

LEAVING A LEGACY



JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

AND THIS IS IT | Kevin Bulger, Patrick Foley, and Niko Scott will take to the court for the last time this weekend. See back page.

Students question media role in gender-neutral policy delay

BY LEAH GREENBAUM
Spectator Staff Writer

Despite negative media reports last semester that suggested gender-neutral housing was a way for amorous Columbia students to share a room, campus couples say they were never interested in making their love nest in McBain. And now, students say they are disappointed that the negative coverage, most



notably from the New York Post, which said the proposal would allow couples to “live in sin on their parents’ dime,” may have played a role in the policy’s delay.

Two weeks ago, Dean of Student Affairs Kevin Shollenberger announced that gender-neutral housing, which would allow for mixed-gender doubles, would not be available for the 2010-2011 lottery, but also said that the administration is seriously considering a pilot program for the 2011-2012 school year. This delay, based on a need for more time, according to

administrators, surprised students who had drafted the proposal and were confident it would pass.

Sean Udell, vice president of the Columbia College class of 2011 and treasurer for Columbia Queer Alliance, said that the national media attention that framed the proposal as a push for “co-ed” housing, as opposed to gender-neutral housing, “gave the administration the ammunition to delay the process.”

“If this hadn’t been brought out into the national conversation in such a misguided way I think we’d be in a very different

place right now,” he said.

Kati Fitzgerald, BC ’10, said she and her boyfriend of several years were disappointed to hear that the proposal had been delayed, but not because they were ever interested in living together.

“I don’t think we would’ve thought, ‘Oh goodie, there’s a new policy that’ll let us live in Watt together,’” she said. “I really don’t think that would be the deciding factor for us moving in together.”

She added that she believes the

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Julia Stiles, CC ’05, alumni receive John Jay Awards

BY ALIX PIANIN
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

For actress Julia Stiles, CC ’05, Wednesday night marked the beginning of the end.

“It’s all downhill from here,” Stiles, 28, joked at the John Jay Awards, the annual event hosted by the Columbia College Alumni Association honoring five alumni for professional achievements.

As the youngest of five recipients, Stiles said this was a surreal experience. “I feel like I graduated,” she said.

The other winners this year were David Rosand, CC ’59 and Meyer Schapiro Professor of Art History, Brian Krisberg, CC ’81, chair of the Columbia College Alumni Association Board of Directors, Frank Lopez-Balboa, CC ’82, a managing director of Goldman Sachs, and Tracy Maitland, CC

’82, president and chief investment officer of Advent Capital Management.

The recipients gathered with hundreds of students, alumni, and administrators in a restored Grand Central Terminal on 42nd Street for the dinner’s 32nd year.

The event benefits the John Jay National Scholarship Program. This year, the event raised over a million dollars, William Campbell, CC ’62, chair of the board of trustees, said.

But Columbia College Dean Michele Moody-Adams reminded patrons that there was still an uphill financial battle ahead, even though difficult times can encourage innovation. “It is in the times of substantial challenge that acts of courage and commitment can have the greatest consequences,” Moody-Adams said.

SEE JOHN JAY AWARDS, page 2



ALIX PIANIN FOR SPECTATOR

RECOGNITION | Julia Stiles, CC ’05, with University President Lee Bollinger at the annual John Jay Awards, at Grand Central this year.

Nursing home may give P.S. 163 room to expand

BY SARAH DARVILLE
Spectator Staff Writer

The answer to P.S. 163’s problems of overcrowding may lie in the block’s newest nursing home.

P.S. 163, an elementary school on 97th Street between Amsterdam and Columbus avenues, may get a chance to expand with the potential construction of a controversial new facility for Jewish Home Lifecare.

The school is in discussions with JHL to secure space in the nursing home’s new building on 100th Street when it is constructed, and to possibly to build a bridge between the two buildings.

JHL hopes to develop a 22-story facility through a land swap with developer Chetrit Group, by which the nursing home would gain property on 100th Street, currently owned by Chetrit. In this swap, Chetrit would develop on JHL’s current site on 106th.

Ethan Geto, spokesperson for JHL, said that the group has been speaking with the school about including pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classrooms as well as art or music rooms in the new facility.

“The school has said that they have not made up their minds about some or all of the kinds of spaces they want, so we are waiting on them,” he said.

If the school did request extensive space, Geto said the building’s architectural plans would have to be amended.

“We can’t do all of that without original plan for the nursing home—that space is allocated to skilled nursing care.



SARAH DARVILLE FOR SPECTATOR

SEARCHING FOR SPACE | P.S. 163 on 97th Street, between Amsterdam and Columbus, is looking to expand into a potential nursing home on 100th Street that will be developed if Jewish Home Lifecare’s land swap occurs.

The community and elected officials would have to accept the fact that building might need to add on a story or two depending on what the school asks for,” he said.

Carrie Reynolds, co-president of P.S. 163’s Parent Teacher Association, confirmed that the school has had meetings with JHL.

Currently, the school has four kindergarten classes operating in trailers due to overcrowding,

a situation that Reynolds said is not sustainable.

“Looking ahead, when the trailers near the end of their lifespan, and with JHL coming into the space right behind that, it’s logical to see if we could share space,” she said, adding that she thinks that the added area is more likely to be made up of multipurpose rooms like dance studios.

But she acknowledged that increasing the height of

buildings in this area is not an easy sell.

“I know people don’t like tall buildings, but perhaps if they see the benefit to lots of different groups they might think differently. It’s not a high-rise apartment building going up, where it’s hard to see the benefit,” Reynolds said.

Geto said that the Bloomingdale branch of the

SEE NURSING HOME, page 2

Charles Rangel steps down as chairman

Congressman on leave amid allegations of ethics violations

BY KIM KIRSCHENBAUM
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Congressman Charles Rangel, who represents Northern Manhattan, announced on Wednesday that he is temporarily stepping down from his post as chairman of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee.

Rangel sent a letter on Wednesday morning to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi requesting a leave of absence as the House Ethics Committee completes its investigation of his tax and financial transactions.

Rangel, who has represented Harlem since 1971, faces allegations that include falsely disclosing his personal assets, failing to pay federal income taxes on a vacation property, and renting rent-stabilized apartments in Harlem at rates far below market value, despite rules prohibiting House members from accepting gifts that cost above \$50.

Rangel said at a press conference that he was taking a leave of absence “in order to avoid my colleagues having to defend me during their elections.”

And some local politicians say that while many of the charges could be unwarranted, several allegations leave him with no other choice but to relinquish the gavel.

Curtis Arluck, a District Leader of the New York County Democratic Committee and member of the Broadway Democrats—the official Democratic organization for Morningside Heights—said that



FILE PHOTO

SETBACK | Charles Rangel stepped down from Ways and Means.

he only felt strongly about the charge in 2008 suggesting that Rangel had preserved a tax break for an oil-drilling company in exchange for a \$1 million contribution to a public-policy school that would bear his name.

“In light of that serious allegation, the decision to step down temporarily is the correct one,” Arluck said, adding, “I find this whole matter heart breaking. ... It’s a shame that Rangel’s distinguished career is winding up in this cloud.”

Some say that what Rangel calls a “leave of absence” might be a euphemism for his permanent departure, one which may have been on its way since the House ethics panel began its inquiry two years ago.

