

## ONLINE

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### The Shaft

Follow the laughter, the tears, and the hilarity that is the Columbia housing game right at our [blog, The Shaft](#). What will the Columbia housing gods grace you with this time?

## INSIDE



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### Da Costa rocks out in St. Paul's basement

Indie singer-songwriter Anthony da Costa finds time between high school and recording his new untitled album to perform at Postscript.

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### Blogs from CU's underground

Open obsession for TV is hard to come by on campus, but thanks to the Internet, many Columbia students find themselves secretly blogging online to fill their TV void.

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Columnist Nicole Winter scathes the Core Curriculum, accusing Columbia of cultural supremacism and a double standard on diversity.



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### Pitching making the difference for baseball

Strong starting pitching helped Columbia sweep Harvard on Saturday, but a pair of rough starts doomed the Lions in Sunday's twin bill with Dartmouth.

## SUITE SELECTION DAY 2

### What remains from day one of suite selection

EC Exclusion Suites: 47 rooms  
Watt one-bedroom: 11 rooms  
Watt studio doubles: 51 rooms  
Claremont three-person: 2 rooms  
Claremont five-person: 1 room  
Claremont six-person: 1 room  
Claremont seven-person: 10 rooms  
Woodbridge A line: 2 rooms  
Woodbridge B line: 6 rooms  
Woodbridge D line: 7 rooms  
Woodbridge E line: 5 rooms  
Woodbridge F line: 6 rooms  
Woodbridge G line: 6 rooms  
Woodbridge H line: 6 rooms  
Woodbridge I line: 5 rooms  
Woodbridge L line: 7 rooms  
Ruggles five-person: 5 rooms  
Ruggles six-person: 1 room  
Ruggles eight-person (with three doubles): 12 rooms  
Ruggles eight-person (with two doubles): 2 rooms  
Ruggles four-person (with two RAs): 3 rooms  
Ruggles five-person (with RAs): 2 rooms

## CU student appointed to CB7

BY MAGGIE ASTOR  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

The Upper West Side's local Community Board 7 will meet a fresh face on Wednesday when Columbia student and native New Yorker Louis Cholden-Brown, GS/JTS, begins his two-year term as a board member.

Cholden-Brown, a student in the double-degree program at the School of General Studies and the Jewish Theological Seminary, was appointed by Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer to the position last Saturday following a lengthy application process.

Cholden-Brown previously interned for 18 months in the office of City Council member Gale Brewer, who represents the Upper West Side, where he began to develop his political voice.

"I got very interested in community affairs and in working with my neighbors and the constituents in the community," he said. "I started to notice not that the youth voice was stifled, but that there really was no one of a young age involved in these things."

Cholden-Brown said that his American Urban Politics course, taught by Barnard professor Flora Davidson, was a motivating factor during the board application process.

"Louis mentioned this earlier in the term, and I'm delighted that he has been appointed," Davidson wrote in an e-mail. "He is one of the top students in the class."

Cholden-Brown said that he hopes to focus his efforts on education reform, particularly "the need for more schools, more seats, and more classes," though he has not yet received his committee assignments.

"There's a lot of development in the community that's going to bring more families into it, which exacerbates the need to take a long and serious look at how our school system is serving our kids," he said.

Cholden-Brown said he intends to go from GS/JTS to graduate school for a degree in urban policy or public administration, and he ultimately hopes to work in the public sector.

The constituent region of Community Board 7 extends along the Upper West Side from 110th Street down to West 59th Street.

*Maggie Astor can be reached at [maggie.astor@columbiaspectator.com](mailto:maggie.astor@columbiaspectator.com).*

## CC, SEAS '13 most selective class ever

### Applicant pool reaches record high, 9.82 percent admitted



Linda Carrion / Senior Staff Photographer

**SENDING OUT THE WORD** | Admissions officials gathered on College Walk on Monday afternoon to send off admissions packets to applicants to Columbia College and the School of Engineering and Applied Science. Taken together, the CC/SEAS class of '13 is the most selective ever.

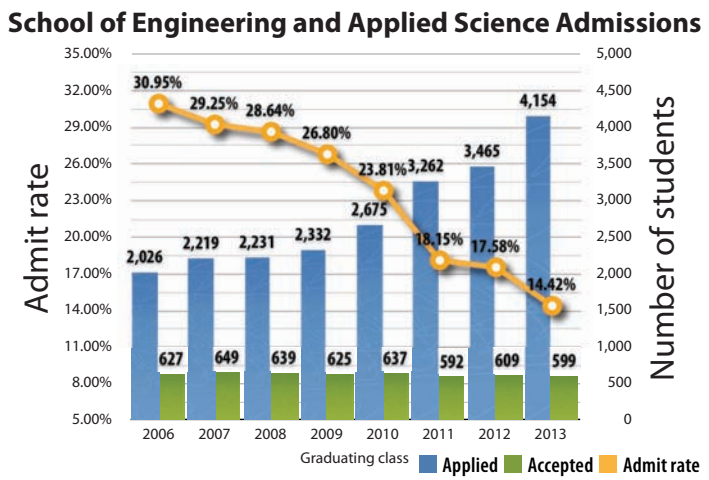
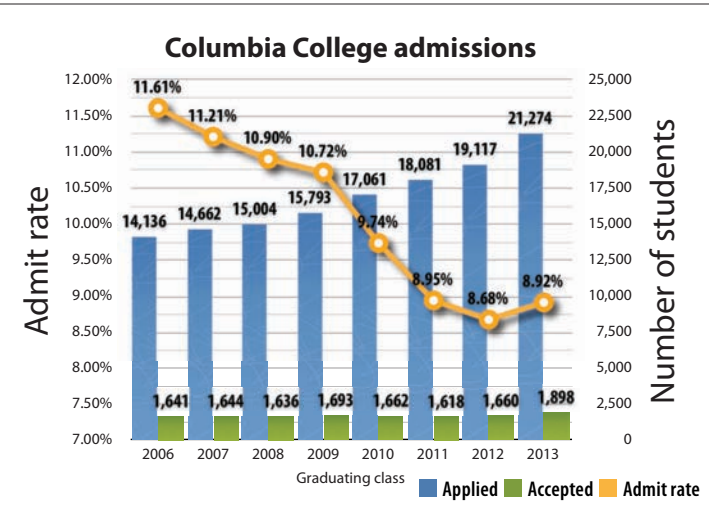
BY ALEXA DAVIS  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

Columbia College and the School of Engineering and Applied Science admitted 9.82 percent of all applicants to the prospective class of 2013, which will yield its most selective undergraduate class yet.

In accordance with recent trends, SEAS increased its selectivity this year, admitting 14.42 percent of applicants, about three percent fewer than last year's 17.6 percent. On the other hand, the College was slightly less selective, as 8.92 percent of students were admitted, proportionately slightly more than last year's 8.71 percent. The College also saw an enrollment increase of 50 students for the upcoming year, which allows for a slight decrease in selectivity in the admissions process.

"I remain impressed by the caliber of each student admitted to the class of 2013," Jessica Marinaccio, dean of admissions, said in a statement.

