



PATRICK YUAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ENTER HERE | 1 train commuters enter and exit the new above-ground subway station house at 96th Street, which partially opened on Monday.

Reconstructed 96th Street subway stop opens at last

BY NICHOLAS BLOOM
Spectator Staff Writer

The new 96th Street Subway Station House is now open for business—partially. On Monday, the large station house located on the median on Broadway between 95th and 96th streets, which has been under construction since 2007, began service as the official restructured entrance to the 96th Street 1 train subway stop. Both the former downtown and uptown corner entrances to the station at 96th street have been boarded up and closed permanently, while entrances at 94th Street remain open. Though passengers can now get to the platform from the new above-ground entrance, the station house will not be entirely complete until September. According to MTA spokesperson Charles

Seaton, the station still lacks three essential components—the completion of elevators that are in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the landscaping of a new park on the median outside the 96th Street entrance to the station house, and the finished interior, including walls, hand rails, and station artwork. “This is the soft opening, and the grand opening will be in September,” said Andrew Albert, chair of the New York City Transit Riders Council, MTA board member, and co-chair of the Community Board 7 Transportation Committee. MTA representatives say that when the final design is finished, it will be a lot more efficient for commuters. “The main benefit of the new station house is that commuters will no longer need to descend down a flight of stairs and walk

back up,” MTA spokesperson Aaron Donovan said, referencing the former method of entrance at 96th Street. “Also, folks who transfer from the downtown to the uptown platform at this station now have an additional way to make that transfer—up the stairs and over or down and under the tracks.” In September, a three-dimensional mobile with 180 sculpture flowers will hang in the station house, and Sandra Bloodworth, director of Arts for Transit, the MTA’s arts division, said that they will begin the fabrication of the artwork soon. She added though, “The priority is to get this open and provide accommodation for the neighborhood. ... We’re about transporting people, and the art comes second.” Passengers on the platform at the 96th Street station on Tuesday said they liked the new look and

hope operations will be smoother. “This is my first time coming into the new facility, and it looks great,” said Christina Banz, a regular rider at 96th Street who lives on 101st Street. “I like the wider staircases and the nice serving area. The short-term construction, I think, will yield a long-term gain.” Peter Vaughn, also a regular commuter, said that the new efficiencies should be helpful. “Anything to make the transportation in New York better and faster is good by me,” he said. Anthony Dionisio, who takes the 1 train often, said that he approved of the changes but had some concerns. “I feel like it’s going to get crowded very easily now, because it will be so nice,” Dionisio said. “It will be just like the 72nd Street station at rush hour.” *nicholas.bloom@columbiaspectator.com*

Restaurant accuses Yelp of extortion

BY MARC KILSTEIN
Columbia Daily Spectator

After Morningside Heights restaurant owner James Lenzi refused to buy advertisements from the web company Yelp, Inc., he started to notice negative reviews of his business appearing at the top of his Yelp web page. And according to Lenzi, representatives from Yelp persistently called over a span of several weeks. Now, after Yelp has implemented new policies meant to increase transparency, Lenzi said he’s realized that the company’s practices of extortion are much worse than he originally imagined. Yelp is a popular San Francisco-based web service that operates a user-based search and review system of businesses around the country. In March 2010 alone, the site yielded more than 31 million viewers. Each business on the site has its own page, where users post reviews and rate the establishment out of five stars. The reviews appear in no specific order—they are neither chronologically ordered nor sorted by rating. But Lenzi, owner and chef of Haakon’s Hall restaurant on

General Studies students unopposed in council races

BY MADINA TOURE
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Most General Studies students hoping to join campus politics will not have a hard time securing positions this year. The General Studies Student Council released a list of candidates for the upcoming elections last week, and elections will be held online on Thursday and Friday. This year, the current Vice President of Finance, Jacqueline Thong, is running for president in an uncontested race. The positions of comptroller, social chair, academic affairs representative, alumni affairs and Center for Career Education representative, Student Services representative, delegate-at-large of finance, senior class vice president, and sophomore class vice president are also uncontested. While there was also minimal competition for some Engineering Student Council positions, three parties are now dueling for executive board seats on the Columbia College Student Council. Thong, the presidential candidate, said that her main goals were to better the experience of GS students on campus,

address financial aid concerns, and enhance relations with alumni. “I hope to improve their [GS students’] experience here, and from there, hopefully, that will improve our relationships with alumni when they leave,” Thong said. “A lot of financial aid depends on alumni donations to the school and the endowment.” Financial aid is a recurring

SEE GSSC, page 9



ELAINE BURCHMAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
UNCONTESTED | Jacqueline Thong, GS, discusses her campaign platform for GSSC president.

New bill may change charter school land use

BY SARAH DARVILLE
Spectator Staff Writer

Though charter schools in the city have been struggling to find classroom space, new legislation may make the process a lot more complicated. Community Board 7, which represents the Upper West Side, passed a resolution on Tuesday night encouraging more community input when charter schools plan to open inside of public school space. To New York City charter school advocates, however, that input is excessive red tape meant to handicap the expansion of charters, which are public schools accountable to the Department of Education but run by not-for-profit boards. Assembly member Daniel O’Donnell, who represents Morningside Heights, recently introduced a bill that would require public school buildings in the city to go through an extensive public review process before leasing or selling space. That process, called the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure, mandates that a charter school looking for a home in a traditional public school building would have to submit an application to the Department of City Planning. This

Quindlen resigns as Trustees chair

Jolyne Caruso-FitzGerald to step in next academic year

BY ALIX PIANIN
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

After serving for seven years as chair of the Barnard Board of Trustees Anna Quindlen, BC ’74 and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, is stepping down. The Board voted Tuesday evening to replace her with Jolyne Caruso-FitzGerald, BC ’81. Caruso-FitzGerald has been a Trustee since 2000. Quindlen worked for 18 years at the New York Times, and currently writes the back-page column at Newsweek. Her sixth novel will also be released this month. Caruso-FitzGerald previously served as vice chair of the Board and chair of the Budget and Finance Committee. Her election is effective at the end of the 2009-2010 academic year.

In an interview with Spectator, Quindlen said she thought now was an opportune time to leave, since she has seen Barnard through two major initiatives: the search for a new president and the construction and funding of the Diana Center. “As soon as I realized that the Diana was going to open in February, it seemed to me the end of this year was a perfect moment to hand off leadership to a new chair,” Quindlen said. Quindlen has led the Board since 2003, and is about two years into her second five-year term, which she will be ending early. While it had been rumored for several months that Quindlen would be stepping aside, when asked in February, she said she had no succession plans. When asked what she would be doing next, she said, “I will continue to serve the College in whatever way the administration and Trustees

see fit for the rest of my life.” Caruso-FitzGerald said in an interview that her experiences as a Trustee—which have also included a stint as co-chair of the Development Committee and a member of the Committee on Governance—have helped her better understand the inner workings of Barnard. Though, she added, “Anna has given me coaching.” “She [Caruso-FitzGerald] just was uniquely positioned to be the right person to chair the board. So I had no anxiety about any transfer of leadership,” Quindlen said. Caruso-FitzGerald said she anticipated working with Barnard President Debora Spar on three particular projects: developing Barnard’s Athena Center for Leadership Studies, globalizing the college, and expanding the endowment. Given her career experience, she may be particularly suited for that last initiative. Caruso-FitzGerald founded two firms

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JOY RESMOVITS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

NEW FACES | Anna Quindlen, stepping down as Trustees chair, cites the Diana as a major achievement.

INSIDE

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Campus a cappella groups hit a wide range of notes

Columbia’s a cappella groups are gearing up for their end-of-semester concerts with material spanning genres from indie rock to Motown to jazz. Each group has a slightly different performance style to match its preferred type of music.



Sports, back page

Bracey leads baseball team to league victory

Junior Dan Bracey has overcome lows in his college career to pitch his best season yet. He has helped his team win for the past several weeks, including a shutout victory against league foe Brown, and leads the team in ERA and innings pitched.

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Fork in the road

Anna Arons wonders whether to take the road less travelled.

Winter break controversy

A labor-less day for the working man should be incorporated into Columbia’s schedule.

Today’s Events

Why Oil Is Not a Curse

Pauline Jones Luong speaks on her new book about mineral wealth.
Lindsay Rogers Room, SIPA, 12 p.m.

New York Philomusica: Demos for Music Hum

Not paying attention in class? Listen to selections live from a professional chamber ensemble.
301 Philosophy Hall, 10 a.m.

