

Disparities in Harlem census rates

BY KIM KIRSCHENBAUM
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The national recognition of the census on April 1 may have been more of a cause for concern than celebration for some West Harlem officials.

In the wake of Census Day—a date to bring awareness to the effort—local politicians, U.S. Census Bureau employees, and community board members noted a disparity between mail return rates throughout West Harlem. This date is also important because, on the census form, residents must report who is living in their households as of April 1.

As the April 15 deadline for census forms fast approaches, some have begun questioning whether this disparity can be corrected in time, or if inherent differences between regions will preclude even participation.

Having high rates of participation throughout regions of the neighborhood is important, since the census population counts are used every 10 years to decide allocation of Congressional seats, government funding, and electoral votes.

West Harlem comprises about 10 census regions, according to Raul Vicente, senior media specialist for the Census Bureau for the New York region. And as of Monday afternoon, there was a 33 percent difference between the lowest mail return rate, at 28 percent, and the highest, at 61 percent, in West Harlem.

“We’re not overly concerned, because of the fact that most people tend to wait until the first to mail it out,” Vicente said. “And given that we just had a holiday weekend, it’s more likely that now there will be a spike,” he said.

Still, this disparity has been alarming to some local officials in light of Harlem’s 40 percent participation rate in 2000, which was one of the lowest rates in North America. And because population counts are important for funding, Harlem officials have sought to significantly increase outreach efforts in order to encourage maximal participation.

“I’m concerned about the 21 percent—I would expect people to return them immediately,” said Sarah Martin, president of the Tenants Association for the General Grant Houses, a local public housing complex in Harlem. Martin has been involved in working to mobilize residents in her building, and has posted flyers and disseminated census-related information to them.

Mail return rates throughout West Harlem vary greatly.

SEE CENSUS, page 2



EMBRY OWEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BEE’S KNEES | Sam Elchert, GS, inspects his bees, which he keeps in a community garden in Central Harlem. Last month’s legalization of beekeeping in the city will make the process a more accessible hobby.

Dept. of Health legalizes beekeeping

BY CLAIRE LUCHETTE
Columbia Daily Spectator

Even though beekeeping is now legal in New York City, the bees may not be buzzing at Columbia anytime soon.

The city’s Board of Health voted unanimously on March 16 to end the ban on keeping honeybee hives, but amateur student beekeepers are looking outside the gates of campus, for now.

Scott Wright, vice president of Campus Services, said he hasn’t heard of any recent requests from students to keep bees. Even with the city’s lift of the ban on the hobby, Wright said beekeeping is not presently allowed—in line with the Guide to Living policy that



EMBRY OWEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
STINGERS | Elchert prepares to inspect the bees in his Harlem hive.

prohibits dorm pets.

Columbia’s Food Sustainability Project, a student group that organizes composting on campus and tends a garden, has expressed interest in beekeeping, but president Kristina Gsell, SEAS ’12, said the group will hold off until at least next semester to determine whether or not the plan could be viable.

“Beekeeping is a potential endeavor for next year, but we’re unsure about how the University feels in terms of safety, like if we had a box and bees were to come out of it,” Gsell said.

For now, the group is busy with its on-campus garden, and Gsell said it will be adding plants to attract honeybees.

But some students have not waited for on-campus opportunities to harvest honey.

Sam Elchert, GS, has been a beekeeping enthusiast for more than a year. But the most difficult aspect of the hobby has been locating a home for his hives in the city, he said.

Now, he inspects his hives, with at least 10,000 bees, once a week in a Harlem garden, but it took time to find a place with enough space and where the property owners weren’t afraid of the legal consequences.

“I had a community garden in Brooklyn that agreed to host my hives, but because of the legal issue, they wanted to store them under some bushes,” Elchert said. This would have been problematic, however, since beekeepers need room to let the bees take off and land in front the hive, and room to

walk around the hive to do inspection, he added.

But then a Columbia professor helped Elchert out. “I was very lucky to have a professor who lives on a farm in Connecticut ... She agreed to let me keep my hives there, which was a huge help.” But, Elchert explained, the weekly trip to Connecticut to inspect the hives got pretty demanding.

Health Code Article 161 originally banned honeybees, deeming them dangerous because they can sting. A group of beekeepers then presented the Board of Health with a petition to promote honeybee keeping as sustainable agriculture and ultimately succeeded in getting bees removed from the list of banned animals, which included poisonous snakes and crocodiles.

Now, as long as beekeepers register their hives with the city, they won’t face legal trouble. Elchert said he appreciated the change, since bees are not harmful insects.

“Particularly in New York, people are very removed from nature, so there are many misconceptions about honeybees,” Elchert said. “Honeybees are not aggressive.”

Still, he hasn’t been able to formally join up with other on-campus beekeepers. “I approached Columbia last year about my interest in the hobby, and a number of people were very supportive, but because it was illegal, they couldn’t help me [create a group].”

But for Elchert, the hobby remains a fun, relaxing activity—with the added bonus of honey.

SEE BEES, page 2

No new recognition for Greek life at BC

BY CARLY SILVER
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

After a boom in Greek life interest this year, sororities and fraternities are saying it’s time for greater recognition on campus.

Representatives from the Inter-Greek Council came to Barnard’s Student Government Association meeting on Monday to apply for official recognition—a step which would give them financial support and greater access to event spaces and other campus services. But after much debate, the SGA, with 10 yeses, five nos, and two abstentions, voted to maintain the current status for the Inter-Greek Council—for the most part unrecognized.

Currently, the Inter-Fraternity Council, which oversees fraternities, and the Multicultural Greek Council, which oversees multiethnic Greek organizations, do not have any recognition at Barnard—only at Columbia. The Pan-Hellenic Council, which oversees four national sorority chapters, has recognition at Columbia, and also has what is called “stage one” recognition at Barnard, which means sororities in the Council can flyer, reserve space, and apply for cosponsorships. These sororities cannot apply for funding at Barnard, though, without “stage two” recognition, which Barnard campus groups outside of Greek life typically have.

