



NEW FACES | The Engineering Student Council held its annual elections on Monday evening, which continued well past midnight. Chris Elizondo, SEAS '11, standing far left, was elected ESC president, beating out Heidi Ahmed, SEAS '11, who then was elected VP of policy. The candidate for VP of policy withdrew his name from consideration.

ANGELA RADULESCU / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ESC votes Elizondo president

After defeat, Ahmed elected VP of policy

BY CLAIRE STERN
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Chris Elizondo, SEAS '11, was elected Engineering Student Council president Monday night, beating out current secretary Heidi Ahmed, SEAS '11, his only other opponent. Elizondo was previously the vice president for student life.

The ESC elections, unlike the Columbia College Student Council, are internal, meaning the current ESC board holds closed votes after the candidates present five-minute speeches and conduct a short question-and-answer session.

After Elizondo, the other victors were Ahmed for vice president of policy; Narayan Subramanian, SEAS '13, for vice president of intergroup; Santosh Balachandar, SEAS '12, for vice president of student life; and Carla Williams, SEAS '11, for secretary.

"I'm here to win," Elizondo assured the council in his speech. He said that although he served mainly in student life, "That doesn't mean I'm a one-trick pony."

After Ahmed lost the presidency race, she earned a second chance to be on the executive board. Zak Accuardi, SEAS '11, was running unopposed for vice president of policy, but withdrew his name from consideration close to midnight because he believed that "Heidi is the best person for this position." Losing presidential candidates are permitted to run for vice presidential positions, and after Ahmed delivered a second speech, the ESC voted her in.

"I'm about to cry," she said to Accuardi before hugging him. She thanked Accuardi for being a "really

SEE MEAL PLAN, page 6

SEE ESC, page 2

Barnard administrators say required meal plan for all students is official

BY MADINA TOURE
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

After months of heated council meetings, administrative forums, Facebook protests, and newly formed task forces, Barnard administrators officially announced on Monday that all students will be required to participate in a meal plan program.

Previously, only first-year residents and students living in the Quad were required to be on a meal plan. The possibility of a required plan was leaked in

December by Barnard housing, but at the start of the spring semester, administrators said that nothing was final—despite a December email that presented the plan as official. Now, months after the issue was first raised—to the chagrin of students who protested that it was purely for financial reasons—administrators confirmed that the plan will be implemented, with some alterations.

In an email sent out on Monday, Dean of the College Dorothy Denburg and Chief

Operating Officer Gregory Brown announced the new requirement, but said that the plan offers students more flexibility in terms of meal plan options.

Last month, Denburg and Brown met with a task force of twelve students—six students from Barnard's Student Government Association and six from the general student body, including one student self-identified as having allergies and one commuter student. After the students made recommendations to Denburg and Brown, they came up with a meal

plan that administrators say offers students more options.

"We are pleased to announce that we have a meal plan structure shaped by the priority paramount to this discussion, namely, increasing choices for all members of our diverse community," Denburg and Brown wrote in the email.

First-year students will still be required to take the unlimited meal plan. Upperclassmen living in Quad housing can take another meal plan option with fewer meals and at a lower cost.

All other full-time students can choose from three meal plan options for \$300 per semester. Kosher options will be available in all meal plan options, but at a relatively higher cost.

"Dean Denburg and VP Brown were incredibly receptive to student input and the nature of the new meal plan is shaped almost entirely by student suggestions on the task force," Mitzi Steiner, BC '12 and sophomore class president, said

NEWS BRIEF

French president Sarkozy to speak on campus

French President Nicolas Sarkozy will speak at the World Leaders Forum, Columbia announced Monday—first to French majors, and then to rest of the student body.

University President Lee Bollinger said at his latest fireside chat that Columbia would be hosting Sarkozy, though at the time the administration had not set a time or date.

On Monday, just a week before the event, students were informed that Sarkozy will speak at Low Library on March 29. Bollinger started the World Leaders Forum in 2003 in an effort to make Columbia a more global institution by bringing international politicians to Morningside Heights. This recent announcement came as a surprise to some students, since WLF events typically take place in the fall.

Sarkozy's visit comes on the heels of the launch of Columbia's newest global center in Paris, which opened on March 15. This marked the third installment

of the international network of centers that the University is developing in an effort to increase its presence abroad.

Registration for the Sarkozy speech is required, and can be found on the World Leaders website. Though the event is open to all students, Pierre Force, a professor of French and Romance philology, sent an initial email message exclusively to French majors on Monday afternoon. An email to all students was sent out later that evening. The Maison Francaise and the Alliance Program are co-presenting the event.

Thomas Kapusta, CC '12, who spent his spring break in Paris, said in an email, "I'm excited to find out what it is he'll be discussing." Referring to a regional election last week in which the conservatives lost a huge amount of posts, Kapusta said, "I'd like to see how this new political position affects his approach to speaking about any topic, domestic or otherwise."

Emmanuelle Saada,

director of the Center for French and Francophone Studies, said after the announcement that hosting Sarkozy as a speaker now is particularly meaningful, because he represents a shift in French culture and politics, due to American influences.

"In France, Sarkozy is sometimes called 'the first American president of France.' He represents a new generation of the French elite whose culture (including political culture) is thoroughly American," she said in an email. "This relatively new interest for America translates into a growing number of French students studying in American universities: this is especially striking at Columbia, where you can hear French many times a day throughout campus."

Saada added of Monday's news, "That president Sarkozy comes to Columbia is a powerful symbol of a very concrete 'rapprochement' [reconciliation] between France and the US."

—Sam Levin
and Alix Pianin

TO MARKET, TO MARKET



ATIRA MAIN FOR SPECTATOR

SPRING FORWARD | The local farmers' market on Broadway between 114th and 116th appears on Thursdays and Sundays, offering freshly picked produce, cheeses, meats, and jams. See page 3.

INSIDE

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Barnard alumna joins Ben Stiller on silver screen

Greta Gerwig, BC '06, talks about her years at Columbia, and making the artistic jump from lo-fi "mumblecore" flicks to star-studded comedy with "Greenberg." The movie was released on March 19 in select New York theaters.



Sports, page 8

Across Europe, on foot

Ryan Johns, CC '09, combined his passion for running with his interest in architecture to dream up an incredible adventure. During his trip from Amsterdam to Athens, Johns ran 2,542 miles over the course of 132 days.

Opinion, page 4

All quiet on College Walk

Mark Hay calls for a little more chaos on campus.

Get 'er done!

Rajat Roy discusses the hurdles our student councils must overcome for progress.

Today's Events

Reproductive Rights

Experts discuss the implications of the abortion policy in the new health care bill.
569 Lerner, 7:30 p.m.

"As I Go Through"

See Ash Tai's one-woman show about her experiences growing up with West Indian immigrant parents.
Diana Black Box Theater, 7:30 p.m.