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WEATHER

Today  Tomorrow 
85 / 60 **79 / 56**

Haakon’s Hall accuses Yelp of extortion, manipulation

YELP from front page

Amsterdam between 118th and 119th streets, contends that Yelp has manipulated his business’s Yelp page by moving up bad reviews as a direct result of his refusal to advertise with the site. He says the company promised to maneuver his restaurant’s reviews in an appealing fashion, under the condition that he pay for advertisements. “They’re blackmailing me to advertise with them,” Lenzi said. “They called me three times trying to get me to advertise. When I told them I couldn’t afford it, they said they could move around the reviews once I became a business client.” Lenzi’s claims of extortion are not unique. Over the last few



ANTI-YELPER | James Lenzi, owner of Haakon’s Hall, has launched a campaign against Yelp with fliers in his menus criticizing the website.

months, three civil lawsuits from across the country have been filed against the company, accusing it of extortion. One of these suits has developed into a class-action suit, which contends Yelp’s pages are biased in favor of businesses that opt to advertise with the site. But on Monday, the situation for Haakon’s Hall got a lot more complicated. Yelp announced that new measures would be implemented to increase transparency within the site. Yelp uses a “Review Filter,”—which the company says operates on an automated algorithm—to syndicate established users’ reviews and protect against fake or malicious content. This feature has been a source of controversy with opponents of Yelp, who argue that the filter is not automated and unbiased, but is rather a tool to intimidate businesses into paying for ads. In response, Yelp, through a link at the bottom of a business’ page, now allows users to see reviews that have been subjected to the “Review Filter” and taken off of businesses’ main web page. Policy change also impacted paying advertisers, who will no longer be able to post their “favorite review” to the top of their page. These moves come in the wake of the formal legal complaints, though the cases are still pending. When Lenzi found out this new policy on Tuesday and checked out his filtered reviews, he said he was infuriated with what he saw. Of 13 filtered reviews once inaccessible but now available for viewing, two were four-star ratings and the other 11 reviews had the full five-stars. “That is just awful,” he said. “They don’t know the damage they’re doing.” Despite the fact that filtered reviews, removed from the main page, average close to a five-star rating, Haakon’s Hall’s Yelp profile displays an overall rating of only three and a half stars, based on 34 reviews published. Lenzi also cited the fact that two out of the first four reviews visible on the page were one-star ratings as evidence of his page’s manipulation. There are only five total one-star ratings for his restaurant on the entire page, and two of those appear near the top. Yelp has categorically denied all claims of extortion. “Yelp does not manipulate review content to help advertisers or hurt businesses that don’t,” Chantelle Karl, East Coast public relations manager for Yelp, Inc., said in an email responding to questions about Lenzi’s accusations. “Never have, never will.” Yelp has attributed complaints like Lenzi’s to a misconception of

how reviews are placed on a business’s page, through the filter. Karl said, “This automated process sometimes creates the perception that reviews are being deleted and re-added over time; what’s actually happening is users are becoming more-or-less established over time.” These denials of any wrongdoing have not stopped Lenzi from being proactive on the issue. He has expressed interest in joining the class-action lawsuit, but for now, he has begun an anti-Yelp campaign within his restaurant. Below the listed foods and drinks in a menu pullout, a text-line embedded within asterisks instructs customers to boycott Yelp, “the internet Gestapo.” An anti-Yelp message will also accompany new additions in bound-menus, and Lenzi said he plans to place signs in his window. “They can make or break your business,” he said, adding, “This isn’t about money. It’s about destroying people’s dreams.” Professor Gita Johar, a marketing professor at Columbia Business School, recognizes the severity of the recent claims against Yelp. “With a site like Yelp, you reach people at the point when they want to make a decision,” she said. “The order of reviews can have a huge impact on the consumers’ ultimate decision.” Marketing Professor Kamel Jedidi of the Business School said that while the cases are played out in court, Yelp could suffer a major public relations blow.“Everything is based on trust and if trust is questionable, then they’ve lost their business’s purpose.” For Lenzi, who started his business in the summer around the corner from his home, these kinds of actions cannot be tolerated. He said, “Everybody’s afraid of Yelp ... But me? I welcome the fight.” news@columbiaspectator.com

New bill may change land review process for charters

SCHOOLS from front page

at the New York Charter School Association, which advocates for charter schools, said on Tuesday he thought the legislation was offensive. “What purpose is being served by putting in ULURP and making facilities even harder to obtain? There’s no child-centered focus here when you put up more and more roadblocks,” he said. “They’re trying to stop something good and this is nothing more than them protecting their turf,” he added. Debates about overcrowding in the north part of the district have focused on charters and neighborhood schools coexisting

Quindlen, BC ’74, steps down as Trustees chair

QUINDLEN from front page

on Wall Street, and is the president of the global investment company Platinum Gate Capital Management. She was also previously a managing director and global head of Absolute Return strategies at Lehman Brothers. “I know that both the College and the Board greatly look forward to her [Caruso-FitzGerald’s] ongoing leadership and support as Board Chair,” Spar wrote in an email to Barnard students. She added, “There are simply no words to describe what Anna’s leadership has meant to the College—our students, our campus, and our entire community.” The main lobby of the Diana Center is named in Caruso-FitzGerald’s honor. “I have very big shoes to fill,” Caruso-FitzGerald said. “Anna is such a name and a celebrity and

a role model.” During her time as chair, Quindlen remained visible to students, who said they appreciated her for attending the twice-yearly Midnight Breakfast. “Her dedication cannot be underscored enough,” said Verna Patti, BC ’11 and Student Government Association junior representative to the Board of Trustees, in an email. “I will definitely be sad to see Anna go from this position,” said Daphne Larose, BC ’10 and SGA senior representative to the Board of Trustees. Though she is graduating, Larose said that she was looking forward to seeing what Caruso-FitzGerald would accomplish. “I think she [Quindlen] did a wonderful job as chair ... at the same time, I’m excited to see what the future will bring.” alix.pianin@columbiaspectator.com

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Jean Gardner
Parsons School of Design/The New School

Information
The Athena Center for Leadership Studies
Barnard College
212.854.1865
barnard.edu/events

CLIMATE WISE WOMEN
A Conversation on Global Women’s Response to Climate Change

Thursday, April 8
6:00 PM
Diana Center Event Space
Barnard College

Join The Athena Center for the only New York stop on this international tour, as grassroots activists from across the globe speak out on the impact of climate change in their communities. This event is free and open to the public.

Athena
ATHENA CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP STUDIES AT BARNARD COLLEGE

A cappella groups make their own kind of music

BY LAURA OSELAND
Columbia Daily Spectator

There are so many a cappella groups on campus, sometimes it's hard to keep track. With study breaks, concerts, competitions, and recordings, as well as repertoires ranging from rock to indie to gospel, each a cappella group at Columbia boasts its own particular style.

A CAPPELLA WITH SOUL
"We like to pride ourselves on the fact that we have a lot of soul in our songs," Joy Harrison, BC '12 and **Columbia Clefhangers** business manager, said. And indeed, the Clefhangers perform everything from Motown to oldies, pop, and gospel music. Their performances are diverse as well, ranging from an upcoming performance at JTS to gigs at Days on Campus and the John Jay Awards Dinner. They are recording a CD over the course of this year, and their spring concert is in Wien on May 2.

GIRLS GO GAGA
Barnard's all-women's a cappella group, **Bacchantae**, is known for indie rock and pop stylings. According to Rebecca Gray, BC '13 and co-music director, however, the group is branching out. "We're implementing a lot of change in the group," she said, including a new arrangement of "I'm on a Boat" and a Lady Gaga medley. As Barnard's official a cappella group, Bacchantae sings at a variety of official Barnard events, in addition to study breaks and two concerts per semester. Their final concert this year will be at 8 p.m. on April 30.

MELODIC MEN
"We like to keep our music choices sexy," Ben Freeman, CC '10 and **Columbia Kingsmen** music director and president, said in an email. "Sexy like your grandma's lacy underwear you wish to God you had never seen. In other words, we sing Beatles, Beach Boys, Van Morrison, and other songs you could swoon to." The all-male Kingsmen hope to provide free alcohol at their spring concert in Lerner Party Space at 10 p.m. on May 1. The group also does a bit of traveling, making their way to Princeton and Wellesley this month after performing at the New York Yacht Club earlier in the semester.

TAKING NOTES
Besides themed concerts based on "Avatar" and "True Blood," **Notes and Keys** has performed at the United Nations, Dylan's Candy Bar, and the new Yankee Stadium. "We try to stay current,



CATHY CHOI FOR SPECTATOR

IN TUNE | Columbia's a cappella groups, including Nonsequitur (above), perform throughout the year, including at the Tree Lighting Ceremony each winter. Now the groups are preparing for their spring concerts.

arranging and performing pop music that is relevant at the moment. We sang a Michael Jackson medley as a tribute to his music shortly after his death, and we sing recently popular songs like Lady Gaga's 'Paparazzi' and Leona Lewis' 'Better in Time,'" Louisa Levy, CC '12 and the group's business manager, said. Their final concert, which will showcase the group's graduating seniors, will take place May 1 in Lerner C555.