All three of these councils fall under the IGC, which came to the SGA on Monday. Pan-Hellenic Council President Nora Feinstein, BC ’12, said she wanted stage one recognition for all councils under the IGC. She also said she hopes to work toward stage two, which would provide funding for events.

This push for stage two recognition for the Pan-Hellenic Council comes on the heels of a surge in Greek life, with a more than 30 percent increase in women registered for sorority recruitment.

Though Columbia recognizes sororities and fraternities, Barnard’s constitution states that “no sororities or clubs involving membership on a discriminatory basis shall be recognized by the SGA,” though it “supports students involved in Greek organizations through the Pan-Hellenic Council.” The IFC and MGC are seeking stage one recognition so that they can flyer and reserve space for events at Barnard.

But the SGA turned down the request for Barnard recognition for all councils on Monday night, due to concerns about Greek life

exclusivity, the due payment process, and a perceived lack of understanding of SGA recognition, among other reasons.

If the councils ultimately were granted stage two recognition, the amount they would receive would be determined by a Funding at Columbia University intercouncil ratio. Each council would receive “a proportion of Barnard student activities fees, that they in turn allocate to the organizations they oversee,” said SGA President Katie Palillo, BC ’10.

Though SGA did not formally recognize the Pan-Hellenic Council for the 2009-2010 academic year, it did give the council a \$1,000 gift, which is more than it would get if formally recognized, noted Vice President of Finance Sharmin Ahmed, BC ’10.

Feinstein emphasized how Barnard has enhanced the lives of sorority members, and vice-versa. “People really value the experience they’ve had, both in Greek life and at Barnard. We found that we heard again and again that women’s sense of self ... and also their connection to Barnard [were] deepened through their Greek experience. Currently, two of the four presidents of the Pan-Hellenic sororities are Barnard women.”

The IGC calculated that about 10.4 percent of Barnard students are involved in Greek life.

Feinstein encouraged the SGA to step up to the plate for its students. “Step forward on behalf of 10 percent of Barnard students,” she said. “Our aims as a governing board are congruent with those of Barnard’s community.”

“Being recognized by Barnard, it just means something to us as individuals,” added Pan-Hellenic Council Treasurer Lauren Perrine, BC ’12.

But, under its constitution, the SGA does not fund groups that collect dues, said Giselle León, BC ’10, SGA vice president of communications. Sororities require several hundred dollars worth of fees each semester.

“I just don’t know if I could support this because you’re looking for stage two. I don’t see how the funding would work, because you collect dues,” Chelsea Zimmerman, BC ’10, senior class president, said.

Feinstein replied that the Council provides scholarships and means for members to make up unpaid dues.

Some members of the SGA also found fault with the exclusivity of Greek life. “We don’t fund things

SEE SORORITIES , page 2



AMY STRINGER FOR SPECTATOR

RECOGNITION | Sarah Snedeker, BC ’12, speaks about Barnard’s limited recognition of sororities at Monday night’s SGA meeting.

Barnard admissions rate drops for class of 2014

BY ALIX PIANIN
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

A trapeze artist, a synchronized skater, and a National History Day champion were among those students admitted to the Barnard class of 2014 in what was a particularly competitive admissions cycle.

The Barnard admissions rate dropped to 26.5 percent, down from 29 percent last year.

Barnard admitted 1,225 students from 4,617 applicants this year.

“The incoming class is an academically stellar group of young women who have achieved an impressive balance between work and life already,” Jennifer Fondiller, dean of admissions, said in a statement.

The pool of admitted students includes 68 valedictorians and 111 National Merit finalists and semi-finalists.

“They have distinguished themselves as leaders, activists, artists, and athletes who will bring to Barnard an enthusiasm for learning both in and out of

the classroom,” she added.

Last year, 1,241 were admitted to Barnard out of 4,174 applicants—a smaller group of applicants.

The Admissions Office expects 575 to enroll for the class of 2014—189 were admitted early decision, and 53 members of the incoming class were admitted last spring and took a gap year.

Barnard admitted students from 47 states, Puerto Rico, and 30 countries. Additionally, 43 percent identified as

students of color—22 percent Asian-American, 10 percent Latina, and 10 percent African-American.

Last week, the undergraduate admissions offices for Columbia College and the School of Engineering and Applied Science announced its most selective class in the University’s history. CC accepted 8.3 percent of its applicants, and SEAS accepted 13.36 percent.

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INSIDE

A&E, page 3

Greener reading spots offer alternative to Butler camping trips

Students tempted by the spring weather but stressing about impending finals can find tranquil spots to read in Central Park. The park abounds with literary attractions, including Holden Caulfield’s duck pond and the Shakespeare Garden.



Sports, page 6

Columbia amps up offense against rivals

The Lions have given opposing pitchers a reason to fear their bats this season. Four Columbia batters—Dean Forthun, Nick Ferraresi, Alexander Aurricchio, and Jon Eisen—have hit for over .300 this season, and all of the Columbia team but one player have hit for over .275.

Opinion, page 4

Lighten up about lighting up

Neil FitzPatrick is pro-choice when it comes to smoking.

Slow and steady can’t win the race

Mark Hay decries the University Senate’s inefficiency in tackling important issues.

Today’s Events

CU Orchestra Spring Concert

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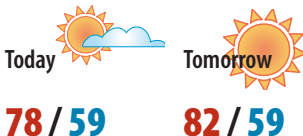
The Face of the Voiceless

The SIPA Arab Student Association presents the Iraqi Orphan Initiative.
410 SIPA, 8 p.m.

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WEATHER



Beekeeping legalized, students embrace hobby

BEES from front page

“They’re all really good at what they do. It’s incredibly interesting.”

Taking care of bees also serves an important purpose of pollination, he said. “Being a small-time beekeeper, you can take some pride in it.”

It’s unclear whether bees would actually be feasible to keep on campus, and Elchert said it might be

difficult in crowded areas.

Then, there is also the challenge for some of overcoming fear.

Gsell said, “I’m kind of a little scared of bees, but I’m open to new things. I have a worm bin in my room, and if I can do worms, I can probably do bees.”

