

Fireside chat focuses on pressure

BY ABIGAIL GOLDEN
Spectator Staff Writer

“How many of you think that you do want to have both—children and a career?” Debora Spar, president of Barnard College, asked at a fireside chat on Monday night.

Among the 13 attendees in the Diana Center’s Judith Shapiro Faculty Room, all but two hands went up.

While the talk was intended to focus on telecommuting and Yahoo CEO Marissa Meyer’s recent decision to ban working from home, the conversation at the event quickly evolved into a broader discussion about the challenges women face in balancing family and a career.

“I do think there’s a knee-jerk reaction in both men and women to expect women to be solving work-life relations, more than men are expected to solve them. And that’s just not fair,” Spar said.

Bunge Okeyo, BC ’13, said that the topic of telecommuting was an overly specific one.

“For me, I like to think about problems on a systemic level,” she said. “I think it’s a good thing to discuss, but it’s not necessarily how we solve the problem.”

Spar has written about the challenges that women face in working to balance a career and a family. She also has a book on the subject coming out in September, “Wonder Women: Sex, Power, and the Quest for Perfection.” Her 2012 essay in the Daily Beast, “Why Women Should Stop Trying to Be Perfect,” sparked discussion about the topic on campus and has come up in her fireside chats ever since.

SEE SPAR, page 2



DAVID BRANN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BALANCE IS KEY | Barnard President Debora Spar spoke about pressure at the latest fireside chat.

Technicality lets campaign violation fly

BY TRACEY WANG
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Richin Kabra, CC ’16 and a candidate for class of 2016 representative on Columbia College Student Council, violated campaign regulations on Monday when he sent a mass email to students, promoting his candidacy. But—despite the Elections Board’s knowledge of this—he may not be penalized due to a technicality.

In the email, which reached as many as 250 students, Kabra asked, “Against Monopoly? Want a bigger, more diverse platform for CC as rising sophomores?” He included links to his campaign platform and to the voting site.

According to the CCSC

rules and regulations handbook for campaign conduct, Kabra was acting in direct violation of Section V, which states that “sending unsolicited mass emails to students not known by the candidate is prohibited.”

A School of Engineering and Applied Science first-year student who received the email forwarded it to the CCSC Elections Board. Elections Board Chair Norita Mengu, CC ’13, directed him to an official form because, in accordance with Section XI of its rules, the Elections Board could not issue any potential sanctions until it received a formal complaint.

Mengu said that the form, which asks that the submitter

identify the rule allegedly violated and provide evidence of the violation, is crucial to the process of reporting a violation because it prevents students from making frivolous claims.

“It is effective, because it prevents people from just saying, ‘Oh, this is a rule violation.’ It forces people to look into rules and regulations, because they have to state which rule the candidate violated,” she said.

For his part, Kabra said that he spoke to Public Safety before sending out the emails, because it is against regulation to send mass emails using Columbia addresses without

SEE CAMPAIGN, page 2

CB7 votes not to support NYCHA plans

BY AVANTIKA KUMAR
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Community Board 7’s housing committee on Monday night called for a moratorium on private development on the grounds of Frederick Douglass Houses.

The resolution came in response to the New York City Housing Authority’s controversial plan to build three market-rate apartment towers

within the public housing complex between Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue and between 100th and 104th streets.

The unanimous vote is only advisory. It comes as the agency prepares to release a request for proposals to develop co-chair Nick Prigo.

Prigo said the fact that the full board may not be able to pass a resolution before the request is issued reflects the “completely ridiculous” deadlines of

NYCHA’s project.

At the meeting, NYCHA officials Frederick Harris, Katherine Gray, and Bryan Honin emphasized that the proposal aimed to raise capital to make up for the agency’s budget deficit and to ensure that it has money to maintain existing public housing. They also further explained the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development’s review process for the proposal, which requires documentation of resident engagement.

Although the meeting was not as rowdy or emotional as NYCHA’s previous meetings, attendees took issue with both logistical considerations—such as the fact that the proposal removes parking spaces and green space—and NYCHA’s efforts to engage the community.

Housing committee member Madelyn Innocent, who is a Frederick Douglass resident, said that the speed of the process reflects NYCHA’s disregard for real public engagement.

“You really don’t listen to us,” Innocent said. “You don’t want the residents’ input.”

Democratic District Leader Bob Botfeld said that in the four presentations on the proposal he has been to, he has not seen any indication that NYCHA has taken into account residents’ concerns. Cynthia Doty, also a Democratic district leader, said the agency would need to find a way to demonstrate genuine

SEE NYCHA, page 2



LUKE HENDERSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PARTICIPATE | Locals doled out \$1.9 million in funding to five different projects in the second year of participatory budgeting, in City Council member Melissa Mark-Viverito’s district.

Locals celebrate role in funding

BY EVA KALIKOFF
Spectator Staff Writer

A celebration marking the second year of participatory budgeting in City Council member Melissa Mark-Viverito’s district honored the six projects chosen to receive \$1.9 million in funding, including laptops for schools and senior centers, a solar-powered greenhouse, and new security cameras for public housing.

