



QUIYUN TAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

THINK FAST | Attendees pray at a Muslim Students Association Fast-A-Thon event Tuesday evening at the Diana Center Event Oval.

NFL player talks Muslim plight in Myanmar

BY QUIYUN TAN
Spectator Staff Writer

Professional football player Hamza Abdullah joined Columbia's Muslim community for a Fast-A-Thon on Tuesday evening to raise awareness for Muslims in Myanmar.

The event, at the Diana Center Event Oval, was hosted by the Muslim Students Association. Attendees pledged to fast in order to collect money for charity, and used a big name to bring attention to a lesser-known humanitarian crisis.

Abdullah, who has played for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Denver Broncos, Cleveland Browns, and Arizona Cardinals, discussed how his religion affected his career as a football player. He said he is grateful that Islam gives him "a certain structure of what I need to do and what I should be doing" in life.

In an interview after his talk, Abdullah also said he was concerned Muslims were being

too reactive, not proactive, to Islamophobia. He said acts "as simple as a smile to another person" make a difference in others' opinions of the religion.

"Islam is a religion of peace," Abdullah said. "We have to show that in the way we walk every single day."

Abdullah stressed the importance of understanding between religions.

"When we go to feed someone, we don't ask that person if they're religious or not," he said. "The world community, the Muslim community, everyone is like a body. If one part of the body hurts, the entire body hurts. So when we look and see someone that doesn't have what we have, we're hurting because they're hurting."

That perspective was echoed in speeches by activists on the plight of the Rohingya Muslim people of Myanmar, whom the United Nations consider an oppressed minority.

Waleed Gabr, from the charity organization Islamic Relief,

described the long history of oppression Muslims have gone through in the country, which is majority Buddhist. In past centuries, they were prohibited from practicing halal and were forced to listen to Buddhist sermons, he said. The conflict between the religions has been complicated by riots and killings over the years.

"They were treated worse than animals," Gabr said, after showing a black-and-white film of harsh labor and life conditions of Muslims there. "They were burned to death ... The children didn't have a future."

Ammar AlShukry, a spoken-word artist, performed two poems and stressed the importance of living in the "blessing of security" and the absence of fear.

"The reason why you're able to go and leave your house, the reason you're able to go and work ... is because you do not have to be under the stress and anxiety of fear," AlShukry said. Many Muslims in Myanmar have to live under that fear, he said.

"Allah says we will test you with a little bit of fear. But the reason that he mentions a portion of fear is because no one can bear total fear," he said, "Because fear is paralyzing—fear destroys."

Abdul Rafay Hanif, CC '14 and Muslim Students Association president, said that the situation of Muslims in Myanmar is largely underreported by Western media.

"There is a lot of attention that wasn't being diverted to them," Hanif said. "For them, the Myanmar issue is not something as hot and sexy as something happening in the Middle East."

The MSA is trying to raise awareness about the plight of Myanmar Muslims, Hanif said.

"Issues that we bring up are issues that not only the rest of the Muslim community, but other people on campus and other people in New York City are also made aware of," he said.

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Denburg steps down from administration

After over 40 years at BC, long-time dean will stay on as adviser

BY CECILIA REYES
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Dorothy Denburg, BC '70, who has worked at Barnard for more than 40 years, including 17 as dean, will step down from the central administration, Barnard President Debora Spar announced Wednesday.

The current vice president for college relations, Denburg will stay on next year to advise first-years and possibly teach, in what Spar characterized as a transition year.

"There is simply no one like Dorothy, and simply no way to quantify what her influence, energy, and amazing spirit have meant to us all," Spar said in a statement. "She has changed the face of Barnard by her presence alone, and her intelligence and ideas will resonate for a long time to come."

Spar called Denburg's tenure as dean, from 1993 to 2010, legendary.

In an email, Denburg said that she hopes to return to teaching. Reacting to the Past in the First-Year Seminar program, which she hasn't had time to do since

becoming VP. She will also continue advising first-year students and overseeing the Centennial Scholars program. But the smaller role will allow her to spend more time with her family, especially her grandchildren, and start working on new projects.

"She really defined Barnard for me, and what it means to be a Barnard woman."

—Erin Fredrick, BC '01

"It's time," Denburg said. "I accomplished a lot of what President Spar asked of me when I assumed this role and I'm proud of the things I've been able to do."

"She has done more, and done it with more passion and heart, than any one letter can convey," Spar said. "As dean,

SEE DENBURG, page 3



COURTESY OF DOROTHY HONG / BARNARD COLLEGE

'IT'S TIME' | Dorothy Denburg, BC '70, who has worked at Barnard for over 40 years, will leave the central administration.

St. Nicholas graded worst park in Manhattan

BY CHRISTIAN ZHANG
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

When Michelle Anthony, 30, took a walk through St. Nicholas Park after Hurricane Sandy tore through the city, she was startled to see broken branches and uprooted trees strewn everywhere.

Today, the branches are still there, along with litter, over-filled trash cans, and a broken staircase—casualties of a lack of funding.

"The park basically looks the same from when I was a child to now," Anthony said,

pointing to uneven staircases and embankments.

In a report released by the advocacy group New Yorkers for Parks earlier this month, St. Nicholas Park received a C+, the lowest score of any large park in Manhattan and the second-lowest score in the city. It was also a downgrade for the park, on St. Nicholas Avenue between 127th and 141st streets, from its B+ grade last year.

In comparison, Morningside Park received a B this year, while

SEE NICHOLAS, page 3



LUKE HENDERSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

NO PARKING | Debris from Hurricane Sandy is still scattered around St. Nicholas park, which lacks funding for renovations.

Meili, Kluge represent Light Blue at NCAAs

BY CHARLOTTE MURTISHAW
Spectator Senior Staff writer

Last weekend, lucky Columbians took refuge on glamorous beaches in any number of tropical locales that boasted some combination of warm weather, sand, and salt water. But for a luckier few, the exotic destination of choice was Indianapolis, where the water tasted more like chlorine and temperatures hovered in the mid 30s and 40s.

Columbia women's swimmers Katie Meili and Alena Kluge forwent typical spring breaks in favor of competing at the NCAA Division I championships—the pinnacle of collegiate swimming.

There, Meili, a senior, capped her incredible Columbia career by proving her place among the

SEE SWIMMING, page 2

WOMEN'S
SWIMMING

BC OKs syllabus wellness statement

BY ABBY ABRAMS
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

As part of a continued effort to value wellness as highly as academics, student groups have written a wellness statement for Barnard professors to include in their syllabi if they so choose.

A collaboration between the Student Government Association's Student Academic Advisory Committee, the Student Wellness Project, and the Committee on Instruction, the new statement aims to show students that professors understand some of the stress they are going through.

The statement is now visible to faculty on Courseworks so that professors can paste it on their syllabi just as they include other standard items, such as the honor code, a grade breakdown, and absence policies.

"It is important for undergraduates to recognize and identify the different pressures, burdens, and stressors you may be facing, whether personal, emotional, physical, financial, mental, or academic," the statement reads. It encourages students to get enough sleep and exercise and includes a list of resources for students such as the Primary Care Health Service, Furman Counseling Center, Well

"It is important for undergraduates to recognize and identify the different pressures, burdens, and stressors you may be facing, whether personal, emotional, physical, financial, mental, or academic," the statement reads. "We as a community urge you to make yourself—your own health, sanity, and wellness—your priority throughout this term and your career here. Sleep, exercise, and eating well can all be a part of a healthy regimen to cope with stress. Resources exist to support you in several sectors of your life, and we encourage you to make use of them."

Woman, and Stressbusters.

Sara Donatich, BC '13 and co-chair of SWP, said that she hopes the statement will remind students that their health matters just as much as their academic achievements.