SMOOTH JAZZ
Uptown Vocal is known for its flair for jazz, and as such, it has had some unique performance experiences. Often invited to perform at weddings, the group also recently hosted the Oxford Gargoyles from Oxford University and opened for a Ben Folds concert in New Jersey. Over spring break, Uptown Vocal went on tour. "We rented two vans and took our show on the road down the East Coast," Christopher Wang, SEAS '10 and

Uptown Vocal president, said. The group's final concert will take place at the end of April.

RECORDING DREAMS
Nonsequitur's repertoire ranges from Top 40 hits to Sufjan Stevens, Taylor Swift, and Billy Joel. Fresh off their stint at the quarterfinals of the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella at Brown, they also recently recorded a CD, which they completed in an EC Townhouse. "Basically, the entire group moved into the townhouse for a week. It was crazy," Elena Mayer, BC '10 and Nonsequitur president, said. The group's final concert, on May 2 at 8 p.m. in the Diana Center Event Oval, will honor its graduating seniors and mark the release of the CD. The group hopes that the CD, "Pass Us By," will be included on compilation CDs like Best of College A Cappella. "We're really, really hoping we'll be on BOCA," Mayer said. "That's kind of our dream."

Student group transmits wave of Korean culture

BY ELIZABETH FOYDEL
Spectator Staff Writer

For Jacky Ahn, SEAS '10, the overarching purpose of this year's KSA Culture Show is to be "simple, direct, and fun" in sharing both traditional and contemporary Korean culture with the Columbia community. As director of this Friday's rendition of an annual production by the Korean Students Association, Ahn has overseen the development of a show that includes everything from fan dances to k-pop and is part of a larger presence of culture shows on campus. This year's title and theme is "Hallyu: The Korean Wave." The term "hallyu," a Korean expression that literally means "a wave" or "fever," refers to the growing popularity and influence of South Korean culture around the world in recent years. Ahn and assistant director Joffre Andrade, SEAS '10, along with the over 100 students involved in the entirely student-run production, aim to draw from the student talent base to bring that wave to campus.

From the start of planning in October to this week's final rehearsals, they have worked to bring together an assortment of acts that capture Korean culture's past and present. A Korean fan dance features over a dozen girls donning traditional hanbok costumes and headdresses who use elaborately colored fans in mass arrangements. Korean hip-hop dance is performed to the tunes of k-pop. There will be a spoken word act, a screening of a film that looks at the more comical aspects of Korean culture, a tae kwon do display, and perhaps most characteristic of the show's take-home message, a Korean rock cover band that will perform a rock version of a historical Korean poem about love.

Another feature is the fashion show, which will eschew Western music in favor of Korean hits. Its theme this year is radio. "A big part of the fashion show, which fits in with our overall show theme, is the concept of sending radiowaves of Korean music at the audience," Ahn said. The presentation is more dynamic than typical runway offerings, featuring four scenes of choreography performed by models in Rebecca Taylor as well as Korean-American designers, and it serves as a stark contrast to the old-fashioned outfits worn by the fan dancers and the drum troupe.

Ahn and Andrade remarked upon their luck in being able to find so much talent in the Columbia pool. Performers turned out in droves for auditions, and while shows in past years have brought in outside features, Ahn and Andrade have made student performance the exclusive focus of this year's shows. Although much of their audience is usually Korean, the show is intended to be both a celebration of culture and an educational experience. Andrade, himself not Korean, said that a primary goal is to provide an accessible introduction to his "favorite part of Columbia—the diversity and the unique opportunities to see what are really unique cultures."

The effectiveness of Columbia's host of culture shows, Andrade said, derives from their professionalism and their ability to draw on the talents of Columbia students. The Chinese Students Club presented its annual Lunar Gala earlier this year, with student production teams putting together an art show and a fashion show. The student models who walked the runway in contemporary fashions were a big draw, as were the music and diablo Chinese Yo-Yo Club. The Asian American Alliance's theme for its culture-SHOCK fashion and culture show this year was "Lost & Found," playing on the search for and acceptance of Asian-American identity through Asian cultural offerings in American culture. Featured lines for the fashion show included Nicole Miller and Manolo Blahnik.

Although the recently emphasized fashion show elements would appear, on a surface level, to lean more toward entertainment than toward cultural immersion, the featuring of Asian-American designers and the incorporation of dance and music allows for a showcase that gives students a short but sweet taste of somewhat unfamiliar cultures.

Spring is in the air and on the plate with fresh asparagus salad

BY JASON BELL
Spectator Staff Writer

To suit a season that includes both chilly April showers and sunny May flowers, an ideal spring salad bridges the gap between refreshing and filling. In this dish, light asparagus slivers and bright pickled tomatoes play counterpoint to rich egg and a savory mushroom stew, making it a stunning dish for warm evenings out on the steps. Or, scoop the mix between two slices of baguette for a quick lunch on the lawns.

FOOD & DRINK

Shaved Asparagus Salad with Quick Pickled Tomatoes, Poached Egg, and Bacon Mushroom Ragout

Ingredients: Serves 4 hungry college students

1 bunch trimmed green asparagus (approximately 2 lb.)
2 c. halved cherry tomatoes
4 large eggs
1 c. shiitake mushrooms
1 c. cremini mushrooms
4 oz. roughly chopped bacon
1/4 c. red wine vinegar
3 tbsp. olive oil

1 tbsp. butter
1 tsp. chopped thyme
1 tsp. brown sugar
1 tsp. yellow mustard seeds
1/2 tsp. salt and to taste
1/2 tsp. black pepper and to taste
1/8 c. chopped onion
1 tsp. minced garlic

Mix together red wine vinegar, brown sugar, olive oil, sugar, yellow mustard seeds, ¼ tsp. salt, and ¼ tsp. black pepper in a sealable Tupperware container. Add halved cherry tomatoes and toss to coat thoroughly. Refrigerate for two hours.

Meanwhile, wash and roughly chop mushrooms. Cook the bacon in a large skillet until the fat renders and appears translucent. Add the onion and minced garlic and sauté until tender. Add the mushrooms, butter, chopped thyme, and remaining ¼ tsp. salt and pepper. Sauté over medium heat until mushrooms are tender and all ingredients are thoroughly combined. Keep warm over low heat.

Using a vegetable peeler, shave the asparagus lengthwise into a shallow serving dish. Toss with pickled tomatoes.

Crack eggs into separate ramekins. Fill a large saucepan with water, add a pinch of salt, and heat until just boiling. Reduce the heat until the water is simmering. Gently slide eggs out of ramekins into the water, using a spoon to keep whites formed around the yolks. Turn off the heat and cover the saucepan for two minutes or until the whites are opaque. Yolks should still be runny.

Spoon mushroom bacon ragout over the asparagus. Toss to combine all ingredients, then divide amongst four plates. Gently place a poached egg on each plate, sprinkle with salt and pepper to taste, and serve with crusty bread to mop up the yolk.

Movie theater chain remains 'Landmark' of indie film scene



BY JULIA ALEKSEYEVA
Spectator Staff Writer

All movie theaters are not created equal. New York in particular features a plethora of different movie houses, each with its own particular vibe, from Film Forum to the IFC Center. Of course, these idiosyncratic theaters tend to be New York-specific—most people spend years going to AMC after AMC, eating infinite quantities of overpriced stale popcorn. Experience has taught us that most good movies come in smaller packages, with long lines of ironic-mustachioed college students scattered somewhere along Houston Street. Finding a good movie in New York is never a problem, but try venturing on the other side of the Hudson.

There is perhaps one exception: Landmark theatres, a group of 55 theaters scattered around the United States. The Landmark Theatre group bridges the gap between the commercial AMC and the arthouse—it is currently the largest chain of movie theaters in the United States dedicated to exhibiting and marketing independent film.

The Sunshine, New York's Landmark, is located on the Lower East Side and is so popular that the lines for its movies—almost always the top-rated films of the hour—stretch past the block. The Sunshine has proven to be one of the highest-grossing Landmark Theatres in the US.

Landmark theaters often have trouble competing with cinemas that exclusively play blockbusters—unless it's Oscar season, Landmark theaters will rarely play films advertised on television. Regardless of this difficulty, the company survives through the steadfast loyalty of its clientele, which largely consist of two stereotypes: middle-aged intellectuals and college-aged hipsters (the latter may complain of the lack of vegan popcorn and promptly be scoffed at).

In cities around the United States, and especially outside of New York, the local Landmark tends to be the most popular place to see independent films, often because it is the only place to do so. The Landmark is nothing if not idiosyncratic—each city's particular cinema is decked in Art Deco décor, sells Magnolia Picture DVDs, and offers not only popcorn (with real butter) but vegan cookies. And, of course, there is the staff.