“The intention of saying that he is temporarily stepping down is essentially to not make him feel so bad,” New York Democratic consultant Hank Sheinkopf said. “It’s

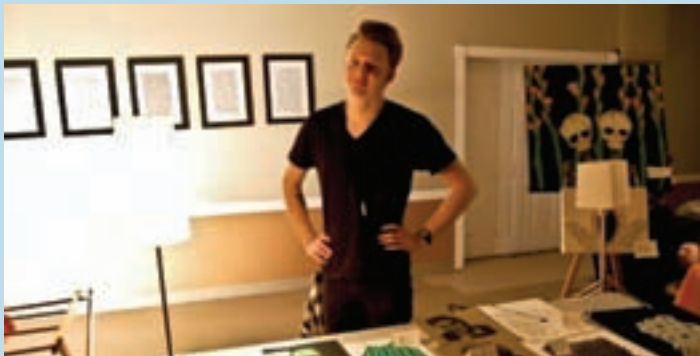
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CC alum brings the noise with charity concerts

Jeff Petriello, CC ’09, is raiding the philanthropical pantry by hosting pantry parties—concerts targeted at teen demographics with the intention of raising money for soup kitchens and food pantries.



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Real friends on Facebook

Wish Tony Gong a happy birthday on Facebook. And mean it.

Anti terror, pro truth

Before discussing the situation in Israel, we should first establish the facts.

Today's Events

The Ivory Tower

“A history of an idea about knowledge and politics,” with Steven Shapin. *Common Room, Heyman, 6:15 p.m.*

Counting the Dead

Winifred Tate presents hwe work on transnational activism. *1510 SIPA, 12 p.m.*

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WEATHER

Today Tomorrow

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Students discuss history of needle exchange with Harm Reduction Coalition

BY JEREMY BLEEKE
Spectator Staff Writer

When Allan Clear moved to New York in 1983, his experiences with drugs taught him that he could not sit by and watch as users spread diseases.

“I moved here in 1983, and I used drugs throughout my stay as I was living here,” Clear, executive director of the Harm Reduction Coalition, told a crowd of students on Tuesday during his talk, “Drug Use and HIV/AIDS: The History of Needle Exchange in New York City.”

“The more entrenched you were in the gay community, and the more entrenched you were in the drug community, the amount of people you knew with AIDS was phenomenal,” he said. “For me personally, it reached a point where I couldn’t sit by and not do something in response.”

The talk, hosted by the Student Global AIDS Campaign, is part of the group’s effort to raise awareness of stigmatized social issues. On Tuesday, the organization turned its attention to needle and syringe exchange.

“We think it’s really important to bring in people like this

to let students know, especially with controversial topics, that these things need to be talked about,” said GSAC co-director Lauren Ko, CC ’10.

For Clear, the solution in the ’80s was to cut off one major source of the disease’s spread—the needles used to inject drugs.

“Syringe exchange is a very simple intervention,” Clear said. “It is ... replacing a potentially contaminated piece of injecting equipment with a new one.”

Under President Jimmy Carter, drug paraphernalia laws made access to syringes increasingly difficult. But

according to Clear, this only made the widespread problem worse.

“People didn’t stop using drugs,” Clear said. “They just didn’t have enough syringes, so they had to share.”

Clear said that although it was technically illegal to establish needle exchanges, the courts saw needle exchanges as the lesser of two evils when compared with the use of contaminated syringes.

Although federal funding for needle exchange programs was prohibited in 1988, President Barack Obama lifted a ban on federal money for

needle exchanges that passed last December.

But when Clear began his activist work, the lack of government support forced him to do some creative problem solving. He described trips to local public health centers carrying water coolers filled with syringes, dumping the contents out on a table inside.

“We made this stuff up as we went along,” he said.

Now, 20 years later, this activism has become a career. As director of the Harm Reduction Coalition, Clear oversees a number of public health programs to provide help to disenfranchised populations.

Jasmine Van Denventer, a student in the School of Continuing Education, said she appreciated Clear’s talk, because the distribution of clean needles is often overlooked.

“It’s a pressing issue that, given the stigma of drug use, is one that definitely gets sidelined.”

Brenda Smith, GS, agreed, saying, “Most of this audience cannot really relate to needle and drug problems, and he was trying to reach them,” Smith said. “It’s a problem that can affect all of us. It’s not an isolated issue.”

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Nursing home may provide school space for P.S. 163

NURSING HOME from front page

New York Public Library, which sits adjacent to the parking lot, would have to be relocated into the nursing home as well.

“If we’re able to do that ... we can have a walkway directly between P.S. 163 and the new nursing facility, so the kids can walk in a sheltered way to the library,” he said.

The building height is only one concern for some neighborhood residents who have been fighting the larger Columbus Square development surrounding P.S. 163.

Jean Green Dorsey, who lives across the street from the school, doubted that putting school space in the nursing home would work.

“That was somebody’s fantasy,” she said, adding, “They’d have to tear down ... the library and rebuild the whole complex, which makes no

sense whatsoever,” she said. “Nobody’s seen a comprehensive plan, no one’s done a traffic study, or environmental review.”

Any space for the school would require public funding, the acquisition of which Geto and Reynolds both agreed is uncertain, given the city’s current budget.

Though funds could be divided over the next few fiscal years, Geto said basic decisions about how they will configure the building need to be made in the next four to eight weeks before the city has to submit the budget.

All of these plans are still tentative because Jewish Home Lifecare has not officially completed the land swap with Chetrit to take over the property on 100th Street, currently a parking lot, where JHL hopes to build its new facility.

While JHL explores options

for school development, a long-time land-zoning war is also keeping the nursing home busy.

When Chetrit and JHL announced the land swap in August 2009, local preservationist groups spoke out against the nursing home, fearing that Chetrit would take advantage of less-restrictive zoning regulations on 106th Street.

The more lenient guidelines on 106th, which allow for taller development, were preserved in a zoning exemption granted to JHL in 2007 to allow it to build a new facility on its original site.

JHL has been working for months with community groups to write a restrictive declaration, which would legally bind Chetrit to develop contextually under stricter zoning rules once the swap is completed.

Community Board 7 Chair Mel Wymore said Wednesday

that lawyers are working on the final details of the restrictive declaration, which is “within days, if not hours away” from being finished.

But City Council member Melissa Mark-Viverito, who represents Manhattan Valley, has said that this kind of document is not enough, and has been pushing to raise funds to downzone 106th immediately herself. This would legally change zoning laws now on 106th so that all developments, whether JHL moves or stays, will be contextual.

“It’s going to cost \$150,000 to \$200,000. We’re talking with the mayor’s office. It could be done through allocations the Borough President could make, city planning could make—they have discretionary funds,” Mark-Viverito said. “We haven’t abandoned the idea.”

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SARAH DARVILLE FOR SPECTATOR

NEW NEIGHBORS | A potential Jewish Home Lifecare nursing facility on 100th Street may also include school space for P.S. 163 students.

Julia Stiles, alums share stories at dinner

JOHN JAY AWARDS from front page

But for University President Lee Bollinger, the year has proven relatively quiet. While Bollinger has seen campus controversy in his time, he could tell it’s a calm semester “when the biggest story on campus is coyotes,” he said, referring to a public safety recent sighting.

Stiles, in her speech, discussed the challenges of balancing education and her acting career as an undergraduate. “I had already started

working by the time I was applying to college,” she said. “But they [Columbia] also taught me that my career and my studies were not mutually exclusive.”

Despite Stiles’s fame, perhaps the largest applause was saved for Krisberg, who has remained a part of the Alumni Association for over 20 years. Krisberg, in his speech, bemoaned his first few days on campus. Forced to commute because of a lack of Columbia housing, Krisberg

forgot his swimsuit at home and was instructed to take the mandatory swim test naked. And to add insult to injury, “I had chosen an all-male institution,” he said.