Through participatory budgeting, residents propose and vote on projects to receive extra funding. This year, 1,780 residents voted in Mark-Viverito’s district, which includes Manhattan Valley and East Harlem, on how to allocate

Columbia Admirers shuts down for good

Decision to end profile follows warnings from Facebook, hiatus

BY ABBY ABRAMS
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Columbians may have to embrace the advice of Columbia Admirers celebrity Keanu Ross-Cabrera, CC ’16, permanently: “Talking is good.”

After Facebook temporarily shut down the popular account on Sunday—leading the page to take what it called a hiatus—the group behind the page esday.

“It is with a heavy heart that CU Admirers comes to bid our fellow followers and friends farewell,” the group, remaining anonymous until the bitter end, wrote. “It has been a fruitful four and a half months in what started as an endeavor spearheaded by five people ... as a mode to release romantic frustrations or express any form of awe as we understood and undergone [sic] the social awkwardness that plagues our community. We also wanted to add another element to campus life that wasn’t necessarily attached to academics. One that would also be nice for procrastination.”

The account was initially blocked after receiving multiple warnings from Facebook that users were reporting “offensive” posts to the site. Now, the page seems to be shut down permanently.

“Unfortunately, it is difficult to make it to 8000 posts without making a few enemies (movie taglines do not lie),” the letter said, referencing the advertisements for “The Social Network.” “However, it has been hard work to please everyone with our posts and make it beyond Facebook guidelines without a scratch,” the Columbia Admirers moderators wrote.

On Tuesday, another Columbia Admirers page was created on Facebook. The

creators of the original Columbia Admirers page told Spectator that they were not behind it.

Students had mixed responses to the end of Columbia Admirers, with some saying they had enjoyed reading the posts and others acknowledging that some messages might have made recipients feel uncomfortable.

“I thought it was nice. I had friends—and I did this too—who’d say, ‘Is this ambiguous one about me?’” Marisa Onanian, CC ’16, said.

Nita Ponnaganti, CC ’14, said she liked Columbia Compliments, the page that inspired Columbia Admirers, but that she had not added Columbia Admirers as a Facebook “friend.”

“I like Columbia Compliments, but Columbia Admirers is a very different story,” she said. “If there was something that was offensive, then it makes sense to want it taken down ... Sometimes it’s intrusive. It doesn’t give you a license to be creepy.”

Other students defended the account, saying the group behind Columbia Admirers was usually respectful of students.

“I feel like the site was really considerate in asking if anyone wanted something taken down at all,” Donju Min, CC ’13, said. “I think the majority of people enjoyed it and thought it was adding to the Columbia experience, as long as they were positive.”

Noah Turett, CC ’16, said he found the page interesting, but was “mostly impartial” about its end. He added that he thought the page could continue if its moderators were to control posts more tightly.

“Maybe if they had a stricter way to screen them and do a background check or prevent

SEE ADMIRERS, page 2



DAVID BRANN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

HOME | Madelyn Innocent, a resident in the Frederick Douglass project, criticized NYCHA for not listening to locals’ input.

OPINION, PAGE 4

After sexual assault

Sexual comfort level is crucial to understanding sexual assault.

Columbia thinkers

When you look for yourself in a group, you forget to think for yourself.



SPORTS, BACK PAGE

Women’s tennis in contention for Ivy title

Get an inside look into the recent turnaround of the women’s tennis team in today’s feature.

EVENTS

Feminism in the Blogosphere

A panel discusses feminism in blogging.

304 Barnard Hall, 7:00 p.m.

SPECTRUM

Do the Don’ts

Tired of advice columnists telling you what to do? Find out what not to do with bloggers Jenne O’Brien and Misha Solomon.

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Students defend, criticize CU Admirers’ role in campus culture

ADMIRERS from front page

weird ones, it would be fine,” he said. “Some of them could be pretty inappropriate.”

“I think the majority of people enjoyed it and thought it was adding to the Columbia experience, as long as they were positive.”

—Donju Min, CC ’13

Many students thought the end of Columbia Admirers would push admirers from afar to post on other anonymous Facebook pages, such as Columbia Compliments,

Columbia Fantasies, and Columbia Insults.

“You know people are going to start posting this stuff on Columbia Compliments now, like ‘I see you in Butler,’” Sonia Bansal, SEAS ’14, said.

Still, some students felt Columbia Admirers had served an important purpose, regardless of the posts’ intent.

“The ones I got were mostly from my friends and were really silly—it was just a way to have fun,” Onanian said. “Some were serious though. Some people met through it, and that’s cool. It’s sad to take that away.”

The Columbia Admirers goodbye letter encouraged students to continue spreading its message of kindness.

“Hold doors, compliment shoes, say hi, or partake in any other form of kindness if it does not physically or mentally harm you,” the letter said. “This isn’t exactly a goodbye, as we cannot help but be involved in campus life, but rather a ‘c u later’ if the need should ever arise.”

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Formal complaint submission required to penalize candidate

CAMPAIGN from front page

stated permission. After Public Safety gave him the go-ahead, Kabra said that he emailed about 200-250 people, all in groups of 10 or 20.

He said he was not aware that sending the email was a violation of campaign regulations, and that if he had known, he would not have sent the messages.

Mengu said that the process for reporting a campaign violation has proved to be extremely successful and is unlikely to change in the near future.

“There are a lot of places where we can improve, but process for notifying rule violations works well right now, and it’s probably one of the better-working parts of our system right now,” she said.

