



EMBRY OWEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PROTECTING HISTORY | The West End Preservation Society is leading an effort to gain landmark status for buildings on West End Avenue, with ornate facades and structures it deems historic. The Landmarks Preservation Committee is currently exploring the proposal, which would give protection from 70th to 107th streets on the Avenue.

Local preservationists seek landmark status for West End Avenue

BY MARC KILSTEIN
Columbia Daily Spectator

The gargoyles and bay windows of buildings on West End Avenue may soon have a new kind of legal protection.

An effort was started in 2007 to declare a large portion of West End Avenue, just west of Broadway, a historic district.

Neighborhood activists say that this effort, which would preserve the basic uniform character of 70th Street to 107th Street, is now making progress. Recognition as a historic district would mean that future demolition or construction on the avenue would have to go through the city's Landmarks Preservation Commission, a

city agency that grants buildings and districts landmark status with legal authority.

Supporters say that the movement has been relatively swift, though it is unclear when the process will actually be finished.

"It could be one of the shortest turnarounds within the Commission ever—that's

a testament to its obviousness as a worthy district and its lack of opposition," said Richard Emery, co-founder and president of the West End Preservation Society, a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and protection of West End Avenue.

Currently, pockets of West End lie within two different

recognized historic districts, including the Riverside-West End Historic District, which runs from 87th to 94th streets. But in March 2009, WEPS submitted a formal request to the LPC to evaluate a larger stretch of the Avenue for historic recognition.

SEE PRESERVATION, page 2

Homelessness in city schools rises with recession

BY JESSICA HILLS
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

For a student in the New York City homeless shelter system, leaving school at 6 p.m. can mean going home to loud or messy neighbors, bed bugs, or the possibility of having to move again.

"The quality of home life is poor, even though they have four walls, a door, and a ceiling," said Amier Carmel, a social worker at Democracy Prep Charter School on West 133rd Street. "In the shelter [system], they can't count on a regular home. It might be month to month, or week to week that kids are moved."

According to the NYC Department of Homeless Services' most recently released daily report, as of Feb. 26 there were a total of 15,495 families with children in shelters across the city. Experts say that this number is growing in response to the recession.

"Data published by the city of New York clearly shows that

the economic crisis has increased homelessness among NYC single individuals and families," said economics lecturer Anna Musatti. "Starting from 2001, families with children represent a larger and fast-increasing portion of the city homeless."

Out of the 410 students at Carmel's school, he knows of six who are currently living in shelters. But he said that there could be more, since he only knows students are homeless if they tell him personally, because shelters can also be used as a permanent address for school paperwork.

"Some of our kids are real troopers," Carmel said. "They pull themselves up by their own bootstraps and ... charge ahead with work."

Democracy Prep provides students with transportation to and from school if they don't qualify for city-issued MetroCards, an escort service, outside support while their parents are busy, and in-school counseling, Carmel said.

"New York City is good in

SEE HOMELESSNESS, page 8

Shollenberger made permanent dean

BY AMBER TUNNELL
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

When he first came to New York, Kevin Shollenberger planned to stay for five years, at most. Now, he is going on his eleventh year in the city and doesn't plan on leaving anytime soon.

After acting as interim dean of student affairs and vice

president for undergraduate life for the past year-and-a-half, he will now take on the position permanently, Columbia administrators announced Monday.

Columbia College Dean Michele Moody-Adams and SEAS Dean Feniosky Peña-Mora announced Shollenberger's appointment in an email to Student Affairs staff. While

his two-year interim term isn't technically over until the summer, Shollenberger's appointment is retroactive to Jan. 1, meaning that, on record, his new role started at the beginning of the calendar year.

"Having had the opportunity of working with Kevin for the

SEE SHOLLENBERGER, page 8



KENNY JACKSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

STAYING ON | Kevin Shollenberger, the interim dean of student affairs and vice president for undergraduate life for the past year-and-a-half, will continue as the permanent dean with the same title.

Students push for gender-neutral

Groups petition after housing policy delay

BY KIM KIRSCHENBAUM
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

While students have yet to receive their housing lottery numbers, some say their fate has already been sealed for next year.

Two weeks ago, the administration announced that gender-neutral housing—which would allow for mixed-gender doubles—will not be available for the upcoming school year.

The proposal came from several LGBT student groups and council representatives, who presented it to the administration in the fall. Administrators recently announced that, because they needed more time to make the decision, Columbia will not be instituting any new gender-neutral housing policies for the 2010-2011 academic year. Dean of Student Affairs Kevin Shollenberger said that the administration is seriously considering a pilot program for 2011-2012.

Two weeks after the decision—which came as a surprise to many groups—a host of organizations and council representatives are mobilizing further efforts in an attempt to ensure that next year's housing selection will include some form of gender-neutral housing.

"I don't think the decision was a rejection of the policy itself, so much as it was a need for buffering up what we already have," Sarah Weiss, policy vice president for Columbia College Student Council, said, while acknowledging the distress and frustration many students are feeling. "We're optimistic that progress will be made, and while we're working on a new timeline, we're definitely working towards the same goal."

Weiss, alongside representatives from GendeRevolution, Everyone Allied Against Homophobia, and the Columbia Queer Alliance, is now in discussion with the administration about assembling a task force of students, administrators, and faculty, which will be geared toward clarifying and adding stipulations to the housing proposal in response to any administrative concerns.

"The purpose of this task force is to bring everyone together, instead of holding a million different meetings and having everyone work separately," Miranda Elliot, CC '10 and president of GendeRevolution, said.

The student coalition also created an online petition several days ago that is open to all undergraduate students, which is intended to garner campus-wide support for gender-neutral housing. As of Monday, the petition had 850 signatures.

Avi Edelman, president of Everyone Allied Against Homophobia, said that the administration told them the policy delay was partly because they had not seen enough student support. "The idea of the petition is to show the administration that this is an issue that a lot of people on

SEE GENDER, page 8

INSIDE

A&E, page 3

Moody-Adams brings Columbia to the movies

Columbia College Dean Michelle Moody-Adams hosted a dinner, discussion, and screening of "Man on Wire" at Lerner Hall on Monday night. The movie marks the first in a series of film events the dean hopes to host.



Sports, page 9

Lions show teeth at Heptagonal Invationals

Columbia received first-place points from Sharay Haley and Kyle Merber, among others. Haley recorded the fastest time in Ivy history in dominating the 200m event, while Merber continued to dominate the mile.

Opinion, page 4

Let it snow

Neil FitzPatrick finds New York's hidden treasure under 20 inches of snow.

Move over, Oscar-fans

Pulitzer Prizes acknowledge the journalists that might otherwise go unseen.

Today's Events

Health Care Reform in the U.S.

Experts debate: where to from here? Presidential room, Faculty House, 5:30 p.m.

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The Earth Institute Practicum discusses research innovations. 102 Jerome Greene Hall, 4:20 p.m.

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NEW DEVELOPMENTS | The West End Preservation Society hopes to gain landmark status for the neighborhood, halting developments like Extell, left, and demolitions of historic properties like 96th Street, right.

Preservationists, local politicians seek landmark designation for West End

PRESERVATION from front page

Lisi de Bourbon, an LPC spokesperson, said that the proposal is currently under review, though there is no specific timeline for its approval. Emery expressed confidence in the proposal's progress through the LPC process. "I think the proposal is on track," he said. "The LPC has been very responsive."

Modern threats

In order to develop a case for designation as a historic district, associate professor Andrew Dolkart, the director of the historic preservation program at Columbia's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation, conducted a detailed study of West End's history and architecture.

In the 260-page study, Dolkart, who was commissioned by WEPS to lead the study, concluded, "The buildings along this street are architecturally significant as major examples of upper-middle-class apartment houses, designed by some of the most important architects ...

during the early decades of the twentieth century." He added, "The Avenue is also historically significant, illustrating a unique development pattern that turned a prosperous row-house street into an apartment boulevard in an extraordinarily rapid time frame."

But West End's architecture has not been invulnerable to change. The Avenue saw four brownstones demolished in recent years, including two between 95th and 96th streets.

In 2008, Extell Development Company announced plans for a 20-story residential building on the corner of 86th Street and West End, which is now open. While Extell promoted the structure as having "pre-war elegance," some local residents haven't been shy about expressing their distaste for its out-of-context modern style.

"It's a monstrosity," said David Clark, a resident of 925 West End, of the building on 86th Street.

Maggie Lamee, who lives at 100th Street and West End, said of the new building, "There was a lot of talk when that went up."