Most movie theaters are known to have a notoriously high turnover rate—these jobs tend to be easy to get, since employees quit and are hired left and right. Not so with Landmark, however. Employees tend to be college-educated, intelligent film geeks who stay with the company for years ... and years ... and years. Applications to the job are usually laughed at and promptly discarded (mentioning "Avatar" in an entrance interview is not recommended). Most employees have been with the company for at least four or five years. And yes, often the employees tend to be of the skinny-panted variety.

This gives the Landmark a very peculiar vibe. The chain is as well-known for the hipster snark of its employees as for the supreme quality of its films. The kid ripping your tickets might be simultaneously reading

Flannery O'Connor. The cinemaphile in the box office is most likely just as educated (and elitist) as the student moviegoer.

Julia Alekseyeva's biweekly series Subculture and Cinephilia examines hipster culture's influence on the acceptance of current films and the film industry.



COURTESY OF EGOTVONLINE

LOCAL LANDMARK | The Sunshine, Manhattan's Landmark movie theater, features only independent films.



The Shaft

Spectator’s comprehensive housing guide

For the latest updates on the selection process, check out The Shaft’s liveblog at columbiaspectator.com.

The housing lottery is a scary process — we’ve been here long enough to know that. What it doesn’t have to be is complicated, and that’s why we’re here to help. Below, find your group by point value and group size, and find out where you’re likely to wind up.

30 points

- 4

There are a scarily large number of these — 47, to be precise. There are seven **East Campus** six-person high rises and 40 EC six-person townhouses, but a few are lost to RAs, and a few more are lost to special interest housing. It’s possible that one of the very top groups will drop to general selection to snag the **Watt** studio singles, but probably the cutoff here for everything EC sixes is around 2500. Groups below that, don’t despair yet — it’s possible that some of the groups in the 2000-2500 range will elect to drop to Senior Regroup rather than take one of the dozen six-person townhouses that have one double. The others will have to settle for the new six-person suites in **Ruggles** (with two doubles) or the one suite in Claremont, or drop to Regroup.

58 of these, which is a rather terrifying prospect. Six available in **Claremont**, 10 in **EC** (though a few gone to RAs). 16 in **Hogan** (with a few to RAs, again), eight in **Ruggles** (a few to RAs, once more). So probably half of these groups are actually going to get four-person suites. EC/Ruggles/Hogan should be gone by 30/1200 or so. **Claremont** will probably drop some, but anyone in the back half of the 30-point draw here should get ready for Regroup.
- 3

Eight of these, which should get everyone into either a **Claremont** three or a partial suite with an RA in **Hogan**, **Ruggles**, or **EC**, which are likely the targets of groups with RA friends.
- 2

84 of these, it would appear. These will axe all 35 twos in **EC**, the 11 two-bedroom apartments in **Watt**, and most of the dozen one-bedroom **Watt** apartments, too. All the high-demand H, K, and C lines in **Woodbridge** should go, too, and some of the medium-demand lines. Which of these options goes where will depend, as it always does, on personal preference — all of the above have various pros and cons (except the two-bedrooms in **Watt** — those are gold, gone by 30/1000 at the absolute latest) — but even the worst off here can rest easy with either a **Watt** one-bedroom or a **Woodbridge** medium-demand line.

- 5

It’s 31 groups for seven EC all-single high rises and 10 fives in **Hogan** — those are the choice options, and will probably both be gone between 30/1000 and 30/1500. After that, we could see as many as 37 of the 56 **ECX** suites fall to 30-point groups — more if other seniors regroup to get them, less if all-senior groups don’t want to take a double and instead regroup toward something else.

Claremont

Houses a mix of all years with sophomores and juniors picking into the seven-person suites and seniors picking the smaller ones. It’s kind of far from campus, but nice and close to Riverside Park.



Elliot

Two large suites (eight singles, two doubles) on each floor. It’s a safe bet if you’re dead-set on a single, but they’re miniscule.



Hewitt

Mostly singles on corridors. It’s the surest way to get a single as a sophomore, but the bathrooms are kind of gross.



Sulzberger Tower

Two suites per floor, six singles and one double in each suite. The views are amazing, but you share the building with first-years.



Woodbridge

Juniors and seniors pick into the studio doubles of

Legend

- Air conditioning
- Laundry facilities
- Wireless
- Computer Labs
- Laundromat
- Bank
- Grocery store

Plimpton

Five-person all-singles suites, four per floor. Each suite has a bathroom (with a bathtub) and a full kitchen with a refrigerator and gas oven/stove. It’s great because it’s all singles and they’re relatively large (especially the corner rooms), and there’s a big study lounge on the ground floor and a plasma TV, but it’s kind of far from campus, especially in the winter, and the common space is minimal.



East Campus

This 20-story complex houses juniors and seniors in a variety of housing arrangements. Sophomores have a shot at the Exclusion Suites. Seniors will find themselves among friends and among the week-end party crowd.



600 W 116th

Mostly doubles in suites of between two and seven people (mostly six-person suites). Each suite has a bathroom and kitchen, and there’s a TV lounge on the second floor. It’s very close to campus and a good option for sophomores, but it’s right above Ollie’s, so sometimes it smells.



616 W 116th

Doubles and singles in five- and six-person suites. The location is great and the rooms are big (especially the corner doubles, at 235 square feet). Unless you’re lucky enough to get the front-facing rooms in one of the six-person suites, though, you’re going to be on the shaft.



620 W 116th

Floors 1-4 are comparable to 616, with a mix of singles and doubles in mostly five- and six-person suites. Floors 5-10 (seniors only) are all singles in mostly four- and five-person suites. There’s no computer lab and no TV lounge — you have to go to 616 for that.



Wien

Bathrooms on the top four floors were recently renovated — they’re nice. The rest of the bathrooms will be redone this summer. Wien

5 There are 39 **ECX** groups—23 of the 30-point variety (three seniors, two non-seniors), 15 at 26.67 (two seniors, one junior, two other non-seniors), one 20-point group (no seniors)—and 56 **ECX** suites. The count of 39 is actually, far lower than last year’s 58, possibly reflecting the numerous 23.33 and 20-point groups that were left out. Juniors, to their credit, appear to have wised up. With 31 other five-person 30-point groups, there should be 14 that don’t get an all-single five-person suite in **EC** or **Hogan**. As always, we’ll have to wait to see how many of those 14 decide to suffer the double to ensure space in **EC** and how many seniors use Regroup to snap up some of the remainder. Our best guess, then, is that all the groups at 26.67 sneak in. Meaning, knock on wood, that far fewer **ECX** groups are likely to be disappointed—an unusual development, indeed.

4 A bunch of these, and we can’t quite figure out why. **Ruggles**, **EC**, and **Hogan** will be long gone. It’s conceivable, with a stretch, that a **Claremont** suite might slip through. Beyond that, perhaps they have eyes on the groups that can fill up **RA** townhouses in **EC**? Hard to know. Slim pickings here, though.

20 points

8 All we can say here is wow. No fewer than 24 (!) groups of eight are in play, and there are only 14 suites available. Sorry juniors, but the days of an all-but-guaranteed spot in **Ruggles** with an eight-person group are long gone. (Advance prediction for next year: some juniors start luring seniors by offering up the singles in order to boost point values—we thought that might happen this year, but this might serve as a wake-up call.) One of the top groups might drop to General Selection, but the cutoff here should be with one of the three groups clustered around 20/2000. (It really is painful to see this—yours truly snuck in last year with Ruggles this time around. Our thoughts go out to rising juniors in this boat!)

2 It’s possible that a few **Woodbridge** suites from the low-demand lines slide through to the top few groups here, but don’t count on even that. Most, then, will turn to **Watt** studio doubles. Some will drop to General Selection, certainly, as old junior standbys such as **McBain** walk-throughs have been renovated out of existence. Some others to **Nussbaum**, and maybe some to **Broadway**.

the rest

the **RA** suites they’re likely targeting, though)—again, maybe something in **Claremont**, by chance, or the odd five-person suite on the first floor of **Ruggles**.

7 Unfortunately, those 10 seven-person suites in **Claremont** that were once the domain of lucky all-sophomore groups this year likely won’t get to any. With 12 groups of seven before the 10-point round even starts, they’ll likely all be gone to groups that wisely pulled in juniors, unless some of those drop to General Selection.

2 and the rest For 10-point groups, this is pretty much everybody else—any groups of eight or six or four are almost certainly using the Sophomore Pair-Up option, so they can be counted among the dozens of groups of two to pick here. Where do they go? In very rough order: **Broadway**, **Nussbaum**, **Furnald**, **McBain**, **Schapiro**, **EC sixth floor**, **Harmony**, **Wien**. But there really is no order there—all of these dorms have some rooms that are better than others, so to each his own. (Yours truly, again, bemoans the fact that **McBain** rooms are now virtually all the same—no more hidden gems there.) Just do yourselves a favor and look around at all the floor plans when you get into the housing cage to make sure you’re seeing all the options. We really do feel for rising sophomores—it’s probably going to be slim pickings once it gets to that point. But fear not—just try to pick onto the same floor with a group of friends, and you’ll be fine. (And enjoy your last few weeks in Carman—you may never have it that good again.)