"It speaks to saying wellness is a priority and it should be a priority in students' lives. You shouldn't sacrifice everything to do well in school—you should also be thinking about your own sanity, how you live your day to day, and your own happiness," Donatich said.

After SGA held a wellness forum at the end of last semester, Donatich said she approached SGA's academic affairs representative, Elaine Gottesman, BC '14, about creating the statement. After asking SWP members to draft a statement, the SGA Student Academic Advisory Committee presented it to the Barnard Committee on

Instruction earlier this semester.

SGA members plan to write a letter to Barnard department chairs explaining the statement and encouraging professors to include it, Rachel Ferrari, BC '13 and SGA representative for college relations, said.

"It's going to be voluntary, but you're going to feel obliged to remind students that they need to eat and sleep, need to reach out for help when they need it, and that's not something to be embarrassed about and not something that makes you any less competitive, any less smart," Ferrari said.

Some professors have already begun to include the statement in their syllabi. Christian Rojas, a Barnard chemistry professor and a member of the COI, said he used the statement this semester for his Organic

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A&E, PAGE 6

BC student stars in Timberlake video

Ariane Rinehart, BC '15, discusses her performance in Justin Timberlake's video for his new hit "Mirrors," which has already garnered about 3 million hits.



OPINION, PAGE 4

No place like home?

Rega Jha on how the Core forces us to rethink what we grew up with.

That red equals sign

Queer activists need to ally themselves with those who want to help.

SPORTS, PAGE 2

Lions split 2 games with Manhattan

Baseball won game one but got shut out in game two of its doubleheader with Manhattan on Wednesday afternoon.

EVENTS

Passover Movie Night

Watch a free screening of "The Prince of Egypt" and nosh on kosher snacks.

Kraft Center, 8-11 p.m.

WEATHER

Today



50°/37°

Tomorrow



52°/37°

Tennis a tough but fulfilling experience

Imagine your heart pounding so hard you can hear it in your ears. You gasp for air but it feels like you're stuck in a broken elevator full of people, and the oxygen supply is quickly running out. You want to close your eyes to escape it all, but you know that if you do, you will collapse to the ground.

No, I am not describing the symptoms of a panic attack. Instead it's the feeling my teammates and I have after a typical 7:30 a.m. agility session. By 8:20 a.m., I am drenched in sweat, and I dream of going back to bed. Unfortunately, reality hits me in face, and I force myself to quickly change and hurriedly walk (because I am too tired to run) to my 8:40 a.m. class. Despite the intense physical and mental effort needed to get through agility, I cannot help but feel a sense of accomplishment at the end of it all. It is the satisfaction of knowing that I had pushed myself to extremes I had previously thought impossible and that with each practice, my teammates and I are one step closer to accomplishing our goals.

This season for Columbia women's tennis has been a historic one thus far. For the first time in our program's 28-year history, we broke into the top 50 in the nation, with a ranking of No. 46. Individually, our senior co-captain Nicole Bartnik reached a career-high ranking of No. 24, and our doubles pairing of junior Bianca Sanon and freshman Kanika Vaidya reached No. 29.

What I will cherish most are my experiences being part of a team.

We are history in the making, and I could not be more proud to be a part of this team.

Everyone comes to Columbia to receive an education. While all colleges offer education in the most traditional sense of preparing people for the workforce, Columbia, with its Core Curriculum classes offers a body of knowledge that allows us to mature as human beings. It is this type of education that makes our school unique. For me, Columbia Athletics provides another opportunity for this personal growth.

While I will never forget the records that were set on paper, I know that what I will cherish most are my experiences being a part of a team. These memories evoke emotions in a manner that simply cannot be done through statistics. Our team, like any other, is comprised of a group of individuals with different personalities, skills, and interests. Working as one cohesive unit requires sacrifices from each individual. In a Rousseauian sense, we each give up a bit of our private interests for the general interests of the team, which can be an incredibly humbling experience.

We, as a team, represent Columbia University. When I step up to the baseline before a big point and hear a teammate yell, "Let's go Lions!", adrenaline rushes through my body as I eagerly reply, "Here we go Columbia!" Often, the knowledge of competing for something greater than myself provides the extra energy I need to win the match.

When I think about all the things that I could be doing in New York City at any given time, I become quickly overwhelmed and feel as if I am going through a midlife (or, technically, a quarterlife) crisis. With all the opportunities in the city, it becomes easy to lose focus on priorities. For me, the rigid schedule of athletics keeps me grounded and provides a constant reminder of what is most important. There are set times we need to be at agilities, practices, meetings, and other team events, and there are consequences, such as extra running or sitting out of a match, for failing to follow the schedule. Through athletics, I get small doses of what life will be like in the working world, where there are no excuses, and you simply get fired if you make too many mistakes.

Athletics are a defining part of my Columbia experience, but it by



AMY LI
Guest Column



SYNCHRONIZED SWIM | Alena Kluge (left) and Katie Meili made the trip to Indianapolis to compete against the most elite competitors in the nation.

Light Blue well-represented in NCAA swimming

SWIMMING from front page

best. Swimming alongside internationally recognized competitors she set two ivy records in the 100 breaststroke, 200 individual medley, and 200 breaststroke, placing third, seventh, and ninth respectively. Her impressive showing powered the Light Blue to a 21st place finish and makes her the most successful Lion to compete at the meet since Olympian Cristina Teuscher, CC '00.

Kluge, a junior, made her NCAA debut after being selected in the 400 IM for her first-place performance at Ivy Championships. She swam a B-cut at Ivies and was informed after further deliberation that she made it, which she called a "shocking" moment for her.

Despite encouragement from her coaches on what she described as the ultimate goal of her career, "I never really thought, I never really believed in myself that I could make it," she said, "It's hard to believe you're going to drop a ton of time. There's a difference between believing in your goals and having realistic expectations."

Once in Indianapolis, Kluge also swam the 200 IM and 200 backstroke as bonus events. After she fell off her

best times in the individual medleys, she rebounded to re-break her school record in the 200 back with a 1:58.29.

"My first two days weren't exactly what I wanted," Kluge said. "I was just really proud that on the third morning I was able to get up and go faster in my 200 back and finish the whole season on a good note."

The two athletes, training partners, and close friends supported each other through the high-pressure meet, which each described as sometimes intimidating.

"The first day I was there, I saw, like, 10 girls walk by with Olympic rings tattoos," Kluge said. "It doesn't shock you, but subconsciously it's very intimidating because even though I know I'm at the same level as them—I'm really not."

Meili, who has faced off against a number of Olympians along her road to two All-American nods, has had prior experience at NAAs and national championship meets like Olympic Trials. Yet she still admitted to being a little shaken.

"It can be a little intimidating if you think about it too much," Meili said. "So I just try to focus on my race and tell myself I'm just as fast as these girls, and

I deserve to be here as well."

Nerves aside, familiar company helped change the dynamic of the meet for Meili, who attended solo last year.

In a joint interview, Meili turned to Kluge and said, "It was really nice having her there."

"It kind of felt like another practice, and then obviously it's more fun when you have a teammate around with you," Meili added. "We laugh a lot, we joke around a lot."

Because she didn't have prior experience at such an elite meet, Kluge felt the change of pace.

"It's definitely different because I think you have to find within yourself why you want to be successful. Because at dual meets, it's all about the team, it's all about, 'We need these points because we need to win this meet, we need to have a winning season,'" Kluge said. "Even though we were still for the team, it's just harder because not everyone's there right with you."

Still, two isn't always the loneliest number. Despite the small size of the Columbia contingent, participation at the meet expanded far beyond those physically present, thanks to an outpouring of digital support.

"Everyone on the team was so good about supporting us—being there and texting us and saying good job, good luck," Kluge said.

Meili, whose point-scoring brought Columbia to its highest finish since 1998, saw the ranking as a team victory.