Embry Owen and Sarah Darville contributed reporting.

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EMBRY OWEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SMOKER | Elchert, GS and a Harlem beekeeper, prepares a smoker, a tool he uses to blow cool smoke on his bees before inspection.

Bollinger calls for revived free press commitment

BY AARON KIERSH
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

University President Lee Bollinger called for a new commitment to greater worldwide press freedoms on Monday evening before an audience of about 150 at the Journalism School.

During an hour-long conversation with Journalism School Dean Nicholas Lemann, Bollinger elaborated on the prescriptions presented by his most recent book, “Uninhibited, Robust, and Wide-Open: A Free Press for a New Century.” He also addressed contemporary First Amendment-related topics such as the Supreme Court’s recent controversial verdict in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, which ruled that corporate funding in elections is protected by the First Amendment.

Bollinger is a recognized First Amendment scholar who served as a clerk to Supreme Court Chief

Justice Warren Burger, played a key role in two Supreme Court cases that assessed affirmative action, and has taught constitutional law throughout his tenure at Columbia.

He explained Monday that the courts have a mixed track record in terms of observing the First Amendment, expressing frustration about the imprisonment of a presidential candidate—Eugene Debs—for praising World War I draft evaders. Bollinger also noted that the Supreme Court has long “refused to give any special meaning to the term ‘journalists’ or ‘press’ or ‘reporter.’”

Bollinger refuted the argument that, in calling for greater freedom of expression, he is attempting to subject other cultures to American values. “People might say I am promoting U.S. imperialism of a different form,” Bollinger said. “My view is, you’ve got to start from somewhere. I

believe these principles are good for societies. I hope others will join in on this.”

He also focused his attention on the importance of reviving the global presence American news outlets have relinquished amid depressed revenues, as well as encouraging other nations to tolerate a vibrant free press. He identified a contradiction in the simultaneous globalization as a result of improvements in communication technology and the American media’s increasingly inward focus.

“The decline in the coverage of global news struck me as a deep paradox and a real problem to be solved,” he said. “I didn’t see this coming [before the financial crisis].” He added that the eventual goal of ending persecution of journalists and restrictions on expression worldwide will not be realized in “the next five, 10 years or even my lifetime.”

Bollinger said in an interview after the talk that both undergraduates and the Journalism School can play a key role in raising consciousness about the issue of global press freedoms. “I am trying to get an undergraduate course together about this,” he said. “And the Journalism School is an absolutely central player by training journalists for a global forum.”

Sherry Yi Zhang, CC ’11, said that press freedom has become an increasingly salient topic in her native China. “Journalism will also play a major part in the future relationship between the U.S. and China. Both the political and economic areas will be affected.”

In an interview, Lemann stressed the importance of students “creating meaningful international norms” for free expression. Enhancing press freedoms, he said, “will be the work of a generation.”

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City reports disparities in Harlem census

CENSUS from front page

Two regions near Columbia University are currently at a high of 60 percent, while another is nearly 10 percentage points lower. But regions in Manhattanville are nearing 60 percent, while those east of Morningside Park are largely in the mid-40s.

“I’m not surprised [by the disparity]—the problem is in lower-income areas. It’s harder to get people to return this data by mail and you really have to get people knocking on doors,” Harlem Community Board 9 member Walter South said, adding that areas closer to Central Harlem pose a greater challenge for encouraging participation.

But according to some officials who are involved in outreach efforts, economic factors

are not the only cause for concern—racial differences must also be taken into consideration.

“I’m almost positive that’s [the disparity] due to gentrification,” said Casper Lassiter, director of the Children’s Aid Society, which is an official census partner and has been holding information sessions for Harlem residents. “Folks with higher incomes have a little more knowledge in the census and probably completed the census, as opposed to those folks who are a little skeptical and doubtful.”

These racial and socioeconomic divides, some say, are especially troubling, as they lead to inherent differences in West Harlem return rates—differences which ultimately cannot be reconciled.

Rev. Kenneth Smith, pastor of St. Catherine of Genoa, said,

Greek life seeks more recognition

SORORITIES from front page

that are not obviously open to the community,” León said.

“Even if you stipulated that the money we would give to you [would go to Barnard], ... that still is problematic. You could just switch around your funds,” Zimmerman added.

Palillo said that though there were lots of different concerns with regards to Greek life recognition, this is not the end of the discussion.

“It was a very solid presentation and I think ... [the] Council learned much from our fellow student leaders.”

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“That would be wishful thinking to say that all these return rates could be equal, adding, “If anyone thinks this is going to be 100 percent successful, they’re living in an ivy tower.”

But in spite of these differences throughout regions within West Harlem, local politicians say that it is these lower-income, immigrant-populated areas that deserve the most attention and resources at this point in time in order to increase return rates.

“If any of our areas were having such a low return rate, we need to talk to some of the census folks and get the people out there,” Susan Russell, chief of operations for Council member Robert Jackson, said. “It behooves all of us to work together to get this done.”

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Central Park reading spots for balmy spring afternoons

BY MARLENA GITTLEMAN
Columbia Daily Spectator

Tired of getting shut out of Butler when looking for a reading spot? One advantage of the arrival of spring's warm weather is the fact that students can escape from campus by heading outdoors.

At Central Park, there are a number of sites perfect for cracking open a book. Whether the readings are for school or for pleasure, here are the best literary spots you'll find in this Manhattan oasis.

The Pond, near Central Park South between Fifth and Sixth avenues, is familiar to New Yorkers and visitors alike, but its literary renown originated with an appearance in J.D. Salinger's "The Catcher in the Rye." Holden Caulfield frequented this spot for philosophical contemplation, but students can head over with a book. The stones surrounding the Pond offer a great view of the natural landscape and are perfect for people-watching, but the area tends to get crowded on the weekends. If students need a break from the "phonies" or assigned readings, they can head over to Holden's other Central Park hangout, **the carousel**, at mid-park around 64th Street.