Erika Petersen, vice-president of WEPS, added, "It's

ridiculous to call it 'pre-war.' All of us in the community are asking, 'Which war? Iraq?'"

Preserving with limits

Because the LPC's focus is on preservation, having to go through the commission can deter developers from submitting projects in the area. Critics of the push for more historic preservation districts across Manhattan argue that the city should not restrict change and new development.

But WEPS members emphasize that the historical designation would not halt development entirely.

"It wouldn't prevent overall development, but it would certainly prevent its excessiveness," Petersen said, adding that the construction and development process would become much more detailed for developers.

Rosemary McGinn, who lives on Riverside Drive, recognized the desire for some change, but agreed that it must be limited.

"We're not saying everything in this city has to be frozen in time," she said.

In its quest for a historical

designation, WEPS has also garnered support from several local politicians who support preservation efforts that keep development in check.

New York State Assembly member Daniel O'Donnell advocates for building preservation throughout Morningside Heights and has called West End Avenue "one of the premier residential boulevards in New York City."

"Preservation promotes neighborhood stability, protects the investments of owners and residents, encourages greater public appeal of new buildings, and boosts tourism," O'Donnell said in an email.

Residents and preservationists also debate the economic impact of landmark recognition, which often drives up property values.

"Economically, the historic district makes a lot of sense," Emery said.

But that idea struck the wrong chord with resident Clark, who said it is difficult enough for new renters to enter the neighborhood.

"My big objection is, if you make West End historical, it gives an opportunity to landlords to raise the prices. In that case, I am

totally against it," he said.

Roadblocks

Though WEPS members say the effort is moving along efficiently, the process has not been without obstacles.

New York City Council member Gale Brewer, who has been very active in preserving West End, said she hopes the LPC begins hearings within five months. These hearings mark the first official step of the process.

O'Donnell said he was frustrated with the lack of action. "The Landmarks Preservation Commission continues to ignore the needs of this community. The Commission's inaction is inexcusable and it must immediately calendar hearings on both the West End Avenue and Morningside historic district proposals," he said in an email.

De Bourbon, from the LPC said, "I know that the organization that submitted the proposal did so a while ago, so nonetheless we're still looking at it and it's under consideration." She added that the district must be studied and that it is not always easy to gather information on specific buildings.

Activists also haven't always agreed on the boundaries of the proposal.

On Feb. 3, Brewer wrote a letter to LPC Chair Robert Tierney, urging the authors of the West End proposal to include several additional buildings along 86th Street.

This initiative, involving more buildings between West End and Broadway, has garnered support from some community members, but has caused concern for others.

Emery said the inclusion of side streets in the district could delay the process.

"These types of efforts often become sidetracked and fail because they get distracted from keeping their eye on the goal," he said.

But Assembly member Linda Rosenthal said in a statement, "As long as it does not imperil or delay the entire designation proposal, I support the inclusion of the side streets."

Ultimately, residents agreed that any protection the neighborhood obtains is important.

Pointing to his own building, with an elaborate stone facade, Clark said, "What are you going to do, replace this with something that looks better?"

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Moody-Adams hosts movie night

BY ALI KRIMMER
Spectator Staff Writer

On Monday night, Columbia College Dean Michele Moody-Adams hosted students to dinner and a movie in Boone Arledge Cinema in Lerner Hall—complete with pizza, a screening of the 2008 award-winning documentary “Man on Wire,” and a culminating discussion.

Moody-Adams came to Columbia with the plan of hosting dinner and a movie once a semester. “I think film is a good narrative that supplements written narrative and is important to our culture,” Moody-Adams said. “This event is a nice way of opening up a conversation with students about different subjects other than the movie sometimes.”

The film—co-produced by Columbia School of the Arts alumna Maureen Ryan—details the steps it took for tightrope walker Philippe Petit to dance across a wire strung between the Twin Towers in 1974. Told through interviews of Petit and his accomplices, the intensity of the planning and breaking into the World Trade Center is revealed, as is the awe-inspiring act of the 45-minute walk itself.

“It [“Man on Wire”] is a detective story. There is

incredible suspense, but also incredible devotion,” Moody-Adams said.

The follow-up discussion touched on that devotion, questioning whether selfishness plays a role in art, and if this high-wire act should even be considered art. One participant referred to the Contemporary Civilization curriculum and all the authors’ “name-dropping” as an example of selfishness being part of what great art is all about.

“I could not imagine putting one foot out there and doing that,” Moody-Adams said of tightrope walking. “They [tightrope-walkers] are so singular. Maybe that kind of greatness sets you apart. There is something extraordinary about someone who can take those risks.”

Also brought up was the role of immortality, and the consideration that viewers may feel so drawn into the documentary because of Petit’s ability to literally walk the line between life and death. One student commented that “life would be more interesting and full if people did what they were supposed to do for themselves and not society,” like Petit did.

The film’s lack of mention of the towers’ destruction on Sept. 11, 2001, played a role in the conversation as well. Many students agreed that including footage or commentary about



ALI KRIMMER FOR SPECTATOR

MOODY’S MOVIES | CC Dean Michelle Moody-Adams hosted her first dinner and a movie night for students with a showing of “Man on Wire,” which was co-produced by SoA alum Maureen Ryan, at Lerner Hall. Following the movie, she hosted a discussion of the film.

the destruction would have either overpowered the message of “Man on Wire,” or put the focus too much on the World Trade Center’s fall, instead of the greatness of the building itself and the amazing act that

occurred there.

Josh Malin, CC ’12, enjoyed engaging with the administration and the arts. “This is my first time going to a Columbia Dean-run event and I wasn’t sure what to expect,” he said.

“But the movie has pieces that tied together philosophies and things that I think Columbia’s about. All we’re thinking about is immortality and death and art and it’s nice to have an event and be able to parse these

things out.”

Similarly, Kyla Cheung, CC ’13 said, “I think Dean Moody-Adams makes a great effort to make herself accessible. This was a uniquely Moody event that did just that.”

Student Advocates for the Arts takes on the NYS legislature to lobby for cause



FRANCES CORY FOR SPECTATOR

HAWKS AND DOVES | Students Advocates for the Arts joined other activists like animal rights groups to lobby for change in Albany.

BY FRANCES CORY
Columbia Daily Spectator

With the state budget under discussion, the New York state government is in a trying situation. Often, the arts are lost in this bureaucratic fiscal shuffle.

On Feb. 24, the Student Advocates for the Arts of Teachers College aimed to ameliorate this situation, by promoting their cause to New York state legislators in Albany.

Joining other groups for an event titled Arts Day 2010, SAA advocated Assembly Bill 8938 and Senate Bill 5878. These bills aim to establish a mechanism to monitor the compliance of New York state school districts to an already established law that dictates mandatory arts education programs.

Speakers testified before state Sen. Jose Serrano and Assembly

member Stephen Englebright. Individuals from various organizations presented the merits of their subsection within the arts or tourism, from “Living Museums,” including zoos and botanical gardens, to “Arts Education,” which SAA represented.

Jonathan Lewis, a second-year arts administration MA student at Teachers College and president of the SAA, had the unanticipated opportunity of testifying in front of Serrano and Englebright. Because of the snowstorm and Amtrak train cancellations, Richard Kessler, president of the Center for Arts Education—which the SAA initially came to support—was unable to attend and called on Lewis to testify in his absence.

“I just want to say that after all the effort of the past 20 or so years there are still many, many children who are being shortchanged the

education they are entitled to by New York state law,” Lewis said in his testimonial. “The missing piece of the puzzle has been legislation to bolster and animate what New York state law already provides for.”

Serrano, who will be presenting the bill to the Senate, agreed with Lewis’ support for this legislation. “I think this is going to really help drive the point home what a woeful job the state is doing as a part of compliance with arts education,” he said.

Despite the SAA’s advocacy for specific legislation, the representatives of most other groups focused on the cultural and economic impact of their different causes, particularly on the need to maintain funding for their groups. Dawn Reddy-Dugan, chief of staff for assembly member John McEneny, explained the financial conundrum the state finds itself in, a problem that deeply affects arts groups who often need government support to survive.

“To be honest with you, there just isn’t enough money to go around,” Reddy-Dugan said. “Cuts are going to have to be made. But where can they cut where the least amount of people will be affected? That’s what we’re trying to figure out.”

In the same fiscal mindset, the arts were focused on as a revitalizing tool for communities and local economies. Advocates and political workers alike turned to the monetary facts to support funding the arts and establish pro-art legislation. “Anything tourism- and arts-related, he’s [Assembly member McEneny] always been very supportive of, because he does find that that does actually bring in money dollar for dollar to the state,” Reddy-Dugan said.

