

Israel debate hits College Walk

BY LEAH GREENBAUM
Spectator Staff Writer

There is no wall separating the organizers of Israeli Apartheid Week and Peace Week on College Walk, but the lines in the cobblestones are clearly drawn.

This week marks Israeli Apartheid Week, an international period of programming on college campuses intended to call attention to what its supporters call human rights abuses committed by the state of Israel against Palestinians. Its countermovement, Peace Week for Israelis and Palestinians, will also be taking place on campus this week, which is an initiative geared towards establishing peace for Israelis and Palestinians.

Both parties will be flirer and demonstrating on College Walk, as well as hosting events throughout the week.

Organizers of Israeli Apartheid Week have constructed a mock wall on Low Plaza that is meant to symbolize the wall separating Israel and Gaza, while the organizers of Peace Week—the Israel Committee, LionPAC, Just Peace, and Garin Lavi—are displaying signs, some of which feature hypothetical questions asking students how they would react if locations such as John Jay and Koronets were blown up by terrorists.

Loren Berman, GS/JTS '12 and LionPAC member, said he spent three hours at the mock wall having a discussion with members of Students for Justice in Palestine about Israel's claim to the West Bank. He spent the rest of the afternoon flirer for Peace Week.

Alaa Milbes, GSAS '11 and an organizer of Israeli Apartheid Week, said that most people who have approached her have been polite, respectful, and interested in starting up dialogue, with just a few exceptions.

"I was approached by a couple of people who called me a terrorist. They said things like 'watch out before she blows you up.' But the majority of the interactions with people have been positive.

While Berman said the discussion he had with SJP was open and interesting, he said the mock wall could be misleading to students.

"A blatant visual like this can be a disservice to Columbia students, because it's given without context," he said. "You don't scrutinize global warming by saying, 'Look, it's been the coldest year ever.'"

On other college campuses—such as the University of California, Berkeley and UC-Irvine—Israeli Apartheid Week takes on a much more hostile tone, with mock grave-stones, checkpoints, and in some cases, fighting and rioting among students who stand at different ends of the political spectrum.

Michael Shapiro, GS/JTS '12 and vice president of LionPAC, said he has been grateful to see only peaceful rallies and relatively friendly conversations among Columbia students with differing views.

"I think Columbia is very proud and protective of [the] First Amendment and freedom of speech," Shapiro said, adding that Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's 2007 visit to campus is proof of that. "The last thing we want to do from our side is infringe on freedom of speech."

At an Israeli Apartheid Week event Tuesday night, Rahim Kurwa, GSAS '10 and a member of Students for Justice in Palestine, said that he hopes for students on the Columbia campus to continue to frame the debate around "basic Palestinian rights and the ways in which these rights are being denied."

"Those who are victim of the apartheid of South Africa will say that their

SEE APARTHEID, page 2



NOMI ELLENSON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

WALLED OFF | Students for Justice in Palestine mounted a mock wall to symbolize the separation between Israel and Gaza.



AMY STRINGER FOR SPECTATOR

DIALOGUES | Barnard President Debora Spar led her last fireside chat of the year, where she asked about student internships and campus unity.

BC students discuss schedules, campus life at fireside chat

BY MADINA TOURE
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

One student got a job working in an artist's studio through Craigslist. Another student has done construction real estate internships. And others turned to the Barnard Babysitting Agency.

These were some of the internship experiences that students shared at the last fireside chat of the year on Tuesday in Sulzberger Parlor with Barnard President Debora Spar, hosted

by Giselle León, BC '10 and vice president of communications for Barnard's Student Government Association.

Spar asked students to share their stories of work experience in New York City, as well as the challenges they face in balancing schoolwork and activities.

"What's the best thing about doing internships?" Spar asked. "Is it making money? Is it running around the city?"

"For me, it's definitely been a sort of

SEE SPAR, page 2

Transitional shelter to remain on 107th through November

BY SARAH DARVILLE
Spectator Staff Writer

A building on 107th Street will remain a transitional shelter for 80 homeless women until November, despite concerns about its landlord.

That's what New York City Council member Melissa Mark-Viverito told Community Board 7, which represents the Upper West Side, on Tuesday night.

CB7 members and local activists have been fighting against this shelter since women began arriving at 237 West 107th St., a "single room occupancy" building that was known until recently as the West Side Inn, about three weeks ago.

A transitional shelter there would line the pockets of a notorious landlord and contribute to the loss of permanent housing in the area, community members argued at a CB7 meeting on Feb. 24.

Local tenant associations are organizing against the shelter, but according to Peter Arndtsen, district manager for the Columbus/Amsterdam Business Improvement District, the BID is not working to take the building out of landlord Mark Hersh's hands—though he knows that some tenants associations are talking about doing so.

"I'm hearing from people on the street who are opposed to helping this landlord altogether, and working to take over the building. There's interest in trying to buy the building, because they believe if it

stays in the landlord's hands, there will be continued problems," Arndtsen said.

After meeting with the commissioner of the city's Department of Homeless Services yesterday, Mark-Viverito said on Tuesday that the original plan for a nine-year contract for the shelter is now totally off the table, but it will continue to operate there in the short term.

"Help USA and Homeless Services need to be there for nine months and to keep the number of beds at 80," she said. "In these nine months, they'll plan for a transition."

The shelter began operation without community input because DHS had declared an emergency situation, and Help USA began providing services at the site soon after.

Just hours before it started, representatives from both DHS and Help USA decided not to attend the original CB7 meeting about the long-term contract, saying they had put the project on hold due to concerns about the building's owner.

Arndtsen confirmed Tuesday that the landlord was Hersh, whom activists refer to as "Batman" because he has reportedly chased after tenants with a baseball bat.

"One could say he [Hersh] is a typical slumlord of old, a poverty pimp. ... The neighborhood's not opposed to a shelter, but to a shelter where evil is enriched. We're concerned about the quality of their

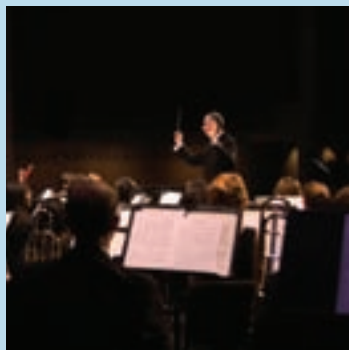
SEE SHELTER, page 2

INSIDE

A&E, page 3

Wind Ensemble nurtures budding musicians

The Columbia University Wind Ensemble's upcoming Festival of Winds brings together a multitude of New York wind bands. The event includes elementary school students from the Making Music Matter Band.



Sports, page 8

Sophomore Hale dominates at Heps

Sophomore Sharay Hale put up an impressive performance at the Heptagonal Championships, posting new school records in the 200m and 400m races. Her time of 24.20 seconds in the 200m was also good for anew Ivy record.

Opinion, page 4

Grassroots movement

Building peace means breaking down walls between Israelis and Palestinians.

Walk the walk

Anna Arons likes living far away from campus.

Today's Events

Influence and Imagery

Learn about political communications from the experts.
Satow Room, 9 p.m.

Sophomore Scream

Yell out your major and snack on funnel cake and hot chocolate.
Low Steps, 9:30 p.m.

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37 / 31 42 / 29



AMY STRINGER FOR SPECTATOR

CHANGES | At Jewish Theological Seminary, students said they were surprised to hear that the dean of the Cantorial School had been dismissed. The program is looking to modernize, administrators say.