"I never," she said, stressing the word, "would have gotten to this level without my teammates. One hundred percent, I would not be this fast if they weren't there, pushing me in practice every day, cheering me on, as support systems and friends. And so yeah, I may have scored those points, but those points are definitely a reflection of the entire team."

While the meet was Meili's official adieu to collegiate competition, Kluge still has a year left in her, which she intends to make the most of.

"I definitely want to make it back," Kluge said. "And who knows, it might be even crazier with more Olympians coming into the mix of college swimming, but I have so much support. Our whole team is so amazing, and I could count on both my hands the amount of girls who I think could be there with me next year."

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Key injuries, late-game fumbles led to poor basketball season

BY ELI SCHULTZ
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

With March Madness in full swing, it is hard not to imagine what could have been this season for the men's basketball team.

The Lions posted convincing victories over a pair of tournament teams, winning 75-57 at Villanova and beating Harvard 78-63 at home. But Columbia (12-16, 4-10 Ivy) was never really able to build on these signature wins, suffering a number of disappointing losses, particularly in conference play. Projected by many to finish near the top of the Ivy League standings, the Light Blue instead found itself in last place at season's end.

"Had some great wins and some tough losses," Lions head coach Kyle Smith said. "I think the silver lining is that we can obviously play with the best that we have on our schedule."

In many of its wins, Columbia showed the depth that made it a popular pick to top the Ancient Eight early in the season.

The Light Blue had six different single-game scoring leaders over the course of the season. The same six Lions also garnered Ivy League weekly honors, and several were recognized multiple times. The freshman backcourt trio of Grant Mullins, Maodo Lo, and Isaac Cohen showed signs of a promising future.

Mullins was a significant factor in the win at Villanova, and he finished the season as the Lions' second-highest scorer. But he struggled at times, most notably during a five-game stretch in league play in which he went scoreless from beyond the arc.

"Grant, we kind of had an expectation for him, and he followed up. And, you know, he hit the skids a little bit in league," Smith said. "It's hard. He was probably the second guy on the scout when teams are coming, and he had to go through that."

For a stretch late in the season, Lo was arguably Columbia's best player. He posted double-digit scoring totals

in each of his last four games, leading the team in scoring twice and putting up a career-high 20 points against Yale.

"Maodo probably has the most upside of anyone in our program," Smith said. "I think he was starting to display it in the second half of league where we needed guys to step up and he did it."

But Lo missed the last two games of the season after rolling his ankle in warm-ups before the March 8 game at Harvard, highlighting one of the biggest reasons the Lions were not as successful as they hoped to be this year—injuries.

"You've got to stay healthy," Smith said. "The grind of the Ivy League, the top teams—because there's such a small difference—they stayed healthy. Harvard didn't have a lot of depth, but they stayed healthy."

Senior guard Brian Barbour, who garnered All-Ivy Second Team honors and led Columbia with 12.1 points per game, was not at 100 percent for much of league play. The Lions really felt his absence during a three-game losing streak in the middle of the season, in which the senior captain played a grand total of 30 minutes. He was prevented from making an impact in losses at Yale and at home versus Princeton, and did not play at all in a loss at Brown.

"It was frustrating—that was the first game I think I missed, not being in the lineup, since my freshman year," Barbour said. "It's tough, especially for your senior year. You want to do well."

The Light Blue frontcourt was also hit hard. Sophomore center Cory Osekowski and freshman forward Zach En'wezoh both missed chunks of time due to injuries, and sophomore forward Skylar Scrivano saw limited minutes as he recovered from a sports hernia.

Close losses in league play contributed to Columbia's disappointing finish as well. After losing eight times by eight points or fewer in 2011-12, the Lions lost eight games by six points or fewer in 2012-13. On the other hand, Columbia's narrowest margin of victory all season came in a 67-58 win at Cornell in the first game of conference play.

"Seeing those close games slip away, could be top three, and ended up where we were—it was kind of a tough pill to swallow," Barbour said. "We're right there. That's been the way this program has been. We've been right there a lot. You just need to at some point take that step."

The Lions were unable to make that jump in 2012-13, and after dropping a messy and frustrating game to

Dartmouth to close out the campaign, the team fell to last place in the league.

"I went biblical the last game of the year, at Dartmouth. I felt like Job," Smith said. "I'm serious, I pulled out the Gideons."

Whether the basketball program can finally find the happy ending that even Job was granted remains to be seen.

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KIERA WOOD / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

HEIR APPARENT | Freshman guard Grant Mullins made a significant impact in his rookie season, and will help lead a strong Lions backcourt for years to come.

Locals say park chronically underfunded

NICHOLAS from front page

Riverside Park received an A-. The report based its grades on parks’ designs, amenities, and upkeep.

Locals said the poor grade for St. Nicholas seemed accurate.

“The other day I walked through the park—it looked like a war zone,” William Mullin, a member of Friends of St. Nicholas Park, said. “No one wants to go to a park that looks bad.”

James Yolles, a New Yorkers for Parks spokesperson, said the main reason for the park’s down-grade was broken staircases and unmaintained pathways. One broken staircase in particular, at 134th Street, forces pedestrians to go out of their way to cross the park, which is situated on a large hill.

“The topography makes it challenging to do maintenance fixes, but it’s also difficult for people to get around with broken staircases,” Yolles said.

Myesha Benjamin, who was walking her dog in St. Nicholas Park Wednesday afternoon, said

these factors deter people from wanting to visit the park.

“The trees and a lot of things, it’s dangerous,” she said. “I walk through, and nobody cleans up this part.”

Mullin said one of the reasons for the park’s current condition is that the Friends of St. Nicholas group lacks committed community support.

“Other parks with friends groups are out there securing funding vigorously,” he said. “And this park doesn’t have that.”

In 2005, local dog owners raised \$10,000 to build a dog run, but Mullin said the group’s activity has steadily declined since then.

“There’s no one sitting there working, calling up the City Council representatives, lobbying for funding for staircase repairs,” he said.

While the city’s Parks Department pays for general maintenance and gardening, Mullin said a lack of parks funding citywide means it’s up to locals to push for larger projects like staircase repairs.

The park’s location doesn’t help, either. While nearby developers can sponsor improvements at other parks in order to increase land value, St. Nicholas doesn’t have that luxury.

“It’s surrounded on one side by City College, and then on the other side, you have mostly low-income housing,” Mullin said. “As a result, no one is active in the park. There are no benefactors of the park.”

“Uptown parks get the short end of the stick,” he added.

The condition of the park went downhill a few years ago, Mullin said, with the departure of a longtime gardener, Scott Farrington, who now works at Pelham Bay Park in the Bronx.

“The gardener is so important to these parks ... because there is a lack of funding,” he said. “So if a gardener wants to do things, they have to find ingenious plans to find funding.”

Still, some locals take pride in St. Nicholas.

“The park came a long way, truthfully,” Freddie McGriff, who was walking his dog in St. Nicholas Park Wednesday afternoon, said. “It used to be dirty ... and they’ve been keeping up with it.”

He also criticized the report, saying that the findings could deter people from otherwise donating to and helping the park.

Benjamin said, however, that the report was useful for raising awareness about issues with the park.

“We used to come and play in the grass, roll down the hills ... there used to be street theater further north,” Benjamin said. “It used to be a nice community.”

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Denburg hopes to continue teaching

DENBURG from front page

Dorothy was responsible for all student services in support of the academic mission of the college, including admissions and financial aid, academic and pre-professional advising, residential life and student activities, and health and wellness programs.”

Denburg’s position will not be filled. Alumnae Affairs will return to being part of the Development Office, and Career Development will go back to reporting to the dean

of the college.

“It was a challenge to conceptualize, develop, and launch new programs for alumnae and to create new opportunities for their engagement with students and the College,” Denburg said.