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In attempt to block NYCHA, CB7 housing committee OKs resolution

NYCHA from front page

responsiveness to the qualms residents have expressed.

“So far, most of these meetings have been very controversial,” Doty said, adding that she doubted NYCHA would report to HUD that resident input was “as emotional as it has been.”

“So far, most of these meetings have been very controversial.”

—Cynthia Doty,
Democratic District Leader

NYCHA hosted its first round-table discussion on the infill proposal today at a different location and plans to hold one for Frederick Douglass Houses next week.

CB7 chair Mark Diller, CC ’80, said that although the board plays a purely advisory role, he hoped that no one would take the committee’s vote lightly. Diller said the process had demonstrated a “gap in effective engagement” on the part of the agency.

Harris, NYCHA’s executive vice president for development, told Spectator that he would treat CB7’s decisions “like any community input.”

The community board “doesn’t govern NYCHA,” Harris said.

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DAVID BRANN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

FEEL THE PRESSURE | SGA VP for Communications Malvina Kefalas, BC ’14 (l.), organized the fireside chat and noted that the topic of perfection has come up for Spar multiple times this year.

Perfection, pressure recurring themes for Spar

SPAR from front page

Spar discussed the news involving Meyer, who ignited a media firestorm when she banned telecommuting, drawing backlash from critics who said it would disproportionately affect working mothers. Spar also mentioned former Lehman Brothers Chief Financial Officer Erin Callan as a woman who had run afoul of the pressure and criticism that come with trying to have it all.

Callan wrote what Spar called a poignant New York Times op-ed several weeks ago about the sacrifices she made for her work and how her job came to define her. In the piece, Callan wrote, “Inevitably, when I left my job, it devastated me. ... I did not know how to value who I was versus what I did.”

Students spoke about the pressure to be perfect in both their personal and academic

lives, and Spar said she recognized the challenges that the students faced.

“It’s interesting that regardless of context of discussion, perfection comes up.”

—Malvina Kefalas, BC ’14,
SGA Vice President for
Communications

“It’s not Barnard-specific, it’s any elite college. The competition for the number of majors you all can have, it’s a bit nuts,” she said.

Spar suggested that those

students who were visible in leadership roles on campus had a “moral burden” to narrow down their priorities and demonstrate that it’s all right not to try to do it all.

Vivian Tsai, BC ’15, said that Spar’s discussion of limitations was thought-provoking.

“It felt very empowering for someone you deem to be successful talking about the sacrifices that she or he had to make,” she said. “You realize that you’re not the only one struggling.”

SGA VP for Communications Malvina Kefalas, BC ’14, who organized the event, noted that the recurring topic of perfection in Spar’s last fireside chats was telling.

“It’s interesting that regardless of context of discussion, perfection comes up,” she said. “It’s obviously something important to Barnard students.”

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LUKE HENDERSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY | At the close of the second year of participatory budgeting within City Council member Melissa Mark-Viverito’s district, locals said that they were pleased with the process.

Locals thrilled to see votes play role in funding

BUDGETING from front page

million dollars that was offered to the neighborhood and what it can actually do.”

Mark-Viverito invited Carmen Yulin Cruz, mayor of San Juan, Puerto Rico, who plans to take participatory budgeting to her city.

“If we are going to be doing participatory budgeting, which we are in San Juan, it’s because of what we have learned here from the people of New York and District 8,” she said. “It is important that we build bridges between the city of San Juan and the city of New York because there are more Latinos in New York than there are in Puerto Rico.”

Barbara Lee, a budget

facilitator, said that she was thrilled to see both of the projects that she worked on—the SMART mobile kitchen and the solar-powered greenhouse at Milbrook Houses—go through.

“It’s great. We worked so hard,” she said, emphasizing the importance of promoting health, particularly in East Harlem, where two-thirds of the population is obese.

“The mobile classroom can get to senior centers and schools,” she said, adding that the greenhouse will benefit the community. “Disconnected youth seem to get engaged by growing things.”

Agnes Rivera was a volunteer for Community Voices Heard, an organization that Mark-Viverito credits with

introducing her to participatory budgeting in the first place.

“I’m ecstatic about it. I’m so proud and honored,” Rivera said, grinning after the outcome of the vote was revealed. “All of them were very special projects needed for our district.”

Mark-Viverito, who gave the keynote speech at Yulin’s inauguration in January, was excited by the results of participatory budgeting in her own district and the future it has in places like Puerto Rico.

“I look forward to the day that I can go to San Juan and see how participatory budgeting is being implemented,” she said, to loud cheers from the audience and a big smile from Yulin.

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KIERA WOOD / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

LEADING BY EXAMPLE | Senior Alex Black leads the team in both batting average and slugging percentage.

Consistent offense leads Lions to victory

BASEBALL from back page

Lions' offensive success. In every inning except for the eighth, the home team had a runner in scoring position. And Columbia's five runs were distributed across four different innings.

"It's good to see us do some things in multiple innings," Boretti said. "We left a few guys on in different situations, but I'd rather leave guys on base than not have guys on base."

Sophomore third baseman David Vandercook, sophomore center fielder Jordan Serena, and senior first baseman Alex Black each had two hits in the game.