Program changes at JTS come as surprise

JTS from front page

caught them by surprise. “The chancellor had said that significant changes would be made at JTS, but we had no idea that he would fire our most beloved teacher and mentor, Dean Rosenblum,” he said, adding the JTS Chancellor Arnold Eisen’s announcement was “totally surprising.” The Forward reported last month that JTS had a \$3.8 million budget gap last year, though Cooper said that the decision to eliminate the dean’s position was not driven by finances. “Our strategic planning is budget aware, it’s budget sensitive, but it’s not budget driven. Our primary concerns are our programs and the extent to which they meet the needs of our students and the communities they’re going to be serving,” Cooper said. The administrative and curricular shake-up is part of what administrators and students identify as a trend in the workforce. As more cash-strapped synagogues expect cantors to perform the roles of rabbis—and vice versa—Cooper said he expects the changes “will lead to greater coherence between curriculums.” “I think the idea of re-imagining what the cantorates looks like will be beneficial to a lot of students,” Jonah Rank, GS/JTS ’11, said. “A lot of students are finding that in hard financial times there are fewer jobs at the pulpit. ... A lot of students have expressed the fear that they’ve been training for five years for

unemployment.” Both of Melody Mostow’s, JTS/GS ’13, parents are cantors, but she said she knows maintaining a cantor can be expensive, and most synagogues aren’t willing to do it anymore unless the cantor can multitask—teach Hebrew School, perform services and *bnai mitzvahs*, and deliver sermons. “My synagogue doesn’t even have a cantor anymore,” she said, adding that she was concerned about the trend. Rank said that students seemed to approve the curriculum change, but that “just about everyone is struggling to figure out why he [Rosenblum] is not returning.” Still, Rank and some of his classmates were recently concerned that the Cantorial School would either close or merge with the reform Hebrew Union College, a rumor Cooper said has no basis. “We’ve had a series of discussions with Hebrew Union College about how we can partner with them. ... but that’s just collaboration in areas where there’s nothing distinctive about educating a conservative cantor versus a reform cantor,” Cooper said. “Actually combining or merging the schools has never been on the table.” Klein said that while the restructuring looks promising, “things feel very unsettled.” Eisen commissioned a task force for the Cantorial School to determine what the “ideal cantor of the future” looks like, with Cooper at the committee’s helm. The task force will include students, alumni, clergy members, and administrators. “The cantorial student body has stated that the Chancellor will have to work hard to rebuild trust. ... We will continue to press him to honor his commitments for transparency, openness, and communication—all parts of what we hope is a close relationship between the Chancellor and the cantorial school in years to come,” Klein said. “The chancellor had said that significant changes would be made at JTS, but we had no idea that he would fire our most beloved teacher and mentor, Dean Rosenblum.” —Matthew Klein, JTS graduate student “We and other parts of the student body are confident that we will work together to form an exciting new curriculum unique to JTS that will prepare Conservative clergy for the 21st century,” he added.

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Students talk workload, activities at Spar’s last fireside chat of the year

Spar from front page

weeding process, so I’m just going to cast a wide net and let things stick,” Chelsea Frazier, BC ’10, replied. Spar also asked how students make use of their free time: whether they relax and do leisure activities or strive to be a “superwoman.” “I think the Barnard

environment is oppressive to a certain extent,” Frazier said. “Some days I want to be a hippie ... and I need to be in law school tomorrow. It’s just highly problematic to have this environment.” “It feels a little bit like status comes from being really busy,” Spar commented. “I’m just sort of amazed by students telling me they’re triple majoring. It does feel a little more,

though, that people feel ... this is what defines success here.” Maeve Kelly, BC ’13, said that she does not perceive as much of a community as she did at her high school. Spar mentioned the house system, currently in the works, that would sort students into a system of eight societies to remedy the perceived lack of Barnard campus

unity. She described it as an “instant channel to reach out to first-years.” Kai Qi Lee, BC ’11, said that she was impressed by how comfortable students were in sharing their opinions. “Students here are more vocal about their experiences, their lives, and they’re very intimate with the faculty as well,” she said. “I think it was very representative

of Barnard,” Katie Martin-Browne, BC ’10, said. “It’s more of ‘let’s hear what people think’ ... She [Spar] was like, ‘I don’t have an agenda.’” Ultimately, SGA president Katie Palillo, BC ’10, said she felt the discussion centered on issues that affect students most: the challenges they face in balancing the workload with other activities, as well as mental health issues.

“I don’t think we talk about those topics enough, and that it shouldn’t be an expectation that you take six classes, a lab, an internship, play a club sport, and speak four languages,” Palillo said. “We should always try to engage in discussions about what’s best for students here.” madina.toure@columbiaspectator.com

Transitional shelter remains on 107th

SHELTER from front page

care,” said the Rev. John Duffell of the Church of the Ascension on 107th Street. Hersh’s name is not listed on any public records attached to 237 107th Street through the New York City Department of Buildings or Department of Finance. “These landlords have set up these shell companies that they

operate through and hide behind,” Mark-Viverito said at the meeting, explaining that she has introduced legislation to increase accountability. She added on Tuesday that she will push for a full assessment of the building, including sending Department of Buildings inspectors out on Wednesday, but said it has been difficult to balance the neighborhood’s concerns with the needs of the city’s

homeless population. “People have found themselves in this situation because of the economic situation,” she said, adding later, “We want to provide quality service to those people.” Hersh’s number is publicly listed as that of the Hotel Saint James. The receptionist said that Hersh was not available Tuesday night. sarah.darville@columbiaspectator.com

Policymakers field education questions

BY RAY KATZ
Spectator Staff Writer

As Congress considers President Barack Obama’s plan to expand federal aid for higher education, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and Assistant to the President and Director of the Domestic Policy Council Melody Barnes sat down Tuesday afternoon for a live Web chat to talk about the proposed legislation and answer questions from viewers and college students. The bill, called the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, was passed by the House of Representatives in September. It proposes a shift from the current student loan system, in which the federal government subsidizes banks that provide students with loans, to direct lending by the federal government. Such a shift would save \$87 billion in federal funds, the Obama administration says. Looming large in the conversation were concerns about students graduating overburdened with debt, especially given the current unemployment rate. Questions also addressed the high and increasing cost of tuition, teacher loan forgiveness programs, and high textbook prices. “We know that the government can do this extremely well,” Duncan said, referring to the proposal to eliminate subsidies to private lenders in favor of direct federal loans. Many banks that currently receive these subsidies are opposed to the measure, claiming that it would eliminate jobs and diminish consumer choice, according to an article written in the New York Times last week. The legislation also includes funding for community colleges, early childhood education programs, historically black colleges

COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY	BY THE NUMBERS
\$87 billion	THE AMOUNT THE GOVERNMENT WILL SAVE BY SWITCHING FROM A SUBSIDIZED STUDENT LOAN SYSTEM TO A DIRECT LOAN SYSTEM
\$5.35 billion	THE CURRENT MAXIMUM ANNUAL PELL GRANT SCHOLARSHIP
\$5.55 billion	THE AMOUNT TO WHICH THE MAXIMUM ANNUAL PELL GRANT SCHOLARSHIP WILL INCREASE IN 2010
\$6.9 billion	THE AMOUNT TO WHICH THE MAXIMUM ANNUAL PELL GRANT SCHOLARSHIP WILL INCREASE BY 2019

and universities, and for increasing the amount of Pell grant money students can receive each year. It also seeks to provide universities with increased access to Perkins loans and to simplify the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. “This is simply the right thing to do. Going to college has never been so important or so expensive,” Duncan said. In response to worries about maxed-out student loans, overwhelming debt, teacher loan forgiveness, and funding for graduate degrees, Barnes and Duncan repeatedly emphasized an income-based repayment program that would cap loan repayment and ensure loan forgiveness after 20 years of payment. For those who enter careers in public service, all loans would be forgiven after 10 years. The two also mentioned a

\$10,000 tuition tax credit and a \$3.5 billion access and completion fund for universities that succeed in “building a culture around completion,” Duncan said. “Colleges aren’t that dissimilar from high schools—some do a good job of graduating students and some don’t.” In addition to the proposed expansion of access to Perkins loans, Duncan emphasized that high tuition costs would likely be reigned in by the choices that students are forced to make, especially in light of the current economic landscape. “The American public is going to vote with their feet,” he said. “Those American universities that are doing a great job of containing costs will have more students and universities that don’t are going to struggle.” ray.katz@columbiaspectator.com