Erin Fredrick, BC ’01, was a student when Denburg was dean and has remained in contact with her since.

“I said this to Dorothy once, that she really defined Barnard for me, and what it means to be a Barnard woman,” Fredrick said. “When she first told me [about stepping down], I had

the wind taken out of me a bit by that, but I quickly understood.”

“There is only one Dean Denburg,” Fredrick said. “We talked about having it all, and she’s been the epitome of that. She’s raised three kids and an amazing career, and she’s been a great role model.”

“We also owe Dorothy a debt of gratitude that we can never fully repay,” Spar said. “She will always be family.”

Chris Meyer contributed reporting.

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COURTESY OF DOROTHY HONG / BARNARD COLLEGE

TWO CELEBRITIES | Denburg with Barnard’s 2010 Commencement speaker Meryl Streep.

Profs can add mental health statement

WELLNESS from front page

Chemistry I class.

“Sometimes students can get caught up in the excitement or stress or whatever you want to call it, and they forget about the other things,” he said. “You can’t really be effective as a student if you’re not well, whatever that means, if it’s physical or mental. This is a good opportunity to remind students of that.”

Currently the wellness statement is only visible to Barnard professors, but Donatich said

she would like to ask the other undergraduate schools’ councils to adopt the statement as well.

“Ideally we would like it to be in all four schools,” Donatich said. “If one school does it, then maybe it will force the other schools to do it.”

Ferrari said the statement is part of the larger discussion about wellness on campus.

“I think anyone who wants to be academic affairs representative should include in their platform the idea of wellness being

a priority over grades,” Ferrari said. “I don’t feel enough students know that not eating and not sleeping is not cool.”

Rojas believes that professors can really make a difference, and that the new wellness statement could help let students know they care.

“I hope it encourages students to make use of the resources, and tells them ... that I’m here as a resource,” Rojas said.

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Athletics can shape Columbia experience

LI from page 2

no means defines who I am as an individual. All the lessons I have learned through sports apply to other aspects of my life, whether in academics or in social settings, and I have become a well-rounded person as a result of my experiences. I am just as excited to attend the Varsity Show this year as I was about going to Basketball

Mania, and I cannot wait to find out whom Columbia will invite to the next World Leaders Forum. I was not yet at Columbia when Sheryl Sandberg spoke at Barnard’s commencement, but if she ever comes back to campus to speak again, I know I will definitely be there.

Everyone brings a unique perspective to Columbia, and as a student body, we should

strive to create a supportive environment that allows each person’s interests and talents to be pursued to the maximum potential.

Amy Li is a Columbia College sophomore majoring in financial economics with a concentration in business management. She is on the varsity women’s tennis team.

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LUKE HENDERSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

NO PARKING | St. Nicholas Park’s cracked and collapsing staircase contributed to the New Yorkers for Parks report’s poor grade.

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A renaissance of memorization

We are able to savor (read: briskly glance at) the SparkNotes of some of the great books in the Core today because of the power of the human mind. Memory was a powerful tool—Homer’s epic poetry was passed down without any written form in existence for generations. Perhaps this was truly realized because it was the only option. However, we’re so reliant on cramming in more and more knowledge, opinions, and accolades that we fail to appreciate, understand, and internalize. We read cursorily. We take more classes. We try to absorb more and oversaturate ourselves in order to remain competitive and stay afloat. Last year in Contemporary Civilization, I grumbled to my professor in my archetypal disillusioned state about how I couldn’t remember what I had read two weeks before, let alone last year. What was the point?

Technology and the Internet have worsened this problem. Devising ways to improve our memories was our form of human technological advancement. Mark Twain used to write the first letter of each main theme of his lectures on his fingernails before he gave them. Now we text, tweet, blog, pin, and email things constantly to amass electronic, infallible memories. We’re so dependent on our iPhones. If I were to lose mine, all I have to say is that my best friend from fourth grade sure as hell better know how to contact someone near me or tell me how to get to the Starbucks five blocks away.

There is a culture of denigrating memory, especially in academia. We complain about how certain majors are only required to memorize things. “4.1 GPA?! She’s biology? Oh, well, yeah, that’s just memorization.”

A renaissance of memorization is in order. Learning better memorization practices can make us more successful members of society, and can definitely make our lives easier as students, if we actually try them. They can also make us more reflective and broaden our intellectual spheres. The method of loci, also referred to as the memory palace, is one such technique, apparently originating when the poet Simonides of Ceos in the 5th century B.C. probed about the collapse of a banquet hall, and tried to imagine the building in his mind. To his surprise, he realized that he could easily recall where each of the dinner guests had been seated.

By concentrating on our own methods and pitfalls, setting higher goals, and receiving proximate advice, we can improve.

The key to loci is to associate each item with a precise physical location. Salient encoding of memories improves recall. That’s why mnemonic devices are so effective. Humans, likely for evolutionary reasons, can easily memorize spatial relations. An fMRI study conducted on individuals who participate in memory competitions found that the only difference between the brains of these “memory athletes” and normal controls was that the athletes utilized many brain areas associated with spatial memory. Imagine a place you know well, whether it’s your Jewish 200-year-old great-aunt’s drawing room or the Bluth household. Now place objects into that space. It can be your memory palace. Make the relations funny and strange. Joshua Foer, the author of “Moonwalking With Einstein: The Art and Science of Remembering Everything,” wrote that, for him, this practice “invariably meant inserting family members into scenes so raunchy I feared I was upgrading my memory at the expense of tormenting my subconscious. The indecent acts my own grandmother had to commit in the service of my remembering ... are truly unspeakable.”

To aid your pursuit of memory improvement, make sure you aren’t multitasking while studying or memorizing. Research has shown time and time again that multitasking just does not work. Even listening to music while studying decreases recall rates. Our short-term memory can typically hold only seven groups of items, and long-term encoding first depends on short-term intake. So why do we continue to do it? Apparently multitasking makes us feel psychologically better and emotionally more productive—likely because of the pressures of contemporary society.

Just like with memory, you can overcome other plateaus with the right mix of doggedness and creativity. Two psychologists, Fitts and Posner, tackled this topic in the 1960s and found that people reach a final state during skill acquisition called the autonomous stage at which progress stagnates. But this is, and should not be, a limit. This goes for scenarios involving progress in life; great athletes, musicians, artists, and writers differentiate themselves by consistently overcoming plateaus. By concentrating on our own methods and pitfalls, setting higher goals, and receiving proximate advice, we can improve. Try to force yourself to type 20 percent faster and just let the mistakes litter the page. Now that you know what the mistakes are, next they will start disappearing.

J.S. Mill wrote, “Customs are made for customary circumstances, and customary characters ... The despotism of custom is everywhere ... aim at something better than customary.” We don’t read to remember anymore, but we should. Memory champions can recite entire poems or memorize the names of strangers in seconds. Talk about the ultimate goal of the Core—just think of what an intellectual cocktail party legend you could be!

We should strive to draw connections between seemingly disparate ideas. That’s how novelty is created. How many worthwhile ideas aren’t imagined, how many connections are unmade because of our memory’s shortcomings? Don’t be a customary character. Neurons that fire together, wire together. Let’s make a more beautiful tangled web.

Sydney Small is a Columbia College junior majoring in economics-philosophy and neuroscience. Small Talk runs alternate Thursdays.



SYDNEY SMALL

Small Talk

Going home from the examined life

Four years ago, I was of the firm belief that there is no cap on the number of places I—or anyone—could earnestly call home. Having already been transplanted a few times, I was ready for New York City because I was ready to embrace another culture. I was ready to re-belong. With a 16-year-old’s unwavering certainty, I argued in my Columbia application essay that one needn’t disaffiliate from one home to assume another. “One can hold on to every last speck and fiber of original cultural attestation,” I wrote self-importantly, “and still come to belong with the passion and effortless-ness of a native.”