The reading adventure can be continued with a journey back to childhood, by heading to the **"Alice in Wonderland"** and **Hans Christian Andersen statues**, which are located on the east side of the Park at 74th Street, near Fifth Avenue. The "Alice in Wonderland" statue boasts the main characters of Lewis Carroll's classic work, as well as lines from his poem "The Jabberwocky." Hans Christian Andersen is displayed reading a book—an appropriate

role model—next to one of his own characters, the Ugly Duckling. These monuments are favorite hangouts for children too, so a bench a few feet away might be the best bet, unless students would rather abandon reading for a climb on the bronze sculptures.

For those who prefer a quieter, more secluded reading area, the north end of the Park is the place to go—especially the **Burnett Fountain** in the Conservatory Garden, located at 104th Street and Fifth Avenue. The fountain was named for Frances Hodgson Burnett, author of "The Secret Garden." Unlike Mary, visitors don't need keys to get into this garden, but can simply set up camp on a nearby bench and dive into a book. They shouldn't get too immersed, though—the birdbath's chirping visitors and the water lilies at the base of the fountain are not to be missed.

No literary excursion would be complete without a visit to **the Shakespeare Garden**, which can be found on the west side of the Park, between 79th and 80th streets. Students can get inspired by quotes from Shakespeare's works and admire the wide variety of flora and fauna, all of which are mentioned in his plays and poems. The garden boasts a number of secluded wooden benches, perfect for reading "Hamlet," "The Tempest," or whatever book is assigned for class.

If students are having trouble getting motivated to take the hike downtown, they should try contemplating these words of the Bard, with special focus on the double meaning of the last word—"To be a well-favored man is the gift of fortune, but to write and read comes by nature."



THE GRASS IS GREENER | At Central Park locations like the Pond, the Hans Christian Andersen statue, and the Shakespeare Garden, Columbia students willing to venture beyond Low Plaza will find unexpected reading nooks that might pleasantly surprise campus sun bathers.



MARLENA GITTLEMAN FOR SPECTATOR

France's university system, though cheaper than U.S.'s, offers few student services



Abroad
on a
Budget

BY JULIA HALPERIN
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

It's a Saturday morning. You have a paper to write, and you need to check out some books. But instead of rolling out of bed and shuffling over to Butler, you have to take a 10-minute walk to the metro and a 30-minute train ride, followed by a 45-minute wait in line to get into the library. As American ex-pat and food blogger David Liebowitz likes to say, "WTF (Welcome to France)."

For an étudiante étrangère on a budget, the manner in which France's (much more cost-effective) educational system affects students' everyday lives is fascinating. In a city where most students are attending college largely on the government's dime while still living at home, the university culture is extremely

decentralized, even disorganized. For example, libraries containing required readings are scattered all over the city, office hours are a foreign concept, and syllabi are a luxury enjoyed by only a precious few.

Risking oversimplification, the French university system essentially works like this: If you manage to ace the grueling baccalauréat, or bac, as it is often shortened (France's more intense, more decisive version of the SATs), you have the opportunity to attend one of France's prestigious grandes écoles. If you merely pass the bac—which, it should be noted, is no small feat—you may attend an université, open to any student who completes the exam.

Tuition at both institutions is a fraction of what it costs to attend any American university

without a scholarship. But if you ask French people what they think of the system, most will tell you that, while they like that it represents a meritocracy, American schools are better.

I've had this conversation several times with different people, and almost without fail, my French companion has ended the exchange with some version of the phrase, "You get what you pay for." No matter how hard I try to communicate just how expensive certain U.S. universities are—"They can cost as much as four cars! As much as a house!"—the response is always the same: "You get what you pay for."

At first, I found it appalling that French people would think that small bureaucratic conveniences like CourseWorks and American university traditions

like football games were worth an extra \$90,000. But after spending a little more time here, I've come to understand that their desires are a bit more complex than wanting to recreate "Animal House."

In French middle and high schools, a group called the conseil de classe—formed by several students, administrators, parents, and the school principal—meets every year to discuss students' progress and performance. They recommend which students should set off on the track toward a liberal arts education and which should pursue medical school, engineering school, or trade school.

As a student who changed her major four times before sophomore year of college, never mind her career path, this kind of premature division

of labor is incredibly foreign. But it also sheds light on what appeals to French people about the American university system.

Although the French largely overlook the astronomical price of U.S. colleges, they appreciate the fact that students who can afford the tuition not only choose their own academic path, but are also given ample time to do so.

I'll be the first one to admit that I am one stingy American. (I mean, let's be serious—I'm devoting an entire series to how not to spend money while abroad.) But studying in Paris has also taught me that certain things are worth the cost. And I, for one, can't think of anything more worth paying for than the complete freedom to choose my own personal, professional, and academic future.

Professor Peter Burke discusses spread of communication around the globe

BY KATE WELSH
Columbia Daily Spectator

The phrase "Republic of Letters" came into use to refer to the growing international community of scholars around 1500-1800, in the Early Modern period. Yet, this period was only the beginning of an ongoing communications revolution, which spans from the advent of books to that of video chat.

Monday night, as part of the Heyman Center for the Humanities' current lecture series, professor Peter Burke of Emmanuel College of the University of Cambridge spoke about "The Republic of Letters: Survival or Revival." At Cambridge, Burke has served as librarian and archivist of Emmanuel, and has published 23 books, focusing mainly on Early Modern Europe and cultural history. Anthony Grafton, Henry Putnam University professor of history at Princeton, chaired the event.

While the common room was not filled to capacity, as it has been with other speakers—most likely due to the beautiful weather—the room buzzed pleasantly with the quiet chatter of graduate students and senior citizens before the chat began.

Grafton started the evening with an effusive introduction to Burke, highlighting his work as a writer and teacher. Grafton praised Burke's ability to synthesize historical studies with social science and linguistics.



KATE WELSH FOR SPECTATOR

HISTORICAL ORIGINS OF GCHAT | Professor Peter Burke speaks on the Early Modern period, when technology began to advance communication.