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Apartheid, Peace Week meet on College Walk

APARTHEID from front page

freedom is not complete without the freedoms of not only Palestinians but all oppressed groups. It’s our job to keep every link of equality equally strong,” Kurwa said. “When one link breaks, the chain is broken.” “While Israel—as with all nation states—is far from perfect, to call for divestment from Israel equates it with Apartheid South Africa, an accusation that ... is factually inaccurate and malicious,” the Columbia/Barnard Hillel executive board wrote in a statement. “Through this week of events, Hillel hopes to continue engaging in open and honest dialogue,” the board added. Aleq Abdullah, BC ’13, spent several hours holding a sign for Israeli Apartheid Week that quoted Mahatma Gandhi. “I came here expecting people to yell at me,” she said, rotating the sign she’d written. “But so far, everything’s been all good.” One onlooker, noting what

she described as a relaxed atmosphere from both parties, said, “This is actually pretty chill.” Olivia Hollander, a prospective student who was visiting campus yesterday with a friend, said she had walked past the activities initially, but the mock wall caught her attention. “They encouraged us to hear both sides,” she said, explaining that organizers of both events encouraged her to speak to organizers of the other event as well. Shapiro said that at the end of the day, both sides seem to be interested in promoting campus discussion, as well as with people who weren’t sure on which side they stood. “The purpose of this event is to get to people who are in the middle of this issue,” he said. “I think by setting up in the middle of campus, we can collect a broad, diverse group of people.” Amanda Evans contributed reporting to this article. leah.greenbaum@columbiaspectator.com

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CORRECTION

In Tuesday’s article “Moody-Adams hosts movie night,” a caption incorrectly indicated that it was the first movie night, when it was the first movie night of the semester. There was also a typographical mistake in Moody-Adams’ first name. Spectator regrets the error.

Young students get wind of music basics from campus ensemble

BY LAURA OSELAND
Columbia Daily Spectator

Instrumental music isn't just for adults anymore.

On March 7 starting at 2 p.m. in Boone Arledge Auditorium, the Columbia University Wind Ensemble will host its second annual **MUSIC** Festival of Winds, a day-long series of concerts featuring New York-area wind bands.

Making a notable appearance is the P.S. 125 Making Music Matter Band, made up of fourth and fifth graders from the Ralph Bunche School. Donations from the Ensemble and Morningside Area Alliance were used to create a new music education program at the school, which has allowed the Ensemble to spend the past year teaching young students to take care of instruments, read music, and play as a group.

Paul Lerner, CC '11—a trumpet and trombone player and vice president of the Ensemble—is a key player in the Making Music Matter program. He said of the lessons, “In terms of instrumental musical education, we're pretty much it for that school.”

Lerner added that the program has inspired several of the students to branch out and consider career paths they previously did not know were available to them. “I've had at least five kids tell me they wanted to be professional musicians,” he said.

The program, which meets Mondays and Fridays after school, is especially notable for this particular school: Without the trumpet, trombone, clarinet, and flute lessons provided by members of the Ensemble, most of these students wouldn't be able to afford private lessons.

None of the students had attended a concert before, so concert etiquette lessons—such as learning to stand up when the conductor enters the room—became an important part of the students' instruction. Lerner also noted that



WILD WINDS | Patrick Burns conducts the Columbia University Wind Ensemble, which will participate in its second annual Festival of Winds later this week. Also performing is the Making Music Matter Band, made up of local elementary school students.

the program offered new opportunities for the female members of the P.S. 125 ensemble—as he said, all of the band's trumpet players are girls, even though brass instruments are normally associated with male players.

Leonore Waldrup, BC '10—the Ensemble president and an oboe

player in the group—said, “We [the Columbia University Wind Ensemble] just wanted to donate money... But there wasn't an organization that already met our needs.”

Originally, there was only enough money from last year's festival for 14 students' instruments and other necessities,

such as instructional books and valve oil, but teachers at P.S. 125 donated their personal funds for two other students.

Ensemble members hope that the concert—and the program—will raise awareness of the importance of music education in schools. Citing one reason to keep music education in elementary

COURTESY OF PAUL LERNER

Restaurant & Foodservice expo offers fast but not always fresh

BY JASON BELL
Spectator Staff Writer

Peeking into the kitchen of a Manhattan restaurant might spoil most students' appetites, but watching the well-organized food service industry operate may surprisingly feel just as uncomfortable.

From Feb. 28 to March 2, sample seekers and restaurateurs alike convened at the Javits Center for the International Restaurant & Foodservice Show of New York. Hundreds of booths highlighted ingredients from foie gras to pizza toppings, and kitchen equipment like deep fryers and espresso machines. The massive exhibition demonstrated a trend towards pre-prepared foods that, while making the business of food simpler, upon sampling often paled in comparison to fresher products.

At this industry event, the most salient development in the food world appeared to be culinary outsourcing. This does not necessarily signify a shift of production and services overseas—instead, culinary outsourcing means that products are made outside of the individual outlets where they are sold. When students go to a local coffee shop and sink their teeth into a “fresh scone,” they might not realize that their treat potentially originated in a warehouse miles away.

In fact, pre-prepared, homogenized products might be more prevalent at Columbia University dining facilities than students think. According to Columbia's 2010 Green Report Card that lists “local processors,” Columbia purchases goods from “Rockland Bakeries.” Rockland Bakery's booth at the exhibition featured a display of largely unappetizing, stale,

and plasticized breads and tarts baked for wholesale.

The show featured a definitive division between two categories of purveyors: those providing a fast and easy product and those providing a quality product. More often than not, the former offer cheap solutions to problems like serving muffins to thousands of customers a day. At high volume college eateries, such situations pose a significant quandary to limited kitchens, necessitating a sacrifice in quality for economy.

From sleazy to magnificent to downright strange, the collection of companies at the exhibition provided more free samples than a horde of hungry Columbians could stomach. One offering did, however, stand out from the plethora of industrial bakeries.

Usually associated with super-luxury, foie gras—or engorged duck or goose liver—is an item students rarely purchase. But Hudson Valley Foie Gras, based in Ferndale, New York, stood out from nearby booths for its attention to quality and value. While foie gras is beyond the average student budget, Hudson Valley encourages thrifty students to try their sliced duck prosciutto for a reasonably priced, exotic bacon alternative. Or simply order a two-pound bucket of duck fat, an unconventional substitute for peanut butter on a slice of bread, on their website.

Taking a back-stage look at the restaurant business did not reveal stomach-turning sanitation failures, but rather the homogenization of foodstuffs and the widespread use of wholesale goods. If anything, the event may prompt some students to search for eateries that sell products made in-house—at least until their next trip to Starbucks.



FRESH OR FROZEN? | Booths at the International Restaurant & Foodservice Show of New York display prepared and prepackaged food and a few freshly-made treats.

JASON BELL FOR SPECTATOR

Lecture breaks down complex French language

BY NICOLLETTE BARSAMIAN
Spectator Staff Writer

A recent lecture suggested that French may be more than just the language of romance.

With “French: A Logical Language And Issues Of Translation,” held last night in Barnard's Milbank Hall, Julie Hayes of the University of Massachusetts Amherst looked at the long history of representation of the French language. She described that vision of the language—which she terms “perfectly clear, logical, and pure”—and explained how it intersects with discussions of translation.

The event was part of Barnard's lecture series Translation Across the Disciplines, chaired by Peter Connor. The event was also sponsored by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

In the talk, Hayes tackled a number of complex French literary questions such as, “Is the supposed transparency of French seen as a boob to translation, as many have claimed, or is the so-called purity of French an impediment, a ‘resistance to logic,’ as Jacques Derrida remarked?”