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WEATHER

Today Tomorrow
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Elizondo named ESC president

ESC from front page

amazing and qualified candidate for the position.”

Ahmed said afterwards that she was surprised by Accuardi’s move. The two had worked together previously on the policy committee.

“I realize that it takes a really great person to step down,” Ahmed said. “He could have done a great job as well.”

Though Ahmed did not originally run for the vice president of policy position, she said she wants to make sure that ESC initiatives are based on student interest.

Subramanian prevailed over Jennifer Vettel, SEAS ’11, for vice president of intergroup. Subramanian quoted Dwight D. Eisenhower in his speech, saying, “What counts is not necessarily the size of the dog in the fight—it’s the size of the fight in the dog.”

“A vote for me is a vote for the fight in the dog,” he said.

Subramanian said the quote was meant to address the concern that, as a first year, he is not old enough or experienced enough for the job. Subramanian said he hopes to enhance governing boards.

Balachandar won the position of vice president of student life uncontested.

“It’s definitely going to be a big responsibility, but it’s one that I’m ready for it,” Balachandar said.

Williams, who beat out Mary Byers, SEAS ’13, for secretary, was the last of the candidates to speak, at 12:50 a.m.

“I am an immigrant who is going to work for you,” Williams said in her speech. Williams said she is not only a foreigner to the states, but to ESC as well—she has never held a position in ESC.

Williams also cited her organizational skills—micromanaging her various activities and nine-class course load, using tactics like color-coded notes with tables of contents.

“My room is like a library,” she said.

The races ended at around 1:30 a.m. when security gave a final warning.

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Politicians, profs take pulse of health care

BY KIM KIRSCHENBAUM
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The House of Representatives’ passage of health care legislation on Sunday may have signaled an end to the debate inside the beltway, but local experts are saying that this is only the beginning of an uncertain course for the Democratic Party.

The bill, considered to be one of the cornerstones of President Barack Obama’s domestic agenda, will provide coverage to an estimated 32 million uninsured people, expand Medicaid, offer an exchange in each state where citizens can shop for insurance, and limit the ability of insurers to deny coverage to individuals with pre-existing conditions, among other major components.

“Americans should be proud of [Sunday’s] vote on health insurance reform and celebrate this historic accomplishment,” Assembly member Daniel O’Donnell, who represents Morningside Heights, said in an email on Monday. “The signing of this legislation into law will deliver quality, affordable health insurance coverage to more than thirty million Americans.”

Other local politicians noted the saliency of the bill for Harlem residents, many of whom currently lack access to affordable health insurance.

Sarah Morgridge, spokesperson for Council member Robert Jackson, who represents parts of West Harlem, said that many “working poor” in the neighborhood currently don’t have access to insurance at their jobs.

She said that Jackson “is elated that there has been movement on this. It has put things much more within the reach of people.”

The passage of the bill comes on the heels of a protracted dispute which was drawn across sharp partisan lines. No Republicans voted in favor of the legislation, which passed by a 219-to-212 vote. Republicans said that the plan would drive the nation into further debt, saddle states with



JOEY SHEMUEL / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

DIAGNOSIS | After historic legislation passed on Sunday, professors and politicians debated the local implications of the reforms.

new expenses, and significantly increase the government’s role in the health care system.

While some said that the unanimous Republican opposition to the bill indicates Obama’s failure to achieve his vision of a bipartisan Washington, some local experts said that the Democrats should have understood from the outset that they could not compromise their objectives of reform. Others, though, said that an entirely different approach should have been taken.

“In hindsight, I am sure both sides in this long national debate would approach the issue somewhat differently,” David Albert, an associate professor at the College of Dental Medicine and the director of the division of community health, said in an email. “Developing legislation by consensus of Congress was an unseemly event that was fraught with back room deals that muddled the public’s understanding of the overall bill,” he added.

The real test for the Democrats is ahead, some experts say, since it remains to be seen whether the party can successfully counter the opposition of congressional Republicans, who plan to challenge the constitutionality of the bill.

Sheri Berman, an associate professor of political science at Barnard, said in an email,

Students debate implications of health care legislation

BY LEAH GREENBAUM
Spectator Staff Writer

Despite radically different views regarding the health care legislation passed on Sunday night, students from across the political spectrum said they were not fully satisfied with the bill.

On Sunday, by a largely party-line vote of 219-212, the House of Representatives passed a sweeping overhaul of the health care system that will extend health care to millions of currently uninsured. It first passed a bill previously approved by the Senate, and followed up with a “reconciliation” bill amending significant portions. The reconciliation bill is now in the Senate, where majority leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) has promised to schedule a vote as soon as possible. While supporters of the bill are celebrating what they consider a historic accomplishment on the order of Medicare and Social Security, opponents argue that it will cost states too much and unconstitutionally increase the reach of the federal government.

Avi Edelman, CC ’11 and vice president of the Columbia University College Democrats, said that while he was happy that the bill was passed, he felt it was too watered down from the original proposal.

“It’s not a perfect bill by any means, and it’s certainly not the bill that I and [the] College Democrats wanted, but it’s something—it’s a start,” Edelman said.

But Derek Turner, CC ’12 and communications director for the Columbia University College Republicans, said that his group condemns the way the bill was passed and fears

the long-term costs of the legislation.

He also said he worries that political discourse between the parties has been hurt by the fierce partisanship surrounding the bill.

“If the biggest piece of legislation in 40 years can be passed without a single Republican vote, what reason do the Democrats have to bother with bipartisanship in the future?” he said, adding that he expects this controversy will hurt the Democrats in the November midterm elections.

Sajaa Ahmed, CC ’10 and general manager of the Columbia Political Union, said she agreed that political discourse had been hurt by this process, and added that the Obama administration may be hesitant to pursue large legislation like this in the future. Ahmed spoke on her own behalf, not on behalf of CPU, which is nonpartisan.

Anti-abortion student Mary Boadu, CC ’10, said that even though Obama agreed to sign an executive order prohibiting the use of federal funds for abortion, she was still suspicious of Congress’s reluctance to include a clearer provision within the bill itself.

Public funding for abortion has long been a contentious issue for Democrats and Republicans alike, and Obama’s agreement on Sunday to sign an executive order has been viewed by some as a last-minute negotiation with anti-abortion Democrats.

Still, Boadu said that it was not enough.

“If President Obama and the rest of the advocates for health care reform were truly

SEE HEALTH CARE, page 6

NEWS BRIEF

Academic calendar will not start before Labor Day

Though a proposal for a revised fall academic calendar remains in the planning stage, the possibility of starting school in August has been taken off the table.

The calendar has been a controversial topic this year because Columbia’s tradition of starting after Labor Day has forced the University to finish fall semester exams very close to Christmas. Some students have advocated an earlier start date to solve the problem, but faculty members have expressed concern about finding day care for their children, since New York City public schools start after Labor Day. Every decade, the University Senate Education Committee reviews the calendar, with input from student councils.