Columbia’s Writers House attempts to revise undergraduate literary community

BY NICOLLETTE BARSAMIAN
Spectator Staff Writer

While most Columbians are struggling with housing decisions for next year, the members of Writers House have their community already set.

As an on-campus special interest community, Writers House—previously called 114 Rue de Fleurus—gives residents the opportunity to participate in weekly writing workshops, attend readings with established writers, and host other literary events.

Writers House, which is currently located on the second floor of Wien Hall, was co-founded by Kassandra Lee, CC ’12, and Erica Weaver, CC ’12. After attending the Ugly Fish Salon for poetry readings on Thursdays, Lee and Weaver decided to create their own literary housing community.

“Although Columbia boasts an excellent creative writing department, workshop space is limited, and it is impossible to get your work critiqued every week due to size restrictions,” Weaver said.

Weekly writing workshops are a major component of living in Writers House. Residents submit writing pieces to form a packet for others in order to critique each others’ work, and it is not uncommon for the workshops to last up to three hours. “We also host open workshops every other Thursday, when we encourage members of the Columbia community to join us,” Weaver said. Around three

to four non-members come to each of these workshops.

“Our events are largely dictated by member interests. If a house member has a professor or author’s work he is particularly interested in, then we will contact that person and invite them to do a reading,” Weaver said.

This semester, Writers House is planning events with Columbia alumni Paul Auster and Ron Padgett. Bob Holman, founder of the Bowery Poetry Club, has also been invited to speak.

“Workshop space is limited, and it is impossible to get your work critiqued every week due to size restrictions.”

Writers House also hosts literary events for both residents and the Columbia community. Recent events open to the Columbia community include readings and Q-and-A’s with both novelist and SoA professor Ed Park and head of the graduate writing program Binnie Kirshenbaum. Residents participated in a literary criticism night with Lionel Trilling professor in the humanities Edward Mendelson

as well as an intimate dinner with Pulitzer-prize winning poet Mark Strand.

The most recent literary event featuring a writer was Kirshenbaum’s Q-and-A session, held on Nov. 23. “I had just read her latest book, ‘The Scenic Route,’ and I loved it. The book cannot be described or reduced just to plot,” Yin Yin Lu, CC ’12 and former Spectator books editor, said. Participants in the discussion received a free copy of the book beforehand, which allowed them to prepare questions. “This led to an intense discussion of the book,” said Lu.

“I was bowled over by the enthusiasm, the energy, the communication, and organizational efforts of the Writers House students.... But what impressed me most was the insightful reading, the sophisticated grasp of the book’s interplay of content and form, and the profundity of the questions asked,” Kirshenbaum said of the event.

In the fall semester, Writers House will be relocated to the second floor of Harmony Hall. “We believe that our increased membership as well as our new suite space will allow us to host better workshops and a wider range of events,” Weaver said. “We also hope to take advantage of our suite kitchen to host many more author dinners next year.”

When asked what she likes best about Writers House, Lu said, “The environment itself. You are surrounded by people as mentally insane as you.”

Seeking ‘Justice’ in forgotten moments of tense American race relations

BY DANIEL VALELLA
Columbia Daily Spectator



Bad documentaries have had their fair share of grade school screenings. Trying their absolute best not to fall asleep, students

have suffered through educational videos on potential city bombings, human genetics, and teenage sexuality. Finally, it seems, something powerful has come to the scene.

A brand-new historical film airing on PBS, “Scarred Justice: The Orangeburg Massacre 1968,” releases so much energy in its 59 minutes that its viewers will likely remember the line “No justice, no peace!” for the rest of their lives.

The documentary revisits one of the bloodiest, albeit least known, episodes of the Civil Rights era. More than a few Americans remember—or, at least, have heard of—the killing of four white students at Kent State University in 1970. But almost no one knows about the three black students killed at South Carolina State College in Orangeburg two years earlier.

“Scarred Justice” makes sure to teach its viewers as much as possible about the horrific crime. At the same time, the film explains how and why general knowledge of the incident has been so limited. In such a way, it is eerily reminiscent of the Chinese treatment of Tiananmen Square, a brutal event that few Chinese families discuss today. The film makes the United States’ apparent unwillingness to acknowledge its

embarrassing racial past seem sickening. In addition, the film questions how Americans, as a people, can reconcile their discriminatory past with their discriminatory present.

Though Orangeburg was home to two historically black colleges and the majority of its population was African-American in 1968, its power rested solely in the hands of its white residents and politicians. The civil unrest caused by such a power dynamic escalated into full-blown chaos when, on Feb. 8, a black Vietnam War veteran was denied access to a bowling alley—one of the few town establishments still segregated.

When a crowd of more than 300 from South Carolina State College and Claflin University came to protest, the police rushed onto the scene and violence ensued. Officers beat

two female students, shotgun fire from a fire truck left 28 students with multiple buckshot wounds, and three others were killed. Members of both the student body and the police force recount their experiences through interviews in the film.

Most histories of the civil rights movement have ignored the Orangeburg Massacre of 1968, yet many of those interviewed in the documentary remember the tragedy as if it happened moments ago. “Scarred Justice” brings this important segment of American history back to the table. To leave the Orangeburg Massacre out of history would be a crime as large as the tragic incident itself.

If “Scarred Justice” was to be shown in classrooms around the country, it probably would



COURTESY OF BILL BARLEY PHOTOGRAPHY

CIVIL RIGHTS AND FIGHTS | The new documentary “Scarred Justice” on PBS remembers the forgotten Orangeburg Massacre of 1968.

not be taken lightly. In fact, the film feels like a step in a new direction—that decade-defining

movement of countercultural youth protest might just be on the rise again.



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Why the Pulitzer Prizes still matter

BY ROY J. HARRIS JR.

For a student of journalism or U.S. history—or for someone who’s just concerned about America’s future—this is a meaningful week on the Columbia University campus.

Not that many people are aware of anything particularly remarkable going on in the journalism building—indeed, the activity there is part of a 93-year-old ritual steeped in secrecy: the selection of the winners of the Pulitzer Prizes in journalism.

This is the week in which scores of editors, reporters, and academics from around the county convene as jurors, going through more than 1,000 entries in pursuit of finalists in 14 categories. A distinguished 19-member Pulitzer Prize Board then takes over, which leads to an announcement in the building’s historic “World Room” on April 12—setting off celebrations in newsrooms coast-to-coast.

A quaint, old-fashioned process, you may think, in this day of information flashing onto cell phone and computer screens, and much of that material then being reprocessed by cacophonous commentators and bloviating bloggers. And you’d be partly correct. Newspapers have remained at the center of the Pulitzer process since 1917, when the

first awards were presented at Columbia under terms outlined in the will of press pioneer Joseph Pulitzer. With papers in precipitous decline in this new century, fewer journalists with the potential to break big stories are found in the media.

But much of the news that makes a difference in our lives—and stirs up those commentators—still originates with newspapers or online outlets, which may also enter the Pulitzer competition as long as they aren’t part of a magazine or broadcast organization. And the Pulitzer Prizes mark the very best of that work. Nationally, it was a Boston Globe team that revealed the extent of the sexual abuse of youngsters by Catholic priests, sparking the Church to end its cover-up, for example. And Washington Post reporters Dana Priest and Anne Hull told us about the need to improve shockingly bad conditions at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. In 2003, the Globe won the coveted Pulitzer Prize for Public Service for its work, and the change it wrought, while the Post was honored with the same Prize in 2008. Locally, reporters covering the beat at city halls, police stations, and

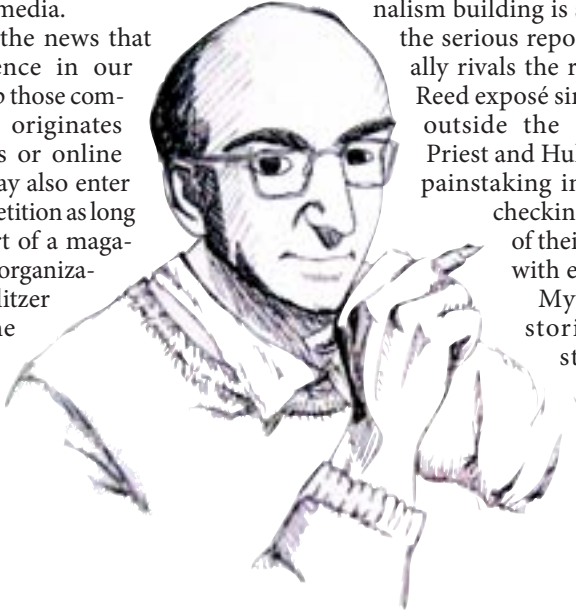


ILLUSTRATION BY ELIZABETH SIMINS

court houses keep digging up great scoops—and their work, too, is being considered by the Pulitzer jurors this week.