Hayes also discussed the works of French writers Édouard Glissant and Abdelkebir Khatibi to see “how the critique of French transparency provides the groundwork for new theories of translation.”

Hayes normally focuses on 18th century French literature, but this lecture more addressed the French language in general. “I'm not wearing my 18th century hat today,” she joked.

Almost 30 people attended the event, but a large chunk of them seemed to be from the French department. The room was beautiful with its green marble fireplace, but, in the end, Hayes, who spoke for nearly an hour, was lackluster.

She spoke too quickly and nearly every other sentence was in French, without a translation. For students who did not speak French, the lecture was impossible to understand.

The lecture was followed by a question and answer period. There were not many questions.

“I came here for my History of French Language class. My teacher recommended it. I thought the lecture was really interesting. It was difficult to understand, but it was great. It really connected well with my class,” Andrea Marshall, BC '12, said.

“I thought it was really nice. It expressed the ideas of the authors very eloquently and beautifully,” Claire Heyison, BC '13, said.

Heyison, who has gone to past Translation Across the Disciplines events before, added, “As someone who is potentially considering a foreign language major, these lectures are really helpful.”

In theater department, senior theses move from page to stage

BY ROSIE DUPONT
Spectator Staff Writer

Most senior theses usually involve countless hours staring at a word processor and shuffling around the library with armloads of books, but a theater senior thesis is not most theses. Acting and directing theses are walking, talking collaborations involving extensive research and hours of rehearsal.

From March 4-6 in Minor Latham Playhouse, three directors—Tatiana Hullender, CC '10, Danaya Mesa, CC '10, and Rachel Karp, CC '10—and two actors—Paige Johnson, CC '10, and Austin Smith, CC '10—will present and perform pieces that represent their four years of hard work.

Hullender directs “The Inca of Perusalem” by George Bernard Shaw, a social comedy written on the eve of England's involvement in World War I. Hullender saw a number of parallels between Shaw's vision of English society and contemporary American society.



ACTING ACES | Students rehearse for a senior thesis production, “4.48 Psychosis.”

“The economy is crumbling everywhere,” she said, “but the rich people pretend like nothing is happening.”

Hullender decided to contemporize the production to better relate to today's audiences. “I wanted to create a retro-contemporary vibe,” she

said. “Our sound design is a combination of war ditties and beats from the Gorillaz.”

Mesa directs Sarah Kane's “4.48 Psychosis,” a play about clinical depression featuring performances by Johnson and Smith. Famous for its poetic language and the absence of explicit stage directions or delineated characters, the play's line distribution and character development have been major subjects of inquiry throughout the rehearsal process. As Smith said, the unconventionality of the script “challenges us to fill every line with intention and purpose in order to stay connected to the play and our fellow actors.”

Regarding his role in the production, Smith added that “the most challenging aspect of directing this play was figuring out how to avoid reciting poetry and tell a real story.”

Karp helms “Chair,” by Edward Bond, the story of a woman and child trying to live humanely in a dehumanizing society. Karp was turned onto the show by

her former directing professor Maria Mileaf. “Professor Mileaf recommended I read Bond's most famous play, ‘Saved,’ which led to the abolition of theater censorship in the United Kingdom in 1965. I enjoyed it, so I found this shorter play, ‘Chair,’ which addresses similar themes,” Karp said.

When asked what she learned most from the process, Karp said, “I've learned that a large part of being a director is managing other people and other people's creative input.”

Like any thesis experience, the process of putting on these productions has provided a rich theatrical education for everyone involved. “I learned that it's alright not to have all the answers every step of the way,” Johnson said.

“I realized the importance of continually committing myself to the work I'm doing,” Smith said.

For Mesa, the experience confirmed her belief that, as she said, “the best experience in the theater is one of total collaboration.”



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STAFF EDITORIAL

Get some class

Interested candidates are currently form-
ing their “parties” for the upcoming stu-
dent council elections. In all likelihood,
these elections will include mainly students
who are already involved with student gov-
ernment, and next year’s open forums, com-
mittees, and community-building events
will feature the same people in attendance.

Israel, peace not apartheid

BY MEMBERS OF THE COLUMBIA CHAPTER OF
STUDENTS FOR JUSTICE IN PALESTINE

This week marks the sixth annual Israel
Apartheid Week, a series of on-campus
initiatives meant to bring attention to the
plight of the Palestinian people. It is not a
coincidence that it also happens to mark
the first-ever Peace Week for Israelis and
Palestinians established by campus Jewish
groups in order to facilitate dialogue be-
tween Palestinians and Israelis and to es-
tablish “peace.” It is important to note that
Israeli Apartheid Week is meant to raise
awareness about the nature of Israeli apart-
heid, while “Israeli Peace Week” is organized
to refute the existence of such a system de-
spite the fact that a growing international
consensus—comprised of figures including
Desmond Tutu and Nelson Mandela—has
recognized its validity. While some may
have asked why a group of Columbia stu-
dents would spend their weekends assem-
bling a wall, the coinciding of the two weeks
leads them to now ask why it is that sympa-
thizers with the Palestinian cause choose to
erect walls rather than engage in construc-
tive dialogue toward “peace.”

The answer lies in the reactions of people
passing by the wall. Most fall into one of two
groups. Members of the first group typically
have no idea that such a wall was erected in
the occupied Palestinian territories and react
with shock and dismay. Members of the sec-
ond group, on the other hand, claim they re-
gret the “inconvenience” the wall has caused
Palestinians but insist angrily that its presence
is necessary in order to ensure Israel’s security.

Both sets of opinions are completely un-
acceptable. As members of the Columbia
community dedicated to the principles of
human rights and equality and as Americans
whose tax dollars facilitate our government’s
unfailing diplomatic, military, and economic
support of Israel, we have a collective respon-
sibility to learn as much as we can about the
injustice millions of Palestinians must en-
dure on a daily basis. Remaining ignorant of
the wall or writing it off as a mere security
apparatus is offensive and is one of the main
reasons why Israeli Apartheid Week mem-
bers have chosen to erect the wall rather than
engage in dialogue toward “peace.”

Undoubtedly, we believe in—and call
for—the need for peace in the region. We
also completely stand by the fact that there
can be no comprehensive, lasting, and ef-
fective peace unless certain issues are ad-
dressed. Issues such as the unrelenting



ILLUSTRATION BY DARYL SEITCHIK

Peace in the Middle East

BY JONAH LIBEN

Edward Said, the late Columbia professor
and advocate of Palestinian rights, gave a talk
in 1991 South Africa about the state of Western
academia, declaring that “the world we live in
is made up of numerous identities interacting,
sometimes harmoniously, sometimes antitheti-
cally. Not to deal with that whole ... is not to
have academic freedom.” In college, it is im-
perative that students leave their comfort zones
and cultural milieus in favor of new and chal-
lenging ideals and discourses.

Over the past several weeks, I have had
the great opportunity to see several excel-
lent events covering the Middle East and
spanning Columbia’s and Barnard’s cam-
puses. Because I come from the ranks of
Hillel’s Israel programming, I am normally
involved in Middle East programming with-
in the Jewish community. However, some of
the recent events I attended were not run by
Hillel but by other groups around campus.

For example, in early February, I attended a
talk called “My Jerusalem: Tense Politics of the
Everyday” by the esteemed Israeli professor Dr.
Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian. Dr. Shalhoub-
Kevorkian discussed, among other things, the
traumatic experiences of children who grow up

Most students acknowledge this, and while
many have opinions about the policies of the
Columbia College Student Council, few, if
any, will run. Perhaps they should.
It should be noted that the current CCSC
Executive Board has only one member—
president Sue Yang, CC ’10—who had par-
ticipated in student government prior to
running. It is to Yang’s credit that her Clear
Party brought new faces to council leader-
ship, but that does not change the fact that
the election was uncontested. Nor does it
change the fact that open council meetings
and study breaks alike are regularly attend-
ed by the same people, the vast majority of

occupation of Palestinian territories, the
continued expansion of illegal Israeli set-
tlements, the right of return for Palestinian
refugees under UN Resolution 194, the il-
legal blockade of Gaza, and equality for
Palestinian citizens of Israel are issues that
must be resolved before Palestinians and
Israelis can truly discuss peace.

