

City planning officials promise more answers on West Harlem’s rezoning plan

BY GINA LEE
Spectator Staff Writer

For local residents concerned about West Harlem’s rezoning, city officials had a simple message Wednesday night: one more month.

On May 17, Department of City Planning officials will be ready to answer questions that have come up since City Planning’s last town hall in December, according to DCP project manager Melissa Cerezo. “There are some updates that we want to share in the May meeting,” Cerezo said to local residents and members of Community Board 9 on Tuesday night. “At that point, I think we want to address a number of those issues at the same time.”

City Planning is now studying a 90-block area, from 126th Street to 155th Street between Riverside Drive and Edgecombe Avenue—excluding Columbia’s Manhattanville expansion area—to begin the approval process for rezoning. The rezoning will include restrictions on building heights in the area, in an attempt to preserve the existing character of the Manhattanville,



CAROL KIM FOR SPECTATOR

SOME SKEPTICISM | City Planning project manager Melissa Cerezo answered Harlem residents’ rezoning questions Tuesday night.

Hamilton Heights, and Sugar Hill neighborhoods.

These changes are expected to increase non-residential development as well as open up more spaces for affordable housing.

The public review process for the rezoning has been scheduled to last from spring

to fall 2011, though the timeline has been slightly delayed, Cerezo said.

“Our timelines are still moving forward,” Cerezo said, citing environmental review issues as the source of the delays.

At the December town hall, locals raised concerns about the additional permanent

affordable housing units, which would be allowed to be up to 17 stories high, and the additional traffic and air quality problems that could result from an increasing population.

Two specific concerns raised on Tuesday were the fate of Montefiore Park between 136th and 138th streets and the

buildings on 145th Street, where the plan proposes an increase in height restrictions. Cerezo said those issues will be discussed at the next land use and zoning committee meeting on May 17.

“That’s good to know, then people know their concerns

SEE REZONING, page 2

104th Street shelter fire reveals 13 violations

Residents still concerned over safety policies

BY EMILY NEIL
Spectator Staff Writer

After residents said they were trapped inside a burning building on 104th Street this weekend, a city inspection yesterday found no locked doors—but residents are still worried.

The Regent Family Residence, a homeless shelter at 104th Street and Broadway run by the Department of Homeless Services, caught fire in the early morning of Friday, April 15, according to police. The fire, which was extinguished within half an hour, led to 14 residents being taken to Harlem Hospital Center and the relocation of some residents due to water damage.

“Our fire detectors didn’t even go off. The sprinkler system didn’t go off.”

—Elizabeth Reynolds,
building resident

The fire, the cause of which is still unclear, led Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer to call for an immediate inspection of at least a dozen Environmental Control Board violations at the building. In a statement urging for further investigation, Stringer called the allegations of locked emergency exits “disturbing.”

On Tuesday, the city’s Department of Buildings resolved a complaint filed the day of the fire which claimed that some residents were stuck in the building for 15 minutes because the fire door was locked. The updated report says that no blocked or locked exit door was found at the time of inspection on Tuesday.

Resident Linda Hickey, who lives on the 11th floor, explained that the doors were unlocked but very heavy, proving to be a struggle for the shelter’s numerous residents who are “mostly women and children.”

“Some of the people had issues with the emergency doors,” she said, adding that she was able to exit the building without trouble, but knows of others who had difficulties.

Hickey said that she thought the building’s staff tried to

SEE SHELTER, page 2

USenate may vote on confidentiality rules for minutes, meetings soon

BY SAMMY ROTH
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The University Senate may vote later this month on a policy more than three years in the making—its own confidentiality rules.

“It’s like the Voldemort of senate resolutions,” said Andrew Springer, a senator and Journalism School student. “It will not die.”

The policy would make senate committee meetings—where resolutions are drafted and debated—closed to the public by default. Committees would be allowed to open all or part of any meeting to the public.

“We’re not changing our current mode of functioning. We’re just being explicit about it.”