In that sense, the Pulitzer Prize selection process going on so quietly in the journalism building is symbolic. Most of the serious reporting that eventually rivals the results of a Walter Reed exposé similarly takes place outside the spotlight, where Priest and Hull spent months in painstaking interviewing, fact-checking, and preparation of their powerful articles with editors.

My desire to tell stories behind the stories—of more recent projects like the Washington Post’s and Boston Globe’s, as well as some dating to the earliest days of the Pulitzer—led me to write “Pulitzer’s Gold: Behind the Prize for Public Service Journalism,” a book that’s just out in an updated paperback edition. In more than 30 years as a reporter with the Wall Street Journal and the Economist Group, I had learned that very little was understood about how reporters got these “stories of a lifetime.” Interviewing the reporters and their editors gave me a good sense of that, which came together

As you read this, hundreds of mice feast in McBain



MARK HAY

Unusual, Unseemly, or Unnoticed

I mention this because each time I recall the exhibit or happen to travel on the 7, I remember the life teeming along that line. The tenacity of wildlife in this city never ceases to amaze me. For God’s sake, Queens has urban chickens. Trite though it may be, I sometimes stop while strolling the campus at night, to catch the faint twitch of life in the bushes. But it is only sometimes that I stop to wax poetically over the success of life springing from the concrete. And there is more than occasional life—less than beautiful life—lurking on campus. Although, from the way the University treats it, you would never know.

Unfortunately, some of the sturdiest creatures in an urban environment happen to be some of the most disgusting. These critters—mice, rats, cockroaches, pigeons, bedbugs—also happen to have the easiest access to our dorm rooms. Proud as I may be of the ability of a mouse to sneak into my building, I am never glad to find one scurrying over my foot in the middle of the night in McBain. To a certain extent, one must accept such things when living in New York, but, disturbed as I have been of late by recurrent outbreaks of mice and other critters in McBain, I have gotten to thinking about vermin at Columbia. As a result, I have come to the following conclusion: through some odd strain of luck, Columbia has become an ideal breeding ground for critters.

Inaccessible balconies and recessed or barred-off windows provide the perfect places for pigeons to build nests, often small enough to avoid detection until the birth of the young ones. This in turn, I believe, makes isolated and arboreal Columbia a favorite buffet for local falcons. With great regularity, the raptors catch smaller critters and tear them to shreds, leaving nice bits of entrails among the discarded cans of sugar water and bits of John Jay food along College Walk and other footpaths. “Good” food in ample supply brings out the rats and mice, who make a comfortable home for themselves in bushes and the tiny cracks of aging buildings spread across campus (and there is always a building in serious need of repair). It doesn’t take much for them to become permanent dorm residents—a hole the size of a quarter is enough space for a one-pound rat to squeeze through and set up shop. And not many will argue that many dorm rooms provide the perfect cramped, dirty spaces, littered with crumbs and dirty dishes, for vermin to live happily.

Once the critters are lodged in here, we have great trouble getting rid of them. Checking through old stories and lore, I have learned that the mouse infestation of McBain has been a fairly persistent problem for almost a decade now. Previous tactics for catching such pests have centered on bait and traps, but this has proven so ineffective that the University has adopted new policies, focusing on preventative measures like quick repairs to block up breeding grounds and dorm openings. For now, the mousy horde persists in McBain and elsewhere—and that’s not even to speak of the bedbugs.

The bedbug threat at Columbia is prodigious if not above the normal rate. Considering one recorded and one anecdotal story, it seems that Columbia has often avoided direct confrontation with bedbugs, favoring prolonged detection—as extermination requires the removal of all materials from a student’s room, temporary relocation for residents, and a substantial amount of time, energy, and money. By the time exterminators arrive, bedbugs have often already had the time to travel via carpets, furniture, clothes, or any of many

Dorm rooms provide the perfect cramped, dirty spaces for vermin to live happily.

other mediums, to rooms up and down the hallway. And, as the University has repeatedly denied hallway fumigation in the past, the pest problem persists. By way of personal anecdote, a friend grew so frustrated with the process last year that she gave up, and just began sleeping with socks on her hands to avoid bites.

So, we find ourselves in a vital breeding ground for local creepy crawlies. In part it is due to geographic destiny, in part to our own mess and ignorance, but in part to the University’s failure to respond quickly and decisively or to assist in educating students about pest control. I recognize that large changes like total building overhauls or fumigations are too horrid a logistical nightmare to fathom. I also recognize, however, that students often go far too long before recognizing that their itch is a bug bite, or that the movement in the corner of their eye a mouse. Friends and administrators, one cannot imagine the ingenuity, but also the chaos and ineptitude, when unfamiliar and undeserving victims try to take a rodent problem into their own hands. It would work wonders, I believe, if orientation could just include a short lesson on preventing and handling infestations. But I also know that no college wants “Pest Control 101” on record. Perhaps for now, it is best just to learn to cohabit with these critters.

I have named my mouse Mortimer.

Mark Hay is a Columbia College sophomore. Unusual, Unseemly, or Unnoticed runs alternate Tuesdays.

City comes together to weather the storm



NEIL FITZPATRICK

Excuses and Half-truths

In the wake of a record-setting February for inches of snowfall in New York City, I thought it might be appropriate to dedicate 700 words to everybody’s favorite form of precipitation. My editor is always quick to remind me that this column is supposed to have some sort of Columbia relevance, and I was worried that the topic might not pass the test. But, after a conversation consisting of verbal abuse (I kid, she’s a lovely person), and a brisk reminder that the weather has everybody-relevance (duh), I came to the conclusion that I had the green light.

Allow me to start by saying that I have a newfound love for snow. After a year and a half of living in the city, I think I can firmly place nature’s window dressing on my list of “good” things (I recently came to similar conclusions about hockey and Owen Wilson, but I’ll leave those for other articles).

It’s worth noting that I’ve gone back and forth on the subject during my 20 years on this earth. I was born in the city, but moved to California when I was one, and spent the next nine years in the warm climates of the West Coast and Southeast. For those early years, “snow” was this weird phenomenon of nature, which I got to experience only on our holiday trips to see family back in New York. I loved the substance, but it was the shallow kind of love you feel for that family friend who visits once a year to bring you presents.

When I finally moved back to the Northeast in third grade, my relationship with snow became more complex. On the one hand, snow could cancel school—which is just about the greatest thing a precipitous substance can do for you. On the other hand, my soft, warm-weather upbringing left me less eager than my peers to spend those six free hours finding increasingly larger hills down which I could fling myself. I was that kid lobbying for the hot chocolate and cartoons option.

As I spent more time up here, I came to appreciate the finer points of throwing snowballs at cars and playing tackle football in eight layers of fleece, but my formerly lukewarm affection for sledding became a lukewarm affection for winter sports. I can

in a book designed for journalism students in particular, and news junkies and American history buffs in general.

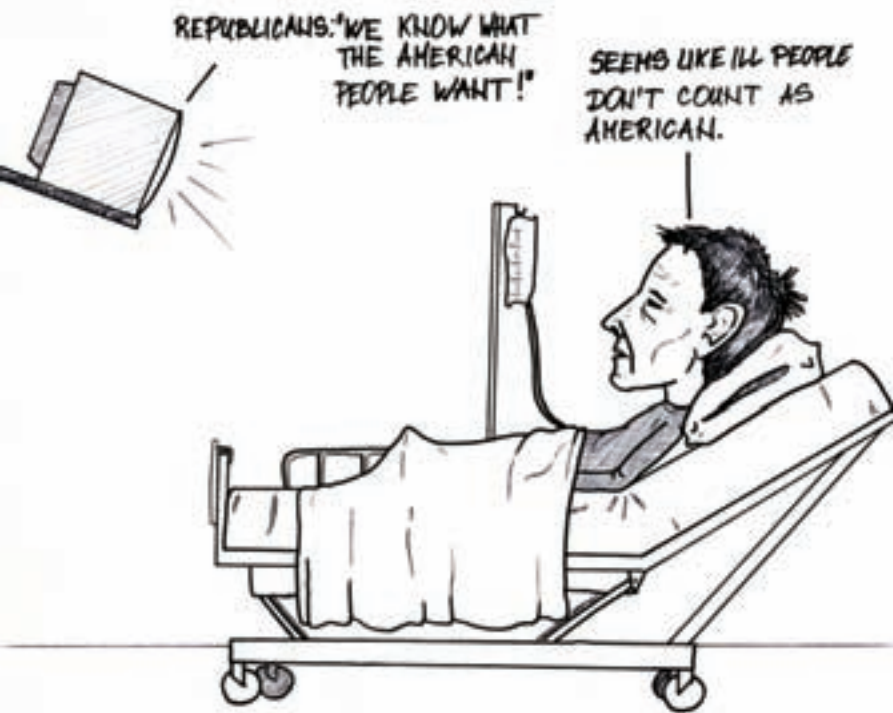
Researching the older Pulitzer winners and background on the Pulitzer Prize process, I became a denizen of the Columbia library system, digging through the microfilms and rare manuscripts that helped me capture the drama. It was a historian’s dream. There, the front pages of the old Boston Post taught me about Charles Ponzi’s fraudulent scheme, the discovery of which won the Pulitzer for that paper in 1921. Simply holding the blue-bound book containing the Washington Post’s Watergate entry from 1973 was a special thrill, topped only by having Bob Woodward and Ben Bradlee later share their experiences with me personally.