In a meeting on Friday, March 12, the Education Committee of the University Senate decided against beginning the fall semester before Labor Day. The committee did not vote, but was “essentially unanimous” in its conclusion, said co-chair James Applegate.

The early-start option, which would have commenced classes the Monday before Labor Day in those years when the holiday fell on Sept. 5, 6, or 7, was put forth in a joint proposal by the Columbia College Student Council and the Engineering Student Council on Feb. 12. The issue was first raised in the University Senate by a 1,600-signature student petition calling for an adjustment to the fall calendar. As it stands, the upcoming fall

semester is slated to end on Dec. 23.

According to Applegate, the student proposal for a pre-Labor Day calendar was met with opposition from both the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and the Barnard faculty. Though the faculty of the School of Engineering and Applied Science had not made a formal comment, preliminary conversation suggested they were likely to oppose the early start as well.

“Recommending a calendar change that is opposed by the three schools that use the calendar under review is simply not a credible option for the Education Committee or the Senate to pursue,” Applegate said in an email.

Four options that remain under consideration include holding class on Election Day Monday, now an academic holiday, shortening the study day period, holding finals on the weekend, or maintaining the status quo.

The committee has delayed moving on a specific solution as of yet, a measure that Applegate said would allow students time to reconvene and identify which calendar they preferred.

Applegate said the committee hopes to create a consensus proposal before the Senate’s plenary meeting on April 2.

Applegate stressed the importance of compromise in making a decision. “The fall semester calendar can be improved, but we need to agree on the best course of action.”

—Emily Kwong

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CU Greenmarket shelters fresh, cheap seasonal eats

BY MATT POWELL
Columbia Daily Spectator

Every Thursday and Sunday, the sidewalk on the east side of Broadway between 114th and 116th streets is crammed with awnings and stands of the farmer's market.

Part of the larger network of New York Greenmarkets, the Columbia Greenmarket offers students freshly picked local produce, as well as fresh cheeses, meats, breads, and jams.

Yet, many students speed past the booths without even glancing at the colorful items on sale. Perhaps, the variety at the stands is just too daunting for the average Columbian who is used to the limited selection at Westside Market, but with a basic understanding of the market's static layout, students can navigate the Greenmarket with the same degree of familiarity and ease.

First on the list is Stannard Farm, the booth right outside the west exit of Lerner Hall. The woman behind the cash register strongly recommended the Gala apples, which sat among a selection of Bosc pears. At the stand, two apples and one pear total only \$1.50. The Gala is a very soft, slightly mealy apple with a sweet taste, while the Bosc pear has a beautiful, light taste—it is very firm and crisp, which is a pleasant surprise, considering that pears at local grocery stores are overly mushy.

At the corner of 114th Street and Broadway stands Stannard Farm's biggest competition—Samascott Orchard. Passers on the sidewalk may have a difficult time pulling themselves from the sweet, sugary scent of fresh apple cider and apple doughnuts. The woman standing by the doughnuts suggested the Cameo and Golden Russet apples. The Cameo is a typical apple that is very crisp and

sweet, with a red-yellow skin. The Golden Russet has a brown-yellow skin and is firm, with a sour, watery flavor and a bitter aftertaste. And, of course, it's nearly impossible to resist buying some cider. All three of these items add up to \$2.90.

Coupled with the Cameo apple slices, the best bet is Colby cheese from the Millport Dairy. With a price of \$6, it was the most expensive purchase of the day, which is not out of the ordinary for high-quality cheese. The cheese pairs perfectly with the Cameo apple or fresh bread—or both apples and bread at the same time.

For fresh bread, head to Buon Pane and Focaccia, a booth that offers delicious focaccia for only \$4—perfect for lunch on the run. The small demi baguette for only \$1 is also ideal for a student meal. The bread is chewy and not too crunchy on the outside.

Finally, for dessert, Meredith's Bread calls to students with its cookies, sweet breads, and small pies. For \$6, one can buy a package of delightful macaroons as well as a fresh, hot cross bun.

Beth's Farm Kitchen also offers what appear to be hundreds of sweet and savory jams and chutneys. Favorites of the day were strawberry rhubarb jam and mango chutney.

Once students feel like they have mastered the Columbia Greenmarket, they should head down to Union Square, where New York's biggest market takes center stage. For only a short trip down the 1 line, students will find endless possibilities.

WHERE IT'S AT

Time: Thursdays and Sundays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Place: Broadway between 114th and 116th streets



ATIRA MAIN FOR SPECTATOR

MARKET MAZE | The Columbia Greenmarket touts a host of locally grown products for students, from duck to cheese to apples.



COURTESY OF FOCUS FEATURES

MUMBLECORE TO MAINSTREAM | Greta Gerwig, BC '06, made a name for herself by starring in mumblecore films or ultra-low-budget films that often tell personal narratives. Now, she is starring alongside Ben Stiller in "Greenberg," a comedy released in New York on Friday.

BC alumna cashes in on indie film fame

BY ROSIE DUPONT
Spectator Staff Writer

Greta Gerwig, BC '06, is rising to new cinematic heights. Dubbed the "muse of mumblecore" by Papermag and the "Meryl Streep" of the low-budget film movement by the New York Observer, Gerwig is now bringing her lanky charm to the big screen, as Florence in Noah Baumbach's new serio-comedic flick "Greenberg."

"Greenberg," which was released in New York and Los Angeles on Friday, is a darkly comedic portrayal of living an unexpected life. Florence Marr, Gerwig's character, is a sweet, bumbling 25-year-old personal assistant and caregiver to the Greenberg family. When the Greenbergs go on vacation, Roger Greenberg (Ben Stiller) arrives to housesit his brother's Hollywood home. A neurotic ex-musician recovering from a mental breakdown, Greenberg claims that his mission for recuperation is "to do absolutely

nothing." He quickly realizes that doing nothing is harder than anticipated, especially with Florence around. Within six weeks, the two characters fall awkwardly and humorously into each other's arms, as they try to grasp the meaning of their lives.

How did Gerwig make her way into a Noah Baumbach film starring Ben Stiller? It all started during her undergraduate career at Barnard. An English major with a theater concentration, she pursued her interest in acting and dramatic writing, and later became serious about film while dating her former boyfriend, filmmaker Chris Wells, CC '06. She made her film debut in Wells' film "L.O.L." while still at Barnard, and went with the film to the South by Southwest Film Festival.

"I met a lot of filmmakers while I was there," Gerwig said in an interview. "I threw myself into projects and worked on anything and everything. I tried to build my parachute on the way down."

Gerwig approached her audition for "Greenberg" with

similar determination and lightheartedness. "I auditioned for Noah and Jennifer in their apartment, and sang a little song for them because Florence is a singer," Gerwig said. "I thought, 'Man, even if I don't get this, I'm happy that I got to get this far.'"