"We've definitely been aggressive in our zone. That's what coach preaches," Vandercook said. "At least today, a lot of good hacks—hitting the ball hard—at

pitches we know we can hit."

Vandercook scored two of Columbia's runs and has been one of the Lions' most dangerous bats as of late. After homering and hitting a triple in his last outing at Brown on Tuesday, the sophomore had a single and a double.

Aside from the three-run third inning, Columbia's pitching was stellar as well.

Sophomore righty David Spinosa got the start for the Lions and gave up two unearned runs, handing the game over to the bullpen after facing two batters in the third. Junior righty Zack Tax gave up one unearned run in two innings on the hill. From that point on, a quartet of Columbia relievers kept the Red Storm off the scoreboard.

"The guys came out of the bullpen.

We didn't walk anybody," Boretti said. "That's the biggest thing—when guys come into the game ready to go, throwing strikes. Those guys responded well."

Freshman lefty Thomas Crispi contributed two scoreless frames. Another freshman, Kevin Roy, was on the hill for 2/3 of an inning and did not surrender a run. Sophomore lefty Mike Weisman handed the game over to Black after throwing 1 1/3 innings. The senior closer shut the door on St. John's, striking out a pair in a scoreless ninth.

"It feels good. Going into another weekend, we've got Cornell coming in, and we're just trying to be playing our best in the end," Vandercook said. "Hopefully we can keep it going."

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Women's tennis establishing itself at top of Ancient Eight

TENNIS from back page

Weintraub also cited the team's dedication in off-season workouts and tournaments as one of the factors responsible for its success.

"We always have the goal of being the fittest team in league, and I think we've reached that goal," Weintraub said. "And that helps us prevail in these close matches."

Although the Lions have a chance to go from the bottom to the top of the Ivy League in just two seasons, they haven't gotten ahead of themselves.

"I think it's really important to take things one match at a time," Weintraub said.

The team's road to an Ivy crown will certainly feature close contests, as the Light Blue will face Brown, Yale, Penn, and Princeton in the next few weeks. The 13-2 Yale Bulldogs and 10-5 Princeton Tigers, in particular, may pose challenges for the Lions.

But if the team continues to play like it has, women's tennis could very well be bringing some hardware to Morningside Heights at season's end.

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KIERA WOOD / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

CRYSTAL CLEAR | Sophomore Crystal Leung is one more Lion having a stellar season, winning 11 of 12 singles matches.

Athletics should evaluate which sport is biggest priority

BERNSTEIN from back page

Shockers have not shied away from innovation, making progress by changing things around. Wichita State's senior associate athletic director Rege Klitzke explained to the AP that, in their conference, "Football isn't a money maker ... If you compare ourselves to fellow conference schools, not having football is a big advantage."

We need to change something to find our own "big advantage." We simply can't continue to spread ourselves thin by investing such significant amounts of both capital and resources into so many different sports—many that have continued to show no signs of progress year after year.

Consider the larger social impact of such a bold move as cutting a large university athletic program. While fans of other Missouri Valley Conference members must divide

their attention between football and basketball, Wichita State is able to boast the 10,500-person crowds that Coach Marshall talks about. Because their students have fewer options, the students' attention turns to basketball.

Given the history and the nature of the Ivy League, cutting out football is not the right move for Columbia. But a more effective reallocation of resources and a stronger administrative commitment to several key programs could propel Light Blue athletics to new heights.

With the Ivy League fielding more sports teams per school than any other conference, a decision to concentrate resources on fewer teams could yield great rewards.

Alexander Bernstein is a Columbia College first-year. Contrarian Review runs biweekly.

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AROUND THE IVIES

In latest in Harvard cheating case, admins intimidate deans

BY NICHOLAS P. FANDOS AND SAMUEL Y. WEINSTOCK
Harvard Crimson

The Harvard administration threatened to severely sanction a resident dean who shared with two students an internal email advising Administrative Board members on how to counsel undergraduates implicated in the Government 1310 cheating case, four College administrators said Monday.

Nearly a month after top administrators released a statement saying that the forwarded advising email was "an inadvertent error and not an intentional breach" by the resident dean in question, Cabot House Resident Dean Emily W. Stokes-Rees said that the administration gave a "strong indication that termination was a possibility" for her fellow resident dean at the time of the threat.

The threat is one of a number of concerns raised by resident deans since news broke last month that Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Michael D. Smith and the University's Office of the General Counsel authorized secret searches of the resident deans' administrative email accounts in an attempt to stop what they later characterized as a leak of information, including the advising email, to the media.

Those concerns intensified after Dean of the College Evelyn M. Hammonds told faculty at their monthly meeting last Tuesday that she had authorized an additional, previously unknown round of searches of the administrative and faculty email accounts of a single resident dean identified by the original search.

In a breach of FAS faculty email privacy policy, Hammonds did not notify Smith of the second search.

A College administrator familiar with the details of the investigation, who asked to remain anonymous because of its confidential nature, said that the resident dean was warned at the time of the searches in September that an additional mistake similar to the sharing of the advising email, even if accidental, would result in a severe sanction.

FAS spokesperson Jeff Neal declined to comment Monday night on the sanctions threatened against the resident dean in question.

Senior Resident Dean Sharon L. Howell and another resident dean

who asked to remain anonymous said that the threat calls into question the accuracy of a March 11 statement by Smith and Hammonds which indicated that administrators decided "not to take further action" after the first round of searches of all the resident deans' accounts.