This week, I’m back on campus, talking to journalism classes about lessons to be learned from these experiences in Pulitzer-winning. In the 93 years of Pulitzer history, there is much of value for today’s reporters, editors, and, yes, bloggers—lessons about tenacity, skepticism, thoroughness, and the motivation to serve the public. And lessons, perhaps, about what our society loses as fewer journalists, from fewer news organizations, dig into stories with the skill of a Dana Priest and an Anne Hull.

Meanwhile, up in the journalism building, future lessons are taking shape, as the jurors meet behind closed doors. We’ll know about those on April 12.

The author is a journalist and author living in Hingham, Mass.

THE ANGRY PEN



THE HEALTH CARE MEETING

COMIC BY IGOR SIMIC

Spectator Opinion accepts submissions from diverse areas of interest. Submissions should be between 700 and 900 words and express an opinion that does not perpetuate stereotypes or unfairly label groups or individuals. All writers meet with an associate editor to edit their submission before publication. Submissions may be sent to opinion@columbiaspectator.com.

For more information, come to our meeting Sundays at 2:30 p.m. in the Spectator office on the corner of 112th Street and Broadway.

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© Puzzles by Pappocom

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The Columbia Daily Spectator welcomes opinion submissions and letters to the editor from readers. Submissions and letters must include the author's name, telephone number, and Columbia affiliation; if any Readers may submit submissions and letters electronically, by e-mailing specopinion@columbia.edu, or by sending hard copies to 2875 Broadway New York, NY 10025.

Opinion submissions may not be less than 600 words and may not exceed 800 words; letters may not exceed 300 words and may not be signed by more than four persons. All submissions and letters may be edited for length and content.

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

ACROSS

1 Palindromic title
6 Ashen
10 Interrupter of a bad act, on an old game show
14 Word after horse or soap
15 Elvis ___ Presley
16 Mayberry kid
17 Government declaration of its intentions
20 Prefix with gram
21 Modest shelters
22 Madison Square Garden et al.
23 Variety of fly
24 1998 animated bug movie
25 Vietnam War defoliant
29 Speed Wagon maker
32 Velma's rival in "Chicago"
33 Chat room chuckle
34 Detained at the precinct
35 Electrical network
36 Pigs and hogs
38 Encher's need
39 Liar at
40 Scople's partner
41 Emulate Cicero
42 Betty Ford, ___
43 Gold Rush villain
46 Jockey's tool
47 Hearing requirements
48 Displaying buoyancy
51 Periodic table no.
52 Protrude, with "out"
55 High-octane fuel
58 Having all one's marbles
59 Rotary phone feature
60 1998 film farce
61 School on the Thames
62 Bobbles the ball
63 Taboos

DOWN

1 Sulk
2 Each
3 Supermarket section
4 "Entourage" agent Gold
5 Bushwhacker's tool
6 Congregation leader
7 Humanities
8 Mauna ___
9 Involve, as in a sticky situation
10 Morlica's mate
11 Bid one club, say
12 "Project Runway" judge Garcia
13 Understands
18 '80s-'90s Serbian auto import
19 One-named Deco designer
23 Insinuating
24 Soon, to the bard
25 Fluorescent bulb gas
26 Stuff (oneself) with food
27 "The Man Without a Country" hero, for one
28 Suspect's excuse
29 Sports show summary

30 Upper echelon
31 More strange
34 Injures
36 Isolation
37 Sandwich in a tortilla
41 Thornton Wilder classic
43 Spiced Indian beverage
44 Gold and silver
45 Shark flick
46 Part of NOW
48 Church recess
49 Toga party setting
50 Jay seen at night
51 Culture medium
52 Arabian folklore spirit
53 Reverse
54 43-Down et al.
56 Space station for about 15 years
57 Ventiane native

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ORAL	CROCS	PRE
VETO	BEGOT	DEED
AVON	SELMA	ERNE
LUNGS	KEEN	AERON
SEESAW	DOZED	
TGIF	NAMIBIA	
TITO	SLED	SNARL
USSR	PYROS	TRAP
SLAYS	BAWL	HENS
HERSHEY	NOSE	
HENNA	THWACK	
FIDO	GILD	HAGUE
AVER	AGLOW	TAPE
LENT	GHANA	EVIL
LST	ETHER	REDS

xwordeditor@aol.com 03/02/10

By Dennis S. Lewis
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It's happening at Columbia in March

Monday, March 1

Café Arts: What Do You Do With Music?

6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
PicNic Market & Café
2665 Broadway at 102nd Street

Discussion with Brad Garton, composer, professor of music and director of Columbia University's Computer Music Center. \$10 per person. Limited seating. For more info, call (212) 222-8222 or email cafearts@columbia.edu.

Tuesday, March 2

The Role of Nuclear Weapons in the 21st Century—China, Russia and the United States

5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
1501 International Affairs, Morningside campus

The Weatherhead East Asian Institute and the Harriman Institute present the Hugh Borton and Philip E. Mosely Distinguished Lecture on Eurasia, with Morton H. Halperin, senior advisor, Open Society Institute. For more info, call Caroline Hasegawa at (212) 854-6916 or email cb2469@columbia.edu.

Wednesday, March 3

Lecture: The Protest Psychosis: How Schizophrenia Became a Black Disease

4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
754 Schermerhorn Extension, Morningside campus

Jonathan M. Metz, associate professor of psychiatry and women's studies, University of Michigan, explores the interactions between psychiatry, gender and culture. For more info, contact the Institute for Research on Women and Gender at irwg@columbia.edu or (212) 854-3277.

This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War

6:00 p.m.
Faculty Room, Low Library

Drew Galpin Faust, president of Harvard University, will discuss her award-winning book *This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War*. Registration required. To register, send an email to lehmancenter@columbia.edu.

Thursday, March 4

How Does Music Free Us? Afro-Asian Revolutionary Concepts in New Music

7:30 p.m.
301 Philosophy, Morningside campus

Forum with composer and author Fred Ho. For more info, call (212) 851-1633 or email ym189@columbia.edu.

Lecture: The Ivory Tower: A History of an Idea About Knowledge and Politics

6:15 p.m.
Second Floor Common Room, East Campus, Morningside campus

Speakers: Steven Shapin, Harvard University, and Craig Calhoun, director, Social Science Research Council. No tickets or reservations required. For more info call, (212) 854-8443 or email heymancenter@columbia.edu.

Friday, March 5

Women's Basketball vs. Yale

7:00 p.m.
Levien Gymnasium, Morningside campus

Tickets start at \$8. For more info, call (888) Lions-11 or visit www.gocolumbiaions.com.

Open Mic: Read-In/Speak-Out on Haiti

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
East Gallery, Maison Française (Buell Hall), Morningside campus

Speak out about the earthquake and recovery, or read a work of Haitian literature or a work on Haitian history or culture. English, French or Kreyol. To sign up, email Huewayne at haw2122@columbia.edu. Voluntary contributions will benefit the There is Hope Coalition at Columbia University and Partners in Health.

Composer Portraits: Sebastian Currier

8:00 p.m.
Miller Theatre, Morningside campus

The performance includes the world premiere of a Miller Theatre commission, along with an encore performance of a 2006 Miller commission played by pianist Christopher Taylor. Tickets \$7–\$25. For more info, call (212) 854-7799 or visit www.millertheatre.com/events.