In "Greenberg," Gerwig gives an honest performance that highlights the fragility and quiet determination of someone trying to understand what she wants. She described Florence as a woman with "a lot of pluck," who "doesn't allow herself to feel down about things or wallow."

While discussing the script, Gerwig said, "I've never read a part that so perfectly articulated what it means to be a 25-year-old girl who's figuring out that she is going to keep getting older." She played the reality of that realization flawlessly.

In a quote released by Focus Features, Stiller said of Gerwig's ability as an actress, "With Greta, you don't feel you're acting; you feel like you're living

real life with her. She seems incapable of being false on camera, and nothing she does feels forced. She's a beautiful person, and that comes through in what she does."

When asked what she hopes to do next, Gerwig said with a smile, "I try not to plan anything, because I find that just makes for disappointment. I try to envision lots of different ways I could be happy, and just go with the flow."

But if one thing is for sure, Gerwig's career is just getting started. "I just know I like to be stretched to the limit," she said. "I really enjoy working. It is when I'm my happiest."

And if Gerwig is working and happy, audiences will be, too.

WHERE IT'S AT

Place: AMC Loews Lincoln Square 13 (1998 Broadway between 67th and 68th streets), Angelika Film Center (18 W. Houston Street between Broadway and Mercer Street)
Time: Showtimes vary

Out with the old, in with the renewed, at SoA grads' P.S.1 art exhibit

BY MIRIAM ROSEN
Columbia Daily Spectator

Columbia grads Heather Rowe and David Altmejd, SoA '01, prove that one man's trash is another man's treasure at P.S.1's exhibit "Between Spaces."

The display, which draws on the dichotomy between presence and absence, incorporates "familiar objects whose functionality is either championed or rendered useless," according to the introductory plaque. Rowe transformed floor boards, glass, mirrors, sheet rock, wood, and shag carpet into her "Green Desert," while Altmejd's "Untitled" features colored thread, jewelry, plexiglass, and other small, surprising found items.

The drawing from everyday objects causes Rowe's piece to look daringly similar to a haphazard construction site.

The sculpture has the height of an average onlooker and spans the length of about 12 feet. It consists of connected wooden frames, with unfinished-looking visual aspects, such as stone, reflective glass, furry interiors, and seemingly arbitrarily incised wooden pieces protruding from unexpected crevices.

Though the work may come off as sloppy, the theme allows viewers to interpret the piece in a different way. Areas that lack materiality seem to allocate space for the viewer, through which he or she may walk. At once, these areas indicate space and the lack thereof.

Altmejd's staggeringly unique piece also asks the viewer to tune into the concept of space and absence within an aesthetically exciting environment.

For starters, his entire structure is encased in a plexiglass frame, to separate the viewer from the object and create an impenetrable, definite space. But inside this concrete space is a large amount of open space.

Amid the absence comes a vibrant, uncanny, and exhilarating mix of color, materials, and size. The structure situated inside the plexiglass is an upright distribution of colored threads, unraveled from their spools, and meeting in various ways to form either large intertwined entities or disentangled singular threads. These threads

are then interlaced with pearl and gold necklaces, and strung through holes in small sheets of glass. The overall effect of the piece is that of simultaneous confusion and awe.

The onlooker tries to make sense of the construct. Perhaps it is a large, winged monster? Perhaps a small airplane? Soon, though, the viewer learns that there is no making sense of it. One must simply accept the work in all its eccentricity.

WHERE IT'S AT

Time: Until April 5
Place: P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, 22-25 Jackson Avenue, Queens
Cost: Free with CUID



XUELI WANG FOR SPECTATOR

SHADY | "Between Spaces" at P.S.1 displays artworks that rework familiar objects, such as venetian blinds, carpets, and plexiglass.

A new setting, a new wardrobe: navigating the shopping scene overseas

BY JULIA HALPERIN
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

A few days before I left for Paris, I met a former teacher for lunch and we came across the subject of packing. I had spent the previous afternoon whitening my wardrobe down to the bare necessities. "I just don't want to look like a materialistic American who walks in the door with all this stuff," I explained.

My teacher, having lived in Paris for a few years and never at a loss for wise words, responded, "Plus, once you get there, you'll realize everything you packed was all wrong anyway."

As usual, she was right. After an unfortunate mishap with Air France left me without any luggage for the first week of my stay, I revisited my

carefully selected clothes with seven days of Paris people-watching under my belt and a newly discriminating eye.

A silk blouse with flowers and ruffles? No way. Unnecessary adornment is considered gauche in Paris, where fashionable young women favor sophisticated architectural details over anything that might adorn a prom dress.

My knee-length puffy coat? Nope. In New York, no one minds looking like the Michelin man on the sidewalk, because the buildings are so well heated that you can immediately take your coat off indoors. In Paris, however, many buildings are poorly insulated, and it's fairly common to keep one's coat on inside.

This means that coats have become fashion statements

rather than functional pieces, and that anything North Face is out of the question. As my French roommate explained—when I noted Parisians' remarkable ability to endure the cold in flimsy-looking, so-called coats—"This is Paris. People don't mind suffering to look good."

But what's a broke college student to do with too many clothes to replace and too little cash? After over a month and a half abroad, I've discovered two cardinal rules of shopping in Paris: time it right and select your pieces wisely.

Sales (or "soldes," in French) are regulated by the government, and take place twice a year for six weeks at a time. The year's first sale comes at the beginning of January, the second at the end of June. Each sale

progresses with a series of markdowns, and the final markdown slashes prices up to 80 percent.

If you don't want to invest too much money in your purchases, you have to invest some time.

I quickly learned that my footwear—mostly ballet flats and flat boots—wasn't going to cut it in Paris. Parisian women, most of whom are fairly tall already, always wear heels. So, my first shopping mission was to track down a pair of heeled oxfords that were comfortable enough to wear every day.

The fancy ones with intricate leather detailing usually go for around 300 euro, which was entirely out of my price range. But when I spotted a pair in a store window marked down 100 euro, I knew it was time to begin stalking my prey. I had arrived

toward the beginning of the winter sale season, and there were two more markdowns to go before the "soldes" were over.

I walked by the store after the second markdown, to make sure the shoes were still in stock. By the third markdown, they were on sale for a relatively manageable 75 euro, and I had visited them enough times to feel that we had forged a real connection. I promptly bought them and wore them for two weeks straight.

This type of shopping requires a kind of single-mindedness and compulsivity only the poor college student could achieve. And while spending 75 euro on a pair of shoes is still a splurge for me, I rationalized it by telling myself that, if I intend to dress like a real Parisian, I don't need to spend money on a heavy coat.