Krisberg said his twenty-plus years working with alumni has had a significant impact on his life. With a couple of exceptions, he said, “Tonight is the best night of my life.”

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Students question gender-neutral delay

GENDER-NEUTRAL from front page

discussion about co-habiting couples took away from the focus of the proposal, which she said was “to create equal options, so that everyone could feel comfortable with their living space.”

Sydney Shaefer, CC ’12, said that she was disappointed she would not be able to live with her best friend next year, a male who currently lives across the hall from her.

“I’m sure that [concern about couples living together] had something to do with it,” she said, adding that she hopes the administration comes around next year.

Barry Weinberg, CC ’12, said, “I am extraordinarily disappointed.” Speaking of his female friend, he said, “There is no one at Columbia that I would have been better suited to live with.”

Alex Jasiulek, president of the Columbia College class of 2013, said he is confident he will be able to live with a female friend in his junior year, since he attributes the delay to poor timing, rather than to moral reservations from administrators or fears of public censure.

“I don’t think it really came down to the administration feeling like they’d get flacked by the media, because this will pass next year,” he said. “I imagine they just need more time.”

Shollenberger explained that administrators want to make sure they have time to have a “larger community conversation” in the spring. They also want time to fully incorporate any change into the housing lottery, as well as into brochures and tours, before enacting the change.

Shollenberger and the

students who authored the proposal have emphasized that it is not intended for people who are romantically involved.

At peer institutions, like Brown, where gender-neutral housing is available to upperclassmen, moving in with a romantic partner is explicitly discouraged.

Jeremy Slawin, CC ’11, said that he and his girlfriend and most of the couples they know, would not live together in Columbia housing.

But he said that even if they did, he doesn’t think that “the school should have the right to say ‘No—you’re not allowed.’”

He added, “Sure it could get sticky—you might break up and need to do a room transfer—but that’s a decision couples should be allowed to make for themselves.”

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CORRECTION

In yesterday’s staff editorial, the current Columbia College Student Council executive board’s former party was identified as the “Clear Party,” when, in actuality, it was the “Action Potential Party.” Spectator regrets the error.

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CC alumnus raids the ‘Pantry’ with concert fundraisers

BY MAX BARTICK
Columbia Daily Spectator

Peeking out from a sea of smiling, wiggling, dancing teenagers stood Jeff Petriello, CC ’09, the proud host of the event, better known as a **MUSIC** “Pantry Party.”

What, exactly, is a Pantry Party? These concerts targeted at the under-21 crowd raise money for soup kitchens and food pantries, offering a dose of culture for those who often can’t get access to the same events as those with the IDs to prove it, with the proceeds going to a good case.

Petriello said his love for music and the arts grew during his time at Columbia. “Columbia was the greatest experience of my life. No exaggeration,” Petriello said. The New Jersey group is also hoping to host “Pantry Parties” in collaboration with current Columbia students to benefit neighborhoods around the University as the events gain momentum.

The idea for Pantry Parties was

conceived this past summer when Petriello and a close friend, Marla Lacherza, were bored, jobless, and living at home with their parents in Wayne, New Jersey like many of their fellow graduates. “I was hanging out a decent amount with my little cousin,” Petriello said, “and I realized that he didn’t have access to the kinds of live shows and events I used to go to when I was his age.”

Both Lacherza and Petriello have fond memories of growing up in Wayne and attending concerts at a local abandoned firehouse where they saw burgeoning turn-of-the-millennium acts such as Midtown, Jimmy Eat World, Blink-182, and The Get Up Kids. “Lacherza and I wanted to bring back the Wayne music scene for the young’uns—this time, doing it our way,” Petriello said.

Choosing to revive the artistic spirit of the Wayne Firehouse, Lacherza and Petriello planned to host concerts at the nostalgic venue that not only displayed local musical talent but also

“provided the opportunity for artists to showcase their craft,” Lacherza said. The Pantry Parties exhibit handmade jewelry, T-shirts, paintings, baked goods and even art from the nearby high school for partygoers to enjoy between acts and hopefully purchase to take home with them.

While concocting such a vision through the long days of summer, Petriello stumbled upon an article in the local paper about a 30 percent shortage of goods in nearby soup kitchens and pantries. The two planners decided that they should include providing relief to such local organizations in their goals for the upcoming year.

With such great aspirations came certain sizeable obstacles as well. “The problem, as it always seems to be for me,” Petriello said, “was money.” In order for the Pantry Parties to succeed, the two cofounders needed to find a way to encourage local kids to come see bands they may have never heard before. Also, to benefit the charity, an entry fee would have to be charged.

“Ten dollars may not be a lot to some people, but an admission price like that around here can severely hinder an event’s attendance,” said Petriello. “So we came up with a sort of pay-what-you-want, Radiohead-inspired system that provides the option to replace conventional currency with canned food.”

It still costs ten dollars to enter the party, but for every can of food one brings, an additional dollar is marked off the original fare. All of the donated food is then brought to a local soup kitchen.

The atmosphere for the party coordinators is always kept light-hearted. The Pantry Party team includes Petriello and Lacherza, as well as members of their family and close friends. Some other members include local Wayne residents such as “Street Team Leader” Kevin Bing, “Art and Crafts Commander” Katie Paricio, and “Cupcake President” Hayley Treanor.

Petriello and Lacherza have big dreams for the future of their Pantry Parties. Part of the beauty of the events is

that they provide an “easily reproducible model that can be utilized in other places besides Wayne,” Petriello explained. Petriello’s grand vision is to take a road trip across America and stop in myriad towns along the way to catch different versions of the Pantry Party.

“I’m interested in a model similar to the one Food Not Bombs [a non-profit network] uses, where we have a set of guidelines that anyone, anywhere can pick up and use,” Petriello said.

While some recent college graduates hold money as their ultimate goal, “Money is our anti-cause,” Petriello explained, “which is kind of difficult for [some people] to understand. I’m just interested in spreading this idea to as many people as possible.”

Petriello and Lacherza’s mission is to bring back the thriving scene of music and creativity that once underlined their childhood and spread it to other small towns near and far. Simply put, Petriello said, “I’m trying to save suburbia. Just because you don’t live in a big city doesn’t mean you can’t have big ideas.”



Yoga newcomers and lovers find campus and city groups

BY CAMILA DANIELS
Columbia Daily Spectator

Get rid of midterm craziness with a few ujjayi yoga breaths. Yoga has many different goals, from improving health to achieving moksha, which is liberation from worldly suffering and the cycle of birth and death. It can also be used to establish a deeper connection with a higher power. More commonly, however, yoga refers to a series of traditional physical and mental disciplines that originate in India and are associated with meditative practices.

STYLE For those interested in becoming yogis, there are several affordable options to explore as a Columbia student. For one, various groups on campus practice yoga. A group led by Gadadhara Pandit Dasa meets every Thursday at 7 a.m. for meditation sessions, and Columbia’s Bhakti Club hosts two yoga retreats each semester that include 90-minute introductions to the hatha, Iyengar, and vinyasa branches of yoga. The Bhakti Club also hosts mantra meditation, lectures by senior monks, and kirtan, which is the chanting of mantras accompanied by musical instruments.

At Barnard, students can sign up through FITbear, a fitness program at the school, for a weekday yoga pass that costs \$40 and allows two one-hour sessions per week. There is also the option of purchasing a weekend pass for \$20 and one hour-long session every Friday. At Dodge, the registration for the spring semester is now closed, but yoga classes run between \$50 and \$99 for a one-hour session. Dodge offers a wide selection of yoga courses, including courses in hatha, Iyengar, and vinyasa.