The first step is for the international
community, Israel included, to recognize
the legitimacy of the Palestinians and their
cause. Simply put, the word “Palestine”
must cease to be taboo. Too often, the
Palestinian/Israeli situation is treated as
a singular case in history, set apart from
others by its historical or religious nature.
But we cannot move forward unless we re-
lease that narrative. One of the main goals
of Israel Apartheid Week is, in fact, to place
the question of Palestine in a transnational
and comparative frame by drawing analog-
ies between Israel and other regimes.

The second step is to recognize the
injustices being committed against the
Palestinians at present and to address and
redress them. In order to establish equality
between two groups, one must grant them
both their rights and recognize their inter-
ests. In our opinion, the Palestinians have
too often been the victims of a failed peace
process (that was more process than peace)
which rewrote their struggle against occu-
pation as a negotiation between two rela-
tively equal sides, sidestepping the question
of rights and justice, both of which have
been denied to them.

Yet, there can be no true peace without
justice, and no justice without the legal and
social equality of Palestinians and Israelis.
The Israeli wall, as we see it, is an obstacle
blocking the path to peace, for it contin-
ues to delegitimize Palestinians and deny
them their rights. In erecting a mock-wall
on campus, we are essentially calling for
that wall to be completely deconstructed
and torn down in order for true peace to
be established in its wake.

*Tanya Keilani is a student in the Graduate
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Public Affairs.*

whom are themselves council members.
There are two main causes of this sweeping
disinterest in council elections. The first is
general apathy toward student government.
It is remarkable that, at a school as politi-
cally engaged as Columbia, where students
act as though they have the capacity to incite
change on both a national and international
level, undergraduates do not care about the
level of government at which they could ar-
guably have the greatest impact. Students
who want to effect change should consider
where that change can realistically be made.
Fresh faces bring fresh ideas, and new peo-
ple bring new perspectives.



ANNA
ARONS

Two cents and sensibility

grab breakfast, brush my teeth for the
Sonicare-required two minutes, and
make the 12-minute trek (two long
blocks, six short blocks) to campus.

I’ve been bragging a lot about this
accomplishment, and what my audi-
ence fixates on—even more so than
my commitment to dental hygiene—is
that walk to campus. “12 minutes?”
Where do you live? New Jersey?” No,
in fact, I live in Cathedral Gardens,
that Barnard residence hall located all
the way at 110th Street and Manhattan
Avenue—so yes, in the eyes of many a
Columbia or Barnard undergraduate,
a place as distant as that fabled land
across the Hudson.

Here, on the western banks of the
river, the Columbia and Barnard cam-
puses together comprise 36 acres—ac-
cording to Beef Magazine, enough area
to sustain exactly one cow-calf unit
per year. And yet, proving that humans
are superior to cattle, or at least more
efficient in our grass consumption,
thousands of us live, work, study, and
eat in that same area every day. Given
that concentration of population and
purpose, it’s no wonder that the idea of
distance is telescoped. If you’re travel-
ing above 125th Street, below 110th
Street, or east of Amsterdam Avenue,
you might as well bring a telescope—
along with a compass, trail mix (heavy
on the M&M’s, light on everything
else), and a Sherpa. When I strike out
for campus from Cathedral Gardens,
I triple-check my provisions, wear
my sensible walking shoes, and run
through contingency plans involving
cabs, buses, and stealing children’s bi-
cycles in case I’m late.

And yet every so often, I hear dis-
patches from friends at other schools
reminding me that a 20-minute trip
to school (17-minute miracle aside)
can hardly be considered a schlep. At
the University of California, Davis, for
instance, my 0.8-mile commute would
be downright luxurious. There, after
freshman year, upperclassmen pack all
of their belongings onto the backs of
their bicycles and ride to new homes
spread across the town. Of course, it’s
not entirely fair to compare Columbia,
a private, urban, and well-endowed
university, to the public and subur-
ban UC Davis. But even compared to
a peer institution, Columbia’s physical
space (and the accompanying concept
of distance) is tiny. The University of
Pennsylvania, for example, sprawls
across 300 acres of Philadelphia, mak-
ing it 10 times the size of Columbia.
The uninitiated might expect

The second reason is a perception of the
councils as closed communities. Because
the same faces show up again and again,
many students come to believe that cam-
pus politics are unwelcoming to outsid-
ers. This is a sentiment unworthy of the
student body of Barack Obama’s alma
mater. Any student who wants to make
a difference and is interested in student
council—even if that interest is simply in
making the councils something in which
people are actually interested—should
run. It’s entirely possible that they won’t
win, but the surest way not to win is not
to enter the race.

Going the distance

Seventeen minutes: that’s how
long it took me last week to go
from dead-to-the-world asleep to
discussing the size of city blocks
in a discus- sion section. In that amount
of time, I managed to get dressed,
grab breakfast, brush my teeth for the
Sonicare-required two minutes, and
make the 12-minute trek (two long
blocks, six short blocks) to campus.
I’ve been bragging a lot about this
accomplishment, and what my audi-
ence fixates on—even more so than
my commitment to dental hygiene—is
that walk to campus. “12 minutes?”
Where do you live? New Jersey?” No,
in fact, I live in Cathedral Gardens,
that Barnard residence hall located all
the way at 110th Street and Manhattan
Avenue—so yes, in the eyes of many a
Columbia or Barnard undergraduate,
a place as distant as that fabled land
across the Hudson.

I am by no means exempt from this
attitude. My first year, even as I tran-
sitioned from a 40-minute commute

Because students rarely have to walk more than two or three blocks, the nearby neighborhood can remain foreign and enigmatic.

in high school, I complained about the
long, tunnel-protected journey from
Sulzberger to Milbank, and I often
considered staying home on a Saturday
night rather than stumbling all the way
to 1020. So it was with great trepida-
tion—and the temptation of natural
light and a dishwasher—that I chose
to live in Cathedral Gardens this year.
What I’ve found is this: having phys-
ical distance from campus has given me
a new perspective, both literally and
figuratively. Like your grandpa and the
U.S. Postal Service, I walk uphill both
ways to school, through rain, sleet, or
snow. As I do so, I nod to the ever-
present proprietor of Giovanni’s and
try to avoid the snowballs that fly be-
tween kids coming home from school.
I climb the slope of Morningside
Drive, and look to the park on my
right and the dark and gothic backside
of St. John the Divine on my left.

I think of my previous three years
here—of horror stories about muggings
along the park and the vacant building
across from Cathedral Gardens, of the
general consensus that the 36 acres and
Broadway alone represent a safe haven,
and of all I’ve missed because of iner-
tia and fear. Even as Columbia looms
ahead and the city falls away beside me,
I realize that on these walks, I feel more
like a part of the city than at any other
time. I’m just another New Yorker,
bridging the distance between Point A
and Point B.

*Anna Arons is a Barnard College senior
majoring in urban studies. Two cents
and sensibility runs alternate Wednesdays.*

on the map. As a legal scholar, she fights the
Israeli courts, using the system’s legal terminol-
ogy to prove her points. Finally, she speaks out
and spreads her knowledge through lectures.
Never did she call for a boycott or divestment
as other audience members did, perhaps be-
cause she knew that doing so would put her and
the other million-and-a-half Palestinian-Israeli
citizens out of jobs. Although I did not agree

with everything said in
the room during the talk,
I learned a lot about an
important issue in the
Middle East today.