The number of applications received this year reached a record high of 25,428, an increase of 13 percent from last year's 22,584-student applicant pool. SEAS received 4,154 applications for admission, up 20 percent from last year's 3,465. The College received 21,274 applications, an 11 percent increase from last year's 19,117. Administrators have suggested that the increase in applications during a financial



Graphic by Yipeng Huang

crisis can be attributed to last year's financial aid enhancements.

A slew of admissions officers—including the self-styled "Captain Columbia," a middle-aged man wrapped in a light blue Columbia

flag—escorted thick and thin envelopes into a UPS truck. They gathered ecstatically on a sunny College Walk at around 3:30 p.m. on Monday, posing for pictures as they saw envelopes off to the homes

of regular decision applicants in all 50 states and in 78 countries.

Standing by the truck, Marinaccio boasted that those selected "represent the diversity of voice and experience" valued at Columbia. "The fact that we were able to admit more students this year opened the door to more qualified applicants," she added, referring to the recently announced increase in class size. She stressed that all admissions of applicants from the United States, Canada, and Mexico are need-blind.

Vice President for Arts and Sciences Nicholas Dirks said in an interview last Thursday that augmenting the class size would result in a modest but significant increase in revenues for the University, which in January announced a 15 percent drop in the performance of its portfolio over a six-month period. Dirks estimated that the increase would amount to around \$1 million after accounting for costs such as renovations to Harmony Hall. He stressed that the admissions decisions for the additional students would be need-blind, adding that there is no news of a tuition increase yet. He explained that according to University research, the proportion of students paying full tuition among the new additions would remain about the same, allowing the University to retain its need-blind admissions policy.

*Joy Resmovits contributed reporting to this article. [news@columbiaspectator.com](mailto:news@columbiaspectator.com)*

## BC President Spar forges ties in China

BY JOY RESMOVITS  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

"The words of my mother became instilled in my head. 'You can be the next Kang Tongbi.'"

This sentence, penned by a Barnard College applicant, inspired Barnard President Debora Spar to organize and moderate the College's first ever symposium in China, titled Women Changing

China. Tongbi, BC 1909, was Barnard's first Chinese student and an advocate against foot binding. The Beijing event, which marked her centennial and was held on March 19, featured well-known Chinese women as panelists such as English professor and women's advocate Wu Qing, novelist Geling Yan, Chinese-American filmmaker Ruby Yang, and media entrepreneur Yang Lan.



Courtesy of Barnard College

**WOMEN CHANGING CHINA** | The event featured panelists, from left to right, Debora Spar, Geling Yan, Yang Lan, Ruby Yang, and Wu Qing.

Panelists focused on the changing roles of women in China. According to a transcript of the event provided by Barnard, Lan called Tongbi "the first Chinese woman who was enrolled at Barnard—probably the first woman to receive Western higher education—100 years ago when most Chinese women were locked indoors at home with bound feet." She said that, through the surveys she conducted on women's employment in China, she had discovered that 70 percent of Chinese women would be willing to work even if it was not a financial necessity. She added, though, that many women have reported feeling mounting pressures during the global economic crisis.

Qing, an activist whom Spar called "the real deal" in a phone interview on Monday, spoke of the differences between today's women and those of Tongbi's generation but called for further change. "I think, for me, because I have more white hairs, I have experienced so many political movements, I've gone through so many things," she said. "I see people suffer. Or

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## Palestine Forum meets with administration

BY KIM KIRSCHENBAUM  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

In a break from highly public appearances, such as recent rallies on Low Steps, the newly formed Columbia Palestine Forum met with administrators Monday afternoon behind the closed doors of a Lerner Hall conference room.

Representatives of the group met with Dean of Student Affairs and Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Life Kevin Shollenberger, Dean of Columbia College Austin Quigley, Vice President for Arts and Sciences Nicholas Dirks, and Associate Dean of Student Affairs Todd Smith to begin meetings with the group over its list of demands regarding Palestinian rights.

Administrators did not permit reporters to attend the meeting since they considered it an advising session, and accounts reported here have been gathered through interviews with students. According to several group members,

administrators and student representatives discussed plans to have further meetings concerning the group's demands as well as the prospect of future collaborative efforts. But there was little talk of concrete action on the part of the University.

"There was no negotiating over particular demands, but more of a negotiating about how we would move forward," group member Aaron Winslow, a Graduate School of Arts and Sciences first-year, said. "They weren't ready to sign on to anything."

The Columbia Palestine Forum, whose leaders had participated in January rallies organized by the group Columbia Community in Standing with Gaza, launched a campaign in early March in an effort to gather support for Palestinian rights to education and self-determination. They released a list of demands that called on the University to grant

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EVENTS — MARCH 31

**Columbia Climate Center launch**  
Jeffrey D. Sachs, director of the Earth Institute, and entrepreneur Ted Turner will lead a discussion on the climate challenge in conjunction with the public launch of the Columbia Climate Center.

*Low Library, Rotunda, 4 p.m.*

**The Indian Constitution**  
Chief Justice P.N. Bhagwati will give a judicial lecture about the provisions of the Indian Constitution and his strategy of Public Interest Litigation for the enforcement of basic human rights.

*Jerome Green Hall, 5 p.m.*

QUOTE OF THE DAY

*“There was no financial aid for them [Chinese students who attended a Beijing symposium], and it breaks my heart.”*

—BC President Debora Spar

GENERAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Columbia Spectator  
2875 Broadway, 3rd Floor  
New York City, NY 10025  
info@columbiaspectator.com  
Daily Spectator (212) 854-9555  
Editorial Fax (212) 854-9611  
Business (212) 854-9550  
Business Fax (212) 854-9553

*For more information about the Columbia Daily Spectator and editorial policies, visit <http://www.columbiaspectator.com/about>. For more information about advertising visit <http://spc.columbiaspectator.com/>.*

HOW TO REACH US

Have a question? Criticism? News tip? You can contact us directly by e-mailing [info@columbiaspectator.com](mailto:info@columbiaspectator.com).

CORRECTIONS

In an article that ran in the Monday 30 edition of the Spectator, DCPI spokesman John Buthorn was incorrectly identified as John Budick.

For general comments or questions about the newspaper, please write to the editor-in-chief and managing editor at [editor@columbiaspectator.com](mailto:editor@columbiaspectator.com).

# Despite skepticism, location and format make LLC popular with underclassmen

BY KIM KIRSCHENBAUM  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

When Charlie Lopresto, CC '12, and his suitemates decided to cook together in their Hartley kitchen one weekend night, the dinner far surpassed what one would expect from a typical college meal. Surrounded by his ten suitemates and seated before a table of fresh bread, pies, and a host of side dishes, Lopresto tucked into a true Thanksgiving feast.

“It was a great experience—and a break from John Jay,” Lopresto said. “To have the option to cook and be with your friends and share a good meal, it’s a really nice thing to have.”

Lopresto’s experience may embody the Living Learning Center’s purpose—the formation of a tight-knit community within the residential halls. But as more students apply to the LLC for reasons apparently unrelated to the program’s original goals, the mission itself continues to provoke skepticism, as it has since the program’s inception in 2000.