Abroad on a Budget



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Sympathy for the Devil’s Advocate



MARK
HAY

Unusual,
Unseemly, or
Unnoticed

the controversial and avidly debated events
of the past few years—the Joseph Massad
controversy, the Minuteman outburst, hunger
strikes, and Mahmoud Ahmadinejad—were a
large part of what drew me to this campus. For
some reason, however, all of that has stopped.

Last year, University President Lee
Bollinger himself admitted that the year
had a quieter feel and was more inter-
nally focused than those of the past. But
this makes it sound like last year was an
isolated incident, a period of calm amidst
the hubbub of the last several years. I am
beginning to suspect, however, that this
year will feel the same. This campus hasn’t
seen much brouhaha in almost two years,
and it is likely to stay that way, because, as
I am beginning to believe, we have started
to fear the very large events—the lightning
rods of crazy vitriol and debate—that draw
so many scrappy young academics and
activists to our gates.

I suspect we’re just afraid
of the blowback that
large events have created
in the past.

The one great controversial character to set
foot on campus this year was Geert Wilders,
a Dutch politician with strong and highly
contested views on immigration, freedom
of speech, and Islam in the modern world.
But the College Republicans, the group who
invited Wilders, expressly asked him to refrain
from focusing on his most contested views on
Islam, hoping that he would instead simply
talk about free speech. Of course that didn’t
happen, but the audience remained silent and
the questions largely diplomatic—any that
started to veer into fierce confrontation were
cut short by the event’s moderators. Many
guests at the event pointed out the irony of
restrictions on their free speech, in the name
of civility and easy discourse, at an event pur-
portedly about free speech.

Now, compare this to Ahmadinejad’s
visit to campus, during which a reviled man
was allowed to say things few in the audi-
ence were comfortable with, all in the name

of free speech. Bollinger and company even
welcomed protests and retaliation, so long as
they did not interfere with the event. Wilders
has incited similar protest and discourse in
those inspired by Ahmadinejad before—even
immediately before, when Temple University
students broke up the event via protests—even
if on a smaller scale. But his visit to Columbia
drew out none of that bile and dissent, per-
haps because we’re afraid of the blowback that
such large events have created in the past.

Ahmadinejad came and went, but his
presence on the campus left scars. Debate
over the justification of Bollinger’s criti-
cisms of Ahmadinejad resounded for well
over a year. Bollinger’s and the University’s
integrity were called into question nation-
ally, and accusations of pandering for funds
and attention were leveled. Perhaps, all of
this attention and criticism repeated again
and again over several years has led us all to
hesitate before engaging readily in heated
controversy, mass protests, and debate.
Perhaps we’re just afraid.

Some would say that letting crazy men say
crazy things is just not worth it. They might
also have it that subtle activism has supplanted
the shouting matches that come with these
frenzied events. But hosting such large events
calls into question not just views that we may
find intolerable—it puts into the University’s
eyesight, and perhaps even the national view,
the issues of free speech and the limits of
protest and academic discourse. It encourages
an avid discussion of the topics at hand and
can draw in all manner of parallel issues. And
subtle activism just can’t force such confronta-
tions as easily—allowing selective engagement
with thoughts and events. And these tumultu-
ous events may lead to a bit of bile and hate,
but if Ahmadinejad’s visit taught us anything,
it’s that we can let that simmer, and resolve the
trickiest debates once all has cooled. We stand
to gain much by embracing not only large
events with great risk, but all the craziness and
rage that come with them.

I refuse to believe that we can discard any
speaker as too crazy, any view as too absurd,
to engage with. I do believe that, by giving
any view the chance to speak, we can hope to
understand through vigorous (and possibly
dangerous, but worthwhile) debate the ratio-
nale behind these ideas, and reach a higher
level of future discourse. I believe that we, at
such powerful universities, have not just the
ability, but the duty, to foster controversy. I
encourage groups and departments to exer-
cise this right, as granted by Bollinger, and
to pour their resources into another big and
contested event. Encourage debate, invite
protestors, turn the school into an academic
battlefield. Let all hell break loose. And let
us exercise our amazing powers of modern
alchemy and transmute bile into golden un-
derstanding and progress.

Mark Hay is a Columbia College sopho-
more. Unusual, Unseemly, or Unnoticed
runs alternate Tuesdays.

Reading Mill at SXSW



NEIL
FITZPATRICK

Excuses and
Half-truths

Wednesday, while I was people-watching to
kill time between bands, J.S. Mill popped into
my head. I was staring at the various mem-
bers of different “scenes” who made up the
crowd—hardcore punks, greasers (yes, they
still exist), hippies, skinheads, metalheads,
hipsters, crust punks, and, for lack of a bet-
ter word, indie kids—and started to consider
Mill’s emphasis on the importance of individ-
uality as a source of progress in his essay “On
Liberty” (I had been reading it on the plane
to Austin the day before). Aside from making
me want to kick my own ass, this consider-
ation led me to ask a few questions.

Firstly, what did placement in one of
these scenes tell me about any of these peo-
ple? And, secondly, is there anything wrong
with people defining themselves, and invit-
ing others to define them (through their
comformity in appearances and actions), as
members of this or that “group”?

Take hardcore punks, for example. If you
self-identify as a punk, and wear the same
skinny jeans, Misfits t-shirt, and leather jacket
as other hardcore punks, what does that tell
me about you? Well, aside from assuming
what music you listen to, I can also assume
(or at least suspect) that you have nihilistic
tendencies, believe to some degree in non-
conformity (irony noted), possess a DIY ethic,
and are perhaps not someone who shies away
from the occassional fight. And I can also as-
sume that you want me to draw such conclu-
sions (or similar ones) from your appearance.

What I can’t assume is which came first—
your punk aesthetic or nihilistic tendencies.
And this is where my second question comes
in: is there anything wrong with defining your-
self as, and dressing like, a hardcore punk (or a
member of any other larger “group”)?

The answer, I think, is that it’s perfectly fine
as long as the reasons for doing so are your
own. In other words, if you were drawn to the

punk scene because you found some of your
own ideas and feelings mirrored in the music,
and if you were then introduced to nihilism
or the DIY ethic, and realized that these phi-
losophies fit well with your conception of the
world, defining yourself as a hardcore punk
would be a natural next step. If, however, you
found yourself drawn to the music, immedi-
ately self-defined as a hardcore punk, and then
adopted nihilism and a DIY ethic simply be-
cause that’s what other hardcore punks were
doing—without stopping to consider whether
these ideologies accorded with your own
analysis of life and society—then being a punk
would be a negative thing, and wrong for you.

Of course, it might seem that choosing hard-
core punk (a relatively small group with a very
specific list of common ideals) as a case study
is an easy way out, but the same logic applies
to almost every way members of our genera-
tion choose to define themselves. Are you a
Democrat because you believe the health care
bill (among other things) should be passed?
Or do you believe the health care bill should be
passed because you’re a Democrat? Are you in a
sorority because you believe in the values of sis-
terhood and community service, and truly iden-
tify with the other people in that sorority? Or do
you engage in community service and dress like
your sorority sisters because you are a member
of that sorority? Are you a hippie because you
are a pacifist and a believer in free love? Or do
you profess to believe in free love and pacifism
because you think hippie girls are hot?