Monday, March 8

Café Science: The Conqueror Worm: What Model Organism Genetics Tells Us About Life

6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
PicNic Market & Café, 2665 Broadway at 102nd Street

Speaker: Nobel laureate and Columbia professor of biological sciences Martin Chalfie. \$10 per person. Limited seating. For more info, call Stephanie Allred at (212) 851-7809 or email sa2695@columbia.edu.

Tuesday, March 9

Prayer as Politics: American Muslim Women, Religious Leadership, and Media Representations

4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
801 International Affairs, Morningside campus

A discussion with Juliane Hammer, assistant professor of Islamic studies, George Mason University and author of *Palestinians Born in Exile: Diaspora and the Search for a Homeland*. For more info, call (212) 851-0781 or email info@ircpl.org.

Wednesday, March 10

The Grand Tour Orchestra

8:00 p.m.
Italian Academy, 1161 Amsterdam Ave.

Columbia's Italian Academy for Advanced Studies presents the Grand Tour Orchestra. Free reserved seating. To reserve seats, email rw2115@columbia.edu. For more info, contact Rick Whitaker at (212) 854-1623 or rickawhitaker@gmail.com.

Thursday, March 11

Artist Talk: Aki Sasamoto

6:30 p.m.
Dodge Hall, Morningside campus

Sasamoto, the 2010 Whitney Biennial Artist, will discuss recent work. Limited seating. For more info, call (212) 854-4065 or email arts@columbia.edu.

Lecture: Architecture Inside-Out Series: Carbon Democracy

6:30 p.m.
114 Avery, Morningside campus

Speaker: Timothy Mitchell, professor, Department of Middle East and Asian Languages and Cultures, Columbia University. For more info, call Benjamin Prosky at (212) 854-9248 or email gsappevents@columbia.edu.

Saturday, March 20

26th Annual Harmony Sweepstakes A Cappella Festival

7:00 p.m.
Miller Theatre, Morningside campus

The Harmony Sweepstakes has been delighting audiences for more than a quarter century and continues to grow in popularity. Tickets \$19–\$25. For more info, call Colette Thompson at (718) 222-3339, or visit www.millertheatre.com/events or www.harmonysweepstakes.com/newyork.

Monday, March 22

Café Social Science: Shaded By Fear: A New Look at the New Deal

6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
PicNic Market & Café, 2665 Broadway at 102nd Street

Discussion with Columbia professor of political science and history Ira Katznelson. \$10 per person. Limited seating. For more info, call (212) 222-8222 or e-mail cafesocialscience@columbia.edu.

Tuesday, March 23

History Never Dies: Northeast Asia's Troubled Present

Noon to 1:30 p.m.
918 International Affairs, Morningside campus

Speaker: Alexis Dudden, associate professor, Department of History, and director, Foundations of Humanitarianism Program, University of Connecticut. For more info, contact Caroline Hasegawa at cb2469@columbia.edu or (212) 854-6916.

Getting to Columbia

The Morningside Heights campus is located at 116th Street and Broadway. By subway: No. 1 train to 116th Street station. By bus: M4, M11, M60 or M104.

Thursday, March 25

State of the Planet 2010: Meeting the Challenges of Climate, Poverty and Economic Recovery

All-day event
Roone Arledge Auditorium, Lerner Hall, Morningside campus

This conference, held every two years by Columbia's Earth Institute, brings together innovative thinkers and leaders from many academic disciplines as well as media, government, public policy and business. This year's event—held simultaneously in Beijing, New Delhi, London and Nairobi—will be webcast with interactive features. For more info, and to register for the New York event, visit www.stateoftheplanet.org.

Creative Writing Lecture Series

7:00 p.m.
Philosophy Hall, Morningside campus

Join author Lydia Davis as she gives a talk on the writing craft: "A Beloved Duck Gets Cooked: Innovative Forms." Limited seating. For more info, call (212) 854-4391 or email arts@columbia.edu.

The Continuing Financial Crisis: Perspectives from the North and the South

Noon
Davis Auditorium, Schapiro Center, Morningside campus

Speakers: Columbia professor and Nobel laureate Joseph Stiglitz; Prabhat Patnaik, professor of economics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; and Jomo Kwame Sundaram, founder and chair, International Development Economics Associates. Registration suggested. For more info, call (212) 854-8443 or email heymancenter@columbia.edu.

Saturday, March 27

William Schuman Award Concert: Pauline Oliveros

8:00 p.m.
Miller Theatre, Morningside campus

The Columbia University School of the Arts William Schuman Award recognizes the lifetime achievement of an American composer. Dean Carol Becker honors Pauline Oliveros. Tickets \$7–\$25. For more info, call (212) 854-7799 or visit www.millertheatre.com/events.

Monday, March 29

Exhibition Opening and Debate: Operators' Exercises: Open Form Film and Architecture

6:30 p.m.
Arthur Ross Architecture Gallery, Buell Hall, Morningside campus

Discussion of Polish art in the 1970s with Krzysztof Wodiczko, Lukasz Ronduda, Felicity Scott and Mark Wasiuta. For more info, call Benjamin Prosky at (212) 854-9248 or email gsappevents@columbia.edu.


Wednesday, March 31

Women's Tennis vs. Cornell

2:00 p.m.
Dick Savitt Tennis Center, 575 W. 218th St.

Tickets start at \$8. For more info, call (888) Lions-11 or visit www.gocolumbiaions.com.

All events are open to the public. This is a sampling of them. For additional events or general information, visit www.columbia.edu or call (212) 854-2871. For Columbia sports info, visit www.gocolumbiaions.com.

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3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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For more information, please visit: <http://specialevents.cce.columbia.edu>

Homelessness rises in city public schools

HOMELESSNESS from front page

the sense that there's a battery of services out there. The problem is accessing those services. Since funding has gone downhill in an incredible and staggering way, these services have also gone down," Carmel said.

Legally, schools have specific responsibilities toward homeless students.

Under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, reauthorized in January 2002, states are obligated to provide homeless children with the same free public education that students living in households receive.

The NYC Department of Education also has a program called Students in Temporary Housing, which provides family assistants and experts who help families make sure their rights are maintained even when they are homeless. The unit's aim is to help make families aware of the available resources for homeless students. The Department of Homeless Services also funds shelters across the city.

Still, "Youth in Crisis," a study released by Covenant House and the Columbia Center for Homelessness Prevention Studies in March 2009, reported that 77 percent of the youth enrolled in Covenant House New York did not have a high school diploma and were not enrolled in school.

Covenant House New York, on 41st Street, serves 18- to 22-year-olds, many of whom have aged out of the foster

care system, said Kate Levin, spokesperson for Covenant House. Some youth enter the crisis program, meaning that they stay at the shelter for 30 days, while others transition into the Rights of Passage program for a year-and-a-half and enroll in community colleges or GED programs.

Levin said that the experience can be very challenging for students.

"I've heard from some of the students that it's embarrassing. They don't want to admit to their fellow classmates that they live in a shelter. For these young people, trying to succeed and move beyond it [homelessness] can be hard," Levin said.

But Nicholas Robertson-Forge, a boardmember of Trinity Place Shelter on 100th Street, which aids homeless LGBT youth between 18 and 24, pointed out that shelters can provide youth with basic needs so that they can pursue an education or a career.

"When you think about homeless youth, the first thing that comes to mind is, if you don't have a stable home environment or place to stay, getting your basic needs met comes first," Robertson-Forge said. "For a lot of homeless youth, they're not thinking about high school or college because they don't have their basic needs met."

One challenge in helping homeless LGBT youth is the lack of records, which makes it difficult to secure financial aid or

other services, Robertson-Forge said. For young people who have left home, it is difficult to access that information readily.

He said, though, that the McKinney-Vento Act protects children under 18, so that they do not require documentation to have access to school immediately. The school must help homeless students access this information.

"When it comes to college-age youth, I think it could potentially be more problematic because there aren't necessarily protections at the federal level in terms of accessing colleges or universities, because we don't view that as a right—it's something you can access if you're able to," Robertson-Forge said.

At Trinity Place, he said, there are residents who are full-time students. He wasn't sure if their schools were aware if the students were homeless, because the shelter serves as a permanent address.

While Democracy Prep Charter School provides students with extra support services, the school should still have a better method of identifying the homeless, Carmel said.

"Our school day is 7:44 to 5:15 p.m., so the kids don't leave until around 6 p.m.," he said. "We try to keep kids here as much as possible to get everyone up to speed academically and also socially, ... to give them a positive experience."