Now, after four years of college—four years of being indoctrinated into “the examined life,” a life of relentless questioning and critical thought—I’m not so sure.

For spring break this year, my boyfriend and I scraped together every penny we could find and made our way around India for ten days. I wanted to show him where I came from, where I grew up. The plan was that he, born and raised in Colby, Kansas (population: 5,438), would have an eye-opening cultural experience, and that I, born and raised in India, would be his seasoned, perpetually unsurprised, native tour guide. Wrong again.

From the moment we set foot in Mumbai’s international airport, just as he was hit by a wave of unfamiliar sights and smells, I was hit by a wave of unfamiliar questions. Little observations, all of which I had grown up with, sparked unprecedented, large internal debates.

Seeing separate lines for men and women going through airport security—something I went through my entire life—suddenly made me think about the institutional upkeep of India’s troubled gender relations. Seeing unauthorized taxi drivers flock to us outside the airport, shouting prices at us—a style of hawking I was accustomed to ignoring—suddenly made me think about the special nuance that “Third World” opportunism lends to conventional capitalism. Seeing billboards for fairness lotions—a pervasive industry that I grew up



REGA JHA

Rega-rding Columbia

surrounded by—made me think about the inadvertent colonial leftover that is the Indian subcontinent’s internal racism.

And just like that, from day one to day 10, the most common sights of my childhood were automatically catapulted through a filter of critical thinking. They were stripped of their nostalgia and, instead, they only existed through an involuntarily intellectualized lens. I floundered constantly to feel a sense of homecoming, to experience any significant emotional familiarity at all. But I was repeatedly held back by a new and unavoidable, big, hard wall of questions, a wall for which I have Columbia University both to thank and to blame.

Undoubtedly, the Columbia instruction to question one’s surroundings is a good thing. The Core teachings of analysis and of self-awareness and of critical thought—these are all good things. Undoubtedly, I am grateful to Columbia for teaching me to react first with questions and then with judgment, first with debate and then with conclusions. All of us here are better for these habits. I’ve always believed that and, as far as I can predict, I always will.

However, it became clear to me over this past spring break that the examined life—so hallowed here that it is, itself, often unexamined as a lifestyle choice—comes with one drawback: Those that try to lead it must, at least at first, get accustomed to a certain degree of separation from their experiences. The belief I so steadfastly held at 16 that cultural re-belonging is easy to do over and over again without sacrifice now comes with a caveat: It is easy only if you are willing to suspend some amount of critical thought. As long as you have been trained to uncompromisingly think critically about your surroundings, to emotionally “belong” in them as you once did is incredibly difficult.

As we took off from India, having been told to buckle our seat belts and fold our tray-tables in English and Hindi both, I felt a dual sense of sadness. First, a sadness to be leaving the place I have called home all my life. Then a larger sadness about the slight insincerity and reluctance with which I call it home now. I certainly agree and cherish the teaching that “the unexamined life is not worth living,” but I know now that the examined life, a Platonic prescription that Columbia teaches us to hold close to our hearts, is one that can only ever be lived at an arm’s length, at a spectator’s distance, from wherever we choose to live it.

Rega Jha is a Columbia College senior majoring in creative writing. Rega-rding Columbia runs alternate Thursdays.

Greater than or equal to

BY JONATHAN COHEN

On Tuesday morning, I was flipping between my Facebook News Feed and various news outlets covering the oral arguments at the Supreme Court in *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, the case challenging the constitutionality of Proposition 8, which banned gay marriage in California.

I and many others decided to share or change our profile picture to a variation on the Human Rights Campaign’s logo specifically designed to support gay marriage: a pallid red equals sign on a solid red background. Although it might be a surface-y or passive gesture, it warmed my heart to have such a plainly visual representation of support for same-sex marriage, the red quickly overwhelming the blue as Facebook’s theme color for the day.

I’m writing because those statuses, and many of their inevitable dozens of comments, really irked me.

However, as a select few of my friends pointed out in their statuses, all was not well in the state of Columbia. Same-sex marriage is not equivalent to equal rights for the entire queer community, they argued, and the Human Rights Campaign excludes and even harms much of the queer community in their quest for homonormativity.

I have to plead a lot of ignorance now, which I believe takes a lot of courage in the Columbia community: I had absolutely no idea that some queer activists take issue with the Human Rights Campaign. Honestly, I didn’t even know it was the HRC’s image; I thought it was just a symbol that showed support of equal rights.

So why am I writing? There are clearly scores of people on campus who could explain the issues at hand—both marriage equality and the HRC’s flaws—much better than I. (I must beg their pardon, as I’m sure I haven’t done their argument justice.) I’m writing because those

statuses, and many of their inevitable dozens of comments, really irked me.

You see, those postings weren’t done in the spirit of education, they were mostly mocking. They implied that the people who posted the picture were simpletons and weren’t actually part of the fight for equal rights. This wasn’t just bewildering and hurtful, it was entirely counterproductive to the goal of those complaining.

I think I speak for the ignorant masses when I say that when I posted the HRC’s image, my intention wasn’t to support the organization but rather the cause being fought inside and outside the Supreme Court. I think if they truly thought about it, the Facebook commenters could accept this point without much debate.

But, much more importantly, politics is about coalition-building. On any given political issue, there are always a handful of highly knowledgeable and inspired people at the forefront of an issue, whether it directly affects them or not. However, in order to enact political change, they need to build a coalition including a much larger number of people less-educated with regard to the issue.

The coalition in support of same-sex marriage has grown strong almost overnight—something even the biggest activists couldn’t dream of a decade ago. Shows like “Modern Family” feature gay protagonists cheered by straight viewers from Burlington to Birmingham. Bill Clinton, who signed the Defense of Marriage Act into law in 1996, now rails against its constitutionality. And in the last election cycle, same-sex marriage won at the polls in four states, finally beating the well-oiled propaganda machine Frank Schubert and the National Organization for Marriage used to get Prop 8 passed in California just four years earlier.

Whether the people at the forefront of these issues are conscious of it or not, deriding the coalition of the willing threatens to disillusion and, ultimately, dispel some of its members. And, as someone who immovably supports equal marriage rights, that scares me.

To those among us who are most educated on these issues: You have an enormous responsibility. The rest of us look to you for guidance and leadership, as we admire your knowledge and passion and hope you’ll be willing to share some of it with us. You can either lambast us for not being as informed as you, or you can accept us, educate us, and unite us under the most progressive agenda. This simpleton profoundly hopes you choose the latter, because the cause we all support will be better off for it.

The author is a Columbia College first-year.