"Although the Resident Dean's actions violated the expectations of confidentiality surrounding the Administrative Board process, those involved in the review and the conversation with the individual were sufficiently convinced that it was an inadvertent error and not an intentional breach," the statement read.

Howell, Stokes-Rees, the anonymous resident dean, and the College administrator all took issue with the characterization that the forwarding of the email was "inadvertent" and a "breach."

The information in the advising email, authored by Secretary of the Ad Board John "Jay" L. Ellison, was intended to reach students implicated in the case, they say, and the resident dean in question was just trying to help students deciding whether or not to withdraw from the College.

"This was not an inadvertent forward; it was an advising moment," Howell said. "I think this is something that any of us could have done."

Howell added that the email did not include any confidential information, and thus did not amount to a "loss of confidentiality," as Hammonds described it in her prepared remarks at last Tuesday's faculty meeting.

The confidentiality statement attached to Ellison's email indicates that it may "contain confidential or proprietary information and may be subject to confidentiality protections." But it does not say that the email may not be forwarded by recipients, only specifying that unintended recipients "may not review, copy or distribute this message."

Resident deans also contested Hammonds's defense that she made her decision "to secure the confidentiality and integrity of the Ad Board's process and prevent disclosures of student identities and cases to the media." Implicit in that explanation, they said, is the suggestion that resident deans were not trusted to safeguard student privacy.

In order for resident deans to do their jobs, "students need to feel confident in our communication,"

Howell said.

Stokes-Rees added that the searches have already created anxiety among some students, who are more hesitant to trust the confidentiality of their interactions with resident deans.

"I have students who I have corresponded with over the past few months becoming very, very nervous about whether the content of our correspondence could have been viewed, as well as parents of students expressing concern," Stokes-Rees said.

In addition to the challenges posed by resident deans, Smith and Hammonds's original March 11 statement contained a number of inconsistencies.

While it said that the searches had been limited to a subject-line query of the administrative email accounts of all resident deans, at last Tuesday's faculty meeting, Hammonds cited her "failure to recollect" the additional queries, which included the names of Crimson reporters covering the Government 1310 case as search terms and probed both the administrative and faculty accounts of the resident dean identified in the first search.

In her remarks, Hammonds also said she had authorized that second search with the approval of the Office of the General Counsel. Neal declined to comment Monday night why the General Counsel did not correct the original statement.

Resident deans claimed that these continued inconsistencies offered by administrators, particularly Hammonds, have strained the trust so vital to the function of the Ad Board. Though they are not the only members, all resident deans sit on the Ad Board.

Stokes-Rees said the breach of trust between Hammonds and the resident deans is not irreparable, but will require each to be willing to work to a solution moving forward.

Hammonds made a public apology in her appearance at the faculty meeting last week, and though she has not yet addressed the resident deans as a group, she has begun to meet with them individually, Howell said.

The Ad Board is scheduled to meet for its regular meeting Tuesday afternoon for the first time since Hammonds announced the second round of searches.

A version of this article was first published in the Harvard Crimson on April 9.

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Types of thinkers

I’ve written a bunch of columns about Columbia as an institution. But I haven’t focused much on the student body. Today, I have tried to write about how Columbia students think. I’ve come up with these four schools of thought that I think most students fall into. Rereading this, it sounds like a shitty version of the Breakfast Club.

Perhaps Columbia is best known for the first type of thinkers: the bleed- ing hearts. The bleeding hearts did a lot of really cool stuff in the ’60s. But since then, they have become rebels without causes, to a degree. A bleeding heart derives most of his (or her, or “ze”) energy from a strict diet of Quinoa, cage-free eggs, and celery. Instead of coffee—since fair trade is so hard to find—most bleed- ing hearts rely on anger from watching Ann Coulter on YouTube to get going in the morning. That being said, the bleeding heart doesn’t have it all that bad. His think- ing is already done for him by Rachel Maddow, which makes things very easy. The bleeding heart is most likely offended by articles like this. He thinks the shirt you’re wearing is heteronormative.

The conservatives find the bleeding hearts hilari- ous and devote their time to trolling them. They have traditionally conservative beliefs on everything. Except, of course, LGBT issues. And marijuana legalization. And maybe abortion. OK, they pretty much just want lower taxes. The real reason they bought a rifle after Obama got re-elected was to overcompensate. They spend their days sipping mint juleps and mourning the death of Ronald Reagan. But again, their situation isn’t as grim as it appears since Ron Paul handles all their mental heavy-lifting. Plus, they don’t have the burden of worry- ing about the huddled masses like the bleeding hearts do. Walmart will get us out of this recession, after all.

The hipsters, on the other hand, don’t really fit into a category, you know? They’re kind of this niche category that you probably haven’t heard of. Food is too main- stream, so the hipsters live on American Spirits and PBR. But they ironically like parodying hipsters (obviously). Actually, one of the hipster’s favorite activities is to deny being a hipster. It’s kind of like a drunk girl slurring her speech as she denies being drunk. Hipsters don’t have to think at all because they have deemed the world hope- less and accepted apathy as their Weltanschauung. They also all take German. The hipsters are like the college equivalent of the high school goths—they tackle non- conformity by conforming to a very specific subculture. You would think that, of all people, the hipsters should be able to recognize the irony of their situation.

