to continue the success. “I just want to keep having moments like I did this weekend. Hopefully with that will come results at the national level,” she said. If English performs as she did at Ivies, those results will come sooner rather than later.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GENE BOYARS / COLUMBIA ATHLETICS

ENGLISH ATTACK | English, a member of a promising class of young fencers, put forth a strong performance at the Ivies last weekend in epee.

the shuffle. Everything up on the press level was so businesslike—so professional. Everyone wore a jacket and tie. Some of the journalists were young, but the league officials and broadcasters were generally not. Very few women seem to have cracked the hockey press corps. When Ilya Kovalchuk, one of the league’s top offensive

stars, fired home a slap shot just 1:22 into New Jersey’s matchup against Pittsburgh, the stands erupted, but the press seemed too busy taking notes and watching replays to appreciate the thrill of the moment. When that sort of inspiring play becomes routine—when athletic prowess and creativity are reduced to analysis, numbers,

and diagrams—something must be wrong with the sports world.

Why else would I have found myself wishing I was down in the balcony with some local fans than up in the press box living the dream? For me, I think this dream will end at Columbia. I have enjoyed providing the community with coverage of our varsity sports teams, but attending

basketball games this winter purely as a fan has helped me remember what it’s like to don Columbia blue, sit in the stands, and feel no qualms about cheering heart and soul for a Lions championship.

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Two Lions basketball stars reach career quadruple-digit milestone

Strong work ethic source of consistent output for Agho

ZACH GLUBIAK
Senior Staff Writer

When junior guard Noruwa Agho rose up to knock down a three on the road against Dartmouth, nothing seemed out of the ordinary. The 6-foot-3 New City, N.Y. native has led the team in scoring the past two seasons and led the entire country in 3-point shooting percentage for over half the year.

It was a special moment, though, and one that had been a long time coming.

With his third, fourth, and fifth points of the contest, Agho had surpassed 1,000 points for his career. He would finish the game with 16 points, placing him in 21st place in school history. (He is currently 17th on the all-time list.)

NOT ABOUT THE STATS

It is frowned upon in the world of team sports to dwell on individual achievements. His current and past teammates and coaches all attested to his interest in winning, not racking up individual accolades. Agho himself did not even know he was within striking distance of 1,000 points.

"I had no idea I was even close," Agho said. "I figured eventually it would happen, but I didn't know at the time I was anywhere near it."

But to ignore the arc that one of Columbia's brightest stars in recent history took in reaching this point would be an oversight.

"1,000 points is, for him, not that big of a deal," head coach Kyle Smith said. "He'd rather trade it all in for wins. But that's a heck of a milestone. When you're out recruiting a guy and he's got a thousand points, you know, that's a home run. I don't know how many there have been in a hundred years of basketball. ...You don't have a lot of them."

Agho was spotted very early on as a potential impact player by former coach Joe Jones' assistant Jim Engles. Even as a high school player, his scoring ability was obvious.

"Jimmy was the one that really spotted him as a major talent, and we thought he could have a major impact," Jones said. "We lost a big class before he came in, a group of six players, four of which started a lot. We were losing a lot, and so we were looking to add some scoring to our class, and Noruwa more than lived up to that billing."

Jones saw something else in the high school star—Agho was a McDonald's All-American nominee in his senior year at St. Joseph's and was named to the first-team all-state roster during his post-graduate year at the Peddie School.

"I loved, loved his work ethic," Jones said. "To this day he's one of the hardest working players I've ever been around. He puts a lot of time into his game, and he wanted to be great. I loved that about him. I loved his competitiveness."