Burke, smiling but visibly nervous, thanked him and plunged right into the presentation of his paper. He explained that his lecture was essentially about the transformation of the recording of information, from Diderot's "Encyclopédie" to Wikipedia. A major part of it was what he referred to as the "changing geography of knowledge"—the spread and swell of scholars all over the globe, which began in the Early Modern period, when the exchange of ideas was starting to become more of a possibility due to the mass publication of books. He traced this transformation through the advent of global mail, and, finally, to the Internet. International conferences that began to take place enabled scholars in all different disciplines to interact, and

engage with one another in discussion.

Using inventions as metaphors for time periods, Burke explained how the "Horsepower" period (up to 1850) gave way to the era of "Steam" (1850-1950), which led to "Air" (1950-1990), which in turn made way for the current "Electronic" age. He emphasized, though, that the form of communication he would be saddest to see disappear was personal contact. While he marveled at video conferencing and online scholarly journals, he seemed saddened by the possibility that "real-life" contact could slowly disappear.

Yet, as he wrapped up the discussion, Burke smiled and said, "The fact that I'm here today is one small testimony that the international community [of scholars] is alive and well."

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Vargas Llosa, Columbia, and I

BY SANDRA BELAUNDE

It is always good to get advice from famous and brilliant writers. In my case, this person was the most important public figure and writer of my country. In Peru, we are proud of our food, our pisco, and our Mario Vargas Llosa. I like to think that he and I, together, decided my future. Before coming to Columbia to get my

master's degree in public administration, I was working for the Peruvian TV show "Rear Window," a political program of broadcast journalism. My last day on the show coincided with an interview with Vargas Llosa, the first he gave in Peru in many years. As a parting gift, my boss, Cecilia, assigned me to accompany him through each step of the interview. I told him that it was my last day at work, because I was about to start a master's program abroad. When he asked, I mentioned that I had not yet decided

between my three university options. He did not hesitate to say that Columbia was my best option—it is a top ten school and an Ivy League university in New York City. The conviction of his words was contagious—I resolved at that moment to come to Columbia.

Only now that I have been here for three semesters do I really understand what he meant. The city speaks for itself—it shouts for us to seize all that it offers. In Morningside Heights, the Upper West Side, the West and East Villages, SoHo, Chinatown, and Brooklyn—just to mention a few neighborhoods—you can feel Billy Joel's "New York State of Mind."

On campus, I have had the privilege of taking classes with professors whose books I had read and admired before coming to New York. What I did not anticipate was my greater admiration of professors who transmitted to me their passion about

management and politics—two subjects I thought could never excite me. As for the "Ivy League," there is much more to the concept than vines, the northeastern U.S., and academic achievement. I must admit that I have often enjoyed the respect and pride people express when they learn that I go to Columbia.

If elitism means meeting people like this, then it turns out that I am more than okay with it.

Students in the U. Senate: minority whipped

As evidenced by countless editorials, Facebook commentaries, and Bwog bashings, we have all been shocked by the inability of anyone to resolve the current academic calendar debacle. With the issue coming to a head in the latest plenary meeting of the

University Senate, I was among the many students who naïvely believed there might be a chance for a final resolution. After all, even as late as last February, this paper was espousing the common knowledge that the senate was in spite of its lethargy ultimately a place where students, despite being a minority group, could "form a coalition that enables them to voice their concerns to a high-level body that takes them seriously."

With that sentiment in mind, I attended this plenary meeting, eager to watch a vigorous debate and finally see this mangled corpse of an issue laid to rest. It didn't happen. For some time I have suspected, and this disheartening result has only given me more reason to believe, that the senate—the one real tool for students to influence University-wide policy—has become completely useless to and even hostile toward student concerns.

It would be easy to lift our shoulders in a jaded shrug, to cite as we often do—even in this paper—the excuse that the senate is "a body infamous for inaction," and walk away disgruntled to sulk in Bwog comments. But this has not always been the way students spoke of the senate. At the dawn of the new millennium, the senate was actually a vibrant source of debate and common discourse among the student population. It would be unfair to mythologize this past era—doubtless the senate was still riddled by ineffectiveness. There remains, however, a vague institutional memory of the past, to make the current state of the senate and its blatant dismissals of the student population all the more infuriating.

The lethargy of the senate, in bringing large issues to the floor in its current incarnation, seems likely to evolve (if it has not already) into a systematic discrimination against student interests and voices. Many in-depth studies needed to create an honest and meaningful dialogue on major topics take years to prepare and present. As was seen in the case of the delayed release of a pay equity study this past November, the time it takes to produce results usually causes the figures and conclusions presented to be dated and dubious. More importantly for students, though, the term length for our senators is generally two years. This means that, in many cases, by the time an issue makes its way to a viable point in the senate, not only is the data possibly irrelevant, but all of the passionate voices have been replaced by the neophytes with other concerns on their minds.

Unusual, Unseemly, or Unnoticed

MARK HAY

Even if an issue reaches the senate floor, the time it will take for a three-fifths majority to convene to hear it against the pile-up of other concerns can cause the resolution to hang in limbo indefinitely. The senate recognizes its problem, but refuses to alter its schedule, even—as Bollinger himself noted at the last plenary—to accommodate Muslim prayers. The chances of getting a passionate, knowledgeable, and unified student coalition in attendance, simultaneously with an issue reaching fruition and a three-fifths majority, are veritably non-existent. True, debates are still held, but they usually involve senators talking at each other and not to each other. At the last meeting, students mainly haggled with James Applegate—the professor behind the faculty position on the academic calendar—about childcare, only to have him admit that the childcare issue was his own

Excuses and Half-truths

13 years old, wearing a backpack walking with classmates. With a concerned look at the ashtrays outside of Hamilton: 'I know there's a lot of peer pressure at college, but why does everyone have to smoke so much?'"

Good question, kid.

This innocent probe caused a stir in the comment section on Bwog, with some people intimating that every smoker is just a "douche trying to look cool," and others berating "militant anti-smokers" for their "desire to ban things" and their "herd mentality." A surprising number of commenters argued about the "thick cloud of second-hand smoke" that hovers around the entrance to Butler.