The most numerous type of thinker on campus is the pompous asses. The secret to the success of pompous-as- sery is that it can take many forms and overlap with oth- er sorts of thinkers at Columbia. Almost every Columbia student, in fact, is or has been a pompous ass at one point here. Columbia was founded as a pompous-ass factory (not to be confused with a pompous ass-factory) but eventually changed the name to “university.” Did you actually think anyone gave a shit about the Hymn to Demeter? Of course not. But being able to reference it is crucial for a pompous ass. The vast majority of what you have learned or will learn at Columbia was solely for the purpose of ass-pomping. Pompous asses doesn’t have to do any thinking at all as long as they can maintain a façade of deep thought. Often they have a Spec column, which they thinks entitles them to be above the catego- rization of thinkers, and which is, of course, completely erroneous. They are self-deprecating, but it’s just part of the pompousness. They are self-referential and sarcastic, which is just grand. Do you know someone taking Art Hum or Music Hum? Then you know a pompous ass! Every conversation has at least one. If the person you are talking to doesn’t seem to be a pompous ass, then you must be.

Since we were kids, it has been jammed down our throats that we have to be individuals. The more time I spend abroad (in a place not so different from home), the more I see how much American culture is about ambition, leadership, and individualism. And until now, I took it for granted that these were virtues. But our worship of these values becomes destructive at a certain point. We are so desperate to be something that we will be anything. And this usually means clinging to some idea or institution.

That’s why we end up conforming to the groups I just named. But if we want to be individuals, we have to stop trying so hard to be individuals. Moderation is actually stigmatized when it is desperately needed. So here is my very moderate idea: Rid yourself of the desire to be a leader. Deliberate. Cooperate with others. Only stand up for something when your conscience compels you. The world will never change until universities like Columbia stop encouraging their students to change the world. It is OK to be unknown, unnoticed, and unrecognized so long as you are making small steps toward peace and progress in your tiny life.

Jake Goldwasser is Columbia College junior majoring in Middle Eastern studies and linguistics. He is currently studying in Leiden, the Netherlands. Thinking Twice runs alternate Wednesdays.



JAKE GOLD- WASSER

Thinking Twice

Time to talk

BY JENNY PAYNE

Over fall break, my mom made an unexpected visit from California to New York City. She had been called the night before, told that her daughter was expressing suicidal thoughts, and asked to please come pick her up from the Metropolitan Hospital emergency psych ward as soon as possible.

“You know,” Mom began, “you didn’t really look scared or angry or anything when you were in there.”

A good observation. I wasn’t scared or angry. I was mostly just tired.

“You looked like you were thinking, ‘One day, I’m go- ing to write a book about this,’ and like you were already writing it in your mind,” she said.

In a way, I was. That night, I decided to end my silence and start talking. After four months of post-traumatic pan- ic attacks, spirals of self-deprecation, and isolation from almost everyone, I felt like I had some explaining to do.

He was my first boyfriend. I didn’t know anything about relationships, and I was cynical about them after my par- ents’ divorce. I liked him because he was, like me, a little angry at the world.

But it made it harder to draw the line when his anger turned into threats, and his angst turned into depression. I didn’t know how to respond when he said he would kill himself if I didn’t do what he wanted, when I would Skype with him and he would hold a knife to his throat.

On Halloween night of my senior year of high school, he told me about his plan to run away from home. He wouldn’t listen to me when I asked him not to, and I be- came scared when I read his increasingly violent texts.

He only stopped his threats when I agreed to have sex with him. I didn’t have any other choice unless I wanted to feel responsible for both his escape and planned suicide.

That was the first time I had sex.

“But the first time is never good, right?” I told myself as I wiped my tears on my drive home.

He knew how to get what he wanted after that. If I said no, he’d threaten his life.

I told myself it had to get better. It never did.

He exploited me not only sexually but also emotion- ally. The night before my AP Spanish exam, he ran away. I drove until 1 a.m., when I found him two miles from his house, running. He focused on my flaws, appealing to my deepest insecurities. I was forced to filter every word I spoke around him. A minor slip of phrase could be cause for a new threat.

My work slipped and my friends watched, confused. “Why don’t you just break up with him?” they would ask. “This isn’t your job.”

But it’s more complicated than that.



ILLUSTRATION BY ILANA SCHULDER

STAFF EDITORIAL

More boards, less bureaucracy

We commend the decision made last Thursday by Barnard’s Student Government Association to divide its roles into both governing board and council. The move will cut down on bureaucratic waste and make Barnard and Columbia student governing systems more parallel, thus reducing confusion among students. Though this decision will hopefully help unify student government and club organizations between our two schools in the long term, the split also has an immediate impact upon students. Student group leaders have raised vocal support for this change, and rightfully so. By creating a body that will solely support student organizations, SGA is taking necessary

steps to better meet the needs of students.

There is no doubt that, in the past, SGA’s dual responsibil- ities have proved burdensome. By dividing the responsibil- ities of student governance and club oversight between SGA and the soon-to-be created Governing Board at Barnard, re- spectively, we believe SGA will be able to focus more directly on policies that improve the lives of students. The division also implies that the GBB will be able to devote its full at- tention to club recognition, funding, advising, and support. Though too much bureaucracy and too many committees already exist at Columbia, in this situation the creation of yet another entity actually works in students’ favor.