The LLC was established in 2000, becoming the only all-class integrated residential community at Columbia University. It was built with the goal of providing what the Office of Residential Programs calls “a unique residential opportunity for students of all four years,” allowing students of all grade levels to learn from one another’s experiences within an intimate living community.

For those accepted, the LLC offers a range of programming, from alumni dinners to discussion series as well as recreational events for students such as ice skating trips. Through these programs, the LLC

aims to foster strong relationships between students residing in the dorms and among students, residential staff, and faculty.

But according to some students, who are generally happy to live in the LLC, participation in these programs is minimal, drawing questions as to whether the LLC is accomplishing its intended purpose. In 2001, a year after the founding of the LLC program, *Spectator* reported that “from the day it was announced last spring, the Hartley-Wallach Living Learning Center has been controversial” and that LLC residents remained puzzled as to the program’s actual purpose beyond its guaranteed favorable housing. These questions are still being raised today, as students’ motives for applying stray from the LLC’s mission of providing its residents with valuable learning experiences.

According to the Office of Residential Programs, the LLC has seen a consistent and substantial increase in applications since 2007 with applications nearly doubling in the past two years. But rather than seeking LLC programming, many students apply to live in the Center for its prime location and as a means of evading the housing lottery.

“It’s definitely a way out for rising sophomores,” Alen Trubelja, SEAS '11, said. “I guess it’s pretty well known that sophomore housing is the worst just because all freshmen are housing in the immediate center.”

Others agreed, citing LLC’s single rooms and suites as a highly desirable combination.

“Frankly, I really just wanted a single and I liked the idea of living in a suite with my friends and living with other people,” Annie Minoff, CC '11, said. “All of the other programs were an added bonus, but that didn’t really attract me to the program.”

In fact, several students said that LLC’s events are sparsely attended,



Linda Carrion / Senior Staff Photographer

**LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION** | Many students remain unconvinced that the LLC’s programming is useful in bringing together students from all classes. But the program has remained popular due to its central location on campus and its abundance of suites with single rooms.

as the events often conflict with students’ daily schedules.

“I think the events are really cool, but I haven’t been able to take advantage because they’re on week-days,” Jason Sun, CC '12, said.

“The programs are pretty much nonexistent,” Lopresto said. “People think you have to do LLC events. It’s really just a place to live.”

But while the programs and events may not promote a great deal of camaraderie among residents, the LLC may be succeeding nonetheless. Students point to the suite-style living of the LLC as a

means of fostering the close-knit relationships that the program seeks to create.

“The LLC has the reputation of being antisocial, which I don’t think is true,” Minoff said. “You would never have that sense of community in a hall that you do in a suite. I think a lot of it has to do with having a kitchen—people come together.”

Sun agreed, pointing out that the suites contain rooms where students can mingle.

“I think that within a suite, if you have a group of people who

are willing to hang out in the living room for a little, it does build close friendships within the suite,” Sun said.

“What I’m grateful for is that the people I’m friends with now, I never would have been friends with if they weren’t in my suite,” Trubelja said.

Regardless of students’ reasons for applying to the LLC, the administration has said that the program maintains its popularity, as students, faculty, staff, and alumni continue to report on the program’s benefits.

“Over the past several years, first-year students have increasingly selected the Living Learning Center as one of their top housing preferences,” director of residential programs Cristen Scully Kromm said. “Through the leadership of Scott Helfrich and his student staff, residents are actively connected to students from all four classes, faculty, staff and alumni through an array of programmatic initiatives that enrich our students’ residential experience.”

*news@columbiaspectator.com*

## SGB denies recognition to South Asian student group

BY LIZA WEINGARTEN  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

The Student Governing Board held a town hall meeting Monday night to vote on new student group recognition and changes to the SGB constitution as well as to elect its new governing board.

The student-run SGB does out money to political, religious, activist, and humanitarian student groups. Groups wishing to receive funding through SGB must first secure recognition by making their case to existing groups.

During Monday’s session, SGB voted to approve Saving Mothers Research Team and Responsible Endowments Coalition but turned down a measure to recognize Awaaz: The Voice of South Asia.

The Responsible Endowments Coalition, an arm of a national organization, works to foster social and environmental change at universities. At Columbia, the group will lobby for investments in ethical companies and causes.

The Saving Mothers Research Team focuses on preventing complications during childbirth in developing countries. The group, also part of a national organization, would raise funds to send birthing kits to countries such as Sierra Leone, which has the highest maternal morbidity rate in the world, according to the World Health Organization.

The requirements for gaining SGB group recognition are detailed. Groups must submit a cover letter, a constitution, and a letter of intent outlining their goals and the potential benefits of recognition. The group must then make a short presentation

to members of the SGB, who decide whether or not to recommend recognition.

But the final decision on recognition is made at meetings like Monday’s in which the groups advertise their goals to those present.

Attendees can overturn SGB’s recommendation with a two-thirds majority, but Monday’s meeting did not produce such an outcome, and the SGB recommendations followed. The meeting voted to recognize Saving Mothers Research Team and Responsible Endowments Coalition, but Awaaz: The Voice of South Asia, which had not been recommended by SGB, was not recognized. SGB members said they felt that the group, which produces a publication on issues in South Asian activism, would be better suited for recognition by the Activities Board at Columbia, which usually funds publications.

Attendees also elected a new executive board for the 2009-2010 academic year. Devora Aharon, CC '10 and newly elected SGB chair, ran unopposed but still assured students of her qualifications in her speech.

“I know the needs of students who are trying to fulfill these [SGB’s] types of missions,” Aharon, an active member of the Columbia/Barnard Hillel, said. “I’m really excited to be serving as your chair next year and to help continuing to further your goals.”

Also running unopposed was newly elected Vice Chair Lisa Weber, CC '11 and a member of Scientists and Engineers for a Better Society. Weber promised in her speech that “together we can make a difference ... one SGB superhuman effort at a time.”

*news@columbiaspectator.com*

## Palestine Forum students request more meetings

**GAZA** from front page

a number of annual scholarships for Palestinian students to attend Columbia, to partner with and provide aid to a Palestinian university, to fully disclose its budget and endowment in order to ascertain that tuition money is not being used “to violate people’s human rights,” and to issue a formal statement of support for the Palestinian right to self-determination.

Since then, Shollenberger contacted the group via e-mail last week to arrange a

meeting between group representatives and administrators. The administration had previously recognized the importance of meeting with the group, stating in an official University response to the Columbia Palestine Forum that “Columbia University remains committed to a civil dialogue that is an essential value of university life.”

“It’s good for us to hear more about what they’re trying to accomplish,” Shollenberger told *Spectator* in a brief interview later Monday afternoon. “It’s clear that there has to be

a subsequent series of meetings.”

Group members said that, along with regular meetings between the group and the administration, administrators agreed to help the group find resources including names, committees, and places on campus where they would be able to strengthen their case through further research.

“They [the administrators] made the point that the University is such a decentralized place, and that what they can do is direct us to the various channels to attain what

we want,” group member Ali Boggs, BC '09, said.

Group members acknowledged that while this first talk with administrators was a milestone, it was only the start of a long-term process.