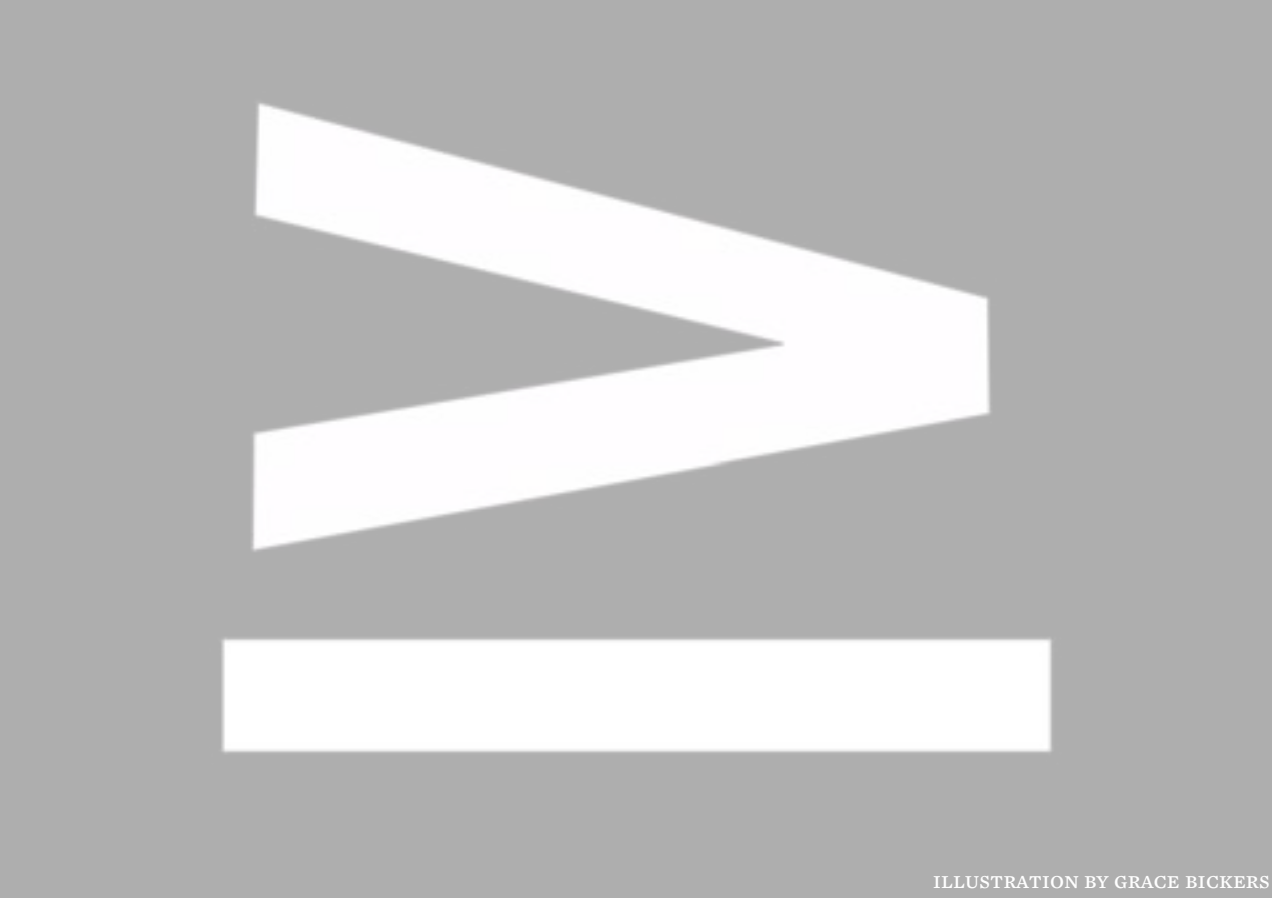


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6	3	1	4	2	5	8	9	7
9	8	5	1	7	3	2	4	6
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Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 grid contains the digits 1 through 9. That means that no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Short glasses?

5 1979 exile

10 "Collective unconscious" corner

14 Necklace material

15 Big Island port

16 "Beauty ___ the eye ..."

17 President who appointed Solomayor to the Supreme Court

18 Loads

19 Beatles movie

20 New Year's Day staple, familiarly

23 One making sidelong glances

24 Bais-___ are

25 Mt. roadside hazard

26 Highest of MLB's "minors"

28 Ode relic

29 Animation unit

32 Place to learn to crawl?

37 "Harold and Maude" director

39 Aptly named 22-Down

40 Band since 1980 that disbanded in 2011

41 Freeway no-no

42 "The Wizard of Oz" device

43 It has a handle and flies

45 Comanied score

46 "Now I ___ me ..."

48 Getting in approx. 49 00210, e.g.

50 Stylist's supply

52 Run in the heat?

56 Place to split a split

60 Goes downhill fast

61 Ricelike pasta

62 Worthless

63 Confined, with "up"

64 "Terrell"

65 Lena and others

66 Surfers' guides

67 qua non

68 What one might see in a 20-, 32-, 43- or 56-Across

DOWN

1 Make a point

2 NOXA sandwich

3 Wipe clean

4 One concerned with composition and angles

5 Hunk

6 Whipped accessory

7 Like links golf courses

8 Crooked

9 Blavator's talk

10 Muslim holy war

11 Exploded

12 "Aida" backdrop

13 Macroeconomics lg.

21 Gem for a Scorpio, perhaps

22 39-Across automaker

27 Fake nail material

28 "Semper Fi" org.

29 Carp family fish

30 Spanish Civil War battle site

31 Snowshoe hare

32 "Harold and Maude" director

33 Are in the past?

34 Emblem

35 Pretentiously showy

36 "Wide Sargasso Sea" — Jean Rhys novel

38 Overpower

44 Plant in an underwater forest

47 Golf green borders

49 Citrus peels

50 Certain strip native

51 Overact

53 California town whose name means "the river"

54 Doone who turned out to be Lady Dugal's daughter

55 Secret rendezvous

56 Furniture store that also sells Swedish meatballs

57 Quatre et un

58 "___ saw Eliza"

59 Starting from 60 No. at the beach

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

SEALE	JIB	ACAI
ARBOR	DRE	ADULT
GROUNDHOG	ARBYS	
SOD	ANN	CHIA
LETON	ATA	FLAG
INAUGURATION		
ALOE	RELET	BLU
FLESHES	ATTIRES	
AON	ONION	ACER
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By Jeff Hyman and Victor Barocas
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‘Musings’ shows alum’s vibrant view of New York

BY DEBORAH STACK
Columbia Daily Spectator

New York in late March makes it’s easy to forget that the city can be anything but gray and gloomy. For those in need of a reminder that summer is right around the corner, look no further than “Musings in Color,” the new exhibit in Dodge Hall’s LeRoy Neiman Gallery, featuring works by Janet Byrne SoA ’09. The unpretentious art space serves as the perfect backdrop for Byrne’s colorful representations of New York City and the people who live here.

Byrne’s style shows strong ties to post-Impressionism, with bold, textured brushstrokes taking center stage in her paintings. Bright colors sprinkled over her canvases bring optimism and interest to even the most stiff subjects. Byrne stays true to her New York City theme, depicting figures on one wall of the gallery, trees and natural scenes on two, and still life, with a focus on floral arrangements, on the last. Her figures droop in fleshy tones, slumping over ladders or in chairs, with folds of fleshy skin collecting in their centers, and palpable weight dragging chins into hands and torsos onto couches. Two depictions of shirtless men resonate with left-leaning exhaustion, a sentiment which finds familiarity with any current student.

Paintings of Central Park are given the most real estate on the gallery walls, with trees and park benches stretching through canvas after canvas. In one painting, recognizable as a park lawn, a dog sits strangely human-like, with hind legs stretching before him, and head howling toward the sky. This awkward posture is echoed across the room, in a boxy ballerina who uncomfortably stretches her leg before her, ankle resting on a yellow pillow.

My favorite of Byrne’s works hangs far below eye level, with the aura of an afterthought. The solid, gray tree features softer lines than most of Byrne’s paintings and offers muted blues and greens in place of her favored bright hues. Perhaps this preference came down to taste, or my personal love of the palette presented, but the tree seemed natural in a way that many of Byrne’s works do not. Her figures are characterized by inflexible limbs and stretched leaning torsos. I found that the works which escaped from this preference—a series of rowboats pulled onto a shore, a vase of daisies—were the most honest and intriguing.

Byrne’s art provides an oft-visited perspective for viewing nature, but her colorful depictions of sometimes rigid figures, both floral and human, provides an interesting contrast. Blurred faces of figures allow for the viewer to project himself onto the tired, slumping characters and scenes in Central Park that are immediately recognizable to any New York resident. Although Byrne’s figures might first come across as awkward, her painting technique and use of color provide space to question and interpret her paintings on a deeper level. For those in need of a quick escape from the madness of campus life, her art provides the perfect outlet to lose yourself in a dreamy colorscape of texture, and her romantic perspectives of Central Park serve as a reminder that spring afternoons in the park are just around the corner.