The recent changes to SGA also include an agreement with the Activities Board at Columbia, the largest Columbia governing board, that will save some groups the hassel of dual recognition. Rather than some clubs having two ad- visers and two budgets—one from each school—this stream- lined process will save time and reduce stress for student leaders and advisers.

When you convince yourself that you’re in love, you’ll do anything to keep that feeling alive. You might convince yourself that crying in anticipation of, during, and after sex is normal. You might think it’s okay for your partner to say demeaning things about you on a daily basis. This is the danger and the power of an intimate partner in a violent relationship. We dated for two years.

A year after I graduated and escaped to New York, the effects of ignoring the truth hit me with full impact. Depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and anxiety destroyed my appetite, concentration, and self-esteem. Fearful of judgment, I kept everything to myself.

He focused on my flaws, appealing to my deepest insecurities.

It was only a few months until I found myself in the psych ward, circling the thought that I had landed myself there by trying too hard to save another’s life and crying with noth- ing else to do. The woman in the bed next to me whispered, “They’ll keep you here longer if you keep crying.” But I don’t belong here, I wanted to say. I didn’t ask for this.

Nobody ever asks to be a victim of sexual violence.

Sexual assault comes in many forms, and intimate partner violence is often overlooked as one of them. As a survivor, I face questions like, “But how could it be rape if he was your boyfriend?” The answer involves a redefi- nition of the concepts of coercion and sexual assault that immediately come to mind. But this definition is just as legitimate and destructive as the one that most people recognize.

My silence, fear, and instability lost me most of my friends, took a severe toll on my physical health, and al- most cost me my life. The idea of sharing myself intimately with anyone terrifies me to this day.

This month is dedicated to sexual assault awareness. Starting a conversation, and feeling comfortable having it, is a step that has a huge effect in reshaping rape culture and promoting an atmosphere for survivors where they can feel safe and supported.

As someone who had my ability to speak for myself tak- en away from me, I value these conversations. As I regain my voice, it comes back stronger each time I tell my story.

Though this is not the book you predicted, here you go, Mom.

The author is a Barnard College sophomore majoring in neuroscience and music. She is a peer advocate for the Barnard/Columbia Rape Crisis/Anti-Violence Support Center, and she is a deputy photo editor and associate arts and entertainment editor for Spectator.

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Wichita State
can serve as
model for Lions

The Wichita State Shockers, as their name might suggest, shocked the basketball world until their loss to Louisville, the eventual national champion. Saturday's match was tightly contested. How was an eighth-seed, no-name school able to not only get past number one power Gonzaga but also make it all the way to the Final Four? (The Shockers came just a few baskets short of the championship game!) With just a \$3.1 million budget, Wichita State spends less on its entire basketball program than Louisville spends on head coach Rick Pitino's salary (\$3.9 million).

So how is it possible that the Shockers are remarkably capable of competing with much larger programs?

"Our administration gives us wonderful support," Shocker head coach Gregg Marshall recently told the Associated Press. "We have 10,500 fans at every game. It's a great place to coach."

One advantage Marshall noted is travel costs. Marshall said that the large fleet of private jets—provided by the National Institute for Aviation Research, which is right on campus—is a big plus for convenient traveling and recruiting, making long-distance travel less of a hassle. Columbia doesn't face the same travel issue. Playing in the Ivy League, where the furthest traveling the team can ever do for a conference trip is a five-hour bus ride to Dartmouth, the Lions don't need those private jets. What Columbia's team does need is a similarly supportive administration.

While the Lions
continue to do things
the way they've always
been done, the Shockers
have not shied away
from innovation.

Something that Wichita State has really figured out is prioritizing. When faced with a limited amount of resources, you need to decide what's most important. In the mid-1980s, the administration decided that, financially, the football program was too demanding on the university. It hasn't fielded a football team since then.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not advocating the termination of our football program. What I am suggesting is that we do some sort of prioritizing. For simplicity, let's compare the men's basketball programs of both schools.

When we contextualize Whichita State within its own league, it's important to realize that, from a financial standpoint, the Shockers don't have it easier than Columbia. The Missouri Valley Conference is not only much tougher than the Ivy League, but its teams also spend a lot more (an average of \$3.2 million on men's basketball in 2011), making Wichita State's \$3.1 million slightly below the mean. The Ivies, meanwhile, spend an average of \$919,000 on men's basketball. The \$874,000 that the Lions spent in 2011 is also just below average.

By that logic, the Lions should be able to perform just as well in the Ivy League as Wichita State does in the Missouri Valley Conference. Sure, when looking at things from an absolute, NCAA-tournament type of standpoint, \$3.1 million certainly is more than \$0.874 million. And Wichita State's ability to offer athletic scholarships without the Ivy restrictions is a big game changer. I'm not complaining about how Columbia didn't make the Final Four this year. I'm trying to point out that we should be able to compete in our own conference.

The difference between Columbia and Wichita State is that while the Lions continue to do things they way they've always been done, the



ALEXANDER
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JENNY PAYNE / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

EXCELLENCE | Bianca Sanon (left) and Nicole Bartnik have played an integral role in the Light Blue's recent success on the tennis court.