“This is just the beginning,” group member Akua Gyamerah, Mailman School of Public Health '10, said. “Having this meeting reaffirmed our campaign and our demands, and we’re going to continue to build so we can move this faster.”

*news@columbiaspectator.com*

## Harlem hit hard by rising unemployment rates

BY SAM LEVIN  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

While the steep uptick in unemployment rates is felt nationwide, Harlem is grasping for signs of hope in a time when layoffs are common and the only certainty is an uncertain future.

According to the New York State Department of Labor, the citywide unemployment rate rose from 5.3 percent to 7.3 percent from January 2008 to January 2009. Neighborhood statistics are not yet available for 2009, but Harlem’s unemployment rate is typically double the city’s average, reaching 18.7 percent in Community Districts 9 and 10 and 17.1 percent in District 11 in 2008. And while job seekers can turn to nonprofit organizations for help finding work, these organizations are struggling to meet the overwhelming demand for their services.

For communities hit hard by the recession, there is little good news in the short term. “The pace of job losses will continue to increase at least into spring,”

James Brown, labor market analyst for the state’s Department of Labor, said.

He added that Harlem is uniquely vulnerable to the continually deepening recession. “Unemployment rates are of course closely tied to other factors, such as education and language barriers, and in regions where there are less high school diplomas, for example, the unemployment rates will inevitably be higher.”

William Franc Perry III, chair of Community Board 10, noted that “All ages and every segment of the population is being affected, whether it is young people out of college, office workers, maintenance staff, or taxicab drivers.”

Perry said he has witnessed the downturn firsthand, adding that “more and more people are coming to the community board office with résumés, looking for jobs.”

Jill Poklemba, director of communications and development at STRIVE, a nonprofit unemployment program based in East Harlem, said that her

clients are facing challenges they have not seen in the past.

“We have always served the hardest to employ incarcerated, disconnected youth, all those with barriers to work. Now, the competition for entry-level jobs is stiffer. They are competing against overqualified workers who have lost their jobs,” she explained.

Nonetheless, Poklemba said that a focus on vocational training, specifically in the emerging green sector, helps their clients stand out in such a competitive job market.

“We are teaching them to think outside of the box, out of their comfort zone, how they can make themselves more employable,” Poklemba said, emphasizing the “hard skills training” offered in their new programs that provide opportunities in such industries as green construction and technology.

Still, organizations like STRIVE are forced to face the recession alongside their unemployed clients. “No neighborhood was expecting this, and a lot of agencies are nonprofits

and are not well equipped,” Perry said, adding that his board is likely to face budget cuts.

For Community Board 9, Chair Pat Jones said that the first step has been to host discussions that “bring the buyers and sellers together,” citing progress at several recent meetings designed to help Harlem residents understand the dynamics of city employment and stimulus money.

Brown predicted that federal funds invested in city construction would recharge the job market, though he added that as a “lagging indicator,” the employment citywide may continue to drop for the foreseeable future.

In the midst of these alarming developments, New Yorkers are falling back on their communities for support. “We will do what we have traditionally done in Harlem, which is to come together across socioeconomic lines. We are a creative and thriving neighborhood, and we are going to survive,” Perry said.

*news@columbiaspectator.com*



ARTS&ENTERTAINMENT

TV

# TV bloggers hide in Columbia’s closet



**LOST IN THE BLOGS** | To many Columbia students, TV Blogs discussing stars such as Daniel Dae Kim from ABC’s *Lost*, are a perfect way to extend their TV experiences.

BY LILY CEDARBAUM  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

As pretentious as Columbia students can be, when it comes to television, they love mindless garbage just as much as the rest of this generation. However, once the affinity for a show morphs into an addiction for Internet fan sites and blogs, all obsession on Columbia’s campus goes underground.

“When I was a youngin’ I blogged about *So Weird* and *Lost*,” Julia Mix Barrington, BC ’12, admitted apprehensively. Though she doesn’t blog now, she still sympathizes with those who do. “When you escape into a TV show, you’d probably want to stay there for awhile,” she said.

Blogging allows for a continuation of the escape that television already offers, and many find this open door quite alluring. Mira de Jong, BC ’12, a longtime fan of *Grey’s Anatomy*, enjoys the many perks of rapidly updated blogs on news occurring both on- and off-screen—she follows TV blogs “so that I can have an idea of what is coming up but also so that I can know what’s going on with the actors and writers.” With the constant stream of information that is readily available about actors, writers, and their offset drama, it can often be like getting two shows for the price of one.

Nevertheless, there is certainly a stigma about blogging on campus, and many Columbia students look at television fan sites simply as catalysts for unhealthy preoccupations and academic mediocrity. Megan Shannon, BC ’11, doesn’t understand the appeal. “I don’t see the point in getting so involved,” she said of television shows. She went on to say that viewers would be better off spending their time living their own

lives as opposed to living vicariously through fictional characters.

Olga Fosti, BC ’11, doesn’t even watch television, but she has her own theory on this relatively new connection between TV and the Internet. “People get involved for validation and to justify their poor use of time by finding like-minded people,” she said. While Beezly Kiernan, CC ’11, also doesn’t watch TV, he was somewhat more forgiving, but he did see blogging as going one step too far. “If I did watch TV, I wouldn’t add more procrastination,” he said. Kiernan found that reading about a show that one either has watched or eventually will watch is too redundant.

Nevertheless, an escape is sometimes needed despite how unproductive it may be. De Jong knows checking on various blogs takes time out of her day, but it’s also a way for her to indulge in some of her favorite sources of entertainment. “I don’t think any TV is worth my time, but I love it ... I just think it’s fun to get wrapped up in a TV show,” she said.

Barrington also pointed out that there are very sensible ways to use blogs, and that they are not purely for crazed fans. “I used *Lost*’s Wiki,” she said. “You can look up anything. I read the summaries because I was three seasons behind.”

Reading TV casting, recap, and spoiler blogs may be one of the more stagnant skeletons in Columbia’s closet—after all, there’s a certain shame in hiding behind aliases like WannaBeBlair18 and MerDerFan77. But as TV and the Internet grow closer together thanks to Web sites and online streaming, perhaps one day not far from now, bloggers and their loyalists may just be able to hold their heads high on College Walk.

FILM

# Hot politics, cool movies



DAVID  
BERKE  
CINEMA  
POLITICO

Before Bush left office, Oliver Stone’s *W* premiered, films like *Rendition* and *Stop-Loss* maligned his policies, and a British filmmaker released a mock documentary about an imagined assassination of poor George.

The response time for political film-making has hit a manic pace. The goal of these hyper-quick artistic responses to current events is to garner relevance. Releasing a film as soon as possible after the events it details, as the logic suggests, will give its critical perspective more credibility. Perhaps this rapidity is a response to the extreme media saturation of political scandals, such as the dispute involving former Illinois Governor Rob Blagojevich, who managed to mar the validity of his own impeachment proceedings with a TV appearance blitz. As politicians have sharpened their ability to manipulate popular culture to their own ends, filmmakers want to keep up. This mindset is unfortunate, as the core narratives of political life should transcend the historical moment. Crafting a successful political film has nothing to do with speed.