—Daniel Savin,
member of Structure and Operations committee

The resolution reflects the senate’s current practice, said research scientist Daniel Savin, a member of the senate’s Structure and Operations Committee who has been instrumental in crafting the confidentiality resolution.

“We’re not changing our current mode of functioning,” Savin said. “We’re just being explicit about it.”

The resolution, which will probably be introduced at the full senate’s April 29 plenary meeting, calls for all committee minutes to remain confidential for 50 years and establishes a mechanism for senators and outside scholars

to request access to those minutes before the 50 years have elapsed. Under current policy, all minutes remain confidential indefinitely.

Ron Mazor, CC ’09, Law ’12 and the chair of the S&O committee, said the resolution is “not anything special.”

“It’s simply a matter of putting down slightly more modernized and slightly clearer rules for what committees already do,” he said.

Meetings of the senate’s Student Affairs Committee, which includes all 24 student senators, are currently public by default, although the committee occasionally goes into private “executive sessions.” Mazor, who is running for co-chair of the SAC on a ticket with dental school senator Dustin Bowler, said that SAC meetings would “absolutely” remain open if he is elected.

Alex Frouman, CC ’12, who is also running for co-chair with Business School senator Adeel Ahamed, said he too would keep SAC meetings open if elected—as did student senator Jose Robledo, GS, who is also running for co-chair.

Frouman said he would only request that SAC go into executive session under “extenuating circumstances”—if senators needed to discuss information given to them by the Board of Trustees, for example. Robledo added that, if elected, he would push SAC to establish an internal protocol that would make all meetings open by default.

“There’s no way for SAC to keep its current openness under the new resolution unless SAC takes measures to keep that openness,” Robledo said.

The review of senate confidentiality policy began in 2007, when a Journalism School student asked for access to a committee’s minutes for a research project. The S&O committee realized that there was no procedure in place to answer the

SEE USENATE, page 2

40 students choose open housing for fall

BY KARLA JIMENEZ
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The numbers are in: after a two-year fight for open housing, 40 students will be living in mixed-gender doubles next year.

That’s a small percentage of the undergraduates eligible for on-campus, but University officials and student advocates have said that the benefits are greater than the numbers show.

Scott Wright, vice president of student and administrative services, added that the number of Columbia students who chose gender-neutral doubles is consistent with numbers at schools with similar policies.

“What most places would call open housing at Columbia we just call housing,” Wright said, adding that may be why the numbers weren’t overwhelming. “There are a ton of options within our inventory to live side by side or within the same residence.”

The open housing pilot program only applies to certain dorms—Claremont, Nussbaum,

East Campus, Ruggles, Wien, and Woodbridge—a factor that Sean Udell, CC ’11 and president of the Columbia Queer Alliance, said could have hindered students’ decision to opt into it this year.

“If even one person could feel more comfortable on campus... then it was totally worth it.”

—Avi Edelman, CC ’11,
president of Everyone Allied Against Homophobia

“It might have been perceived that open housing was limiting and sort of counter to the mission of broadening student choices,” Udell said. “That’s the risk of a pilot program.”

Still, since doubles were left

over in Wien after suite selection, upperclassmen who wanted open housing did have the opportunity to take advantage of it, though perhaps not in the dorm they would have preferred.

The students were almost equally distributed across class years—12 rising sophomores, 14 rising juniors, and 14 rising seniors opted in to the program. Woodbridge will have the highest number of students in gender-neutral doubles, with 14 people.

“This is a big philosophical issue for people,” Wright said. “It feels like it was important to Columbia students not as an issue of protocol but as an issue of being a fair and welcome campus.”

The new option was more about making the opportunity available to students, according to Avi Edelman, CC ’11 and president of Everyone Allied Against Homophobia.

“It was never about the numbers,” Edelman said. “If even one person could feel more

SEE HOUSING, page 2

JUST FOR KICKS



YUN SEO CHO / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

TAEKWONDO | The martial art was featured at Monday’s Korean Students Culture Show.