How women's tennis could go from worst to first

Two years ago, the women's tennis team finished another winless Ivy season—its third in four years. But with strong recruiting and hard work, the Light Blue sits tied in first place with Yale with just four contests remaining in Ivy play.

BY IKE CLEMENTE KITMAN

The Lions were struggling. After opening the 2011 season with an impressive 9-6 record in nonconference play, the women's tennis team dropped all seven of its Ivy contests, finishing the spring season with a disappointing 9-13 overall record.

Just two years later, few would have expected the Light Blue to be sitting atop the Ivy League midway through conference play. But with the addition of several on-court leaders and plenty of hard work, the Lions have become one of the Ancient Eight's most formidable crews.

From 2007 to 2011, Columbia never broke .500 in its overall record. During this five-season span, the Lions won just two of their 35 Ivy matches, taking last place in the Ivy League each year.

But over the last two seasons, the program has made enormous strides, with players like senior Nicole Bartnik and junior Bianca Sanon leading the Lions from perennial cellar-dwellers to serious contenders. Columbia earned its first ever top-50 national ranking in March—the team is now ranked No. 56—and it has now begun the 2013 season 3-0 in conference play.

The upward climb began to pay dividends last season, as the Light Blue went 13-6 overall and 4-3 in Ivy play—both record finishes for the program. Bartnik, who posted an undefeated record in first singles, was unanimously declared the 2012 Ivy League Player of the Year. Sanon and junior Tiana Takenaga were named second-team All-Ivy for singles and doubles, respectively, last season.

This season looked promising for the Lions, who entered play ranked No. 73 in the country.

"We came in third place last year, we didn't graduate any seniors, and we added two very solid freshmen [Kanika Vaidya and Nada Zaher]," coach Ilene Weintraub, CC '02, said.

So far, the Lions have met the high expectations, starting with

unprecedented success during the nonconference season. They defeated their highest-ranked opponent in school history with a mid-February victory over No. 42 Kansas State. After defeating Akron the following weekend, the Lions moved up to No. 46 in the nation.

In their Ivy opener on March 30, the Lions blanked previously undefeated Cornell, 7-0, on the Big Red's home court in Ithaca. Last Friday, Columbia topped Harvard, 4-3, for the first time in 20 years, marking the Lions' second victory over the Crimson in program history. The team completed its weekend sweep with its 7-0 shutout of Dartmouth at the Dick Savitt Tennis Center.

"What's exciting is that for the first time in the history of the program, we're in contention to win a title," Weintraub said.

"We're all really excited to see what'll happen," Sanon said.

After this weekend's sweep, the Lions stand 10-4 overall and 3-0 in Ivy play. With just four games left in the Ivy season, Columbia is currently tied with Yale for first place in the conference—a far cry from the team's winless, last-place finish just two seasons ago.

Bartnik, who has competed in first singles since she stepped foot on campus, has played an instrumental role in the Light Blue's turnaround over the last few seasons, and 2013 has been no different. Her highlights include victories in the first three Ivy matches and a decisive triumph in a three-set tiebreaker against Cornell's Sarah O'Neil in the Lions' Ivy opener.

"Nikki defines this program's success," Weintraub said, describing Bartnik as "the heart of the team."

"She came in four years ago, and she was the start of this culture, the turnaround," Weintraub added.

Along with a strong leader in Bartnik, the depth of Columbia's roster has contributed to the Light Blue's success so far this season.

"Everybody at different points in the season has come out and stepped up to the plate and really performed under pressure well, so we know that we can count on everybody on the team," Bartnik said.

Sophomore Crystal Leung has earned victories in 11 of her 12 singles matches, while freshman Kanika Vaidya has won 10 of her 11 singles matches. Sanon has also prevailed in her last seven consecutive singles matches.

The first doubles duo of Sanon and Vaidya, ranked No. 38 in the country, has shone for the Light Blue. The pair holds a 7-0 record for the season.

"They have a very good chemistry on court," Weintraub said. "Kanika needed someone that was quick at the net and had good hands. Because Kanika is so strong from the baseline, she is really able to set Bianca up well from the net."

SEE TENNIS, page 3

Light Blue knocks off Red Storm for fifth consecutive victory

BY ELI SCHULTZ
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The baseball team extended its winning streak to five games on Tuesday afternoon, picking up a 5-3 home victory over St. John's.

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Columbia (14-15, 6-2 Ivy) took an early one-run lead only to fall behind 3-1 after the Red Storm (13-19) put up three runs in the top of the third. But the Lions quickly clawed their way back, cutting the deficit to one in the bottom of the frame and adding a pair of runs in the next inning to take a 4-3 advantage. Columbia scored again in the bottom of the sixth. The bullpen did not falter as the Light Blue came away with a win in its last game before the start of divisional play.

The Lions' offense, which has struggled at times this season, was particularly impressive.

"I think guys are having good at-bats, up and down the lineup," Columbia head coach Brett Boretti said. "We're seeing the ball well. We're getting good pitches to hit, making good decisions up there."

Consistency was a big part of the



KIERA WOOD / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

COOKING WITH FIRE | David Vandercook had two hits and scored two runs in the Lions' win on Tuesday.

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SEE BASEBALL, page 3