Woodbridge. Each room comes with air conditioning, a kitchen, and a bathroom.

Schapiro

Home to mostly sophomores and juniors, Schapiro has nice kitchens and is in a good location—close to campus, Morton Williams, and that tasty halal stand on 115th.

River

The singles—many of which have views of the Hudson River—generally go to seniors, who live in suites with shared bathrooms and kitchens.

Hogan

Seniors reign in the highly sought-after Hogan, which offers proximity to campus and **Broadway** combined with spacious suites composed of singles. Each suite comes with a kitchen.

Furnald

A quieter dorm for first-years and a handful of lucky sophomores, **Furnald** is on campus, close to Morton Williams, and a stone’s throw from Lerner.

Broadway

Rooms are mostly singles housing juniors and seniors with a few doubles on each floor at the corners of hallways that house sophomores. The kitchens are kind of small, but **Broadway**’s pretty nice.

Watt

A very popular building composed of apartments and studios with their own kitchens and bathrooms. Rooms lack AC, though.

McBain

Features both spacious doubles for lucky sophomores and small doubles on the infamous “shaft”—our namesake!—for the lottery’s bottom-feeders. Singles go primarily to juniors.

Nussbaum

This dorm houses sophomores in the doubles and seniors in the large singles attached to suites. The lobby is hotel-like, which is kind of nice, but space in some of the walkthrough doubles is inequitably distributed.

601 W 110th St

Two- to nine-person suites with a combination of singles, doubles, and triples. It’s more apartment-style living, if that’s your thing—non-students live there as well—but it’s also far from campus, and there’s no computer lab or printer.

Hartley / Wallach

The two dorms are home to the Living Learning Center and are not part of Suite Selection or General Selection. Hartley’s two-level suites are particularly desirable. Each suite boasts a large common area and kitchen. Drawbacks include the lack of control over suitemates and **LLC** rules against alcohol. **LLC** applications were due in December.

Ruggles

Ruggles continues to increase in demand. Juniors will still take some big suites, but they’re no longer guaranteed to get them.

Cathedral Gardens

Singles and doubles in four- to six-person suites, with a kitchen, bathroom, and common area in every suite. The suites are gorgeous, but it’s about a 15-minute walk from campus, which can suck in the winter.

houses sophomores in singles and doubles. Residents proudly call themselves “Wieners.”



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ANNA ARONS

Two Cents and Sensibility

teacher, and what else is a history major good for?" (My opposition to teaching history can perhaps be traced to my high school history teacher's arrest at our senior carnival, but that's a different story). My advisor raised his eyebrows and said, "Your major doesn't determine what you do. You can do whatever you want with a history major." At a liberal arts school, he told me, I could explore my interests without worrying about a career.

My advisor's words were liberating and enlightening. I was at the very beginning of my college career, already fretting over what would come at its end, and he reminded me that I could focus on the path directly in front of me, instead of roadside signs like, "History Teachers, Merge Right," and "Caution: Grad School Ahead."

Even as I took that advice to heart, my path here has been direct. Nine Ways of Knowing, major, internships—I undertook each, always knowing what was expected of me and what was ahead. Now, with six weeks until graduation, the signs marking the path have all but disappeared, and like many of my fellow seniors, I have no idea where my next step will fall. We've spent three and a half years preparing—but for what?

As much as we might want to say that we're just here to learn, man, the fact is that a majority of us is here for the job preparation, man. For some professions, this preparation is overt. My SEAS brethren gain practical and useful knowledge, much more applicable to a job than my ability to ramble on about Frank Lloyd Wright's plans for a utopia (it has spaceships!). Engineering students seem to exit college to a waiting career, just as premed students seem to exit college to a fully planned life, from medical school to internship to residency (replete with sordid affairs, fights, and helicopter crashes, if television is to be trusted). These students may be more constrained in the short term, having less leeway with course selection and spending their Orgo Nights studying instead of feasting on pancakes at

Reading the signs

In my first meeting with my advisor at Barnard, he asked me what I wanted to major in. Hoping to impress him with my readiness and certainty, I didn't hesitate: "History, definitely—but I would never want to be a history

Midnight Breakfast, but now, their path is well-marked.

Among those of us who embraced the promise and freedom of a liberal arts education—"Take what you want! You'll learn how to think!"—our paths remain unclear. The classes were rigorous, the majors strict, but they did not funnel us into particular careers or directions.

According to Wikipedia, liberal arts educations are "aimed at imparting general knowledge and developing general intellectual capacities." My liberal arts education has achieved that (though perhaps you disagree, considering my propensity to cite Wikipedia), and my thinking has matured as I've explored wide-ranging interests without feeling constrained. I am, of course, not alone in this: it is the result of a successful liberal arts education. We have a solid grounding, but that determines very little about our futures. We urban studies majors could pursue city planning, enter the corporate world, go to law school, or start a make-up line—all paths that urban studies graduates have taken, as a former professor gleefully told us.

When I was a kid and people asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up, I always answered, "Veterinarian"—one of those professions with a clear-cut path. But by middle school, my squeamishness around blood, guts, and cat ladies ruled out that field, and since then, I've been casting about for a replacement. When I'm asked about my future now, I can give an answer for where I see myself in 10 years. But as for where I see myself next year, I'm much less certain. I have a vague destination, but my path is peppered by signs like "Law School, Next Right ... Or Maybe Left" and "College Ends, Figure Out Where to Merge."

For the first time in my life, I don't know what lies beyond the next curve (although I'm crossing my fingers that it's employment). This is a somewhat terrifying prospect, so I remind myself that I will have 40 working years to figure out this path and that I don't need to know yet—this would be more comforting if it didn't also remind me that I have to work for 40 years. My path is winding and uncharted, and its signs are generally unhelpful: "Road Ends, ? Miles" and "Blind Curve Ahead." The only certainty is uncertainty, leaving us no choice but to explore the unknown—exactly what the liberal arts education requires of us. The path may be untrodden, but we arrive at its head with the tools to clear it for ourselves.

Anna Arons is a Barnard College senior majoring in urban studies. Two Cents and Sensibility runs alternate Wednesdays.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Parlez-vous pass/fail?

One of Columbia's most publicized and praised facets is its foreign language program. The University boasts departments from French to East Asian, Slavic to Germanic, with faculty dedicated to teaching a wide variety of languages. But unlike many other, often equally demanding, classes, language courses cannot be taken pass/fail. While the reasoning behind this is well thought-out and shows appreciation for the unique experience of participants in language courses, it is inadvertently punitive.

The policy came into practice roughly 30 years ago on the initiative of the language instructors themselves. The reasoning behind the prohibition of the pass/fail option was to ensure that all students participated to the best of their abilities. If any one student in a language class of 15 doesn't do the work or actively engage with his or her peers, the rest of the class suffers. Ten years ago, the department heads reaffirmed their support for this decision. While there are individual exceptions in rare cases, the language faculty remains committed to this policy, and it does hold a certain logic, as frustrating as it often is for students. However, this logic does not hold for upper-level classes.

Students in advanced language classes have already put in a great amount of effort and accomplished a certain level of proficiency. They have proven their dedication to the language. However, as worthy as foreign language study

is, it may not be a student's main focus during his or her time as an undergraduate, and logistics should not discourage him or her from exploring the upper echelons of linguistic acquisition. A student in a third-year language class—of whom one can assume a level of dedication that one cannot from an average first-year language student—should be able to take the class pass/fail. This is particularly true in the case of classes where the language is the means, not the end—classes in French literature conducted in French or with French readings, for example. Students are allowed to pass/fail English literature courses, which, to a certain extent, also aim to improve one's fluency in English while furthering an appreciation for something besides the language. This policy should be implemented for foreign language classes as well.

Columbia mandates two years of foreign language study or the equivalent to expose students to other cultures, places, thought patterns, rhetoric, and peoples. To know another language is to have a second soul, as the saying goes. But to inhibit those who have proven themselves dedicated to these mantras for the sake of a policy, not the principle, is unfair to talented and driven language students. With respect to upper-level language courses, department heads and faculty members need to learn to say "change." Whether they use Czech or Hangul to do so matters little so long as this policy is revised.

These are the breaks

"Breaks on a stage, breaks on a screen

Breaks to make your wallet lean

Breaks run cold and breaks run hot

Some folks got 'em and some have not

But these are the breaks"

—Kurtis Blow, "The Breaks," 1980

BY COSMO GUZZARDI

The Columbia winter holiday break controversy rages unabated. Tempers are flaring and tensions are high. Academia is now like a volatile tinderbox, ready to burst at any minute. Presently the fuse burns at the point of determining whether the fall semester should begin before Labor Day to afford more time between final exams and winter break. Several arguments have been made for and against this idea, but there has not been much talk of the Labor Day holiday itself.