Perhaps the most classic political storyline is that of the naive and idealistic newcomer who succumbs to the corrupt system, which is best observed in *All the King’s Men*, the 1949 Oscar winner based on Robert Penn Warren’s novel. The film follows Willie Stark, a country lawyer dead-set on overthrowing the political machine that runs his state. In his climb to the top, Stark evolves into a ruthless politico. The film is overwrought at points, and the Joanne Dru, the female lead who seems to think the only way she can convey negative emotion is to close her eyes and tilt back her shaking head, does not help on that front. But the film perfectly blends Stark’s familial and political lives and resists the mainstream urge to maintain one character as a moral protagonist.

A more recent rendering of the same story is *The Candidate* from 1972 starring Robert Redford. Although tracking the same character archetype as *King’s Men*, Redford’s film is worth watching because it forgoes a heavy-handed or painful personal transformation like Stark’s. Bill McKay, Redford’s character, begins as a natty lawyer who dedicates his time to low-paying civil and environmental advocacy. But he subtly slides from honest activist to consummate faux-reformer politician. It’s nearly impossible to hate McKay for his unctuousness because he is always conscious of it. After a flood of canned political speeches disavowing politicians who play black off white and rich off poor, he starts babbling to himself.

We “can’t any longer play off black against old, young against poor,” he blathered. “So vote once, vote twice, for Bill McKay, you middle-class honkies.” Redford’s character knows his campaign is bullshit, but does that make him better than Stark?

On the other end of the narrative spectrum is the archetypal character that withstands political temptation to the point of martyrdom. The apotheosis of this tale, ingrained in America’s cinematic consciousness, is *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* starring James Stewart. Smith may be a bit beleaguered by the mawkish melodrama of its cinematic age, but, much like Stewart’s other exalted Frank Capra vehicle *It’s a Wonderful Life*, *Mr. Smith* is a darker, deeper film than we choose to remember. Upon its release in 1939, U.S. senators allegedly yelled at the screen during a D.C. preview, blasting the film as anti-American.

The list of worthwhile political films is endless: *All the President’s Men*, *Primary Colors*, and the original *Manchurian Candidate* are a few that one can’t fail to mention. Aside from the same core narratives, the thing that all these films have in common is that they are upwards of a decade old. Great political films are the antithesis of politicians like Willie Stark—the longer they are around, the better they get.

David Berke is a Columbia College first-year. Cinema Politico runs alternate Tuesdays.

MUSIC

# High schooler strums his folk guitar at Postscript

BY AMY ZHONG  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

Like most singer-songwriters, Anthony da Costa sings about life and lost love. But the 18-year-old, who juggles finishing high school with touring and recording, is far from the average guy with a guitar.

A favorite performer at the Postscript coffeehouse at St. Paul’s Chapel, the Pleasantville, N.Y. native was given back-to-back time slots for his performance in December.

Da Costa has been performing at Postscript for three years now, and it is his favorite place to play in New York City. He will be playing there on April 11 and again on April 26 for the Postscript Folk Festival.

Sitting on a bench in the basement of St. Paul’s while he made himself comfortable, I asked him, “So what do you want to talk about?”

“I want to talk about Jesus,” he replied. The painfully witty teenager lives a

life of a 40-year-old insomniac juggling three jobs. Da Costa’s life is so time consuming that when he does have time to sleep, in between finishing his senior year with honors and working on his music, he is counting sheep to infinity. But one would never know that this self-described “super-sensitive, pensive songwriter” is bursting with energy.

In the dim, intimate lighting of the slightly claustrophobic basement of St. Paul’s, da Costa has developed a loyal fan base at Columbia.

Professors and students lucky enough to get seats come to relax with drinks in hand and listen attentively to a soulful voice resembling that of a middle-aged man coming from such a young person. His live shows, full of personal flourishes, often feature da Costa rocking back and forth in his chair and stomping his feet to the flow of his songs.

He writes about what he knows best—himself. As an eager high school student, it only befits him to write young

love songs—like the single “Upstate Living”—and a few political songs, hinting at a unique thoughtfulness.

Though not a mainstream instrumental singer-songwriter like John Mayer or Jason Mraz, da Costa’s talent will likely lead to sold-out concerts in spaces larger than Postscript. For now, he is making his way to the top of the indie folk scene—his folk rock Americana album *Typical American Tragedy* was the 2007 winner of the “new folk” category in the Kerrville Folk Festival in Kerrville, Texas. Da Costa is currently finishing his latest, currently untitled, album produced by musician and good friend John Elliott of The Hereafter.

Though he is barely old enough to vote, da Costa is old-school when it comes to his musical philosophy, and that might be just what the music industry needs. As he states on his Web site, “The more records I make and hear, the more I realize that I can’t stand overly compressed and processed music. The people who are still



Michelle Longo / Courtesy of Anthony da Costa  
**POSTSCRIPT PERFORMER** | Anthony da Costa plays his songs to loyal fans.

making records the old way—real, raw, and with heart—those are the ones I want to hear. And those are the ones I want to make.”

BOOKS

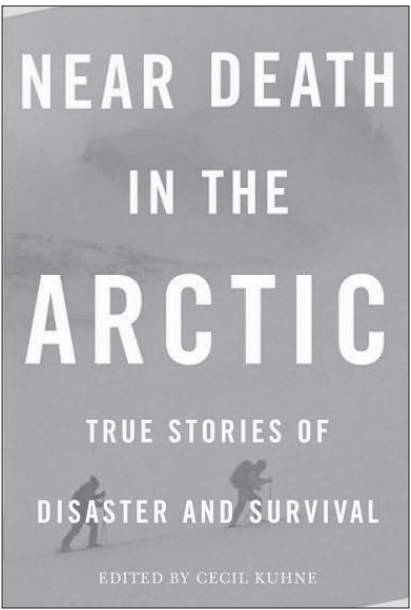
# Kuhne’s new travel anthology adventures to the poles

BY IAN SCHEFFLER  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

At a time when images of water-logged polar bears and carbon dioxide-laden ice cores dominate media coverage of Earth’s polar regions, the casual observer can easily forget the Arctic and Antarctica’s barren beauty and rich history of adventure.

Travel writer Cecil Kuhne’s new anthology *Near Death in the Arctic* (Vintage, February 2009) aims to provide that missing perspective. A collection of narratives by and about a variety of polar explorers, Kuhne’s selections include the stories of famed adventurers Roald Amundsen, Fridtjof Nansen, Robert Peary, and Ernst Shackleton as well as those of lesser-known figures like Valerian Albanov and David Lewis.

As the book’s title implies, danger is an omnipresent reality for explorers of the poles. Its portrayal of the Arctic is every bit as treacherous as the introduction suggests—the explorers must confront everything from snow blindness and frostbite to ice crevasses and raging winds. “From reading these accounts, one thing is absolutely clear: the globe’s apexes are best observed from the relative comfort of the pages related here,” Kuhne wrote.



Courtesy of Vintage Departures Original  
**POLAR DRAMA** | Kuhne’s book brings a new perspective to arctic exploration.

There is indeed a certain pleasure in reading about danger at a distance. As Amundsen, a Norwegian explorer, wrote of a chasm-like fissure his expedition encountered on an Antarctic glacier in 1910, it is difficult to “deny ourselves the pleasure of glancing down into the hole.”