The DOE did not respond to repeated request for comment.

news
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REGROUP | LGBT student activists and council members who proposed gender-neutral housing are now in the process of organizing new efforts in response to the administration's delay of the policy for the 2010 lottery.

Students question gender-neutral policy delay

GENDER from front page

campus support and care about, and I think that this campus-wide support is something that they hadn't gotten a lot of before." Edelman is the vice president of the Columbia University College Democrats, who are also a part of the effort.

But not all students actively support this measure. Derek Turner, CC '12 and director of communications for the Columbia University College Republicans, said that his group isn't taking a stance on the issue. "When it comes to the LGBTQ community, what they choose to do really doesn't affect us. If you're a student here ... you should have the choice of doing whatever you like."

While the organizers are pleased with the number of petition signatures the petition has received thus far, some say that this is a disappointing indication that the proposal was ready to be enacted for this year's housing selection process.

"The support demonstrated by students over the past 72 hours [since the petition was first created] demonstrates that the student body was clearly ready for gender neutral housing," Sean Udel, vice president of the Columbia College class of 2011 and treasurer of the Columbia Queer Alliance, said.

Members of LGBT student groups not directly involved in creating the policy also expressed frustration about what they said was a lack of communication between students and the administration, one which dashed expectations about the proposal's enactment for this year.

"We all thought this was going to pass. ... Housing seemed in

favor of it ... and we were just really surprised that the administration wasn't able to push it through," said Anna Steffens, BC '10, co-president of Q, and SGA representative for the Diversity Committee. She said that Q plans to issue a statement expressing its dismay about the decision, as well as its optimism as student groups move forward.

Housing administrators, though, countered that they had never said that the policy itself would be enacted, but rather that its feasibility from a technical standpoint was highly probable. Scott Wright, vice president of student auxiliary and business services, said that housing is only responsible for the practical facilities aspects of the proposal.

After receiving the proposal, he contacted the housing system company, StarRez, who reported that it would in fact be possible to allow gender-neutral housing selection. The housing administration reported this to students shortly afterward.

"I think I was always 100 percent clear that the decision did not rest solely with me. ... From our end, we got back to the students pretty quickly about what StarRez said," he said.

Other administrators who were involved in the ultimate decision acknowledged that they could have been clearer about the process earlier on.

"One of the places that, in retrospect, we could've maybe been better at, is maybe advising students around what the process is," Shollenberger said. "There were a lot of different offices involved in this decision-making. We didn't get the proposal until late fall semester."

And while student groups said that it was troublesome that the University responded just two weeks before housing selection, rendering the prospect of immediate change impossible, they understand the implications of attempting substantial change so quickly.

"There's a different time horizon for students and administrators," Janelle Batta, BC '11 and a member of the SGA's Diversity Committee, said. Batta spearheaded the gender-blind rooming campaign at Barnard in December 2008, and her proposal was passed by the SGA. "Many administrators are here for 15 years, and we're here for four years."

In response to the administration's announcement that it will be seriously considering a pilot program for the 2011-2012 school year and the implementation of a gender-neutral housing policy for 2012-2013, some student group members say that change should come sooner.

Cheryl Gladstone, a second-year student in the MBA program and co-president of Cluster Q, an LGBT organization at the Business School, said that she was disappointed with the decision.

Gladstone, a graduate of Stanford University, where gender-neutral housing is permitted and where she lived with a male student in a double, said, "If Columbia wants to attract and retain the best talent and present itself as an academic thought leader, they need to stop trying to be a follower and really be a leader on LGBTQ issues."

Amber Tunnell contributed reporting.
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Shollenberger made permanent dean

SHOLLENBERGER from front page

past eight months, I am pleased that his permanent title now reflects and recognizes his leadership in creating a welcoming and challenging environment for our students, one that fosters their own personal and intellectual growth, as well as leadership," Peña-Mora said in an individual statement.

Despite the slight change in his position, Shollenberger said that he sees his goals as ongoing: he wants to improve advising, remain accessible and visible to students, and increase transparency in the Columbia bureaucracy.

He said that he is particularly focused on SEAS sophomore advising and students' transitions between their general advisors in the Center and their departmental advisors.

While he aims to be a campus resource, Shollenberger—who was recently a starring

character in this year's Varsity Show preview—acknowledged that student interaction is still a challenge in his position.

"I really have to make a goal and an effort to make sure I have regular contact with students, that I'm just not caught up in meetings all day," he said, adding that he goes to as many student meetings as he can.

"I learned very early on in coming here that you just can't say 'no' to students. Part of a Columbia student and a Columbia education is to really have constructive arguments and debate. I like having those difficult conversations with students," he added.

The cornerstone of Shollenberger's tenure has been community building, a purpose he has restructured the student affairs office around, he said.

Kamal Yechoor, SEAS '11 and ESC junior class president, said he supported the decision. In times of significant

administrative transition, Shollenberger brought stability to student affairs, Yechoor said.

He also praised what he called Shollenberger's accessibility to students, noting that the dean hosts his own fireside chats. "Every time he sees us in the halls, he is quick to say 'hi,'" Yechoor said.

Kenny Durell, CC '12 and a CCSC representative, said he found Shollenberger to be "super easy-going and easy to meet with."

But Durell believes that Shollenberger has overlooked some large issues. "He is very into this community-building thing. I think he misses the forest for the trees," Durell said, citing the recent decision not to offer gender-neutral rooming for the 2010 housing lottery as an example. But, "you can only focus on so many things," he added.

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COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Undermanned Lions prepare for 2010 season

BY CHRISTOPHER BROWN
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

As the Columbia softball team prepares to start the 2010 season, it will focus on improving last year's 16-34 record and on giving first-year players valuable experience.

A quick glance over the roster immediately brings up a potential issue concerning the team's depth. The Lions are carrying 13 players on the roster, a much smaller number than in recent seasons. Although there are enough players to field a team and four bench spots, this could quickly become an issue if even one or two players sustain serious injuries.

On offense, the Lions will miss graduated shortstop Keli Leong setting the table at the top of the lineup. She hit well over .300 throughout her college career, and recorded 50 hits or more in each of her four seasons. She is the only player in Columbia history to achieve this feat. The Light Blue will rely on junior infielder Karen Tulig, who hit .303 and led the team with a .387 on-base percentage in 2009, to help spark the offense.

As for the returning hitters, senior infielder Dani Pineda hit four home runs and tied the team lead with 27 RBI. Her bat will lead an offense that scored 168 runs last season, finishing No. 6 in the Ivy League. Junior infielder Stephanie Yagi hit .219 in a starting role last season, with one home run and 19 RBI, while junior outfielder Anne Marie Skylis had 13 RBI in 120 at-bats. Sophomore Kayla Lechler scored 16 runs and plated 9 RBI.

Maggie Johnson was another of the team's most productive hitters, belting six home runs and 27 RBI last year. She will also be asked to lead the pitching staff after posting a 3.67 ERA in 133 2/3 innings last season.

Sophomore Jessica Rakonza will try to improve on her 4.05 ERA in 93 1/3 innings last year, and senior Aimee Kemp could be the X-factor for the pitching staff. In her first season, she won 16 games in 34 appearances, along with a 2.78 ERA through 189 innings. However, she has struggled with injuries and has had difficulty in matching those numbers ever since. If Kemp can finish her final season anywhere near the form she had in the 2007 season, the team's pitching will receive a huge boost.

Following a trend seen in recent seasons, the Lions will again rely on immediate contributions from first-year players. With such a small roster, freshmen Jennifer Bergeron, Alexis Kurmis, Alison Lam, Maureen O'Kane, and Christie Taylor should all see extensive playing time this season.

The Lions begin the 2010 season on March 6 against Delaware State in the Cavalier Classic at the University of Virginia. They will spend



THE TIME IS NOW! With only 13 players on the Light Blue roster, the Columbia softball team will look to its freshman class for important contributions right away.

spring break in Kissimmee, Fla., at the Rebel Spring Games tournament before opening the season against Iona at Baker Athletics Complex on March 27.



THE NEXT GEAR | Sharay Hale's sizzling times in the 200m and 400m races put her in the record books.

Merber continues dominance in distance events

WOMEN'S TRACK from back page

4x800m—in which Drouin was joined by senior Serita Lachesis and freshmen Mallory Anderson and Patricia Reilly—finished third.

The Lion men placed fifth with 52 points, but were just outside of the podium as host Dartmouth took third with only 55 and Harvard trailed at fourth with 53. Their effort was more distance-fueled and quite remarkable, considering the lack of any points from the field whatever.

Sophomore Kyle Merber was the foremost contributor, winning each of the events in which he took part. The hotly contested 3k was a first individual Heps title for the young gun, following a team cross-country championship this fall.