Students and professors here lead a demanding academic life. Those who want to excel must be prepared to endure a lot of stress, including but not limited to spending late nights in the office or at Butler Library, researching and preparing for exams while navigating inner New York, and staying well fed and healthy in a cramped and smoggy city. But let's talk a little bit about labor.

Most Ivy Leaguers may or may not be familiar with an actual life of labor and the unique stress that it brings. I'm not talking about the steely psychic endurance that it takes to memorize long documents but the physical willpower and fortitude necessary to wake up before dawn every morning and get showered and ready to go mow lawns, turn wrenches, mop floors, stock shelves, count change, or patrol sidewalks, for hours on end, days on end, months, years. That's labor.

We'd all like to think we live in solidarity with the working person. Many heavy volumes exist on the state of labor, with much of the important research undoubtedly coming from within these very walls. All of us, students and faculty, surely do chores at home or do volunteer work involving thankless, menial tasks. We're all good folks. And at some point someone at the top even gave the working stiff

their own holiday, Labor Day. And when it comes to that day and a break from our own duties, we all stand in serious, immutable solidarity with the noble laborer.

But Columbia students are not laborers. Neither are Columbia professors. Most of us hope we never will be, or that we will never have to be. Nobody ever worries about being forced into the life of an academic in order to put food on the table. Because whether you credit your presence here to your own hard work, heredity, the name of your high school, or the gullibility of the admissions or tenure committee, there are many others who had the same attributes who, for whatever reason, never made it. Whether student or professor, whether looking for babysitters before Labor Day or sleeping at LaGuardia on Christmas Eve, you are lucky to be here. I am lucky. We are all very lucky.

The brotherhood of man is a wondrous thing. But one look at the demographic difference between the staff and employees of Columbia and the student body puts the lie to the idea that we all have equal obligations and stresses in this life. But priority remains on the holiday. Here's an idea: rather than leaving Columbia's campus a ghost town on Labor Day, with everybody gone (or everybody here), why not give the actual employees the day off while the students and faculty hold classes without them for one day? Ever wonder what a day at Columbia would be like without the guy who wipes the tables at Ferris Booth Commons or without the trash cans on campus being emptied as students stand around and discuss Foucault or which bars and restaurants they'll be frequenting tonight?

Obviously nobody is paying tens of thousands of dollars per semester to empty trash cans. And I'm not suggesting we go that far, especially since I probably came pre-loaded with more experience than most in that field. And yes, I've had to scrub toilets in order to buy food before, and not just to avoid being grounded or to put diversity of experience on my law school résumé. I'm happy to leave my nose in a book for now, and I'll stay fascinated by Foucault for as long as it keeps me from having to punch a clock for sheer survival.

But how about one day (Labor-less Day?) of no service or labor at all on campus to see what it's like? And it might even help with that whole winter holiday break thing in the meantime, somehow.

The author is a student in the School of General Studies majoring in classical studies.

The uphill battle for pre-professionals in SEAS

BY SRIKANTH DAMERA

GPA's are of the utmost importance for pre-professionals at Columbia. This holds true whether you are a student in Columbia College or in SEAS. However, during my time at Columbia it has seemed as though it is considerably easier to achieve and maintain a high GPA as a student in the college. Maintaining good grades is dependent upon three things: the number of classes being taken, the difficulty of the material in each class, and the nature of the curve. If we compare the course load of the average SEAS premed and the average CC premed, it seems to me that the SEAS student has a much more demanding workload. Even when comparing the easiest (in terms of major requirements) major in SEAS, applied math, to a major in CC with relatively demanding requirements such as biochemistry, the SEAS student must take at least six more classes. A similar comparison can be done between the financial engineering major and any of the economics joint programs. Students of both programs compete for the same jobs. However, a financial engineer takes all the classes of their counterparts with the exception of at most three classes, but must take at least ten more.

Not having taken these classes myself and having limited information about their difficulty, I will leave it ceteris paribus and assume the same level of difficulty among the content of all classes. This leaves the curve as the final deciding factor in my equation for maintaining a high GPA. Assuming science classes in the college curve similar to engineering classes, only humanities classes and the engineering core and electives need to be compared. I have the general sense that in the college it is very difficult to get an A and nearly impossible to get an A+, but by the same token it is hard to get below a B. This differs from engineering classes, where roughly the top 16 percent gets an A- or higher and the top two percent gets an A+, but about 50 percent of the class also gets a B or lower. While the potential to get a high grade is definitely greater in SEAS, if you are an average student, you are never going to see that advantage, and will probably do worse than your average counterpart in the college. It seems fair to say that pre-professional students in the college can choose to have fewer classes and on average receive higher grades. This seems to suggest that SEAS students are constantly working harder for lower grades, which is a sorry state of affairs.

As a high school student, college life was one of the things I looked forward to. I

actively anticipated the freedom to simultaneously go out and have a good time, excel academically, and participate in extracurricular activities. However, as an engineering student, I feel that such opportunities keep evading me. While I am active in CU Global Health, I would like to participate in more athletic and academic clubs. SEAS students have a notorious reputation for being anti-social and awkward, but most of us really do not fall into that category. We do not have the time due to reasons stated earlier to go out and socialize as much, and more importantly, assume positions of responsibility in extracurricular activities. Aside from the student councils, students from the college dominate leadership positions in most clubs—at least, it appears that way, which is enough to actualize the stereotype. Not only does the academia of the college lend itself to maintaining a higher GPA, but it also causes a snowball effect where it even helps college students stand out in their extracurricular activities.

My main concern with the status quo is that talented and qualified students from SEAS must compete with their college counterparts and are deemed less com-

It seems fair to say that pre-professional students in the college can choose to have fewer classes and on average receive higher grades.

petent or lacking in soft skills. This type of discrimination often occurs during the internship process, job placement, and graduate school applications. It is unfair that students must constantly work harder to retain a competitive GPA and still lose out. While I admit that I have an inherent bias being a premed SEAS student, I think that, presented as objectively as possible, the facts support my opinion. I also do not want to demean students in the college, many of whom are exceptionally hard working and intelligent. As a premed in applied math, having talked to many other premed and finance pre-professionals in SEAS, I understand many of the problems that we experience. To correct these inequities, change must come from the engineering school itself. Possible modifications include providing stronger disincentives during freshman year to being a pre-professional in SEAS or improving the curving within the engineering departments. As things stand, SEAS students have an inherent disadvantage relative to their college counterparts.

The author is a sophomore in the School of Engineering and Applied Science majoring in applied math.

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

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Date with an MD

5 Horse of a certain color

9 One of the March girls

13 Funny fromage

14 "La ___ 6 mobile": "Ragazzo" aria

15 Declare openly

16 Extremely defensive state of mind

19 Pablo Neruda work

20 Landlocked Asian sea

21 Spats spots

22 Trial in simulated conditions

24 Short orders in a luncheonette?

25 Giant Mel

26 Refined Cunard liner, briefly

27 '60s protest gp.

30 Physical play

34 Joint problem

35 Pig Latin refusal

36 Precipitous start?

37 Limoges product

38 Gardener's areas

39 Abstemious one

41 Caps or Cat precursor

42 Seedless bit of flora

43 Channel where Susan Lucci hawks her jewelry line

44 Funny Fey

45 Ghoulish

49 ___ rod: powerful Old Testament tool

52 Luminous glow

53 Objective

54 Sam-I-Am's story

57 Margarine

58 Condos, e.g.

59 Like Cheenios

60 This puzzle's theme—according to Twain, it's "a good wisk spoiled"

61 Insignificant

62 Prejudice

DOWN

1 Monk's superior

2 Bluenose

3 Sappy trees

4 Drug in Shatter novels

5 Like I, in some cases

6 Turow work about first-year law students

7 Political commentator Coulter

8 Hollywood's Wood

9 Goofy on the mound

10 Activity from below?

11 Schlep

12 Major res.

14 Diminutive celeb sexologist

17 Like garden smells

18 Not behind

23 Frat party garb

24 Assailed

26 Part of

27 Dirty

28 Beach sight

29 Headline (n)

30 Teases

31 Beasts of burden

32 Word processor command

33 La Scala production

34 Togo neighbor

37 Medical imaging proc.

39 Stiffen

40 They heft Tara's title

42 Helsinki native

44 "... next and ... hog": "Macbeth"

45 Like some basements

46 Religion founded in 19th-century Persia

47 Cowboy's rope

48 Small-screen awards

49 Wide-eyed

50 Woody's offspring

51 Fishing gear

52 Not far

55 Wildebeest

56 Driver's lic. info

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

J	I	L	L	O	F	F	S	E	T	I	O	S
A	L	E	E	S	L	E	E	V	E	E	C	
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N	O	V	A	E	I	N	S	I	D	E	R	
P	L	A	N	E	F	A	T	S		S	I	N
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R	O	C	K	Y	M	A	R	C	I	A	N	O
Z	O	O	T	E	E	E	H	O	M	E		
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M	I	G		A	T	T	L	E	E	B	A	L
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By Deena S. Levine

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Donahue may add Ivy head coach to BC staff

VELAZQUEZ from back page

coach in a major conference, as he was an assistant coach at Villanova for six seasons before coming to Columbia. Jones, like Donahue, is regarded as a solid recruiter, which any head coach would love to have as an assistant.