One thing that did not come out of the debate, however, was a clear answer to the kid's question (which is great for me, really, because now I get to talk about it in this column).

So then, why do we smoke?

I should start by saying that I don't smoke, which might mean that I'm not the best person to be answering this question, but which hopefully also means that my end argument will be that much stronger. And rest assured that the following is more than mere guesswork—I talked to more than a few smoker friends before starting to write.

The first major point that came out of my friends' explanations has to do with what members of our generation see as the biggest obstacle to smoking: namely, it kills (or, at the very least, it's quite bad for your health). As far as reasons for not doing something go, this seems like a pretty good one, and it's one that has been drilled into the collective American consciousness for the past 20 years. That 13-year-old was no doubt thinking of his foreboding health teacher and/or parent, when he expressed wonder at the idea of so many college kids smoking.

But what that 13-year-old failed to understand, and what so many of the Bwog commenters either didn't get or couldn't identify with, is the fact that smoking's negative health effects are kind of the point: for some smokers, at least, lighting up is all

about self-destructive behavior. Whether it's a "fuck you to life," as one friend suggested, an action that purposely separates you from a certain value system or group in society, or something you started because the people you look up to smoke for such reasons, this vice very consciously says something about your world outlook and self-image.

Of course, most college kids fully understand this, and the Bwog commenters who called smokers "douches trying to look cool" were probably referring to just such behavior. But criticizing smokers for trying to look cool is absurd—we're all trying to look cool. You might not agree with the method (particularly one so hazardous to your health), but no one is saying you have to agree with it.

The other major motivations for smoking, which my friends noted, were considerably more innocuous. A lot of them mentioned the fact that cigarettes give you something to "do" in social situations in which you might not know anyone, or that they can make you feel socially connected to others. And, having started smoking, all of the people I talked to cited the pleasures of cigarettes—their ability to calm nerves, to produce a certain buzz, to provide an excuse to take a break, to suppress hunger. As I heard these people, I trusted talk about the upside of a habit I once considered nonsensical, and began to understand their position more fully.

And I guess that's the point. I know I'll never smoke—I like running too much and I'm probably not cool enough—but I'm not going to persecute others for choosing to do so. With modern bans on smoking indoors, we've done all we can to eliminate (in the public sphere, anyway) the threat of secondhand smoke. And I refuse to believe that walking past the smokers outside Butler a few times a week could be considered anything more than a nuisance (and one which it would take a violation of the rights of smokers to do away with). There was a lot of anger among those Bwog comments, but also a lot of genuine desire to understand why someone would take up cigarettes. And, if this article accomplishes anything, I hope it shows that the reasons people have for smoking are reasons to which a lot of us—as college kids—can relate. That being said, for my friends' sake, I hope their cigarettes go the way of all our youthful markers of self-expression, but, if they don't, well, I'll understand.

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

THE ANGRY PEN

LORD, PLEASE ANSWER... WHICH PR AGENCY SHOULD I HIRE?

LEARNING FROM TOYOTA

COMIC BY IGOR SIMIC

Nevertheless, until I wrote this article, there was something about the concept of the educational "elite" with which I was not completely comfortable. Now I realize that Columbia is an ideal space for amazing people to interact and learn from each other. At the School of International and Public Affairs—my school for the last year-and-a-half—students with nontraditional backgrounds but parallel interests gather from all parts of the world. There, I have made friends who have touched my life and changed it. If elitism means meeting people like

this, then it turns out that I am more than okay with it.

Making life-changing decisions with Mario Vargas Llosa has brought wonderful things to me, besides having this amazing story to tell, which I always enjoy remembering. Now, at the edge of completing my master's degree and returning to life outside the University, I think he and I should get together and decide my next step.

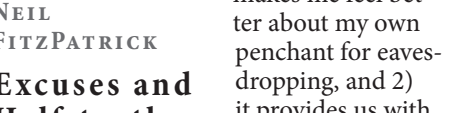
The author is an MPA candidate in the School of International and Public Affairs.

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

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

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS
1 Jack's partner
5 Not exactly lined up
11 Stanford-Binet nos.
14 On the less breezy side, at sea
15 Jacket part
16 Actor's signal
17 Jazz bandleader and lover of forests?
19 Common Market init.
20 Dazzling celestial events
21 Source of a hot tip
23 737, for example
25 Singer Domino
27 Trig function
28 Corn unit
29 "No ___": emphatic denial
31 Is able to, biblically
32 It may wash away castles
34 Postal motto word
35 Yellowfin tuna
36 Former heavyweight champ and lover of mountains?
41 Madhouse
42 Goller's accessory
43 Base runner's goal
45 Divided Asian land
48 Give up amateur status
50 Up to, briefly
51 Express line unit
52 Laos
53 Spiteful
55 "Strangers in the Night" singer
57 Prefix with physics
59 Sault ___, Marie
60 Ex-Dodger pitcher and lover of beaches?
64 Russian fighter
65 Postwar British prime minister
66 Farm field unit
67 Ending for Vietnam
68 Dwell
69 Like the Mojave

DOWN
1 Mandible site
2 UN workers' rights agcy.
3 Kate's "Titanic" co-star
4 Gave false hopes
5 Workplace watchdog org.
6 Try to escape, as pursuers
7 "de-lance": pit viper
8 Arab or Jew
9 Cowgirl Dale
10 Change for a 20
11 Stranded at the chalet, maybe
12 Brooklyn neighbor
13 Whispered thing
18 Actor Montand
22 Old Testament prophet
23 Teacher's favorite
24 Home in the wild
26 Faucet attachment
30 California county in which Mount Whitney is partly located
31 Greek X
33 Itchy rash cause

35 Expert server
37 "Kampgrounds" company
38 Showed over
39 "Up to this point, no"
40 Fail to include
44 Bridge expert
Culbertson
45 Pecking order?
46 Ear inflammation
47 Go back on a promise
48 Meadowlands Stadium team
49 Not tricked by
52 Fireplace feature
54 Resort island off Venezuela
56 Ivan IV, for one
58 ___ Ball
61 Mid sixth-century year
62 Baba of fiction
63 Deleted, with "out"

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PENALTYSHOT ODD
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xwordeditor@aol.com 04/06/10

By Kenneth Bernstein
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Pick up a copy of tomorrow's paper for coverage on how Columbia did in its double header against Marist today. Action starts at 3 p.m.