For those who don’t find on-campus offerings to be sufficient, there are inexpensive yoga collectives in the city. For beginners, the Integral Yoga Institute in the West Village (227 W 13th Street, between seventh and Greenwich avenues) offers a few free classes during work hours.

Yoga to the People in the East Village (12 St. Marks Place, between second and third avenues) is a yoga collective that also offers free classes, but these tend to be crowded, so for those who desire individual attention, this is not the best place. Yoga to the People also offers vinyasa, or hot, yoga classes for \$5 at their second studio located at 38th Street and 8th Avenue.

Closer to home, Lululemon Athletica (1928 Broadway at 64th Street) offers free Sunday night classes at 8 p.m. in the store’s studio. Or, for the super intense yogi, Pilates Shop Yoga Garage (2805 Broadway, between 108th and 109th streets) offers 75-minute individual yoga sessions for a mere \$150. Free might be worth the longer trek.

The several branches of yoga include raja, karma, jnana, bhakti, and hatha. Hatha yoga is the most common branch of yoga, and its postures are used as a form of exercise. They are also excellent for addressing stress-related issues. Between 75 and 90 percent of visits to the school physician are for stress-related issues.

Yoga and other forms of meditation have been proven to help alleviate stress and to help with posture and flexibility. Recent studies suggest that months to years of intensive and systematic meditation training can improve attention—so campus cram-mers may want to study up.



ANDRA MIHALI / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

UPWARD FACING | Students learn about the spiritual and physical benefits of yoga at weekly dinners and meditation sessions that are held by Columbia’s Bhakti Club, led by monk Gadadhara Pandit Dasa.

Harvard president Faust discusses book on Civil War suffering

BY SAM SEGAL
Columbia Daily Spectator

It’s hard to say what’s more appealing: Harvard President Drew Faust’s captivating perspective on the profound effects of the **BOOKS** Civil War or sushi on little napkins and free drinks. But fear not: This isn’t an either-or. Apparently the two go hand in hand.

On Wednesday evening, students, Morningside residents, and members of both Columbia and Harvard faculty convened at the Columbia Faculty House to hear Faust discuss her latest book, “This Republic of Suffering:

Death and the American Civil War.” A book signing and reception with free food followed.

“This Republic of Suffering,” published in 2008, earned Faust a Bancroft Prize—given annually by Columbia for works on American history—and was a 2008 National Book Award Finalist. Many works have been penned on the Civil War, but Faust’s newest book, which examines the war’s lasting political and philosophical effects, manages to provide a new perspective and has garnered substantial critical acclaim. “Historians are interested in change,” she said.

In her talk, Faust explained that

the carnage of the Civil War forced America to examine itself and the realities of war and that even those affected indirectly were forced to confront death on an unprecedented scale.

She discussed the changes in how America viewed citizenship, grieving, mortality, and a benevolent god, describing the bloody, indelible stain the war left on America.

Faust’s speech was generally well received. Asheesh Kapur Siddique, a graduate student of history, expressed his excitement after the event, saying, “I thought it was terrific. It’s really a privilege to hear a leading historian speak.”

An undergraduate who had read the

book was similarly pleased. “The question and answer [session] was very illuminating,” said Parker Fishel, CC ’10.

Faust is acclaimed for her vivid historical prose, but when appointed Harvard’s 28th president, she found herself not writing but making history. She is Harvard’s first president, since 1672, without a Harvard degree, and she is the first female in the line of 27 that have come before her.

To wrap the evening up, Faust read the last two paragraphs of her book, which concludes: “We still work to live with the riddle that they—the Civil War dead and their survivors alike—had to solve so long ago.”



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Religious intolerance at Columbia



DEREK
 TURNER

Opening Remarks

I t wasn't neces-
 sarily a state-
 ment of dogma.
 Nor was it a purely
 religious declara-
 tion. Instead, what
 Governor Tim
 Pawlenty said dur-
 ing his speech at
 the Conservative
 Political Action
 Conference was
 more of a mention
 of what influenced his view of American
 liberties. In a list of what he considered
 to be critical conservative ideals, the first
 item he mentioned was that "God is in
 charge." Continuing on, he reminded
 the audience of right-wingers that the
 Declaration of Independence asserts that
 our rights are "endowed by our Creator."
 As the applause from the audience grew,
 I felt myself do what any self-respecting
 Columbian would do in that situation.
 I reacted impulsively against the idea of
 bringing God into the discussion. After
 all, this was a political conference—not
 some religious congregation looking for
 teachings from above.

I say that this reaction was impulsive
 because, after enough time at Columbia,
 we all seem to unwittingly adopt a mind-
 set that religious belief belongs only in the
 restrictive realm of personal life, regardless
 of the strength of our conviction. So long
 as these beliefs remain comfortably in the
 private sphere, they can be accepted. If not,
 then the ever-thinning acceptance quickly
 turns to intolerance of what is deemed
 publicly irrelevant. The reality is that these
 tacit expectations of restraint, as tame as
 they may seem, actually serve as aggressive
 regulators of belief on this campus.

So why cringe at a comment like
 Pawlenty's? From my experiences here, I
 can guess that my response had less to do
 with what he was saying than with where
 he was saying it. He was in a political envi-
 ronment but failed to stick to our approved
 system of separating "real" parts of life
 from the more "unreal" parts like religion.
 He brought in a topic that we would con-
 sider inappropriate to the discussion—an
 unwelcome intruder from a separate social
 dimension. Instead of sticking to a sober
 combination of policy and secular persua-
 sion, he was invoking "religion." This ap-
 peal, whether by politicians or anyone else,
 finds no acceptance at Columbia.

Granted, not every environment at
 Columbia is hostile toward faith. In a
 religion class or a service, perspective in-
 formed by faith is embraced. If you are a
 religious person in such a class, your view-
 point is thoughtfully considered. In this
 limited way, Columbia is quite supportive
 when it comes to religious life. Outside
 of these very specific situations, however,
 faith is an unwanted interloper.

When Columbia's strict social bound-
 ary between academic and religious
 identity begins to blur, people get uncom-
 fortable—especially when the latter makes
 surprise appearances into the former's ter-
 ritory. Don't buy it? Think back to a time
 when this overlap happened. Recall when,
 in Frontiers of Science, a student men-
 tioned that she believes in some variant
 of Divine agency in creation. Remember
 an instance when a classmate refuted
 Aristotle's theory of natural slavery by as-
 serting a belief in an equal dignity given
 by a Creator. Consider that moment when
 a fellow anthropology student mentioned
 that he didn't believe a certain cultural
 practice was morally acceptable.

Can't think of any instances of that hap-
 pening? No? That's probably because, like
 most Columbians, you would consider
 such a scene laughable. Even the religious
 students among us realize this and have
 forced themselves to suppress their convic-
 tions. They realize that at Columbia, reli-
 gion has no place in the classroom except
 as a subject of cultural examination.

Chesterton put it this way: "You are free
 in our time to say that God does not exist;
 you are free to say that He exists and is evil.
 ... But if you speak of God as a fact, as a
 thing like a tiger, as a reason for changing
 one's conduct, then the modern world will
 stop you somehow if it can. We are long
 past talking about whether an unbeliever
 should be punished for being irreverent. It
 is now thought irreverent to be a believer."