Middle distance racked up 24 points from 800m to one mile. Senior Mike Mark and junior Matthew Stewart took third and fifth, respectively, in the shorter event for a total of six points. Junior Jeff Moriarty toughed out a 1k off of minimal training due to injury, finishing in third place—less than a second from the lead—after winning the event last year. Sophomore Matthew Casey took fifth. Freshman Mark Feigen and sophomore Adam Behnke got some championship experience in the one-mile, where they finished fourth and fifth, respectively.

The distance medley relay was a highlight event for the men, with senior Christopher Hays joined by three underclassmen: sophomore Justin Holloman at 400m, Behnke at 800m, and Merber at 1600m, to close. Their collective 9:53.03 was good for the title and a yard record for the indoor Heps.

The championships mark a close to the season for some, but others remain in contention for the IC4A championships and NCAAs. This weekend, Columbia will host a last-chance meet on the world-class armory track as an opportunity for those who haven't hit NCAA standards thus far. Nationals will take place March 12-13 in Fayetteville, Ark.

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Check page 9 for a preview of Columbia softball's 2010 season. With an unusually thin roster, the Lions will look for contributions for their freshmen right away.

PAGE 9



SPORTS

TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2010 • PAGE 10



Check tomorrow's paper for a preview of the 2010 Light Blue baseball team. A year removed from an Ivy title, the Lions will look to regain their perch.

TOMORROW

Lions wreak havoc on opposition with ferocious defense



JOSE GIRALT/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

RELENTLESS | The Light Blue has used its trademark full court pressure to great effect this year.

Hardworking mentality, aggressive system translate into points off of turnovers for Columbia

BY MICHAEL ZHONG
Spectator Staff Writer

It has become common sight in Columbia women's basketball to see Judie Lomax, Danielle Browne, or any other Lions player dive onto the floor for a steal. This ferocious energy is a key and necessary element of the team's scheme that has anchored Columbia's defense this season.

The team runs a pressure-oriented defense, and often relies on half-court traps and the full-court press to disrupt the opponent's offense. This defensive system has paid dividends for the Lions, and has led to Columbia leading the league in steals per game, last year and for most of this season.

Points off of turnovers can swing the balance of any game, but this stat is particularly significant for Columbia. In games where Columbia has scored more points off turnovers than its opponent, the team's record is 14-4 (with two of the defeats coming from narrow losses to ACC team North Carolina State and Big Ten team Iowa). Conversely, when the team ties or loses the points off a turnover battle, Columbia is just 2-6.

These statistics indicate that the team lives and dies with the defense's ability to generate steals. Fortunately for Columbia, the team has the right players for this system.

Kathleen Barry currently ranks fifth in the Ancient Eight with 1.8 steals per game. She is often assigned to the opposition's biggest offensive threat, and her play is vital to the Lions' success. In the three games she missed because of a knee injury, Columbia allowed a season-high 81 points to Yale, 77 points to Princeton, and struggled to beat last-place Penn. These numbers contrast with the team's average 62.0 points allowed per game, and indicate Barry's importance to the squad.

Most people associate Lomax's defensive contributions with her rebounding—she ranks second in the nation, with 13.5 rebounds per game—but she also leads the Ivy League with 2.6 steals per game, a rarity for a forward.

One reason she is able to thrive in steals as a forward is that all the roles in the Lions' full-court press are interchangeable. On some defensive sets, center Lauren Dwyer may be guarding the middle of the court. On other opponent possessions, it may be point guard Sara Yee. By keeping Lomax's position

flexible, she can use her knowledge and athleticism to make plays.

"Judie really understands the system defensively," head coach Paul Nixon said. "She does a great job of getting her hands on a lot of balls, because she's understanding what her teammates are getting ready to do, and seeing and anticipating what her opponents are going to do, and she can oftentimes beat them to the spot. Her strength and athleticism is only a small component of how good a defensive player she is."

Arguably, the team's main catalyst for steals comes from its back-court senior tandem of Browne and Ivy League Defensive Player of the Year Yee. Although Yee's defensive stats seem average, what the scoreboard doesn't capture is her ability to relentlessly pressure her defender.

"What Sara does, is she really sets the tone for us defensively with her ball pressure. She's able to pick up the ball in the full court and really pressure it all the way down the court into the half," Nixon said. "That relentless pressure she's able to apply on the ball allows the rest of the players to be more successful defensively because the players that they're guarding have to work really hard to get open so that whoever Sara's guarding can safely deliver the basketball."

Browne, the other half of the back-court tandem, is known for her takeaway abilities as well. Her four-year tenure at Columbia has been one of the most prolific of any guard in the school's history, and she is slated to finish fourth all-time in assists and second all-time in steals.

"You look at Danielle's overall career and you start looking at some of the numbers. The two most important stats for a guard typically are assists and steals. ... Her entire career she's been one of the top people on the team in the two major guard categories," Nixon said. "For her to end her career in the top four in both categories is not surprising."

Throughout her career, one reason she has been so proficient in getting steals is her quickness and energy. She has the speed to tip passes and to get to loose balls faster than her opponents. More importantly though, her style as an unselfish player on the offensive end (she's third in the league with 4.5 assists per game) also carries over to defense. She's willing to hit the floor hard and sacrifice her body to get at loose balls, truly the definition of a team player.

"As a player, she really is all about what's best for the team, and I think that's probably the biggest thing that she'll leave as part of her legacy at Columbia," Nixon said. "She's about team first, and not about what's best for Danielle Browne."

Women's track has strong showing at Heptagonals thanks to super sophs

BY GREGORY KREMLER
Spectator Staff Writer

The Indoor Track Heptagonal Championships came to a close Sunday evening with Princeton replacing Cornell as this year's double victor. Stellar performances were turned in by an array of Lion competitors, in two days that saw individual and relay titles alike, and the accolade Most Outstanding Performer among women awarded to sophomore sprint superstar Sharay Hale.

The women's team fought a valiant battle, with many athletes—especially in the sprints—doubling and tripling in a bid for the top spot. The team's effort was enough to defeat perennial powerhouse Cornell, but fell short of Princeton, 110-125.

Sophomore Monique Roberts solidified her role as the dominant high jumper within the league, taking the event with a mark of 1.73m. Her pentathlon jump of 1.77m was even better and helped her to a second-place finish and an 18-point contribution overall.

The 60m hurdles were a wellspring of points for Columbia, with sophomore Kyra Caldwell taking the title in 8.69 seconds and junior Melesa Johnson right behind at 8.84. Caldwell doubled back in the 200m to finish fourth in 25.08 and was part of the third-place

finish in the 4x400, as well, bringing her personal contribution to 20 points.

But it was Hale, the last of the trio of super sophomores, whose presence was felt most. She wasted no time making her mark, winning the trial sections of both the 200 and 400m in heat record times. On day two, she dominated the 400m final, nearly two seconds ahead of the field at 53.79, and followed that performance with a second Heps title—this time in the 200m, which she covered in 24.20 seconds. She did not merely beat her competitors, but also went after the record books—the 24.20 time set a new Ivy record and the 53.79 mark stands as the second-fastest indoor 400m in Heps history. Hale anchored the women's 4x400m relay, as well, bringing her personal point tally to an impressive 26.

Other notable performances were turned in by freshmen Nnenna Okwara and Yamira Bell, who finished second and third in the weight throw and 400m, respectively. Freshmen Dora Vegvari and Uju Ofoche finished third and fourth in the long jump, together contributing 10 points.

In the distance events, junior Jacqueline Drouin led the way with a third-place finish in the one-mile in 4:50.76. The women's

WOMEN'S TRACK, page 9



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—Brittany Swett (IBC 2009)

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What to Watch

The editors' picks for the week ahead

COLUMBIA:
Columbia vs. Brown, Saturday, March 6, 7 p.m., New York, N.Y.

The Columbia women's basketball team will face Brown in its last game of the season. Saturday's game will also be the last home game for the seniors.

NEW YORK:
Nets vs. Knicks, Saturday, March 6, 7:30 p.m., New York, N.Y.

This Saturday, New Jersey and New York battle as the Knicks host the Nets. The Nets are looking to capture their seventh victory against a struggling Knicks team.

NATIONAL:
Kansas State vs. Kansas, Wednesday, March 3, 8 p.m., Lawrence, KS

This Wednesday, in-state rivals will face off as the University of Kansas hosts Kansas State. Both teams are nationally ranked, with Kansas currently ranked No. 2 and Kansas State No. 5.