As a devoted 21 cen-
tury Zionist, I apply
Professor Said’s quote
to Middle Eastern pol-
itics. In order to step
out of my comfort zone
and really learn what is
out there, I read Khalidi next to Jabotinsky.
Al-Bayati’s poetry rests beside Amichai’s,
and Nuseibeh’s memoirs are across from
Ben-Gurion’s. But more than that, there is a
constant attempt to provide the community
in Hillel—with all of its different internal
goals, agendas, political leanings, and mis-
sions—with meaningful programming that
helps everybody think outside the box. This
is why I write to you now. For the week of
March 1-7, the four Israel groups in Hillel,
namely the Israel Committee, LionPAC, Just
Peace, and Garin Lavi, have joined together

to present events that we feel are in the in-
terest of both Israeli and Palestinian peace,
hence the name for our initiative, Peace
Week for Israelis and Palestinians.

Much of our programming directly relates
to issues surrounding both Palestinians and
Israelis. Tonight, one of our groups is sponsor-
ing an event that highlights the myriad grass
roots movements in Israel that work to push
the Israeli government toward peace with its
Palestinian neighbors. Many of the groups
whose information will be spread are either
based in or work with Palestinians in Gaza, the
West Bank, and Israel. These include B’Tselem,
Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions,
the Jenin Freedom Theatre, and OneVoice.
Thursday’s program, “Soldiers Speak Out,” will
feature former Israeli soldiers giving their per-
sonal testimonies on how they dealt with moral
and ethical issues while serving in Gaza and
the West Bank. Our groups are attempting to
engage with anyone and everyone interested in
peace in the way we believe is most appropri-
ate: through events that encourage construc-
tive dialogue and not hatred and slander. This
is the mission of our week, and we hope in
earnest to see you there.

*The author is a student in the School of
General Studies and a junior in the Jewish
Theological Seminary. He is majoring in
MEALAC and modern Jewish studies. He is the
Hillel Israel Coordinator and a representative on
the Student Governing Board.*

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

ACROSS

1 Hit bottom?
6 Imitate
10 Excessive elbow-benders
14 Put down
15 Sandy color
16 World's largest furniture retailer
17 Fibs
20 Author LuShan
21 "Bad" cholesterol letters
22 Scrooge creator
23 The first film it aired was "Gone with the Wind"
24 Inauguration Day events
25 Seductive peepers
29 Barnyard sound
32 A car with this is often easier to resell
33 What quibblers split
35 Asian on the Enterprise bridge
36 Deadens
39 Spanish hand
40 Seagoing mil. training group
42 Montgomery native
44 His, to Henri
45 Like large cereal boxes
48 Online suffix with Net
49 Some dashes
50 Like test papers awaiting grading
53 ___ chi ch'uan
54 Swell, slangily
57 1963 Elvis hit with the lyrics "You look like an angel ... but I got wise"
60 Leave out
61 Signaled backstage, perhaps
62 "The Da Vinci Code" star
63 Shake, as a police tail
64 TV's tiny Taylor
65 Typical O. Henry ending

DOWN

1 Black Friday store event
2 Term paper abbr.
3 Excel input
4 Part of i.e.
5 Easily heard heard leader
6 Feeble cry
7 German "I"
8 "Dragnet" sergeant
9 Useless
10 Jockey's wear
11 Steinbock migrant
12 Suffix with four, six, seven and nine
13 Say freshly
18 ___ Dantes, the Count of Monte Cristo
19 PlayPal "currency"
23 Brook fish
24 On point
25 Cap'n's subordinates
26 Make used (to)
27 Apollo's birthplace, in Greek myth
28 ___ cups
29 Home of the Hurricanes
30 Cuban-born TV producer
31 United
34 Pile up
37 Midwest political gp.
38 No different from, with "the"
41 De Beers founder
Rhodes
43 When "They Drive," in a 1940 Rait/Bogart film
46 Cat of many colors
47 Demand from a door pounder
48 Vindictiveness
50 Superstar
51 Puar clownfish
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xwordeditor@aol.com 03/03/10

By Ken Bennett
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FILE PHOTOS
INTO THE SWING OF THINGS | The Columbia baseball team will kick off its season this weekend against UNLV.

Freshmen will be key in upcoming season

BASEBALL from back page

record and 2.30 ERA, while batting .438.

Ricky Kleban, a pitcher and outfielder can hopefully add some pop to the Lions lineup. The Georgia native slugged nine home runs with 32 RBI and a .426 batting average as a senior. Starting pitcher Stefan Olson joins the Lions after hurling a 3.55 ERA in his senior year and twice being named a letterwinner. Finally, outfielder Dario Pizzano, a four-time letterwinner and two-time captain in high school, joins the Light Blue after batting an eye-popping .520 during his senior year.

In addition to the freshmen, much of the weight of 2010 will rest upon the shoulders of upperclassmen, including team captains Dean Forthun and Jason Banos. Forthun, a senior, has established himself as both a stalwart catcher and powerful offensive force. In 141 at bats last season, Forthun hit .298 with a home run and 20 runs knocked in while preserving a .976 fielding percentage.

“Dean Forthun had a breakout year offensively last year, he has been a great catcher for us but he also stepped up last year offensively and picked up the slack,” explained Boretti.

Banos, a junior, was sidelined in 2009 with an injury sustained in preseason. However, as a freshman he served as the Lions starting left fielder in all 44 games. In addition to cranking out six home runs and 31 RBI, Banos ranked third on the squad with a .316 batting average, and led the team in walks with 20. Banos and Forthun will need to lead by example, but they are accompanied by a deep roster of veterans and rising stars.

Junior outfielder Bobby O’Brien will also need to step up in 2010. O’Brien was a hit machine last season as he led the Light Blue with a .337 batting average, though he only stepped to the plate 89 times. Second baseman Jon Eisen broke onto the field as a rookie in 2009 with a bang, hitting .331 over 145 at bats. Eisen finished 2009 leading the team in base hits (48) and on-base percentage (.426), as well as hitting .400 in conference games with a .506 on-base percentage. Other star batters Nick Cox, Billy Rumpke, Alex Ferrara, and Anthony Potter will need to fill bigger shoes this season.

“I think it’s a collective job, stepping up,” said Brett Boretti. “Guys like Nick Cox, Billy Rumpke, Dear Forthun, Jon Eisen, Al Ferrara are just a few of the guys who have a lot of time as far as experience goes.”

While scoring runs caused the Lions some difficulty down the stretch last year, the pitching staff will need to work on consistency as well. The Lions proclivity to surrender late-inning leads last season was a large factor in their downfall. While the pitching rotation has yet to be set in stone, there is a safe bet that some of the usual suspects will take to the mound frequently. Geoff Whitaker, Pat Lowery, Dan Bracey, and Roger Aquino will likely see a lot of hitters.

“I think Pat Lowry, Dan Bracey, and Geoff Whitaker are guys who will backbone the staff and we will start looking for those three guys to lead it and go from there,” Boretti explained. “I definitely think we are deeper on the hill than we have been in past seasons.”

In terms of the rest of the Gehrig Division and Ivy League, the competition will be tight as usual. Cornell clinched the top spot in the Gehrig Division last season after edging out Princeton. Columbia finished a few games above

Penn, who suffered a 5-15 conference season last year. In the Rolfe Division Dartmouth snatched first place with a 16-4 conference record, finishing just one game in front of Brown while Harvard and Yale earned third and fourth place, respectively.

“I think the competition is wide open this season, and I don’t think anybody is head and shoulders above anyone else,” Boretti explained. “It is about who can get off to a good start when the conference begins and who can stay healthy.”

In terms of the upcoming schedule, Columbia will spend most of March battling nonconference foes on the road until its home opener against Bucknell on March 27. The Lions will kick off the Ivy season against Yale on April 3 at home. This weekend the Light Blue will travel to Las Vegas, Nevada for a four-game series against UNLV. And while UNLV is already eight games deep into its season with a 6-2 record, the Lions goal remains the same.

“Our nonconference games are very important, we want to go out and be as successful as we can,” said Boretti. “UNLV is a team that has put some major runs on the board so we are going to have to be very efficient with our pitching, and have to do some things offensively to stay in the game and put ourselves in a position to win games.”