“*Musings in Color*” runs until April 12 at the LeRoy Neiman Gallery in 310 Dodge Hall.
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JENNY PAYNE / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

MIRROR MIRROR | Ariane Rinehart, BC ’15, stars in Justin Timberlake’s video for “Mirrors” and will appear in Darren Aronofsky’s 2014 film “Noah.”

BC student Timber-lands a stint in ‘Mirrors’ video

BY JENNY PAYNE
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Ariane Rinehart, BC ’15, insists that she’s just like the rest of us. She spends her days going to classes, singing with a cappella group Bacchantae, and volunteering with CU Dance Marathon. She procrastinates by watching TV shows and geeks out about cats and Harry Potter. She also recently starred in Justin Timberlake’s music video for his new hit song “Mirrors.”

Balancing several auditions per week with her coursework and extracurricular involvements, Rinehart seizes every opportunity she can to audition in the city for commercials, TV shows, and movies.

“If you see a TV show or movie with a girl around my age, I’ve probably auditioned for it,” Rinehart said.

The stars aligned for Timberlake’s video. Rinehart was told the general concept of the music video, but did not have a script, so it was her job to improvise and follow the directions that

she was given.

A few days after her “Mirrors” audition, which tested how she looked on camera and how she followed directions and improvised, she received an early morning call from her agent saying, “I hope you like Justin Timberlake.”

The whole process was condensed into one weekend in early March, with a choreography run-through on Friday, a four-hour vintage costume fitting in Brooklyn on Saturday, and filming all day Sunday on the Upper East Side.

“The scale of it was fantastic,” Rinehart said. “The amount of crew members and cameras and equipment, hair, makeup, wardrobe ... it was insane and very professional, with a lot of attention to detail.”

Since the video was posted a week ago, not only have almost 3 million people seen her on YouTube, but she has also found herself in Tumblr GIFs for the video and, more locally, has become a subject of attention on campus.

“Honestly, the whole thing feels so odd to me,” Rinehart said. “There are so many incredible

people here doing incredible things, things that are even more amazing, but we don’t focus on it.”

And Rinehart, who has had an agent in New York since age 12, already has an impressive list of acting-related accomplishments: an Apple commercial before beginning college, a part in a Soundgarden music video last semester, and the role of Eve in Darren Aronofsky’s 2014 religious drama “Noah,” which she filmed last summer in Iceland. Despite all these accomplishments and her GIFability, she maintains a humble attitude toward her career.

“Ideally, I would love to act in film and television, but I know that it’s a really fickle business,” Rinehart said. “I’m a ‘cross that bridge when we get to that’ kind of person.”

For now, Rinehart is happy keeping a foot in both the academic and entertainment worlds.

“I love auditioning and the work I’ve been doing, but I also love being at school and I love Barnard,” she said. “Things are going great for me right now, so I’m going to keep on that path.”

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2013 Dance Guide: With spring, dance groups look forward to end-of-year shows

BY GRETCHEN SCHMID
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Columbia has an impressive variety of talented dance groups, and many of them have their spring-time shows around the corner. If you’re looking for a distraction—or inspiration—in the coming weeks, check out one of these performances.

Rawcus 270°

Raw Elementz

Raw Elementz, Columbia’s largest hip-hop group, presents its annual spring performance this weekend in the Diana Event Oval in collaboration with a number of other Columbia dance and music groups. Rawcus 270°—named for its three-sided stage—will offer free food, prize giveaways, and a break-dancing competition.

Other performers include drumline/percussion ensemble CU Voltage, hip-hop group ONYX Dance Troupe, Columbia University Society of Hip-Hop (CUSH), Venom Step Team, and dance group Orchesis.

Rawcus 270° will take place Friday, March 29 at 8 p.m. in the Diana Event Oval. Tickets are available at the TIC and are \$5 with a CUID.

DumbledOrchesis

Orchesis

Orchesis, Columbia’s largest dance group, is back this semester with yet another imaginative pun for its title and theme: DumbledOrchesis. If the group’s pun stylings aren’t enough to make you want to go, perhaps the promise of a variety of dance styles, with each piece choreographed by a different student, will change your mind.

Performances will take place in Boone Arledge Auditorium on Friday, April 12 at 8:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. Tickets are available at the TIC and are \$5 with a CUID.

CBC Spring Show

Columbia Ballet Collaborative

The Columbia Ballet Collaborative is a mix of professionals and students. Many of its members are former-dancers-turned-students, and CBC’s works are created and rehearsed by a combination of professional and student choreographers. For its annual spring show at Miller Theatre, CBC is bringing in Josh Prince—the choreographer of “Shrek: The Musical” on Broadway—Alison Cook Beatty, and Duncan Lyle. The group will also be performing excerpts from George Balanchine’s “The Four Temperaments” and the works of three different student choreographers.

Performances will take place on Saturday, May 4 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, May 5 at 3 p.m. at Miller Theater. Tickets are available on Columbia Ballet Collaborative’s website and are \$10 with a CUID.

UnCensored: OnyX-Rated

Onyx

If you can’t get enough hip-hop, ONYX Dance Troupe will be holding its annual showcase on April 19, featuring Raw Elementz, CU Venom, and CU Bellydance. The show’s theme promises to be scandalous enough to be worth your time.

The performance will take place Friday, April 19 at 8 p.m. in the Lerner Black Box. Tickets are \$5 with a CUID. More ticket information will be available closer to the show date.

Barnard Dances at Miller

Barnard Department of Dance

In Barnard Dances at Miller, professional choreographers create and rehearse new works with dancers from Barnard and Columbia over the course of a semester. The works, which are often experimental, are well-rehearsed—each choreographer works with his or her dancers for up to four hours a week throughout the semester. This semester’s choreographers are Faye Driscoll, Francesca Harper, Heidi Henderson, and Bill Young.

The performances will take place at Miller Theatre on Friday, April 12 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, April 13 at 2 p.m. Tickets are available at the Miller Theatre box office and are \$12 with a CUID.

Senior Creative Thesis Dance Concert

Barnard Department of Dance

Senior dance majors and concentrators from Barnard and Columbia put their talent and passion on display in this showcase, which can take the place of a written thesis. The show features a variety of styles and methods—some students perform their own choreography, while others choreograph their own works performed by student dancers.

Performances will take place Friday, March 29 and Saturday, March 30 at 7 p.m. at the Minor Latham Playhouse. Tickets are available at the door and are \$5 with a CUID, \$10 without.



FILE PHOTOS

DANCE, DANCE | As the spring semester draws to a close, campus dance groups, including CBC, Raw Elementz, and Orchesis (from top), will perform end-of-year shows.



YOU'RE IN | Tina Fey and Paul Rudd star in director Paul Weitz's Ivy League admission comedy.

'Admission' finds laughs in crushing dreams

BY NATALIE WEINER
Columbia Daily Spectator

Getting accepted into an Ivy League school is an achievement shrouded in myth, and the impenetrability of the admissions office only adds mystery to what is too often perceived as the highest form of validation.

In popular culture the process is often simple—those who deserve it get in, and those who don't, don't. However, as every Columbia student knows, and as 30,000 will find out Thursday, for each one of us that is accepted, there are tens, and even hundreds of equally qualified students who are rejected. "Admission," directed by Paul Weitz and released on March 22, shows the audience a new side of the process in all of its absurdity and importance.