Before I could think of any more reasons this could work, Spectrum published an update saying that Jones had been contacted and that he had said he was not the Ivy League head coach who had been asked to be Donahue's assistant at Boston College. While Jones's saying that does not absolutely preclude him from going to BC—or anywhere else for that matter—it does make it infinitely less likely. What he does with his career is his decision, and I'll leave it at that.

Jones may be out of the running, but that means that there's still a mystery afoot. There are six other coaches that could have been approached about joining Donahue, and while I cannot say that I have any legitimate idea as to who that could have been, I'll do my best to narrow down the options.

There are two coaches—Penn's Jerome Allen and Harvard's Tommy Amaker—that it wouldn't make sense for Donahue to contact, because they seem to want to stay at their current schools. Allen was just announced as the Quakers' head coach after filling that position on an interim basis last season, while Harvard reported on Friday that the university and Amaker are currently discussing a multi-year contract extension.

Two other coaches jump out at me as people Donahue probably would not have contacted, but for different reasons. Mark Graupe became the interim head coach at Dartmouth in the middle of this season after Terry Dunn

resigned. The job with the Big Green marks Graupe's first head coaching gig, which means he's probably eager to stick around if the Dartmouth athletic department decides to keep him on—though that's not a foregone conclusion. On the other end of the spectrum, Sydney Johnson has built quite a team at Princeton in his three years. The Tigers went 11-3 in the league this year, and most of their top players are coming back next year. I have no doubt that Princeton will be predicted to finish first or second in the league next year, and with a chance to bring his team to the promised land of the NCAA tournament and make a name for himself, why would Johnson leave?

That leaves two coaches: Brown's Jesse Agel and Yale's James Jones. These two seem more likely than the other four just mentioned to have been contacted by Donahue. Agel has been the head coach of the Bears for just two years, but he has logged 19 years as an assistant coach between Brown and Vermont. In his role as an assistant coach, Agel was widely respected, and a move to Boston College as an assistant coach could be considered by some as a step up. Jones, on the other hand, has been at Yale for 10 years and has been successful in reshaping that program during his tenure. It isn't very likely that Jones would leave, but that doesn't mean he couldn't have been contacted.

That's the best I could come up with. Remember, there's a chance that Donahue never did contact any other Ivy coaches and that anything could happen (or not) in the coming days and weeks. I guess we'll just have to wait and see.

Matt Velazquez is a Columbia College senior majoring in history. sportseditors@columbiaspectator.com

GSSC candidates run mostly uncontested

GSSC from front page

problem that GSSC has sought to address, since GS students, who are typically financially independent, cannot always access the aid that they need at an undergraduate school with a comparatively smaller endowment.

Thong also said that she would like to foster a stronger relationship with and increase collaboration between the four student councils. “We have really lacked in participation this year,” she noted.

Though she said that being the only candidate makes the process somewhat easier, the lack of competition could potentially hurt student participation in elections.

“It's a nice feeling,” she said. “But on the other hand, the more people run, the more students will get excited about it.”

Her current position, vice president of finance, is one of two that are contested this year, with contenders Daniel Lagana and Chin Kim.

Lagana said that he would like to change the way GSSC spends its money, focusing specifically on the allocation of funds for sponsorships. He also wants to fund more events that are not primarily social. “I think events that are philanthropic, that have an academic and professional bend to them, are what we need to focus on,” he said.

Kim said he wants to take advantage of GS students' talents and expertise in order to create a better sense of community.

“The school is so diverse that to try to build a sense of community is very difficult,” he said. “I think that's the challenge ... that we face as a school, but I think any challenge can be turned around and utilized to our benefit.”

Bracey helps Lions to victories against Bucknell, Brown

BRACEY from back page

game. Bracey contributed to the Lions' four-game sweep of Bucknell two weekends ago with a seven-inning complete-game start. In what was arguably his best start since putting on a Light Blue uniform, Bracey racked up ten strikeouts without walking or hitting a single batter. He allowed just one run on five hits to lead Columbia to a much needed 5-1 win. Bracey's performance earned him Ivy League Pitcher of the Week honors.

Bracey came out strong yet again in his most recent start against Brown this past weekend. The righty threw his second consecutive seven-inning complete game, this time surrendering just four hits while not allowing a single runner to cross home. He fanned six batters without allowing a single base-on-balls in the 7-0 shutout.

“These last two outings, I feel like, have been my first two where I feel like I've had more or less complete command over all three of my pitches,” Bracey said. “A lot of times you just need a few games to fine-tune your mechanics for game situations and other lineups that you aren't used to facing.”

From looking at the numbers, Bracey is spot-on about displaying pitch command, especially in his most recent outings. The junior currently leads the team

in ERA (4.26), innings pitched (31.2), strikeouts (26), and batting average allowed (.258) and has thrown Columbia's only two complete games of the season. Undoubtedly, Bracey has found his groove on the bump, but he also taken on a role as one of the ballclub's leaders.

“I like to think of myself as someone who can motivate other players, and especially the younger guys, considering we have two in the rotation,” explained Bracey. “I feel like I can offer some advice to these guys, even if it's just that they had a tough outing and I can reassure them that it has happened to me and it happens to all of us and you just have to build off it.”

As for the rest of the season and Ivy League play, Bracey plans to stick with the simple approach that has led him to his most successful college season so far.

“I'm going to be taking the same approach as in the last couple of outings because I've been in control with that approach,” said Bracey. “It's going to be about executing one pitch at a time. Worry about the pitch that you have to throw and not the situation and who is on deck. I can just execute the pitch, then good things will happen.”

The Lions take on Rutgers this afternoon at a 3:30 p.m. matinee at Robertson Field before back-to-back doubleheaders at Dartmouth and Harvard this weekend.



JASPER CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PITCHER OF THE WEEK | Bracey is having his most successful college season yet. His improved pitching earned him Ivy League Pitcher of the Week.

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Check the Spectator tomorrow to see how the baseball team fares against Rutgers in their game this afternoon at 3:30pm at Robertson Field.

TOMORROW



SPORTS

TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2010 • PAGE 10



Check out the Spectator Sports page tomorrow to read about junior Kevin Kung, an unheralded piece of the men's tennis team.

TOMORROW

Another Ivy coach going to BC?



MATT VELAZQUEZ
The X-Factor

I said it in my last column, and I'll say it again: There's been a lot written in this paper about Cornell and its basketball team. Was some of it warranted? Sure. Is an Ivy League sports page the market for stories about a different Ivy League school's team? Sometimes. Was I going to hop on that bandwagon? Not at all, it's not my place.

However, something happened on Tuesday that changed my stance, though not by much. Anyone with half a brain knew that Steve Donahue was done coaching Cornell after the season the Big Red had had. He coached the team to a third straight league title, led them to the Sweet 16, and won the Clair Bee National Coach of the Year Award, and the Big Red's three stars—and five other seniors—are graduating this year. On Tuesday, Donahue accepted the job of coaching Boston College after Al Skinner was removed from the head coaching position after 13 years on the Eagles' bench.

My first reaction: Good for him—the change is good for his career. Donahue's departure to the ACC will definitely have some effect on the Ivy League, but if it weren't for the final paragraph of a story written by ESPN.com senior writer Andy Katz, there would be no basis for my writing this column.

"Multiple sources in Indianapolis said that Donahue had contacted coaches about joining his staff with the Eagles, including at least one other Ivy League head coach," Katz wrote.

Hold your horses—this just got interesting. The proverbial \$1,000,000 question here is: which Ivy head coach did Donahue contact if the sources are correct and he did actually contact one? Once we know that answer, then the obvious next question is, will that coach actually go?