The first pitch of Columbia’s 2009-2010 season will be hurled on Friday, March 5 at 10 p.m. in Las Vegas.

“We want to be in a position late in April that it’s in our hands in the last weekend,” Boretti said. “And we want to do some things to create a postseason situation for ourselves.”

Senior columnist ranks five best Columbia games he’s seen as sports writer, fan

VELAZQUEZ from back page

fact that starting quarterback Millicent Olawale and running back Ray Rangel were not available. Freshman Sean Brackett performed admirably in his first start for the Light Blue, but the Bulldogs staged a furious comeback late in the fourth quarter. After a touchdown run by Alex Thomas, it looked like the Lions were on the way to victory as running back Leon Ivery streaked toward the end zone on Columbia’s next possession. In what might have been one of the best hustle plays I’ve seen, Yale safety Adam Money caught Ivery and tripped him up at the 2-yard line after a gain of 75 yards. On the next play the Lions fumbled and the Bulldogs recovered. Each team then had another chance with the ball before another fumble gave the Bulldogs a chance for one last drive with 2:06 left. With 58 seconds left, Yale took the lead for the first time, and left everyone at the game—including themselves—at least a little surprised.

3. *Men’s Basketball—On the road against Cornell, Jan. 27, 2007*

Road trips are fun, with the usual exception of going to Ithaca. The trip on this dreary January day was no different, but at least the basketball game was a good one. Cornell had a strong, substantial crowd and the game was heated from start to finish. Though the Lions ultimately fell to the young, talented Big Red, the game wasn’t a total loss as it gave rise to a new Spectator tradition—I won’t mention it now, though I will in a column in the future.

2. *Men’s Basketball—Grimes’ late shot helps Columbia sweep Penn, Feb. 26, 2010*

On top of what I said about this game earlier, I’d like to add that it had everything. Penn brought its band and cheerleaders, the stands were packed, and Brian Grimes sent the Quakers packing with a deep fadeaway with 2.7 seconds left. Oh yeah, and it secured the Lions’ first sweep of the Quakers since the 1967-68 season.

1. *Football—Wait, seriously? Did that just happen? Nov. 26, 2009*

This was a no-brainer. This game pitted the Columbia football team against Brown on senior day this past season with the chance to secure their best record in the Ivy League since 2003. This game had a little bit of everything, including the greatest play I’ve ever seen in person.

“This game had a little bit of everything, including the greatest play I’ve ever seen in person.”

Mehrer looked like he was going to be tackled around mid-field, but he alertly pitched the ball to senior safety Andy Shalbrack, and the senior finished what the junior had started to give the Lions a 21-7 lead at the half. There was a lull while the refs conferred about a flag, but when they signaled that it was against Brown, the sidelines erupted, the fans went into frenzy, and even some people in the press box broke their usual vow to stay unbiased—not me, of course. Though the game itself was great in many ways, that one play stole the show and will live on as one of the greatest in Columbia football history.

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Hale sets new records in 200m, 400m

HALE from back page

women’s 4x400m relay at the NYRR Saturday Night at the Armory II to a then-school record, 3:42.60. She kept the ball rolling at the prestigious New Balance Collegiate Invitational with a then-school record of 54.73 in the open 400m and a second school record, 3:41.19, in the 4x400m, a provisional qualifier to the NCAA meet.

The relay event has helped to foster camaraderie among its members, whose personal specialties range from the 60m hurdles to the 200m and 400m sprints. Sophomores Hale, Kyra Caldwell, and Kristen Houp and freshman Yamira Bell have a bond that at once extends beyond and contributes positively to the 200m oval.

“We are all really close outside of the team,” Hale said. “But we’re also always talking about track, assessing what we can do better.”

A final tune-up for Heps at the NYRR Saturday Night at the Armory III saw Hale lower her own school indoor record yet again, taking the 400m with a 54.20.

The women’s team knew going into Heptagonals that they could be in contention for the win, but that to do so would require a potentially unwieldy feat on the part of a few. Hale was undaunted.

“I couldn’t remember the last time I’d doubled,” she said, “but I wanted to do whatever was needed of me for my team.”

Her contribution was more than anyone could have asked or expected. On day one, she set Heps heat records in the 200m and 400m preliminaries with times of 24.24 and 54.46, respectively. On day two, Hale set new records in the finals of both events. In the 400m, she set a new Columbia record of 53.79—the second-fastest in Ivy history—and in the 200m, she set a new Columbia and Ivy record of 24.20. That was only the second time Hale had competed the 200m indoors. In addition, she anchored the 4x400m to third. For her triumphs, she was acknowledged as the women’s Most Outstanding Performer.

Cloud nine has proven a comfortable locale, but Hale has paid her dues. An Amateur Athletic Union competitor from a young age, she was a force as soon as she entered the high school stage, winning state titles her freshman year. But Hale didn’t take to a move from the comforts of her hometown Detroit to Wisconsin her sophomore year.

“I couldn’t even train because of the move,” she said. In the absence of a track at her new school, Hale moved up to the 400m for fear of injury at the 100m or 200m. The transition was successful.

“I tried the 400m and was able to win at states,” she said.

Still, lacking the appropriate facilities, Hale did not return to her previous stature during her upperclassman years. Nonetheless, her potential was a point of fact.

“We knew she was talented,” sprints coach Gavin O’Neal said. “People who had seen her run told us, ‘This girl is fast.’” If that wasn’t assurance enough, powerhouses Texas A&M and South Carolina—notorious for turning out Olympic athletes—were offering her full rides. In the end, Columbia turned out to be the right fit.

With her freshman year success and evident progression at Indoor Heps, Hale’s talent is indisputable.

“She can run anything from the 100m to the 400m,” O’Neal said. “We want to keep her healthy and allow her to continue getting stronger.”

Add to that a zealous ambition and confidence that fears none. “I know the goals that I want to achieve and I’m not intimidated,” Hale said. “I love to run with people who are faster.”

Hale will head to Arkansas for the NCAA Championships March 12-13 to see how she currently matches up. Apart from that, outdoor Heps are a short two months away, and her appetite is whetted for a second shot in the 400m at nationals.

In the long term, the focus is London 2012.

“Of course I want to go pro,” Hale said. “If I can stay healthy and continue to improve like I’ve been, it’s not far-fetched.”

O’Neal shares that belief and sees its realization as dependent on tactical proficiency.

“We’ve stressed the ability of managing a 400m race—finding the balance of a good first 200 and finishing strong,” he said. “If you have the proper strategy, you’re going to maximize your performance.”

Hale’s got the drive and the tools, without a doubt. For the experience, she has another two years. One thing that’s certain: You should stay tuned.

FILE PHOTO



CHASING DOWN THE DEFENDER | The Columbia women’s lacrosse team will look to open its season with a two-game win streak as it looks to follow a win over Monmouth with a win over Bucknell.

Lacrosse looks for second win of season

BY JULIA GARRISON
Spectator Staff Writer

The women’s lacrosse team, coming off its 18-13 win this weekend against Monmouth, will be hosting Bucknell today at Baker Field in its second regular season contest. Currently, the Lions are undefeated (1-0), while the Bison are 1-3, having lost to Robert Morris 10-8 on Sunday.

When the two teams competed last year, Columbia was able to defeat Bucknell in a close battle, 15-14. However, the game did not start out in the Lions’ favor, as the Bison were able to gain an early 3-1 lead. With 12:20 to go in the half, Columbia answered back with three goals, one by freshman Taylor Gattinella and two by junior Brittany Shannon, that tipped the score in Columbia’s favor to 4-3. Both teams continued to capitalize on scoring opportunities with Shannon putting in two more goals and the senior co-captain Holly Glynn scoring four goals as well. At halftime, the Lions had gained a 9-6 lead over Bucknell, but at the opening of the 2nd half, the Bison answered by scoring three goals in less than three minutes, tying the game 9-9. The rest of the match was close, the score alternating in favor of each team. However, the winning goal proved to be by junior Frances Callaghan with 6:27 left in the game. Goalkeeper Emma Mintz had a significant save for the Lions in the final minutes of the game, preserving the win and tallying 10 total saves for the game.