I guess the point I’m trying to make here,
and the conclusion I came to while waiting
for that band to tune their guitars at SXSW, is
that there is nothing wrong with projecting—
through your appearances, actions, or words—
your membership in a larger, pre-defined group.
Human beings are too similar, share too many
concerns, to be completely individual in every
aspect of life. We also all share a common desire
to be part of something large, not to be alone. If
you are lucky enough to find a handful of people
who have the same beliefs and likes as you—be-
liefs and likes arrived at through the use of your
own reason and sentiment—then some degree
of mutual conformity is harmless.

That is, of course, as long as those beliefs do
not lead to actions which harm anyone else. But
that’s a different idea of Mill’s, and one which I’ll
save for another column (or concert).

Neil FitzPatrick is a Columbia College
sophomore. Excuses and Half-truths runs
alternate Tuesdays.

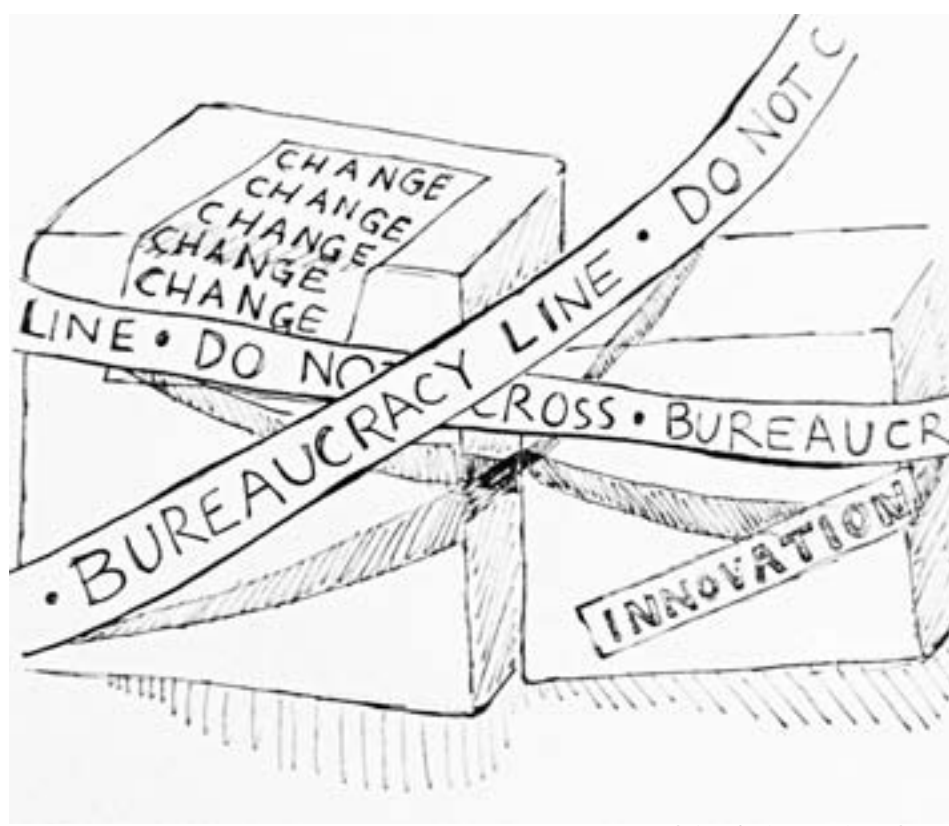


ILLUSTRATION BY ELIZABETH SIMINS

Why your
councils aren’t
living up to your
expectations

BY RAJAT ROY

Student council leaders experience the
same thing every year. I call it the “Blue
Tape Trap.” Every branch of administra-
tion uses it. You contact them with a great
idea. They say, “Let’s meet next month.”
Eventually, they cancel and say, “Let’s
meet next month.” You finally meet and
they say, “Good idea. We’ll think about it.”
You walk away feeling important, because
you met with some low-level bureaucrat.

This happens repeatedly with coun-
cils and students and begs the simple
question: Why are the student councils
ineffective?

Before that question can be answered,
we should look at the two approaches to
getting things done at Columbia:

A) Be a Diplomat—Get involved on
one issue as a freshman, cultivate rela-
tionships, go through drafts of proposals,
get shot down constantly. Encounter Blue
Tape Traps. Ultimately, you will settle for
a quarter of the proposal you wanted, be-
cause, as the saying goes, “If you want to
kill a project, try to make it perfect.” If you
are “perfecting” your idea, your peers and
administration will mutilate your vision
beyond recognition.

B) Be a Pitbull/Pain in the Ass—You
don’t have time for Blue Tape Traps.
Explore end-runs around the Blue Tape.
Talk to the Engineering Student Council
or the Columbia College Student Council,
professors, or alumni. Visit the relevant
people every day until they listen. In the
worst case, create the need for a campus
referendum to be heard at least. You get
the self-gratification of knowing that you
used every drop of political capital to get
something done.

So, now back to the question: Why are
the student councils ineffective?

It isn’t because 75 percent of the coun-
cil members are merely on the council
to improve their r sum s. It isn’t because
they act mostly as glorified party plan-
ners. It isn’t their incessant clinging to
political correctness—although all of the
above are true.

The reason why ESC and CCSC are
ineffective is that members don’t un-
derstand the idea of “political capital.”
Political capital is the degree to which
you will be heard seriously before people

become sheep. Even if you become a pawn
of the administration, as have many of
our past leaders, you lose capital because
administrators think they can use you. Of
course, there is a grey area, but few can toe
this line while still being effective.

Seniors realize that they can make a
difference, and try to push through leg-
islation and initiatives. But with so little
time left, the administration plays its fa-
mous game—“Let’s wait for a few months
until you graduate.” They wait you out
with the Blue Tape Trap.

What’s the solution? Simple: use every
ounce of your political capital. If council
members push policy through effectively,
they should have no political capital left
by the end of senior year.

Perfect example: In 2006, SEAS had
no merchandise in the bookstore (but CC
and Barnard did...). Barnes and Noble
neither wanted to design merchandise,
nor allocate floor space. Being a fresh-
man, I initially played the role of a diplo-
mat, until I realized that meetings with
the management went nowhere. Tired of
bureaucracy, I designed shirts, hoodies,
and shotglasses myself, and walked into
B&N every day for two weeks, saying,
“You will EVENTUALLY stock SEAS mer-
chandise. The question is, do you want to
see me every day until then?” To this day,
they still sell the same designs I forced
through three years ago.