To someone devoted to his faith, there
 is no part of life that is somehow separate
 from personal beliefs. To leave his religious
 convictions at the door of a classroom is as
 ridiculous as the prospect of leaving other
 philosophical opinions or life experiences
 there as well. Faith is not the same as hav-
 ing a cultural food that you like to eat or
 a type of clothing that you prefer to wear.
 Faith is a framework for life itself—it affects
 everything. It's a worldview. Relegating
 faith to outside the classroom implies an
 attempt to create a faith-free zone, when in
 fact the classroom already teems with faith
 of every sort. My hope is that Columbia
 can recognize this silent judgment against
 religious thought and condemn it for what
 it is: an atrocious censoring of identity.

Derek Turner is a Columbia College
 sophomore majoring in anthropology and
 political science. Opening Remarks runs
 alternate Thursdays.

Israeli "apartheid:"
a call for facts

BY ERIC J. SCHORR

This week begins "Israel Apartheid
 Week," organized by the Students for Justice
 in Palestine. On Monday, this group as-
 serted that the "apartheid future ... is al-
 ready here" in the government of the State
 of Israel, accusing Israel of systematically
 discriminating Palestinians in and outside
 of its borders. Unfortunately, this is a
 grossly misleading picture of history,
 of context, and of the very definition
 of apartheid. Israel, far from being a
 modern incarnation of an "apartheid"
 state is, in fact, a vibrant representative
 democracy that guarantees equal rights
 to all its citizens, in both theory and
 practice.

The fundamental mistake made by SJP
 is its unfortunate misinterpretation of
 "apartheid." Apartheid, as defined by the
 United Nations is "inhuman acts com-
 mitted for the purpose of ... maintaining
 domination by one
 racial group ...
 over any other ra-
 cial group ... and
 systematically
 oppressing them."
 Despite SJP's as-
 sertions of the
 "racial discrimi-
 nation against
 Palestinian citi-
 zens of Israel,"
 their charges
 of apartheid
 only serve to
 conflate the
 identities of Israeli Arabs with those of in-
 dependent Palestinians in the West Bank
 and Gaza. Israeli Arabs, on one hand, en-
 joy the same protections and rights as any
 other Israeli. They are free to vote, have full
 freedoms of speech and assembly, and many
 have gone on to serve in the Israeli parlia-
 ment and in the Israeli court system. Israeli

law protects all Israeli citizens, and all eth-
 nic, religious, and political groups, large and
 small, are represented in the Israeli parlia-
 ment system. Palestinians of Gaza and the
 West Bank, on the other hand, fall under the
 direct jurisdiction and authority of Hamas
 and the Palestinian Authority.

Indeed, the recognition that the
 Palestinians of the West Bank are not citi-
 zens of Israel is shown in a quote that SJP
 themselves referenced. Defense Minister
 of Israel Ehud Barak's assertion that Israel
 could become "an apartheid state," was part
 of a greater statement expressing his hope
 that Israel would not have any interference
 in the lives of Palestinians in the West Bank,
 and served to further his
 belief in the establishment
 of a sovereign Palestinian
 state. He has maintained

that for a Palestinian state to be fully real-
 ized, Hamas and the Palestinian Authority
 must first abandon terrorism and media in-
 citement in favor of peace and security.

The fact that Palestinians outside of
 Israel are not citizens means that Israel has
 a moral and legal requirement to do all it

can to protect its own borders and citizenry
 from harm. If suicide bombers and rock-
 ets were entering the United States from
 any of its neighbors, one could say with a
 great degree of certainty that the United
 States would not stop with a simple secu-
 rity wall. As President Obama stated when
 visiting Israel, "Israelis must not suffer a
 threat to their lives, to their schools ... if
 missiles were falling where my two daugh-
 ters sleep, I would do everything in order
 to stop that."

SJP also states they want Israel to "grant
 Palestinians their basic human rights," yet
 they ignore the fact that, despite not be-
 ing Israeli citizens, the Palestinians in
 both Gaza and the West Bank are given
 food, water, heat, and gas by Israel. Also,
 Palestinians living in the major
 West Bank towns
 of Ramallah,
 Nablus, and
 Jenin are not
 under Israeli
 military control, but
 policed directly by Palestinian security
 forces.

Ultimately, however, the Students for
 Justice in Palestine and other groups who
 believe Israel is wrong will continue to label
 both the nation and its actions whatever they
 wish. If this week's activities are about
 "love and respect for human rights,"
 why is SJP not protesting those gov-
 ernments that are murdering indi-
 viduals who dare speak their minds
 against those in charge? Shouldn't it be
 recognized that suicide bombing and
 rocketing innocent civilians is a hor-
 rible crime, one which the Israeli
 government is morally required to
 prevent? We must therefore ask
 these students for "justice." What
 is just? To protect innocent lives
 in a democracy, or to actively
 campaign for the demoniza-
 tion and economic ruin of a
 country that cherishes all we believe in: the
 rights to life, speech, assembly, and of course,
 justice for all.

The author is a student in the School of
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 Theological Seminary. He is the director of
 public relations for LionPAC.

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Ricochet
6 1040EZ issuer
9 Bump off
14 Single-handed
15 ___ de plume
16 Controversially, Jane Fonda visited it in 1972
17 Check, as a bill
18 "Place to keep supplies
20 "Target at the start of a point, in tennis
22 Nickelodeon explorer
23 Start of a basic piano lesson scale
24 Head, slangily
27 Asia's ___ Darya river
30 "Patient record
33 Ore-Ida morsel
35 Golden ___
36 Exchange
37 Hide-hair connector
39 Old way to get a number
40 "I don't want to be remembered for my tennis accomplishments" speaker
41 At 41, Kipling was the youngest one ever in his field
43 "Jump around on the sofa?"
47 Society-page word
48 Kal ___ pot food
49 Actress Longoria
50 New Mexico art colony
52 "Flying need
57 "The answers to the starred clues (including this one) form a continuous one—its connections are created by the end of one answer and the start of the next
60 Order-restoring tool
61 Sáo ___
62 Homer's bartender

63 Twin Cities suburb
64 When some nightly news shows begin
65 Next yr.'s alumni
66 Prepared

DOWN

1 Traffic causes?
2 Sheltered, at sea
3 Pride warning
4 Like Netflix flicks
5 So-so
6 Available and fresh
7 Coll, drillers
8 Kiss
9 "___ the beef?"
10 Stag
11 "Is that ___?"
12 Loving murmur
13 Kipling's young spy
19 Designer
21 Demo ending?
24 Result of an unsuccessful football play, perhaps
25 End of a threat
26 One way to learn
27 Go after

28 Actress Mason
29 Jazz fan?
31 Stiff collars
32 Shadow
34 Paradise
38 Stand-up acts
39 Windshield-clearing aid
42 ___ muffin
44 Many an ex-lib
45 Cole Porter's "Well, Did You ___?"

46 St. Louis NFLer, previously
51 Black card
52 Roof shingles unit: Abbr.
53 Christian name?
54 Sports shoe brand
55 iPhone command
56 More than amuse
57 FDR program
58 Cereal grain
59 Dirt road feature

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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xwordeditor@aol.com 03/04/10

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By Ben Nadler
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Cornell may be better team, but CU not far behind in individual talent



BART LOPEZ

The Tailgating Tales

Two weeks ago I wrote a column titled “Basketball just needs a little swagger.” I tried to explain why the Columbia men’s basketball team was struggling, and I arrived at swagger as the answer.

When we published the column, I expected some backlash, particularly over the fact that I called out the team for being soft and hesitant. Instead, my column received some negative comments for a claim that I made at the beginning—that the Lions had talent comparable to the elite teams of the league. I argued, primarily through various statistics, that Columbia could keep up with Cornell and Harvard in terms of individual talent. The first comment that popped up under my column was this: “Lions just as good as a nationally ranked team. ... Can I get some of whatever you’re smoking?” Later comments correctly noted that you can’t judge talent by

numbers alone. I admit that I could have done a better job of putting together the stats, but my claim was based primarily on my own observations. The stats were filler.