TOMORROW



SPORTS

TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2010 • PAGE 6



Check out tomorrow's paper to see how Columbia fared against visiting Lafayette. The Lions are trying to get back on track after a tough loss to Penn on Sunday.

TOMORROW

What does it mean to be a great coach?



BART LOPEZ

The Tailgating Tales

importantly, the win was number 1,332 for head coach Don Nelson, who is now tied for first place with Lenny Wilkins for most wins as an NBA head coach. Don't worry, I won't rant about how awesome the Warriors are, because, to be honest, they're garbage this year (despite Stephen Curry). The milestone got me thinking about the difference between good coaches and great coaches.

I'll be honest. I don't know how to classify Nelson. He's got a boatload of regular season wins under his belt, along with 1,060 losses, but he's struggled in the postseason. He has never won a championship and he's too often the coach of a bad team. So is he a good coach or a great coach?

Greatness is often associated with championships. The obvious argument is that individuals don't achieve greatness until they've been king of the hill. But it's much more complicated than that. Would you consider Doc Rivers a great coach, although he has only recently been successful in winning a championship after years of missing the playoffs or being knocked out in the first round? I don't think I do. Winning championships is just one part of the equation, granted, a very important part. The rest varies from person to person, with some people putting more emphasis on total wins, while others put emphasis on winning with multiple teams. For me, the key word is consistency.

Great coaches are consistent. Year in and year out they put together contenders, even if that means changing a time-tested strategy that doesn't work with a new roster. They play to the strengths of their players and, as such, are able to change and evolve with the times. Mike Shanahan is the first name that comes to mind, although there are many others. During his stint in Denver, he compiled a .615 winning percentage and two Super Bowl victories to go along with it. He did so by consistently putting together a solid running game with a variety of players. Yes, he didn't do everything well—defense, for example—but he did enough to put together contenders.

It may be hard to believe, but here at Columbia we have great coaches. As fellow columnist Kunal Gupta has written about on several occasions, our men's tennis team is very good. In fact, it has been good for awhile now, especially during the reign of Bidyut Goswami. Every year I've been here, the men's tennis team in particular has been a powerhouse, not only in the Ivy League, but on the national stage as well. The same is true of the fencing team, coached by George Kolombatovich, which consistently sends athletes around the globe to compete in world championships. Hell, Nicole Ross took the NCAA championship in women's foil this year. What these two coaches have in common is consistency. The Lions are consistently good in these two sports, which is especially impressive considering that the two coaches have been here for 25 and 32 years respectively. Their greatness goes somewhat unnoticed because their sports are not mainstream, but it's there.

So, if great coaches are consistent winners, with a championship or two thrown into the mix, than what is Don Nelson? Great coach with an impressive number of victories? Or is he someone who's been around so long that he was bound to rack up a ton of wins? When it comes to consistency, he definitely hasn't been consistent as of late. Eh, I'm still not sure, but he's a crazy old man, so I'll give him the benefit of the doubt.

Bart Lopez is a Columbia College junior majoring in economics-mathematics. sportseditors@columbiaspectator.com



JASPER CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ON FIRE | Sophomore DH Alex Aurrichio and his teammates have been turning out runs at an impressive pace this season.

CU baseball packs punch at plate

Strong pitching this weekend gets help from Lions' bats

BY JACOB SHAPIRO
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The Columbia pitching staff is unquestionably responsible for the team's success in the opening weekend of Ivy League play. But while the pitchers—who were the major question mark coming into the season—deserve their credit, the offense quietly raised its team average another 15 points.

The Lions are currently hitting .297 as a team, with a chance to roll over the .300 hump this week against Rutgers, Dartmouth and Harvard. The team displayed its ability to scratch out runs against tough pitching staffs last weekend when it posted no less than five runs per game against Yale's above-average hurlers.

In fact, the Lions have scored five or more runs in every single game dating back to March 19, when they suffered a 5-2 loss to Kent State. The offense has certainly taken pressure off of the pitchers, allowing them to cough up some runs without losing games. Run support will become increasingly important over the next month, when the pitching staff will undoubtedly have its ups and downs.

What is most intriguing about Columbia's offense is that the team is being led by four players, some of whom are unexpect

point, Jon Eisen, Alex Aurrichio, Dean Forthun, and Nick Ferraresi are all hitting above .300.

Veteran catcher Dean Forthun is putting up impressive numbers from behind the plate. The senior leads all veteran players with a .323 batting average, but his most important contribution comes from his batter's eye. Forthun has taken 16 walks this season—second-most on the squad—and leads the team with a .483 on-base percentage. The veteran backstop has always been a good hitter, but his .323 average and 16 walks (his highest season total is just 17) are added bonuses as he inches towards graduation.

A young crop of stars, consisting of freshman Nick Ferraresi and sophomores Alex Aurrichio and Jon Eisen, leads the rest of the Columbia offense.

Eisen had a breakout season last year (.331 average), so his success in 2010 is no surprise. But the infielder is hitting for an outstanding .388 average, with 33 hits in 23 games so far. With just five of those hits going for extra bases, Eisen is proving to be a very natural hitter who is frequently on base for his teammates to drive him in. Eisen has scored 23 runs this year, well above the rest of his teammates.

Ferraresi has already earned a lot of ink in this publication. The Wellington, Fla., native is an early Rookie of the Year candidate with a .305 batting average and fifteen extra-base hits. Ferraresi has shown his ability to be a gap hitter, far surpassing his closest teammates with 11 doubles. The outfielder could be a little more patient at the plate, but his 21 RBIs—he is second on the team—are a

sign that Ferraresi could become a staple in the middle part of Columbia's lineup over the next three-and-a-half seasons.