Moral of the story: administrators ev-
erywhere like the simple life. New ideas
create excessive work, so why would they
want to come up with them? New ideas
are students’ responsibility. To get things
done, students have to be pitbulls, do the
legwork, and use up political capital to get
it done completely, correctly, and quickly.

The councils currently act as divisions
of the administration and are the admin-
istration’s single greatest tools in keeping
the status quo. The lay student believes
that his voice is heard through the coun-
cils, but this isn’t always the case. The
councils have to start actually represent-
ing their students, man-up, pass aggres-
sive resolutions, push the envelope, and
utilize all political capital.

The councils have lost our spirit since
1968. We keep falling into Blue Tape
Traps. We’ll always need diplomats to
keep relations with the administration
from deteriorating, but diplomats have
to start working with the pitbulls to get
meaningful change enacted for their
constituents.

Rajat Roy is a School of Engineering and
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and minoring in environmental engineer-
ing. He is a University senator from SEAS.



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

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 grid contains the digits 1 through 9. That means that no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

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

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 "The ____ Kid": early TV Western
6 Suit parts
11 "... the season ..."
14 Choir members
15 Even if, for short
16 Cal. neighbor
17 "Sam in ____ Casablanca," e.g.
19 Spinner
20 Squeaked, so to speak
21 Be under the weather
22 Formally unsay
24 Outcast or 88
26 She plays Julia in "Julie & Julia"
27 Tack on
30 Standards of excellence
32 CEO's degree
34 Dirty
36 "Fast-paced"
39 "Wake Up With ____" weatherman
40 China's Mao ____-lung
41 Studio stand
42 "Collapsible headgear"
44 "Honor Thy Father" author
45 Sun, to Estaban
46 Outcome
48 Canonized
49 Festival showings, perhaps
51 Quartz variety
53 Began the betting
55 UN anti-child-labor agcy.
56 Old oafy
60 Menu phrase
61 Big finish, and what the first words of the answers to starred clues can be
64 Roofing material
65 Part of a pound
66 Best-seller list entry
67 NBC fixture for nearly 35 yrs.
68 Dirty campaign tactic

DOWN

1 Limits
2 Hip bones
3 Olie's partner
4 Zaire, today
5 Disney toon panda, "Special Agent ..."
6 Travel bag
7 Airline to Tel Aviv
8 Farm home
9 "Spider-Man 3" actress Russell
10 More ticked off
11 "Hank Aaron's 6,856 is the career record
12 Heavy metal
13 Back-to-school mo.
18 Rice source
23 One of a drum set pair
25 Scales of the zodiac
26 Swiss miss, maybe: Abbr.
27 Sol-related prefix
28 Falls to grasp
29 "1962 Gene Chandler hit
31 Helpers: Abbr.

33 "... of robins ...": Kilmer
35 Capital east of the Elbe River
37 Substantial
38 Elation
40 Base melody
43 Boring
44 Like a ____ bricks
47 Obama's attorney general Eric
50 Tyke's blocks
52 Arc lamp gas

53 Granola ingredient
54 Word after flight or floor
55 Ancient Peruvian
57 Contributed
58 Away from the wind
59 Farmer's place, in song
62 "Wheel of Fortune" buy
63 Printer need

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

M	I	C	R	O	A	F	A	R	P	L	O	W
A	D	H	O	C	R	A	R	E	H	E	A	R
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P	A	C	T	R	A	I	L	E	M	C	E	E
A	L	S	O	A	T	A	D	S	P	E	L	T

xwordeditor@aol.com 03/23/10

By Mark Baker
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Students debate health care overhaul

HEALTH CARE from page 2

committed to this stance and not using this reform as a way to directly or indirectly fund abortion, then they would have specifically made it clear within the bill itself,” she said.

Pro-abortion-rights organizations across the country have condemned the expected executive order as a challenge to fundamental women’s rights.

However, there were some aspects of the bill that Republican and Democratic students alike commended.

Most students, including Turner, said that they were happy about provisions in the bill that will allow people to remain on their parents’ health insurance plan through age 26.

Also included in the bill were provisions that will rewrite a four-decades-old student loan program, eliminating its reliance on private lenders. The \$36 billion saved in that way will be

redirected to fund Pell Grants for students with financial need.

Michael Spitzer-Rubenstein, CC ’12 and webmaster for the College Democrats, said that students are in fact the big winners with this provision.

“Financial aid will increase, and we won’t have to pay as much in student loan interest rates,” he said, adding that the provision will prevent private lenders from making as much money off of financial aid.

Student Democrats agreed that this legislation is a major victory for the Obama administration, and Turner said he, too, believes it will be looked on favorably by the public for 10 or 15 years.

“Obama has passed a humongous piece of legislation that he can be proud of. I’m just concerned about the legislation’s long-term effects on our country.”

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SHELBY LAYNE / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SWIPE | Barnard has made a required meal plan official, so that come fall, all students will pay for access to on-campus dining, like Hewitt.

Barnard announces required meal plan for all students

MEAL PLAN from front page

in an email. Steiner was a member of the task force.

“I’m really impressed with the way the administration was able to respond to the students and try to work out something,” Clare Korir, BC ’12, said, adding, though, that she was initially wary of how this might play out.

“I think it’s a better option than before,” Charlotte Fassler, BC ’13, said. “I think it’ll make more people want to live in Hewitt,” she said, referring to the reduced requirements for upper-classmen living in Hewitt.

But some students expressed frustration with the financial situation.

“The \$2,000 for an unlimited meal plan seems a little over-the-top to me,” Elina Myagkaya, BC ’12, said.

Meera Sahni, BC ’12, who currently lives in Hewitt with an unlimited meal plan, said that though she appreciates that the new meal plan program has more flexibility, spending money on food outside of Barnard is cheaper and longer-lasting.

“I spend \$25 on groceries that I need to get me through in-between meals per week,” she said. “Even putting down \$300

towards temporary cafeteria food takes away from the freedom of how I would like to spend my money on packaged food from a supermarket that would actually last longer.”

Some members of the task force said that while issues came up because of the varying needs of students, the group was ultimately able to arrive at a decision that addressed the needs of different parties.

“Issues that arose usually had to do with the different interests of the students present (i.e. the commuter student requesting a smaller meal plan) but I think the flexibility of the meal plan

will resolve these differences,” Steiner said.

“The process definitely showcased a productive give-and-take between students and administrators that resulted in compromise and greater understanding from where each of us was coming,” SGA President Katie Palillo, BC ’10, said in an email. “Someone would throw out a suggestion and we’d mull it over, debate it a bit, and bring our experiences into the discussion, and then explore it further once it seemed feasible.”

Carly Silver contributed reporting.

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- Columbia and Barnard registration: April 5-9
- First six-week session: May 24-July 2
- Second six-week session: July 6-August 13

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The Lions take on St. John's this afternoon to battle for local supremacy on the diamond. Check back tomorrow to find out the results.