While watching Cornell and Harvard trounce Columbia here at Levien, I couldn’t help but think that while these teams were good, they weren’t THAT good. In other words, they played solid basketball, but in no way did I feel that our players were out-classed, beaten simply because we lacked the talent to keep up. However, those that posted the comments, primarily Cornell fans, disagreed. So I decided to find someone who is a better judge of talent than I am. Who could possibly have a better basketball eye than me? An NBA scout, of course.

The NBA scout I spoke to earlier this week has been covering the Ivy League for many years, and as a result, has a true understanding of Ivy basketball. I was told that I could not mention his name or the organization he works for, so for the sake of clarity I will refer to him as “The Scout.”

At first we discussed the level of talent in the Ivy League in general, to which The Scout commented, “I

don’t think people in the country, especially in the last 10 or 15 years, give enough credit to how good basketball is in the Ivy League. It’s good basketball—the players are good players.” With that in mind, we turned to how these good players are distributed throughout the league.

“In the Ivy League, generally, there is not that big of a difference in talent level. Sure,

maybe I was on to something. Maybe the Lions are, in fact, as talented as the rest of the Ivy League. But the argument could be made that while it’s normally true that the talent in the league is balanced, this year could be different, especially considering that Cornell has done better than any other Ivy men’s basketball team in recent memory. So what makes Cornell so good?

them were back, and absolutely they play the game at a high level, which you have to give a lot of credit to the coaches—they are very well coached.”

Here is where The Scout gets to what I believe is the heart of the matter. Without a doubt, Cornell has some very talented players, particularly in Jeff Foote and Ryan Wittman. However, the Big Red’s success does not stem directly from the talent of those individuals. As The Scout correctly points out, they’re confident, they have experience playing together, and they’re extremely well coached. In short, Cornell has been very successful at putting together a cohesive and balanced team, as Big Red coach Steve Donahue points out.

“Each school looks for players with their right fit, and we have been able to do a nice job at Cornell finding the type of kids who can be successful in what we do,” he said.

The same is true of Harvard and Princeton. Those teams’ success comes from their ability to play well together and to execute as a unit. So where does that leave Columbia? The Scout pointed out in the interview that the Lions do all the right things,

but that unfortunately, they are struggling with the final component.

“Columbia is what we call ‘non-finishers,’” The Scout said. “They do good things—they work the offense, they get somebody a pretty good shot. ... But when they go in to complete and finish the play, on a play that they look like they should finish, there are too many times in the game where they don’t score.”

I attributed this inability to finish to a lack of mental toughness, which I explained with swagger. There are probably plenty of other explanations and funny words to go along with them, but the point is that something needs to change. The Light Blue has the pieces to be a successful team in the Ivy League. The issue is getting those pieces to perform as part of a team, which is where Cornell and Harvard have been so successful. Columbia can compete with the elite of the Ivy League—it just needs to take that final step.

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Amid allegations, Rangel steps down as chairman

RANGEL from front page

hard to recall the last time someone stepped down as chair of the most powerful committee and was restored,” he added, alluding to the fact that the committee has power over tax policy, international trade, Medicare, Social Security, and welfare programs.

Rep. Pete Stark of California is currently the default chairman by virtue of his seniority, and the Democratic Party has already begun discussing who will succeed Rangel.

Some experts argue, though, that the controversy does not imply an end to Rangel’s political career.

“Charlie Rangel got his seat because of issues with Adam

Clayton Powell,” Barnard political science professor Kimberley Johnson said, referencing Rangel’s predecessor. “It was a number of years before people were fed up with Powell, but I don’t think they’re at that point yet with Rangel.”

Some say that Rangel’s decision to step down is intended to prevent damage to the Democratic Party, particularly during this politically crucial juncture as the party pushes for health care reform and other important agenda items.

“This is a face-saving maneuver,” political science professor Robert Erikson said. “It looks like the Party is telling him it’s time to step down from the Committee

and wishes the problem of this scandal would go away.”

And aside from the Democratic Party’s need to subdue a potential scandal that could compromise their legislative goals, others cite the necessity of his removal in order to avoid future electoral repercussions.

“One could argue that the Democrats are being smart to deal with this now,” assistant professor of political science Jeffrey Lax said. “Push him out—let this not be an issue when election time comes around.”

Lax added that the step down, if made permanent, could hurt Rangel’s district. “It’s one of the most important of the chair positions, one of the most coveted. ...

It’s certainly a loss to his district to have him lose that influence.”

Experts note that because Rangel’s constituents have historically voted Democratic, his success in the general election itself likely would not be jeopardized. But September Democratic primaries could be problematic.

“Harlem is not what people think it is. It is no longer a bastion of black voter turnout,” Sheinkopf said, noting that changing demographics may affect votes. “Voter anger is just as strong in New York as it is in every other place in the country.”

Sam Levin contributed reporting.

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'10

Bulger, Foley, Scott help lay foundation for future success for Columbia basketball

SENIORS from back page

“We were always looked at as the kids that were going to have to bring some sort of change to the game, to lift the level of competition from years past, before we got here,” Scott said.

As freshmen, all three saw significant playing time and made sizeable contributions. Foley, who came off the bench in 24 out of the 25 games he played as a back-up point guard for then-junior Brett Loscalzo, was the second on the team in scoring with 8.9 points per game. Averaging 21.4 minutes a game, Foley was also second on the team in assists with 63 and steals with 20.

Scott, who started in an impressive 18 games his freshman year (playing in 26), was fourth on the team in scoring with 6.8 points per game, and also tied Foley with 20 steals. In the 19.2 minutes he played each game, Scott pulled down an average of 1.8 rebounds.

Bulger played an average of 14.9 minutes in 25 games in his first season. Averaging 3.8 points, Bulger also had an impressive 1.85 assist to turnover ratio.

Even though their stats were impressive, they were still adjusting to college-level play.

“Looking back, I didn’t know what I was doing out there as a freshman,” Foley said. “My head was spinning a lot of the time. The jump from high school to college was just so significant—you have no idea.”

“I think what I really just tried to do was come off the bench and provide some energy and just play hard, and I think that’s something we did well as a freshmen class together,” Foley added.

Bulger too talked about their energy as freshmen and the mental challenge college basketball posed.

“Like Pat said, you’re playing mostly on adrenaline [as a freshmen], whereas now its much more of a mental game—being a senior, kind of understanding how things work,” Bulger said. “A lot of times when you’re younger, you’re just playing off effort and adrenaline.”

Though the challenges of adapting from high school basketball were great, the triumvirate was not eased into college basketball, as they played their first game against perennial powerhouse Duke.

“That was crazy,” Foley said of playing at Duke. “I’ve been a Carolina fan all my life, so it was kind of one of my dreams to go play in Cameron, and it came true.”

Though the Lions ultimately lost to the Blue Devils 86-43, all three freshmen saw time, with Scott putting up eight points, good for second-best on the team.

“I think the weirdest thing was looking at Coach K on the sidelines,” Foley said about the game.

“Growing up, I was always kind of designated as the shooter for whatever team I was on,” Scott said. “Hearing Coach K say, ‘Don’t let him get open! He’s a shooter!’—that was just like whoa.”

While the game was special for all three freshman, it was even more special for Bulger.