The film stars Tina Fey as Princeton admissions officer Portia Nathan, who begins the film with her life completely in order—she has a job, a boyfriend, and power (if only over the lives of anxious high school students). Enter an insistent high school teacher, John Pressman (Paul Rudd), whose idealism and self-consciously "alternative" attitude throw a wrench in Portia's neatly hierarchical world view. When Jeremiah (Nat Wolff), the most talented student at his school, New Quest, decides to apply to Princeton, the lives of all three characters become entwined.

Jeremiah's lack of traditional qualifications belies his intelligence and maturity, showing both Nathan and the audience just how arbitrary and unfair the process can be. A series of improbable, if engaging, plot twists lead the viewer through the more harrowing details of the college admissions process, while making all of the characters' lives just a little more complicated.

The weak chemistry between Fey and Rudd is balanced by what feels like a realistic college admissions process.

The film is based on the 2009 novel by Jean Hanff Koreditz, who is not only married to a Princeton professor, but has worked as a reader at the Princeton admissions office. These experiences lend the narrative a surprising veracity, showing the admissions process in all of its bureaucratic and unscientific yet ultimately well-intentioned glory. Although "Admission" is ultimately more about Portia's personal narrative than it is an admissions exposé, the depiction of the Princeton admissions office will strike fear

into the heart of anyone hoping to get into an Ivy League school, from a student who remembers the incredibly nerve-wracking process of getting accepted.

As effective as Weitz's portrayal of college admissions is, his attempts at creating a realistic romantic tension between Fey's and Rudd's characters fall flat. Their tenuous narrative, which includes unwanted pregnancy, long lost children, and comically intolerable parents, fails to match the inherent drama of the highly selective college admissions process. Fey valiantly attempts to inject humor and realism into the story, as do a slew of excellent supporting cast members, including Lily Tomlin and Wallace Shawn, but moments of comedy are overwhelmed by the film's romantic implausibility.

Rudd, on the other hand, seems to be channeling his role as the childish city council candidate Bobby Newport on the TV show "Parks and Recreation." His wide-eyed innocence, while funny in the TV show's context, renders his "Admission" character one-dimensional.

The weak chemistry between Fey and Rudd is balanced by what feels like a realistic college admissions process in film and Fey's irrepressible wit and humor. If you're experiencing "30 Rock" withdrawal, you'll get your fix here.

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Lions split doubleheader with Manhattan

BY MYLES SIMMONS
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Neither the Lions nor the Jaspers could lay sole claim to the 1 train after Columbia baseball (7-12) split its doubleheader with Manhattan (11-11) Wednesday afternoon. The Light Blue took the first of the two seven-inning contests 6-3 before getting shut out 4-0 in the second.

"Obviously, it's easy to say we played better in the first game," senior right fielder and co-captain Nick Ferraresi said. "Our pitching was good, we limited free bases as far as walks and hit-by-pitches, got it done with the sticks. But in the second game, it's almost like a lot went wrong. We weren't hitting as well, we couldn't put something together, and we got shut out."

Both games at Baker Field featured a multitude of Light Blue pitchers, who did well for the most part. Junior lefty Joey Gandolfo got the start in game one and pitched three innings. Gandolfo gave up two runs in the first on a Ramon Ortega triple to right but had two clean frames after that.

The Lions came back in the bottom of the first to score a run with a Ferraresi RBI single and then took the lead in the third. With Ferraresi up to bat and runners on first and second, the senior singled through the hole on the left side to score senior second baseman Nick Crucet. But the left fielder booted the ball, allowing senior co-captain Alex



MANHATTAN	3
COLUMBIA	6
MANHATTAN	4
COLUMBIA	0

Black to score on the play as well to give Columbia a 3-2 lead.

Ferraresi's RBI was his ninth in the last six games, bringing his season total to 12.

"It's hard to put it like this, but I've felt good all year," Ferraresi said. "I've been seeing the ball well. I wasn't fortunate early on to get a lot of hits, but now they're starting to fall—starting to hit 'em where they ain't. So it's nice to have the batting average rise a little bit, but I'm just trying to help the team."

Junior righty Zack Tax then came on to relieve Gandolfo at the top of the fourth and pitched two scoreless frames, striking out two.

"It's good to see Zach Tax out there again because he had a back issue that flared up on our spring trip," Light Blue head coach Brett Boretti said. "He had a real good outing down at UCF. It's good to get him back out there and throwing the ball."

The Lions added two more in the fifth, courtesy of a couple more Jasper errors on freshman Logan Boyher's fielder's choice, making the score 5-3. Senior Eric Williams capped the scoring with an RBI double—his second two-bagger of the day—in the bottom of the sixth.

"Eric Williams is doing a great job of getting on base. His strikeout-to-walk ratio is outstanding," Boretti said. "He's been a guy that's had some pretty bad luck too—hitting balls hard.

... It's good to see him drive the ball and get himself a double."

Though the Lions couldn't get the bats going in game two, they still had good showings from the four freshman pitchers who combined to toss the seven innings. Kevin Roy got the start and gave up one unearned run on two hits in three innings, with a pair of walks and strikeouts. Thomas Crispi followed with an inning and an unearned run, before Willis Robbins came in for an inning and a third. It was Robbins' first live collegiate action, and Boretti said he thought the freshman was battling some nerves. It showed, as he gave up a single to his first batter and a home run over the right field fence to his second to give the Jaspers a 4-0 lead.

Robbins was able to navigate his way through the rest of the inning but loaded the bases in the top of the sixth with just one out. Lefty George Martin came on in relief and induced a 6-4-3 double play to end the threat. Martin pitched the seventh as well and struck out two.

The team's young pitchers do not yet have much playing time under their belts.

"Whether you look at it fortunately or unfortunately, we didn't get them in during spring break," Boretti said. "But it is important, and we want to give them an opportunity to show what they can do so we can continue to build on it."

The Lions will be back in action this weekend to begin their Ivy campaign against Harvard and Dartmouth at home.

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DOUGLAS KESSEL / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

FERRARESI EN FUEGO | Senior rightfielder Nick Ferraresi has nine RBIs in his past six games.

Princeton offense dismantles Columbia

BY ROBERT MITCHELL
Spectator Staff Writer

Squaring off against Princeton in New Jersey, Light Blue lacrosse fell 18-7 behind a strong offensive performance by the Tigers' offensive stars Wednesday evening for its eighth straight loss.

After surrendering three goals in the opening ten minutes, Columbia (1-8, 0-4 Ivy) scored three of the next four. Senior Kacie Johnson was instrumental in the offensive surge, notching two of the goals to help stop the bleeding. But the parity would prove to be short-lived as



PRINCETON	18
COLUMBIA	7

Princeton (5-3, 2-0 Ivy) rattled off five goals to close out the first half at a score of 9-3.

With the Tigers in the driver's seat, senior Kelly Buechel came out in the second half with two quick scores. Offensive playmakers Erin McMunn and Alexandra Bruno took over, scoring eight of the next nine Princeton goals in a 9-2 run to prevent any chance of a Light Blue comeback. McMunn and Bruno finished the game having scored a stellar six goals apiece. McMunn added another three assists to protect home field, where Princeton is undefeated thus far in 2013. Despite these

dominant numbers, five other Tigers put up points to add to the deep Princeton offense.

Columbia freshman Colleen Packer, who started at goalkeeper, made nine saves to prevent the game from getting too far out of hand. Princeton held a 35-23 edge in attempted shots to keep continual pressure on an overmatched Lions defense. Nevertheless, turnovers by the Light Blue played a key role in the match. They finished with 12, compared to just six for Princeton, putting an even greater strain on a squad that struggled throughout the game.

The Lions next take the field this Sunday at Robert K. Kraft Field at 7 p.m. to square off against Fresno State.

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MICHAEL DISCENZA / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

COMING UP EMPTY | Paige Custovitch and the Lions couldn't keep up with Princeton's offense.

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