Peering through the lens of Kuhne’s

book, the tenacity of these explorers as they cross hundreds of miles on foot in sub-zero temperatures, killing sea lions, polar bears, and their own sled dogs for sustenance, looks like a facet of the latest epic action hero movie. When Lewis, the first man to circumnavigate Antarctica single-handedly, recalled that he “had just enough dignity left not to cry out for help when the going got a bit rough” after his boat capsized in a frigid storm, he sounded more like Indiana Jones than a New Zealand doctor.

Considering the author’s background, it is perhaps not surprising that *Near Death* abounds with such dramatic moments. Kuhne traveled the world as a young man in search of white water rapids and has written ten books on river rafting and kayaking. Though Kuhne said in an interview that “it is really difficult for someone like myself to claim to identify” with the polar explorers his book profiles, it is easy to imagine a kinship between the thrills of the rapids and the challenges of arctic exploration.

*Near Death* is all the more interesting because the environment it describes is rapidly changing. Thanks to global warming, polar sea ice is melting, and ice flows are breaking apart, making it more and more

difficult to traverse the polar landscape on foot as most of these explorers did. “The Arctic book does seem to have created not only more interest than I anticipated but a different kind of interest. Because of the climactic changes ... people are especially interested in this area,” he Kuhne said.

Kuhne added that one of the reasons he wrote *Near Death in the Arctic* and its companion anthologies *Near Death in the Mountains*, *Near Death in the Desert* (which will be published this July), and *Near Death on the High Seas* was to give people a greater appreciation for the natural world. “So many of us live in these urban areas and have been disconnected from nature,” he said.

The book’s only drawback is the occasional tedium and dryness of its prose. Though Kuhne said that he tried “to find not only exciting adventures but also well-accomplished writers” for his book, but Ernst Shackleton is no Homer. This is, in truth, only another mark of the adventures’ authenticity, but the bareness of some of the explorers’ accounts may not be pleasurable to all.

Yet for the Columbia student emerging from his winter layers, this may be the ideal springtime read—an opportunity to revisit the cold at a distance and be inspired by the awesome power of the poles.







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4	2	6	7	5	3	1	8	9
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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 St. cresser  
4 Former Anaheim Stadium NFLer  
9 Lawn game using lobbed missiles  
14 Fenway team, familiarly  
15 Gladiator's battlefield  
16 "Gold": Peter Fonda film  
17 Rock music's \_\_\_ Fighters  
18 '80s TV series with a talking car named KITT  
20 Increase  
22 London insurance giant  
23 1943 Triple Crown winner  
26 Chicago hrs.  
29 Taqueria offering  
30 Mold into a different form  
33 Little devil  
35 It's a wrap  
36 England's Charles, since 1958  
42 New Zealand native  
43 Prefix with cycle  
44 Basic ballroom dance  
47 Riddles  
53 Tiny army member  
54 "Nothing can stop" him, in a 1962 doo-wop classic  
56 Ravel work immortalized in "10"  
59 Nostalgic song  
60 "Louie Louie" singers, and this puzzle's theme  
64 Miller Sebastian  
65 Expected to land  
66 Artist's stand  
67 Venomous reptile  
68 Filmdom ogre  
69 Muffin Man's lane  
70 +, on a batt.

DOWN

1 To be the truth  
2 Kind of doll used in magical rites

3 Israelites' departure  
4 Sitting Bull's language  
5 Son of Valiant  
6 Portuguese royal  
7 Each one in a square is 90 degrees  
8 Composer Gustav  
9 Trial twelvesome  
10 "Put \_\_\_ on it!"  
11 McCarthy era paranoia  
12 Gopher's aid  
13 Ukr., before 1991  
19 Shopper's bag  
21 Big bang producer  
24 S&L guarantor  
25 Poor, as excuses go  
27 Pampering resorts  
28 Gymnast's goal  
31 FICA funds it  
32 Actor Holbrook  
34 Poker kitty  
36 Small chess piece  
37 Soda in a float  
38 Tax collection agency.

39 Small point to pick  
40 Complimentary  
41 Skid row regular  
42 Boston transit inits.  
45 Eve's first home  
46 Cleansed  
48 "I wish it could be!"  
49 Hair stiffener  
50 Zany  
51 Melodious passage  
52 Grabs some shuteye  
55 '80s-'90s quarterback  
57 "The Grapes of Wrath" figure  
58 Web cross-reference  
60 NFL scores  
61 "Say what?"  
62 East Lansing sch.  
63 Muskiet suffix

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

AROMA MODEL SLP  
SITUP USERS URL  
POOR RICHARD NRA  
STEM OHARA ADEN  
UAW INARAGE  
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OATH SKORT RENO  
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# Spar hosts panel with Chinese women

CHINA from front page

historically, I saw many people purged, commit a suicide, or beaten to death, disowned by members of their family. And that's what I want to change. I want to change the system itself."

Aside from the event, highlights of Spar's trip included several visits with alumnae and educators and a stop at the opening of Columbia's Global Center in Beijing.

As Spar spoke over the phone between connecting flights, she added that on Saturday, she visited the rural school run by Qing, also the 2001 recipient of the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Public Service. "She has about 20 girls from the poorest parts of China learning kindergarten teaching, some learning to do word processing," Spar said. "We had a lot of girls at the symposium who were high school students, desperate to come to Barnard. The sad part is that there was a number of students who had applied this year, but there was no financial aid for them, and it

breaks my heart."

Barnard's international students are not guaranteed financial aid, and Spar said that Barnard may eventually seek to remedy this by raising funds in regions abroad.

Spar visited three universities in Beijing and two in Seoul, where she said Barnard was met with "a huge amount of interest in sending off students." Spar said she hopes to persuade some of these "inspirational" Chinese women to speak at Barnard.

Lan Li, BC '10, commended Barnard for its outreach efforts in China. "I think that Barnard's relationship with women in China serves a dual purpose in encouraging women to seek a liberal arts education in America where they really do have the freedom to study what they want outside of the social and cultural confines that might prevent them from doing so in China," Li said. "For Barnard, as a women's college, developing its relationship with international cultures is tremendously important to the growth of the college—financially, socially, and academically."

As the symposium was being planned, Spar was already on her way to speak on a panel with economist Joseph Stiglitz at the Beijing opening of one of Columbia's Global Centers.

In a trend that aligns with Columbia's mission to become a "global university," Barnard recently launched a slew of initiatives to further connect with the world outside its gates. These plans came to the fore last spring when Hilary Link took on the newly created position of assistant provost and dean for international programs. Spar stressed in her inauguration speech that she wished to see a larger flow of students to and from foreign countries and a greater awareness of Barnard's name outside the U.S. On Monday, as Spar awaited a connecting flight in Houston, Texas, she revealed her pre-travel jitters over the phone. "It was quite nerve-racking to see what would actually happen with so few people on the ground there," she said. "It was amazing how it all came together."

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# CU success rides on pitching in league play

BASEBALL from page 8

game two, throwing eight strong innings and yielding just two earned runs en route to an 8-6 win. Bracey did not walk any of the 34 batters he faced and currently leads the Lions' staff with two victories on the young season.