“For me it was a little extra special because I’m friends with Jon Scheyer, who plays at Duke,” Bulger said. “We played against each other in high school a lot—we went to rival high schools. It was great to play our first college game against each other, because we had played in the summers and played against each other in high school and had some great battles.”

The freshmen, and the team as a whole, only continued to improve after that game, eventually finishing with an overall record of 16-12—the Light Blue’s first winning record since the 1992-93 season—and a 7-7 Ivy record, the team’s first conference record of .500 or better since 2000-01.

FINDING THEIR FOOTING

In their sophomore year, Bulger, Foley, and Scott all saw an increase in playing time. Bulger, who played in 28 contests (starting once), averaged 19.3 minutes a game, contributing 3.0 points and 2.6 rebounds a contest. Bulger also led the team in steals with 23, and had the third most assists with 54.

Scott started in 19 of the 29 games he played in, averaging 23.2 minutes. He was second on the team in scoring, with 7.7 points and second in assists with 64.

Foley played in only nine games his sophomore season, starting four, due to a shoulder injury. In those nine games, he averaged 6.6 points and 1.6 rebounds while dishing out a total of 28 assists.

Foley has been plagued by health issues his whole career, missing time in his sophomore,

junior, and senior seasons due to a myriad of injuries.

“It’s been a rough stretch,” Foley said. “It’s frustrating to not have had that time to develop as a player. It seems like I’m constantly on the mend and coming back from something rather than building on something, which is tough, because obviously you have high expectations coming into college about what you want to do.”

Sophomore year, it was a shoulder injury that sidelined the point guard. Junior year, it was his foot. This year, it was his shoulder again. Though Foley has consistently put up strong statistics while wearing light blue, he has constantly been battling injuries that have hindered his development as a player.

“I don’t really know how I feel about it yet,” Foley said of his injury-filled career. “It’s just kind of been a whirlwind in the past four years in terms of constantly getting hurt and trying to hurry back and play, and then mending over the summer, and then playing and then getting hurt and then coming back. I think my feelings will kind of set in the next couple of weeks when I look back on not playing college basketball anymore, and I’ll kind of have a better grasp on it.”

EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

The three’s junior year was supposed to be defined by the loss of John Bauman and Ben Nwachukwu, two marquee post

to our fortitude as a team and to Coach keeping us on the right track that we were able to finish that 7-7, and come away, not satisfied, but proud of what we were able to accomplish despite all the adversity.”

Foley and Scott pointed to the contributions of Joe Bova, another post player who also was forced to play at less than 100 percent due to nagging back problems. This year’s seniors pointed to the example set by Bova and Miller as leaving a lasting impression on their approach to the game.

“They played like their life was on the line,” Scott explained, “and that’s something that I’m always going to appreciate because I was out there with them, next to them, doing it as well. They were basically the reason why we were able to overcome so much that year.”

Lost in the three seniors’ efforts to credit Miller and Bova is their own performance that year. Bulger, after all, shared team MVP honors after the 2008-2009 season with Miller. His stat sheet gives an idea of his vast contributions—Bulger finished that year the team leader in assists, second in steals, and fourth in rebounds, despite being listed at only

double figures nine times that year. Playing his best when the stakes were the highest, Scott found his rhythm in Ancient Eight play even with his shoulder troubles, scoring 24 against Brown, 20 against Princeton, and 19 against Penn.

ONE LAST TIME

Looking back, the seniors see a maturation process in their play. As they grew older, Bulger, Foley, and Scott point to a greater recognition of their respective roles and to a greater appreciation of the mental side of the game as central to their development on the court.

Scott explained that from the start Jones has emphasized their importance to the team, whether it’s being “the guy that would stop their [the opponent’s] best player, like Kevin has done for the past four years, or to be the kid that comes off the bench [in his freshman and sophomore years] or starts [the last two years] and runs the team like the point guard that Pat is.”

Realizing those roles has been an ongoing process, one that has coincided with a greater understanding of what it takes to win and what it means to be part of a team.

filling in that void.”

Freshman Mark Cisco echoed this sentiment. When asked what he would miss most about the seniors, Cisco responded, “Their overall commitment. They were willing to do anything to help the team.”

That type of attitude has been present throughout the entire senior class, and has distinguished the three as tri-captains of this year’s squad.

“I think they did a great job leading, and I think they did a great job especially leading by example,” sophomore guard Noruwa Agho said. “On and off the court they definitely do everything that coach Jones talks about and they definitely do everything that yields a successful program and a successful basketball team.”

Jones cannot say enough about his senior class.

“They’ve been unbelievable. They’ve been as important to this program as any seniors we’ve had. They’ve just meant so much,” Jones went on, saying, “They’ve epitomized what this program’s all about, how hard you need to work, the type of person you need to be, and the type of teammate you need to be. We’re going to miss those guys quite a bit.”

This season they’ve shown why, as Scott and Foley have once again proven to be dangerous offensively. Scott has averaged 9.0 points per game, including 43.9 percent shooting from 3-point land, even

3-11 and 4-10 in conference play. After going 7-7 in their first three seasons, with two wins this weekend the triumvirate would become the first class at Columbia to finish in the top four in the Ivy League in over thirty years.

“The expectations are higher when you finish 7-7 in three consecutive years,” Jones pointed out. “We have high aspirations,” he went on, explaining that after the seniors showed up on campus, “we started to be really knocking on the door [in the Ivy League]. Last year, on Feb. 24, we’re one game out of first.”

Talking about their record in Ivy play, Foley commented, “Obviously that’s not where we’d like to be, but it feels good to come into the program and kind of see it progress to a point where we’re a respected program in the league now. We have an identity now, whereas we were kind of the whipping boys, I think, in previous years—we were 2-25 or whatever. I think a lot of credit’s got to go to Coach for helping to turn this place around a little bit and just instilling a new sort of culture into Columbia basketball.”

Scott agreed, adding that although “we didn’t get our ultimate goal of winning the championship, we are still making the strides that we need to make in order to develop. We’re trying to change the whole pattern of Columbia basketball into an upswing.”

It hasn’t been easy, as Bulger acknowledged when asked about the strides his class has made during their time in Morningside Heights. The process has been long and arduous, but there is a sense of satisfaction in the respect Columbia now draws from around the league.

“Looking back, I’ve started to realize how difficult it is to turn a program around because along with getting in better players and guys that fit into what you’re trying to teach, you need support from alumni, from fans, from the other coaches,” Bulger explained. “I think getting to the point we’re at now, like Pat was saying, teams aren’t just putting a W on the scoreboard before the game even starts.”

It hasn’t just been conference rivals who have acknowledged Columbia’s progress. The student body has appreciated the basketball team’s improved play, and it has shown at home games at Levien.

“I’ve got to say, it’s been great—the turnouts we’ve gotten at games this year. It’s really surprised me actually, because we’ve kind of been struggling this year,” Foley said. “I think, since I’ve been here, it’s been the best fan support we’ve had around here, and it’s really nice to see that. There’s nothing like playing in front of a packed house and even just getting a comment from someone walking by like ‘Hey, great game last night.’ I don’t think there’s a much better feeling than that. It’s definitely added incentive to play for your home crowd and for your school when you got something behind you.”

Bulger added that it’s not just students who have gotten behind the squad. Last year, he and Foley took the History of Higher Education with Barnard history professor Robert McCaughey. McCaughey took a special interest in the basketball stars, including them on a list of famous Columbia and Ivy League athletes when the class studied collegiate athletics.