TOMORROW



SPORTS

TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2010 • PAGE 8



Check tomorrow's paper for a preview of Wednesday's women's Ivy League lacrosse matchup between Columbia and No. 13 Princeton.

TOMORROW



COURTESY OF RYAN JOHNS, GRAPHIC BY BETSY FELDMAN

RUN, RYAN, RUN! Ryan Johns, CC '09, crossed Europe in a bold 2,542-mile trip using just the bare essentials. Along the way, the former architecture major took in the main sights from across the continent, making his way from Amsterdam, to the Tower of Pisa, to his ultimate goal, the Parthenon.

Cross country alum completes ambitious trek across Europe

Johns runs from Amsterdam to Athens

BY KUNAL GUPTA
Senior Spectator Staff Writer

One day after his graduation, Ryan Johns, CC '09, flew to Amsterdam with a one-way ticket, carrying nothing except a six-pound backpack with two pairs of shoes, two t-shirts, two pairs of shorts, and several other items. Once he disembarked and arrived at the exit of the airport, Johns began to run.

He kept running, and running, and running. In fact, he ran for 2,542 miles over the course of 132 incredible days that took him from Amsterdam in Northern Europe all the way down to Athens on the coast of Greece. Averaging almost 20 miles per day, he would arrive in a new town every day without a place to sleep. A self-imposed rule kept him from sleeping in hotels, so he relied exclusively on the hospitality and kindness of complete strangers who often didn't speak any English.

Johns, who was an architecture major at Columbia and is planning to pursue graduate studies in architecture starting

in September, combined two of his passions on the trip.

"I had a few 100-mile weeks at Columbia," said Johns, who walked onto the cross country and track and field teams as a junior. "People would ask me, 'Where did you go?' And I would say, 'Nowhere, I just ran in a big loop around Central Park a couple times.' I decided to use it to get somewhere. I spent a lot of time late at night, looking at maps and figuring out where I wanted to go, where the works of art were, where the buildings that I wrote papers on were. I pinpointed those on a map, and then just painted a line."

Johns first started running in

middle school, but became more serious during high school in Olympia, Washington.

"I started becoming more serious when I was in high school," he said, "but, really, I was never fantastic."

He walked onto the Columbia cross country and track and field team after taking some time off, and quickly found a niche running 8K races on the cross country team and mostly 5K races on the track and field team.

It was during his time at Columbia that he began making the plans for his trip, seeking to explore Europe in a different way than the traditional tourist.

"Europe is so heavily traveled,

it's hard to really try something different," he said.

Needless to say, he found a very different way to make the trip.

Johns spent a lot of time before his trip planning what to bring with him.

"I talked to some guys who did something similar, running across the U.S.," he said, "but they even brought a tent. They ended up getting hurt, and having to push a baby stroller in front of them. I didn't want that. I would be by myself. I was very limited. If I wasn't going to use it every day, then I wouldn't take it with me."

He ended up carrying only two t-shirts, two pairs of shorts, a light jacket, a space blanket, a

cell phone and charger, three pairs of socks, a toothbrush, two razor heads, a Bic pen and a few other assorted items with him in a small backpack. Altogether, the contents weighed only six pounds.

"I printed my route onto the two t-shirts," he said. "I tried to make it as light as possible."

The trip, however, almost didn't happen.

"I almost missed my flight [to Amsterdam]," Johns said. "I only made it on because I had no check-in bags."

"It was like a weird dream," he continued. "I never really believed that it would happen."

SEE CROSS COUNTRY, page 7



FILE PHOTO

TALL TASK! Junior right-hander Geoff Whitaker and the rest of the Lions' pitching staff will have their hands full in dealing with the Red Storm's lineup, which has shown some hot bats in recent play.

Light Blue prepares to host St. John's in battle for local supremacy

BY MICHAEL SHAPIRO
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Following a long and difficult series of out-of-state games, the Columbia baseball team has returned to New York. The Light Blue is currently 3-10 in its non-conference matchups, but is looking to pick up a win against St. John's in this afternoon's matinee.

Last year at this time, the two teams met in what played out to be a low-scoring pitchers' duel. Columbia cycled through nine pitchers throughout the game, which proved to be a relatively successful strategy. The Red Storm touched home first with a suicide squeeze bunt in the top of the second, but the Lions brought a runner home on a double-play groundout off Alex Ferrera's bat to knot the score at one run apiece.

However, St. John's immediately retaliated with a triple and a single to bring home what would be the game-winning run in the top of the fifth. Despite giving up just five hits that day, Columbia's bats were unable to capitalize on its few scoring opportunities, and the Light Blue dropped the contest 2-1.

The Red Storm enters today's matchup fresh off a successful road series against Albany-SUNY. St. John's dropped the first game 9-6, but trudged back to pick up victories in the next two games by scores of 18-8 and 8-2 respectively.

St. John's is 11-6 on the season after starting its 2010 campaign off on the right foot with a seven-game winning streak. The Red Storm completed a three-game sweep of the University of New Orleans with a 31-6 annihilation in the series finale. St. John's proceeded to cement narrow victories against its Big Ten adversaries, the University of Minnesota, the University of Michigan, and the University of Illinois.

COLUMBIA VS. ST. JOHN'S

Jamaica, N.Y., 3 p.m.



Despite its hot start, the Red Storm hit a cold patch against East Tennessee State, the University of North Carolina, and Liberty in its next seven contests. Regardless, the club has been swinging some very hot bats, with strong pitching and defense to back it up. The squad is currently hitting a combined .329 and has held opponents to just a .255 batting average. The Red Storm has been successful on the hill, as it holds a combined 5.47 ERA.

Columbia will need to step up today and break out of its hitting slump. While it is unclear who will take to the mound today, pitching will also need to be aggressive against a formidable Red Storm lineup. In particular, senior outfielder Jimmy Parque will need to be given careful pitches. Parque has been a hit machine in 2010, with a team-leading .432 batting average and 32 hits in 17 games started. Other hitters to watch out for include shortstop Joe Panik, infielder Sean O'Hare, and infielder and outfielder Paul Karmas, who already has five home runs on the season.

The Lions may not find themselves with many scoring opportunities, so they will have to stay limber on the base paths to put runners in scoring position. Columbia is 22 for 27 in stolen bases, and could bring some runs home by playing small ball against a reliable Red Storm pitching staff.

A win today would snap Columbia's three-game losing streak and give the squad a much-needed pick-me-up entering this weekend's home opening, a four-game series against Bucknell.

The first pitch will be tossed at 3 p.m. at Jack Kaiser Stadium in Jamaica, N.Y.

Pauline Oliveros with John Babbitt's Bombardier Trumpet (With Gary at the Krumpholtz in Bonn, Germany, Photo: John Babbitt)

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