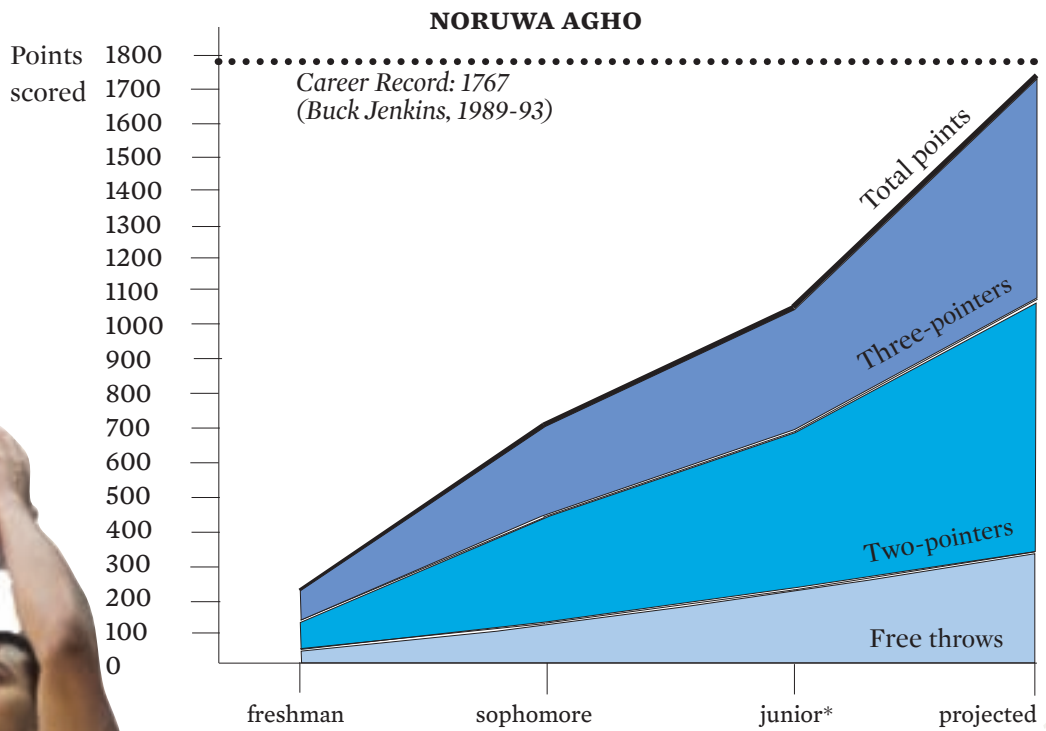
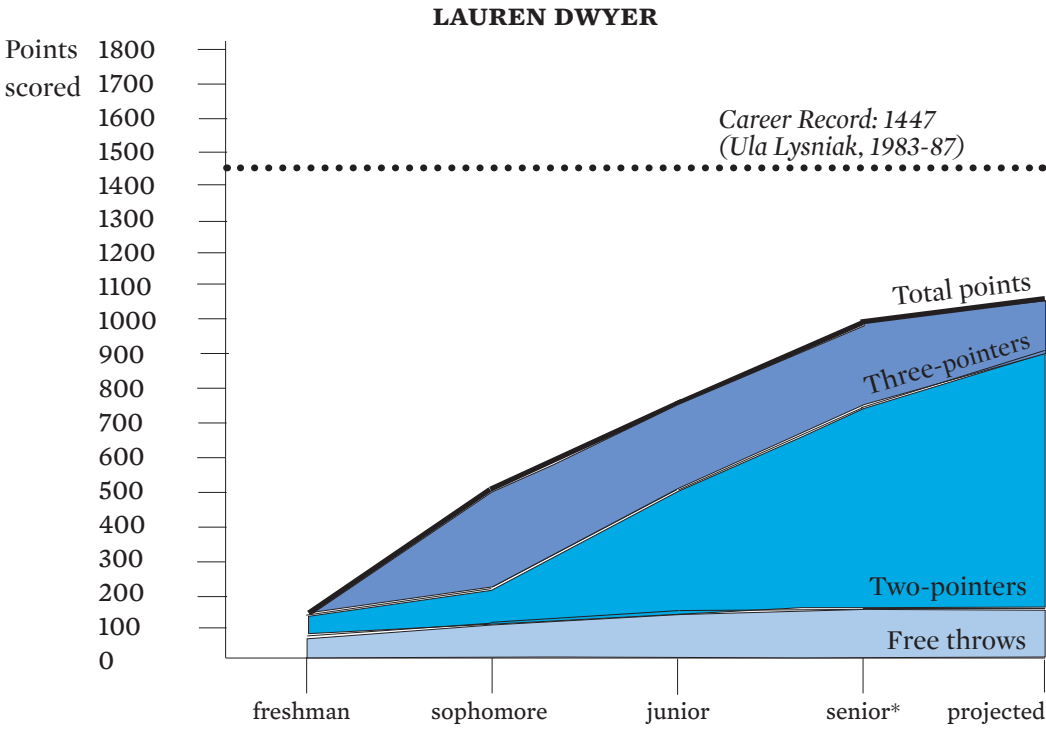
On Agho's first day at CU, his drive shone through. Agho entered a program with a backcourt laden with talent in juniors Niko Scott, Kevin Bulger, and Pat Foley.