But designated hitter Alex Aurrichio is truly putting the “designated” in DH. The sophomore is potentially the best all-around hitter on the team so far. Aurrichio is boasting a .380 average to go along with stellar power numbers. The 6'6" DH has smacked seven homers, five doubles, and a triple to lead the team with a .775 slugging percentage. Aurrichio has also knocked in a team-high 22 runs. Although he is tied for the Columbia lead in strikeouts, when Aurrichio gets his bat on the ball, the results are usually enough to make head coach Brett Boretti smile.

The Lions are enjoying the talent of several star offensive players, but the overall production has truly been a team effort. Every Columbia starter, with the exception of Jason Banos, is hitting above the .275 mark. And even in the Ivy League—where batting averages tend to be slightly inflated—that feat is impressive.

Banos has struggled this season as he tries to return from an injury, but the junior has still contributed 17 RBI. The outfielder's numbers may not look as impressive at the end of the season, but Banos still has the time and the capability to produce in the second half of the campaign.

Baseball championships are often decided by pitching, and the old adage doesn't appear to be incorrect in analyzing this year's Ivy League season. But if the Lions' offense can remain hot, the pressure will remain on their opponents' pitchers, and not on their own.

COLUMBIA'S OFFENSIVE LEADERS



JOHN EISEN

Batting Average .388
Runs 23
Hits 33
RBI 10

3B



ALEX AURRICHIO

B.A. .380
Runs 15
Hits 27
RBI 22

1B/DH



DEAN FORTHUN

B.A. .323
Runs 16
Hits 21
RBI 11

C



NICK FERRARESI

B.A. .305
Runs 16
Hits 25
RBI 21

RF

Columbia lacrosse, softball face off against Lafayette, Marist

COMING OFF A TOUGH LOSS to Penn on Sunday, April 4, the lacrosse team is looking for a win today against non-conference opponent Lafayette.

“Penn was a tough loss for us on Sunday. We came into the game ready to prove ourselves and looking for the win,” junior Mollie Andreae said. “Although we didn't win in the end, in the first half we showed we can compete with a top 20 team. We fought really hard, didn't let up, and definitely learned some lessons regarding the things we need to build on to prepare for our next game.”

Columbia is currently 4-4 (0-4 Ivy), undefeated against non-conference opponents. Lafayette, however, is 2-10 for the season, most recently having lost to American, 19-12, on Saturday. Columbia has defeated Lafayette in seven straight seasons and is 7-2 all-time against the Leopards.

When these two teams met last year, the Lions defeated the Leopards, 15-8. Although Columbia was eventually able to come away with a strong lead in the second half, the Leopards kept the score close at

the beginning of the game, tying the score at 16:45. After goals by Holly Glynn and Lauren Olsen, the Lions held the one goal lead by the end of the half.

However, Brittany Shannon went on to score five goals in the second half, bringing her game total to a team-high six, while Olsen, Rachael Ryan, and Taylor Gattinella each put in a goal apiece, allowing the Lions to tear away from the Leopards and finish with the win.

“Lafayette is a very strong 1 v 1 team and should not be overlooked,” Andreae said. “We want to attack them and come out extremely aggressive. Another thing we look to do in the game is to dominate 50/50 balls and maintain possession for the majority of the game. Coming off the loss from Penn, I know I speak for the team when I say we are fired up and ready to add another win to our record.”

The game against Lafayette will be held this afternoon at Robert K. Kraft Field at the Baker Field Athletics Complex and will begin at 4 p.m.

—Julia Garrison

AFTER LOSING ITS FIRST THREE Ivy League games, the Columbia softball team (6-17, 1-3 Ivy) looks to pick up another win against Marist (4-16) at the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.

The Lions beat the Bears 10-5 last Saturday behind three hits each from senior Dani Pineda and juniors Maggie Johnson and Anne Maire Skylis. Johnson and Jessica Rakonza combined to pitch seven innings, allowing five hits and three earned runs for the team's sixth win of the season.

Columbia defeated Marist 4-3 during a previous match-up during the Rebel Games in Florida on March 15. Alison Lam had four hits and an RBI, while Kayla Lechler collected three hits, two runs, and an RBI. Maureen O' Kane allowed three earned runs off of eight hits through seven innings for a complete game in the win.

Marist right-hander Danielle Koltz gave up 12 hits and five walks in the loss. Koltz also had two hits with an RBI and a run scored on offense.

She leads her team with a 4.20 ERA through 36 2/3 innings.

The Red Foxes have won just three of the 10 games they have played since facing the Lions, although they did manage to defeat Brown and Yale during that stretch. Ashley Corriess scored the final run in a walk-off 4-3 win over the Bulldogs on March 24. Alanna Woody pitched a complete game, allowing three earned runs off of seven hits and recording two strikeouts for her second win this season.

Columbia is looking to ride the momentum from the win over Brown. The bats were alive in the second game of the doubleheader as the Lions posted an impressive 10 runs on 16 hits. They were led by Maggie Johnson, who went 3-4 and knocked in four runs. First baseman Dani Pineda also collected three hits and scored three runs.

The doubleheader is scheduled for 3 p.m. at the Baker Athletic Complex.

—Christopher Brown

What to Watch

The editors' picks for the week ahead

COLUMBIA:

Columbia vs. Rutgers, Wednesday, April 7, 3:30 p.m., New York, N.Y.

The Columbia baseball team will host rival Rutgers this Wednesday. The afternoon matchup will be the only one against Rutgers this year.

NEW YORK:

Heat vs. Knicks, Sunday, April 11, 6 p.m., New York, N.Y.

The New York Knicks will host the Miami Heat this weekend. The Heat, led by Dwyane Wade, are looking to be the fifth team in the East to clinch a playoff birth.

NATIONAL:

Yankees vs. Red Sox, Tuesday-Wednesday, April 7-8, Boston, MA

The rivalry continues today as the Yankees look to capture their first win of the season after dropping the season opener 9-7 to the Red Sox.