Last year’s match against Bucknell was the Lions’ final game of the 2009 season. With the win, they finished with a 9-7 overall record, setting a program record for wins in a season in Columbia lacrosse history. In overall matches against the Bison, Columbia holds a winning streak since 2002 and dominates Bucknell 8-2 in competition history.

The Columbia-Bucknell match will begin at 4 p.m at Robert K. Kraft Field at Baker Complex.

Pick up a copy of the Spec tomorrow to read about men's basketball's seniors—Kevin Bulger, Patrick Foley, and Niko Scott—as their final weekend looms.

TOMORROW



SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2010 • PAGE 8



Look inside to read the preview for the women's lacrosse team's matchup with Bucknell, taking place today at the Baker Athletic Complex.

PAGE 7

Columnist picks top five CU games



MATT VELAZQUEZ
The X-Factor

As a sports writer and former sports editor for Spectator, I've spent much of my time here at Columbia trying to be as unbiased as possible.

When you're the beat reporter for a team, that's how you have to approach the games you're covering, and when you're the sports editor for a newspaper that covers many teams, that's how you have to act at every game. Despite that inner urge that has told me to cheer for Columbia at every juncture, I've had to remain composed and impartial at most sporting events that I've attended.

That hasn't been the case this semester, though, as I've attended most Columbia basketball games—men's and women's—as a fan, not a reporter. On Friday night, I enjoyed my best night as a Lions fan as part of what a Daily Pennsylvanian reporter called the “virulent and vulgar” in Levien Gym. Not only did Columbia pull out a last second win against Penn, but I was also picked as fan of the game—the Rack and Soul was delicious, by the way—and spent the final moments of the game in the front row jumping up and down and hugging Roar-ee. Even with the final weekend of basketball and the spring sports season approaching, I feel safe in saying that Friday night was the capstone on my career as a student-fan.

Looking back at the past three and a half years, there are five games that stand out to me as the most memorable that I have seen while a Columbia student. I didn't get to enjoy all of them as a fan, Columbia didn't necessarily win all of them, and some of them hold more sentimental value than athletic value, but here are the top five most memorable games that I have seen as a Columbia student.

Tie-5. Women's basketball—Two big wins for the Lions against Dartmouth, Feb. 15, 2008 and Feb. 19, 2010

And when I said I was going to pick the top five games, I lied and actually meant the top six. After some careful consideration, I realized that I couldn't decide between a 58-55 win by the Columbia women's basketball team over Dartmouth in 2008 and the overtime thriller between these two teams just a few weeks ago. In 2008, the Lions entered the game with a 4-2 record in the Ivy League—the four wins matched their total number of league wins from the season before—against one of the traditional dominant powers in the league. The young Lions, in a hugely important game for the program, beat the Big Green and went on to finish in the top half of the league.

This season's game against the Big Green was just as exciting as the game in 2008—some would even argue it was a better game to watch. The game went back and forth, and it took all the Lions had to force overtime. At a crucial juncture of the game, senior Danielle Browne hit what might have been the best unintentional banked 3-pointer in Columbia history—unless you called it, Danielle, because if you did, mad props. In overtime, the Light Blue pulled ahead to secure its first season sweep of the Big Green since the 1990-91 season.

4. Football—Yale squeaks out a win, Oct. 31, 2009

Columbia fans thought they were in for a treat this past Halloween, as the Lions led 22-10 with 8:32 minutes left in the game despite the

SEE VELAZQUEZ, page 7

All HALE the Queen

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

BY GREGORY KREMLER
Spectator Staff Writer

If it wasn't already apparent, sophomore phenom Sharay Hale made clear her stranglehold on women's Ivy League sprints this past weekend at the Heptagonal Championships. In her second conference appearance indoors, Hale accrued 26 points and led the Lions to a strong runner-up showing, just 15 points behind the Princeton Tigers.

This is not to say that her dominance was a surprise. Last spring, Hale posted the fastest time in the nation for a freshman in 400m outdoors with her 52.64. She won the Ivy title in that event and advanced to the NCAA Championships in Fayetteville, Ark. There she got her first taste of the big leagues, and it was bittersweet—she was the first to miss the final heat, by eight hundredths of a second.

Hale used that experience as a building ground and motivational point. She returned in the fall ready to work and determined to improve upon her freshman year second-place finish at the indoor Heps. But of course, nothing ever goes as smoothly as planned. Hale incurred a stress fracture in her shin in late October and was sidelined for a month and a half.

“I wasn't sure if I was going to be able to make nationals after that,” she said. “I guess I proved myself wrong.”

That she did. In spite of the setback, Hale came out firing this winter, winning the 500m run and anchoring the

SEE HALE, page 7

DRIVEN | Sophomore standout Sharay Hale posted several record-breaking performances this weekend.

FILE PHOTO

Baseball looks to regain Ivy title in 2010

BY MICHAEL SHAPIRO
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Even though Morningside Heights is still blanketed with snow, the Columbia baseball team is ready for action. And though many of us are worried more about midterms or our March Madness brackets, spring sports are prepping for the upcoming season. For the Lions, this means the start of a grueling 46-game season commencing with a road trip to Las Vegas.

Upperclassmen may recall that just two years ago the Columbia baseball team captured the Ivy Baseball Championship with a 15-5 Ivy record. However, the defending champions were unable to repeat the win last season, as the Lions dropped to third place in the Gehrig Division with a 7-13 conference record (11-32 overall). Bats were hot at the wrong time and cold when the pitching staff needed run support. The team would jump to early leads, but surrender late-inning runs to drop winnable contests. The Lions struggled for the latter half of the season, and dropping three out of four games to Penn closed the books on the Light Blue's chance for winning back-to-back Ivy titles.

The Lions suffered the loss of a half-dozen seniors to graduation at the end of the 2008-2009 season. Included in the bunch was first baseman Ron Williams, Columbia's all-time hits leader, a co-captain, and starting pitcher Joe Scarlata, co-captain and reliever Joey Mizzoni, and co-captain third baseman/shortstop Mike Roberts. The Light Blue also bid adieu to second baseman Kyle Roberts and designated hitter/first baseman Jon Tasman.

Despite losing the seniors, eight promising freshmen have

earned roster spots to try and fill the void of the departed graduates. The versatile bunch includes right-handed pitchers, infielders, and outfielders.


“I think the freshmen are going to have a big impact and a number of them have performed well in the preseason,” said Lions Head Coach Brett Boretti. “It is definitely a talented group in terms of the guys on the mound as well as positional players. It is going to be interesting to see how things shake out as things go forward.”

Shortstop and right-handed pitcher Alex Black from The Woodlands, Texas, served as his team's captain in high school, where he hit .379 with eight home runs and 33 runs batted in. Nick Crucet will backup Jon Eisen at second base. Crucet was named to the all-county second team by the Miami Herald after his phenomenal senior year in which he accumulated a .393 batting average with 40 runs scored and 18

stolen bases.

Righty outfielder Nick Ferraresi joins the squad fresh out of serving as team captain at his high school in Wellington, Florida. Ferraresi was a three-year letterwinner and hit a scorching .420 during his sophomore season. Starting pitcher Tim Giel has Joe Scarlata's big shoes to fill in the pitching rotation. Giel, who played football and wrestled in addition to baseball in high school, was a two-time MVP and racked up a 10-2 record with a dangerously low 1.08 earned run average and 128 strikeouts. Third baseman and starting pitcher Eric Williams proved himself during high school as a four-year letterwinner with a 6-3

SEE BASEBALL, page 7



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