“People always joke about how the Columbia community is pretty apathetic towards sports, and it’s difficult to bring people out, and obviously winning is the only thing that’s ever going to truly change that. We’ve really seen a change,” Bulger said, pointing to the McCaughey anecdote as an example. “Just things like that, where people are having a renewed interest in and support for basketball and athletics in general, has been really great.”

And so when Bulger, Scott, and Foley leave campus, they will not just be leaving a hole on the basketball court. It will be their impact in the classroom, around campus, and on the entire Columbia Athletics Department that will be missed.

Discussing their chance of becoming one of the premier classes in school history, Bulger explained that change is just beginning, saying, “It’s obviously not our goal to be .500 or get six wins in the Ivy League, but if we can keep building it, eventually I think it’s going to turn around and break loose here.”



FILE PHOTOS

THROUGH THE YEARS | Bulger, Foley, and Scott were counted on from the beginning to elevate the Columbia basketball program.

players who were expected to leave major vacancies under the basket for the Lions. Expectations for that year were deflated by such a substantial loss down low.

Injuries added to the Lions’ concerns, with promising transfer Brian Grimes blowing out his knee during preseason and Foley suffering a foot injury and missing a large chunk of games in the middle of the season. Scott was also limited by an injury to his shoulder late in the season.

At the end of the year, however, Columbia found themselves at 7-7 in the Ivy League, the same conference mark the Light Blue had in the previous two campaigns. The credit, the seniors agree, goes to class of 2009 star Jason Miller and his emergence as one of the league’s premier big men.

“I don’t think you can talk about that year without talking about Jason, and how much he stepped up,” Foley immediately responded when asked about his junior season.

“Jason Miller,” chimed in Scott. “I mean when you lose two big guys and you don’t lose anything really in production up front, there’s nothing else that can be said.”

“But I mean, that year,” Foley added, “not where we wanted to be, but still, I think considering we had a lot of injuries, we all felt good about how we finished that year considering what we had been through. It was a testament

6-foot-3 on the roster. Not known as a scorer, Bulger stepped up when called upon, hitting a jumper in the lane with 4.2 seconds to go to give the Lions an exhilarating one-point win over Harvard at home.

Foley and Scott made sure their classmate was not the only big time performer in the backcourt that year. Despite the extended absence caused by his injured foot, Foley had his most productive season, averaging 10.9 points a game along with 2.5 assists. He was the team’s floor general, creating shots both for himself and his teammates.

His 1.33 assist to turnover ratio, as well as his 82.2 percent free throw percentage, both indicated his maturation as a point guard. Tellingly, his return helped to spark the Lions on a 6-1 run in league play and cemented his position as one of the premier point guards in the Ivy League with a particularly strong conference season. It was no coincidence that when Foley went down once more with an injury at the end of the year, the Lions went on a 1-3 skid.

Scott, by now in his third year as a starter, continued to punish teams anytime they gave him a look at the basket, scoring in

When asked what he hopes the underclassmen will learn from his example, Bulger pointed to this learning process.

“What I’m hoping they can learn or take away is the idea that to be successful and to be a part of the team, a key component, you don’t necessarily have to be the best player, the best shooter, the strongest guy,” he explained, citing his own growth as a player as an example.

“If you can find your niche along the way, which is kind of something I feel like I’ve done a little bit, just in terms of defensively and being an energy guy or what-not, you can definitely contribute and help the team win.”

Bulger has embodied this idea as much as anyone, filling any needs the Light Blue has been faced with in the backcourt. When Foley re-injured his shoulder this season, Bulger was forced to take a larger role on offense, one that he has embraced.

“We ask so much of him,” Jones said of Bulger. “Point guard is not his natural position, and he’s done a great job all year

as the offense has shifted its focus towards breakout star Agho. Foley, when healthy, has averaged 9.1 points per game, good for second on the team. He is also third on the team in assists, despite missing 11 of 26 games and making only a brief appearance on Senior Night.

Bulger has answered the call, adding point guard to his responsibilities as the team’s defensive ace. He leads the team in assists and is second in steals, but it is his leadership and his energy that make his efforts so vital to the Light Blue. All three have shown maturity in accepting smaller roles offensively with the emergence of Agho, the team’s scoring leader and the nation’s leader in 3-point percentage for a large part of the year.

Despite the fact they have not lived up to expectations this year, Columbia has turned in several marquee wins, including a dramatic 56-55 win at Levien to complete the first sweep of Ivy-rival Penn for the first time since the 1967-1968 season. At Penn’s famous Palestra Gymnasium, Columbia pulled out a gritty 66-62 win in front of a raucous crowd.

THE LEGACY

It is a sign of the progress the program has made that this year’s (10-16, 4-8 Ivy) record is considered a disappointment. In the two years before this year’s seniors arrived on campus, Columbia went

Pick up a copy of the Spectator tomorrow to read a preview of the final games of the women's basketball season against Yale and Brown in Levien Gym.

TOMORROW



SPORTS

THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2010 • PAGE 8



Check Spectator tomorrow for a preview of the final games of the men's basketball season, as Columbia travels to Yale and Brown.

TOMORROW

The Triumvirate



'06

Patrick Foley
Point guard



'06

Niko Scott
Shooting guard



'06

Kevin Bulger
Guard



'10



'10



'10

FILE PHOTOS

GROWING UP | Pictured in the top row as freshmen, the seniors have grown as individuals as they have brought the team to new heights.

Seniors leave behind transformed program

BY MICHELE CLEARY AND ZACH GLUBIAK
Columbia Daily Spectator

They have combined for over 6308 minutes of playing time. They have scored 1884 points, they have contributed 550 assists, 222 steals, and 593 rebounds. And the numbers are just the beginning of the story of the outgoing men's basketball class of 2010.

Kevin Bulger, Patrick Foley, and Niko Scott have left an indelible mark on the Columbia program with their efforts both on and off the court. In the two years before they came to Morningside Heights, the Lions were a combined 7-21 in Ivy League play. Now they have a chance to be the first group of seniors since the class of 1979 to finish in the top four of the Ivy League standings all four years. Only their final two games in the Light Blue jersey stand in their way.

LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS

The legacy that these seniors will leave behind started when they were just juniors in high school, being recruited by head coach Joe Jones and his staff. Though all three came from different backgrounds, they all knew that Columbia was the right choice for them.

"It's just one of those things where you can't necessarily pinpoint it on any one thing," Bulger said. "I was really comfortable and kind of knew this is where I'd want to end up."

Bulger made his first visit to Columbia when he was beginning his junior year of high school, and even though he also looked at Brown and Yale, he knew that Columbia was right for him early on.

Part of the reason why Bulger was drawn to Columbia was because coach

Jones was working on building a much more successful program.

"I remember when Coach was recruiting me, he was talking about how he wanted players that wanted to help build something," Bulger said. "He didn't want guys that just wanted to come in and not take pride in the program."

Scott was also pursued by Columbia coaches during his junior year, and was drawn to Columbia because of the opportunities it offered outside of basketball and because of its location in New York City.

"We were always looked at as the kids that were going to have to bring some sort of change to the game..."

—Niko Scott

midway through."


Foley was first contacted after his junior year, and though he was being recruited by other schools, he knew almost immediately that Columbia was right for him.

"I was lined up to visit a few different schools—I was going to see Davidson, Harvard, and Yale—and I came here to visit early September. That was my first one, and I just committed right away," Foley said.

BAPTISM BY FIRE

Once they arrived on campus, Bulger, Foley, and Scott had to perform right away. When they joined the Lions in the 2006-07 season, the team was very young, with no seniors and eight freshmen or sophomores, giving the freshmen plenty of opportunities to make their mark.

SENIORS, page 7



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