But in Sunday's losses to Dartmouth, Columbia's pitching allowed 13 total runs, putting pressure on the Lions' bats. While the offense was stagnant—failing to score at all in game one—Dartmouth racked up six runs over the fourth and fifth innings to put the game out of reach.

Sophomore starter Geoff Whitaker showed resolve in the third inning when he induced a double-play ball, but he allowed two homers over the next two innings, forcing Coach Brett Boretti to remove him after only four and one-third innings. Whitaker's hand surrendered six earned runs before Clay Bartlett relieved him.

In game two, Dartmouth players homered in consecutive innings to start the game and quickly roughed up starter Roger Aquino for four early runs. Although Aquino shut the Big Green down in the final four innings of his outing, the initial damage forced Columbia to play catch-up early on. While Aquino did not walk a batter, he beamed four Dartmouth hitters in six innings and allowed eight hits.

Boretti used his top pitchers on Saturday against a weaker Harvard squad, which improved the team's chances of finishing the weekend with at least two victories. But because of the rigorous Ivy League schedule that features four games each weekend, Columbia will continue to call upon its third and fourth starters to win crucial games.

It is still too early to determine the quality of Columbia's bullpen, but freshman Harrison Slutsky has been effective thus far, allowing just two earned runs over eight and one-third innings of work. Slutsky has a 2.16 ERA in six appearances, and opponents are hitting just .125 against him.

Junior reliever Clay Bartlett will also be a key factor in Columbia's ability to preserve the score in tight situations. Bartlett, who was reliable last season, leads Columbia relievers with seven appearances, but opponents are hitting .333 against him, and he will need to work on that number.

Senior Joey Mizzoni threw an encouraging shutout inning on Sunday, but freshman Pat Lowery was unable to preserve a tie game and coughed up two runs to Dartmouth in Columbia's 6-5 loss in game two.

As the Lions move ahead in the Ivy League season to face Yale and Brown this weekend, the pitching staff—and particularly the back end of the starting rotation—will be a deciding factor in the outcome.

## STARTING PITCHING: COMBINED STATS

	Sat. vs. Harvard: Searkta & Bracey	Sun. vs. Dartmouth: Whitaker & Aquino
IP	15	10 1/3
K	11	10
WHIP	1.06	1.65
ER	5	10
Record	2-0	0-1

# Baseball readies for road tilt with Army

ARMY from page 8

is also an established infielder, only surrendered four hits over seven innings while allowing two runs to cross home plate (one earned). His performance led Army to its only victory of the four-game set.

While Columbia's overall ERA (6.76) is somewhat inflated as a result strong early-season opposition, the team's pitching has been steadily improving. At the plate,

Columbia's hitters have yet to reach their full potential, but, like the team's pitchers, the offense is still adjusting to more evenly matched opponents and has already provided a taste of its potential in the first few games of conference play.

The first pitch of this afternoon's matchup is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. Looking ahead, the Lions will hit the road this weekend with a pair of doubleheaders at Yale and Brown.

# Offense stymied in two losses to Dartmouth



Brian Chan / Staff Photographer

**EYE ON THE BALL** | With a sacrifice fly in the sixth inning, Stephanie Yago knocked in Columbia's only run in game one against Dartmouth.

BY SARA SALZBANK  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

In a rescheduled doubleheader, the Columbia softball team dropped a pair of decisions against Dartmouth at home on Monday.

Dartmouth (10-11, 3-1 Ivy) went up quickly at the start of game one, scoring two runs in the first inning, three in the second, and one each in the third and fourth. With the Big Green up 7-0 after four innings, the game hit a lull, as no team posted a run until the bottom of the sixth when junior Dani Pineda set the tone for the Lions for the remainder of the inning with a double up the middle.

Sophomore Karen Tulig took Pineda's cue and followed with a double of her own, advancing Pineda to third. Sophomore Stephanie Yagi then put the Light Blue on the board, bringing Pineda home with a sacrifice fly.

But the Lions (9-17, 1-3 Ivy) could not keep up their momentum, and a seventh-inning Dartmouth homer would close out

the scoring, sending Columbia to an 8-1 defeat.

Pineda (2-for-4) and senior Keli Leong (2-for-3) led the Lions at the plate in game one while Tulig went 1-for-2.

Game two saw a reversal in the action with Columbia taking an early lead in the bottom of the second. Sophomore Maggie Johnson singled past the mound and was advanced by a Kayla Lechler sacrifice bunt. Sophomore Anne Marie Skyli's single drove Johnson home, and the Lions were on the board.

Despite holding an early advantage, Columbia could not hold the lead. The Big Green tied the game in the top of the fourth when Johnson, who pitched the whole game for Columbia, walked two batters, and second baseman Chantee Dempsey committed a fielding error. In the fifth, the Big Green finished the Light Blue off 3-1 with a Molly Khalil home run and a Kristen Costello RBI single.

The Lions will face Marist next in a Thursday afternoon doubleheader in Poughkeepsie.

# DiCrescenzo runs in world championships

BY JONATHAN TAYLER  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

Delilah DiCrescenzo, CC '05, helped lead Team USA to a fifth-place finish at the 2009 World Cross Country Championships on Saturday, taking 33rd overall in the eight-kilometer race in Amman, Jordan. DiCrescenzo's time of 28:34 was second best on the American squad, 26 seconds and 12 spots behind teammate Julie Culley.

The senior women's race, limited to female competitors between the ages of 19 and 45, was divided into four laps. The first lap, 1500 meters plus the 200-meter uphill start, saw DiCrescenzo clock a time of 6:04, fourth on Team USA and two seconds ahead of fellow American Samia Akbar. DiCrescenzo moved up the pack, however, finishing the 2000-meter second lap in 6:59 to go from 46th to 35th and to move within four seconds of Rebecca Donaghue for third place on the team. But the long, hilly course took its toll during the next two laps with DiCrescenzo turning in

a time of 7:12 in the 2000-meter third lap before a fourth lap of 2300 meters in 8:19.

That second-half slump was unavoidable for the majority of Team USA. Culley came through the first 3700 meters in 12:00 but needed over 16 minutes to get through the next 4300. Donaghue, who led DiCrescenzo for the first two laps, fell to third on the team and 36th overall after turning in a time of 16:25 in the last two laps. Nonetheless, Team USA managed to edge Morocco for fifth place with a score of 130. Morocco also scored a 130, but as the team only finished four runners, they were slotted behind the U.S.

Overall, Kenya took home the senior women's title with a score of 14, including first- and second-place finishes for Lornah Kiplagat and Linet Masai, respectively. Kiplagat finished with a time of 26:13, overtaking Masai in the last lap. Ethiopia finished second with 28 points, easily outpacing Portugal, which finished third with 72 points. Spain took fourth with 117 points.



Courtesy of Columbia Athletics

**FINISHING STRONG** | Delilah DiCrescenzo, CC '05, finished in 33rd place overall at the 2009 World Cross Country Championships in Amman.