IMMEDIATE IMPACT

"Right from the minute he stepped on campus, he made it



HOW THEY GOT TO 1000



* As of February 13, 2011

GRAPHIC BY ANN CHOU

known he wanted to be a great player," Foley said.

Foley also noticed Agho's dedication to improving his game.

"I think he's been fairly consistent since he got there as far as being one of the hardest guys in the program," Foley said. "From the moment he got there as a freshman he was in the gym morning to night,

and I think he's pretty much continued that habit in the past couple years."

"When I was talking to him he definitely wanted to play against the best players, and his commitment to doing that was obvious," Jones added.

Yet stardom is rarely in the cards for a freshman in the Ivy League, where many rookies spend their first winter adjusting to the pace and physicality of the college game. Agho knew he'd have to take whatever role he was given and embraced the challenge of finding time as a freshman to play in such a full backcourt.

"I was really excited just to be part of the program," Agho said. "As workouts started and as practices started, I kind of saw how I could help the team, especially on defense, just

trying to get in the game and doing whatever I could."

He was too talented to solely be a defensive role player, though. As the Ivy League season started, Agho began to fulfill the promise he showed as a scorer in high school. He scored 24 points against Cornell, 20 at Dartmouth, and 17 against Brown. Agho, who won Ivy League Rookie of the Week three times, finished the season as the second-leading scorer among Ivy League freshmen with 9.1 points per game.

SOPHOMORE SENSATION

"As a freshman, I didn't really know the style of player I would be, but I tried to penetrate and get to the foul line a lot," Agho said. "From freshman to sophomore year was when I thought I could really work on my game. I started working on my jump shot a lot. Overall, I just felt like I became more of a complete player offensively."

It showed, as Agho enjoyed the mantle of the nation's best 3-point shooter for over half the 2009-2010 season and finished the campaign as the team's leading scorer with 16.3 points per game. Agho scored at least 20 points 11 times that year, won Ivy League Player of the Week honors three times, and finished the season shooting 44.6 percent from beyond the arc after averaging over 50 percent for much of the season.

Agho became the go-to guy for the Lions, and he embraced the role. His progress as a scorer was expected given the amount of work he'd put in the previous summer, but even his teammates and coaches were caught off by how dramatic his improvement was.

"Obviously, you never think a kid is going to lead the country in 3-point shooting for half the year," Jones said. "Any time that happens you've got to be a little surprised, but I was not surprised that he became that kind of a scorer—just judging from his talent and how hard he worked that summer."

It was so rare for Agho to miss

from 3-point land, it became a team joke.

"It kind of became something we ragged on him about," Foley said. "You know, if he missed a three in practice, he'd hear from us."

That spring Foley, Scott, and Bulger graduated. Their impact on Agho is undeniable.

"I tried to learn what I could from each of those guys," Agho said. "They're all different players."

"Certainly their influence, the way they carried themselves

every day, had an impact on not just Noruwa, but all the guys," Jones said. "It was great

[for him] to be in the program and have those guys, because they were certainly doing things the right way."

When asked if he could coach the younger guard, Foley was not so sure. He was hopeful that he and his teammates

SEE AGHO, page 6

Four-year starter reaches scoring landmark

BY SARAH SOMMER
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Over a stretch of almost four seasons, Lauren Dwyer has quietly become one of the most accomplished players in Columbia women's basketball history. On Feb. 11, the senior co-captain reached a major milestone by scoring her 1,000th career point.

"I've realized how fortunate I am," she said. "It's not just about skill—it's really about being in a good situation."

For Dwyer, that "good situation" includes playing for head coach Paul Nixon, being part of a team that she loves, and staying healthy.

Dwyer noted that injuries have never sidelined her at Columbia. "I haven't had to miss a game yet in my career," she said. "And I think that part of it is just as big as the ability to score."

Of course, her skill has also played a large role in her success. Nixon rattled off a list of ways that Dwyer, a four-year starter, can score: with her back to the basket, facing the basket, off the dribble, and off the drive.

"She's been a very versatile offensive player since she walked on campus," Nixon said. "Obviously, you're not going to score 1,000 points unless you can do so in a variety of fashions."

Dwyer's versatility has allowed her not only to become a prolific scorer, but also to remain relevant within the evolving Columbia offense. As a freshman, Dwyer played center in a four-guard lineup, relying on her low-post moves to score points. Then, as a sophomore and junior, she played alongside forward Judie Lomax, BC '10. Because Lomax

SEE DWYER, page 6



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