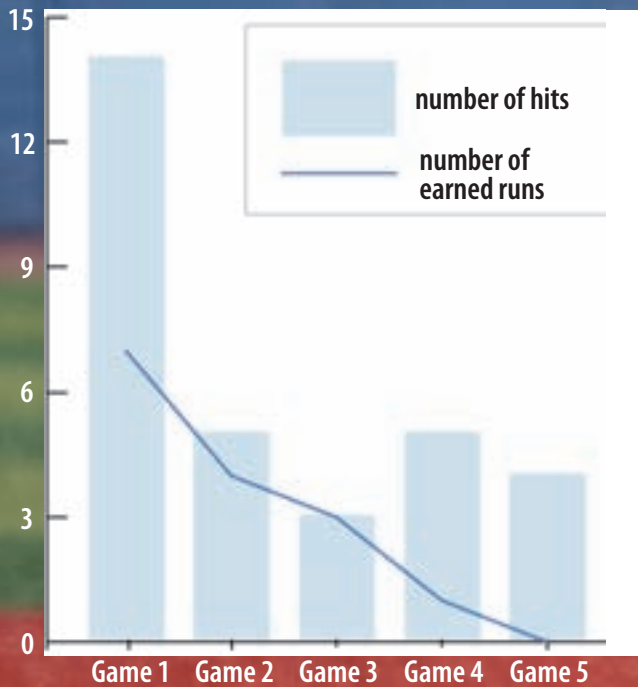
Immediately I, like many others, began to wonder if Columbia's own Joe Jones was the head coach in question. And why not? According to former Spec basketball writers, Jones and Donahue thought highly of one another, and any press conference that involved either of them involved a healthy amount of one gushing in admiration about the other. Along with their mutual admiration, Jones has experience as

SEE VELAZQUEZ, page 9

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

pitching IN

Junior pitcher Dan Bracey leads Columbia to victory over Brown with complete game shutout



BRACEY FOR IMPACT | Pitcher Dan Bracey has bounced back from career lows to lead his team in the last two weeks.

BY MICHAEL SHAPIRO
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Columbia's baseball team, fresh off winning three out of four games in its first weekend of conference play, has looked promising this season. While the Light Blue struggled from the mound during nonconference play, the Lions have demonstrated consistent pitching since returning to Robertson Field. Starting pitcher Dan Bracey, CC '11, has led Columbia's efforts from the hill over the past week and a half with a couple of great outings.

Bracey hails from Providence, R. I., where he served as captain of both the basketball and baseball teams at East Greenwich High School. He finished his career with an overall record of 19-5 and a blisteringly

low 1.98 ERA. Bracey's transition from high school to college-level ball was not considerably smooth as his numbers hit personal collegiate lows. Now a junior, Bracey notes the difficulty of making the jump to NCAA baseball.

"As a pitcher in high school it's easy to stand out a lot of the time because the lineups you are facing tend to have only two or three really strong hitters," said Bracey. "Once you move to the next level, college, every player is recruited for a specific role so the number nine hitter on a lot of these teams were cleanup hitters for their high school teams."

As a freshman, Bracey racked up a 7.03 ERA with a 2-6 record in 16 appearances and four games started. While his first year on the Light Blue was far from perfect, Bracey was awarded the win in the Lions

championship-clinching victory for striking out one batter.

Last season, Bracey was inserted into the starting pitching rotation and took a break from bullpen appearances. Bracey tossed a season-best performance against Cal State Northridge in which he was allowed just one run on four hits in a 10-1 Columbia victory. The outing earned him the honor of Ivy League Pitcher of the Week for the week of March 24, 2009. Despite noticeable improvements in terms of endurance and control (six less walks than in the previous season in eight more innings pitched), Bracey posted yet another 2-6 record with a slightly improved 6.23 ERA. However, he allowed fewer runs than in the previous season and struck out six more batters.

In 2010, Bracey started off the season rocky but has tossed two of the best games of his collegiate career in his past couple of starts. In his first game of the year against UNLV, Bracey had trouble holding runners on base and let seven scattered runs cross home over six and two-thirds innings of work. Columbia lost the game 11-4 and Bracey picked up his first loss of the season.

Despite the shaky start, Bracey bounced back in his second appearance against Kent State. In six innings pitched, he held the Golden Flashes to just three runs, but it wasn't enough to earn the Lions a win as they fell 5-2. Bracey was charged with his second loss of the 2010 campaign, as Columbia's offense couldn't match its adversary's bats.

The Lions' pitching hit a season low in the Light Blue's one-game affair against St. John's on March 24 in which Columbia lost 22-21. Bracey looks back on the game as a "fluke" but nevertheless saw it as a turning point for the pitching staff, as defense in general went uphill following the big loss.

"In the post game meeting we looked at each other and said we weren't going to let that happen again," Bracey explained. "I think it was important for us to realize that we have to tighten up our skills from there, and we are 9-1 since that game so I think we have done that."

Not only has pitching improved as a whole, but Bracey himself has dominated in his two outings since the St. John's

SEE BRACEY, page 9

Baseball faces Rutgers after successful weekend

The Columbia baseball team will take on Rutgers this afternoon, concluding a ten-game homestand.

The Lions (11-12, 3-1 Ivy) are coming off a successful Ivy opening weekend, as they swept Yale on Saturday before splitting two games with Brown on Sunday. The Light Blue's loss to the Bears in the second game of the doubleheader ended an eight-game win streak that began on March 27.

Though Columbia's pitching staff struggled earlier this season, it has put up much better numbers since March 27, giving up only three runs a game on average. The Light Blue is led by junior Dan Bracey, who has an earned run average of 4.26 and a 2-2 record. Bracey pitched a complete game shutout in Columbia's first game against Brown on Sunday, a 7-0 Light Blue win.

While the pitching settled in, the bats have remained hot, as the Lions have put up an average of almost six runs per game.

Sophomore Jon Eisen leads the team with a .388 batting average, while sophomore Alexander Aurichio has a team-high 22 RBIs.

The Scarlet Knights (15-11, 5-1 Big East) are coming off a 10-2 win over Princeton yesterday. Rutgers is led by freshman Steve Nyisztor, who has a batting average of .368. He is only one of seven Knights hitting over .300.

Though Rutgers is strong offensively, its pitching is another story, as the Scarlet Knights possess a team ERA of 6.88.

The game is scheduled to begin at 3:30 p.m. today at Robertson Field.

—Michele Cleary

Lacrosse falls to Lafayette despite strong start

After holding the lead for the majority of its match against Lafayette on Tuesday, Columbia was unable to hold on for the win. Using a five-goal scoring streak late in the game, the Leopards were able to overcome the Lions 13-11. With the loss, Columbia's record falls to 4-5, while the Leopards improved their record to 3-10.

At the start of the game, Columbia fell 1-0, but responded with two goals by Brittany Shannon and Frances Callaghan, taking a lead that they would hold well into the second half. When the Leopards evened the score with another goal, the Lions shot back with two more, this time scored by sophomore Sarah Avallone and freshman Kacie Johnson. The Lions continued to stay narrowly ahead throughout the remainder of the half, bringing the score to 7-5 at the break.

In the second half, the two teams took turns putting points on the scoreboard. Taylor Gattinella, Shannon, and Johnson each had a single goal for the Lions, while the Leopards put in three goals of their own, bringing the score to 10-8. However, Lafayette began to build its momentum at this point in the game, stealing the Light Blue's lead with a four-goal run and ending the game two points above the Lions at 13-11.

Offender Shannon led the Lions in scoring with four goals and an assist to Gattinella, while Johnson added two goals and an assist. Olivia Mann won a team-high five draw controls for Columbia, while Avallone had a close four.

The Lions will be back in Ivy League action this Saturday, April 10, when they host Brown at 1 p.m. at Robert K. Kraft Field.

—Julia Garrison

Softball sweeps doubleheader against Marist

For the first time this season, the Columbia softball team (8-17, 1-3 Ivy) swept a doubleheader against an opponent with two convincing wins over Marist (4-18).

Early in game one, it looked as though the Light Blue might have difficulty with their opponent, as Marist scored two runs in the top of the first inning. Outfielder Ashley Corriass had a leadoff single and came home to score on the second wild pitch thrown by right-hander Jessica Rakonza. At that point, Columbia head coach Kayla Noonan substituted Maureen O'Kane into the game. She picked up the final two outs in the first and kept on rolling with five scoreless innings for her third win of the year.

Kayla Lechler led off the second with an infield single, which turned into a six-run inning for the Lions.

Maggie Johnson led off the third inning with a single to center

and was brought home by Anne Marie Skylis' RBI to plate her team's seventh run of the game. Columbia scored two runs in the fourth and one more in the sixth to take a 10-2 win.

Senior infielder Dani Pineda hit a two-out double for her team's first hit of the second game. She came around to score on a pair of errors by Marist first baseman Lindsay Durant. Johnson hit a two-run shot to left center field to make the score 3-0 at the end of the first inning.

Columbia scored two runs in the sixth inning and Johnson gave up no earned runs (two earned), to earn the 5-2 win.

The Lions return to Ivy League competition this weekend with road games at Dartmouth on April 9 and at Harvard on April 10.

—Christopher Brown

For an extended recap, check www.columbiaspectator.com.