# Emotion a key factor in a sport's popularity

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A pure inertia argument is appealing, but does not provide a complete answer. College sports did not sprout into a billion-dollar industry overnight—the popularity had to have been built up over time somehow. And many sports popular in the past are no longer in vogue today. Minor league baseball was the spectator sport of choice for Americans in smaller cities in the past. Horse racing used to be followed even when there was no Triple Crown contender in a given year.

Could it be the tradition of the teams with an inherent fan base built from years of alumni graduating from the schools? This could be a possibility, but a pure alumni fan base could not support an enterprise of the NCAA's scale. Duke and UNC are not nearly big enough

to have a sufficient number of graduates to explain the number of fans. Southeastern Conference football teams captivate the attention of their entire states.

So what could be the reason? I suspect that a major part of college basketball and football's popularity comes from a yearning for authenticity in a sports landscape that sorely lacks it. For many sports fans looking for a new, natural fan experience, college sports may be one of the only options. While a game between two expansion NBA teams will feature vastly superior talent, it's merely a glorified pickup game if there is no emotional attachment. Most college teams are playing in stadiums and arenas with decades of history and have years of bad blood with rivals as well as organic cheers from the student section. The person sitting next to you in the crowd

isn't just another ticket holder—he is family.


Of course, as with any product, its popularity may be its downfall. With more money than ever going into the college game, smaller schools are finding it harder and harder to compete. The chalk that held up in this year's tournament may be the norm going forward, stifling one of the best reasons to watch March Madness. We don't know what the future of college sports will be. I, for one, hope that it remains one of America's favored sports—it would be a sad day if our posterity looked back at our time and asked why anyone would watch athletes who may not be the best at their craft, likening the experience to watching horses race.

*Charles Young is a senior in the School of Engineering and Applied Science majoring in applied math. Sports@columbiaspectator.com*

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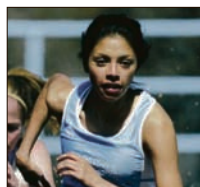
After a rain-out on Sunday, softball took the field against Dartmouth on Monday and was swept in a doubleheader.

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# SPORTS

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Assistant coach Delilah DiCrescenzo competed in the World Cross Country Championships in Amman.

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## Why do fans gravitate to specific sports?



CHARLES YOUNG

CHARLES IN CHARGE

As another NCAA tournament draws to a close, so do the careers of many of the starting players. While some will be moving on to the biggest stage of them all, most will be not be able to make the NBA. But with the deep imprints they have left on our memories, one can't help but wonder where the

less fortunate will end up.

The National Basketball Developmental League (NBDL) rosters are a good place to start. A quick browse through the players that currently make up the NBA's minor leagues yields well-known names such as Cedric Bozeman of UCLA, JamesOn Curry of Oklahoma State, DeMarcus Nelson of Duke, and Russell Robinson of Kansas. Whether they were never heralded enough to be drafted in the first place or were not good enough to crack NBA rotations the first time around and are fighting to make it back, many of college basketball's finest are seen honing their craft for teams such as the Sioux Falls Skyforce and Iowa Energy.

It is admirable that these players are willing to toil in relative anonymity for the love of the game and a shot at the big leagues. Yet with many big names on the rosters, one wonders if the NBA's B-teams are at least competitive with the NCAA's best teams. I suspect that they are, but you hardly hear anyone talking about how the Utah Flash and Idaho Stampede are embroiled in a fight for first in the D-League West Division.

Which brings to discuss a very philosophical question: What makes fans gravitate towards certain leagues and sports? Is it the product on the field, the access they can have to the players, or the tradition of the teams involved? Is it merely inertia, that what is popular today was popular in the past and will stay popular in the

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## Lions head to West Point for matinee game versus Army

BY MICHAEL SHAPIRO  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

The Columbia baseball team (4-18, 2-2 Ivy) will take a brief hiatus from conference matchups to try its luck against the Army University Black Knights on Tuesday. The Black Knights, who sit just below the .500 mark on the season (9-11), possess a powerful arsenal of both hitters and pitchers. Though the Lions have struggled through a formidable nonconference schedule thus far this season, they have been adjusting comfortably against more manageable adversaries.

The Light Blue travel to West Point for the one-game affair with the Black Knights following a five-game stint at home. After losing a 2-1 heartbreaker to St. John's in its home opener, Columbia began Ivy League play against Harvard and Dartmouth in doubleheaders on Saturday and

Sunday, respectively. The Crimson proved no match for the Lions, who won both games by scores of 8-3 and 8-6. On Sunday, however, the Big Green turned the tables on the defending champions, defeating them 7-0 and 6-5.

Inconsistency has been the story of the season for Army, which has only managed two winning streaks in 2009. Most recently, the Black Knights dropped a four-game series to Bucknell University, salvaging just one win in two days of doubleheader play. After a narrow 2-1 loss in game one, Bucknell obliterated its New York foe 18-2 in an affair that resembled pregame batting practice. The next day, Army's bats came alive as the squad won the first game 9-2, but their pitching slipped in a 7-5 defeat in game two.

Army, with a 2-0 home record, is happy to be back in New York after its Pennsylvania road trip. Despite the outcome of this past weekend's series, the Black Knights

have some dangerous weapons in their lineup. While they don't hit for power (only 9 home runs as a team), the Black Knights boast an impressive .292 team batting average. Sophomore Joey Henshaw leads Army with a blistering .387 average (24-62) with one homer and 12 RBI. Also carrying Army at the plate this season are sophomores Clint Moore and Kevin McKague, who each have 14 RBI and batting averages over .333. Overall, the Black Knights have six starters who are hitting above the .300 clip this season.

Army's pitching has been adequate, but the pitchers have copious room to improve on their collective 5.62 ERA. Starting pitcher Ben Koenigsfeld improved his record to 2-3 as he hurled a gem in game one of Sunday's doubleheader against Bucknell. The right-hander, who

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## Pitching a deciding factor in Ivy action

### Hurlers set the tone for Light Blue in weekend play

BY JACOB SHAPIRO  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

As any member of Columbia's 2008 Ivy League championship team will tell you, stellar pitching is the surest way to success in the Ivy League. Last year's squad consistently relied on its strong arms to win close games.

In a league in which runs are plentiful, the importance of preventing runners from crossing the plate cannot be overstated. And after the first weekend of Ivy play, it appears that the quality of the Columbia pitching staff will be even more critical this season.

Currently, 22 games into the season, no Columbia starting pitcher has an earned run average (ERA) under five, and the team ERA stands at 6.76. It is important to note that the first 18 games of the 2009 season were played against heavyweight nonconference opponents, but the staff will nevertheless need to bring the numbers down in order to keep the Lions competitive.

Last weekend, the Lions proved that effective pitching can lead to team victories. On Saturday, Columbia featured strong performances by Dan Bracey and Joe Scarlata. Scarlata pitched his second complete game of the season to earn his first victory in an 8-3 win over Harvard.

Bracey helped the Lions complete the sweep of the Crimson in

SEE BASEBALL, page 7



Brian Chan / Staff Photographer

**NOT HIS DAY** | Roger Aquino struggled from the mound in game two on Sunday, as did game one starter Geoff Whitaker. Dartmouth swept the Lions in the doubleheader.



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