OPINION, PAGE 4

It’s all Greek to me

Stephen Wu argues that having a Latin salutatory should be part of the Columbia tradition.

Law and Order:

Columbia University

Columbia should have more control in dealing with student criminal behavior.



SPORTS, PAGE 3

End of an era for Columbia fencing

George Kolombatovich retired earlier this month after serving 32 years as Columbia’s fencing coach, maintaining a tradition of success throughout his remarkable tenure.

EVENTS

Bacchanal 4/20 Movie Screening

“The Dark Side of the Moon,” classic footage of “The Wizard of Oz,” and free food. Lerner Cinema, 8-10 p.m.

Columbia Goes Global: The Next 50 Years

An all-day conference on the University’s global plans, from study abroad to global centers.

Low Library Rotunda, 10:15 a.m.-6 p.m.

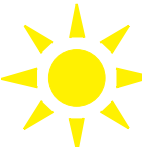
WEATHER

Today



68°/47°

Tomorrow



58°/41°



JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

WIEN WALK-THROUGH | Next year, six students will be living in mixed-gender doubles in Wien, one of the eligible residence halls.

Woodbridge to have highest number in gender-neutral doubles

HOUSING from front page

comfortable on campus ... then it was totally worth it.”

Adam Wilson, CC '14, was one of those students who took advantage of the new policy. The new policy just worked out for him, but wasn't something he sought after, he said.

As a new member of the Q House, a special interest community for LGBT students in Ruggles, Wilson explained that after the future residents filled out questionnaires, it just worked out that all of the doubles will have roommates of opposite sexes.

“Honestly, I would not be a compatible roommate with the other two guys in the Q house,” Wilson said, explaining that he thinks it's based more on cleanliness than anything else. “For me

there aren't any inherent drawbacks, but not any explicit benefits.”

However, he does look forward to rooming with someone more similar to him. Wilson explained that this year he and his roommate were very different, explaining that his current roommate had never met a gay person before, but that things worked out.

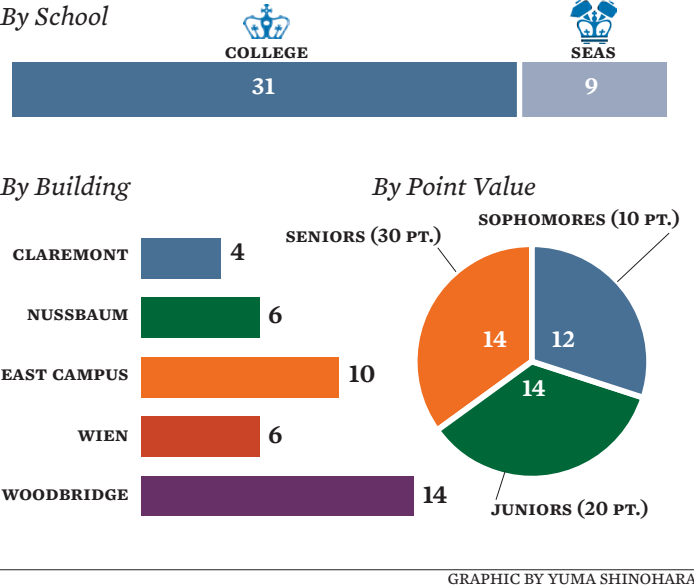
“After all this, we're going to see Avenue Q together,” Wilson said. “If I can get along with someone coming from a fundamentally different place, this is going to be a breeze.”

For Wilson, it was just another option.

“I don't see why it's such a big deal. This year I roomed with a boy, next year I'll room with a girl,” Wilson said.

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OPEN HOUSING: A BREAKDOWN



CAROL KIM FOR SPECTATOR

LISTEN CAREFULLY | Residents had questions about park space and building heights under the new West Harlem zoning plan.

Rezoning committee jump to address concerns of local residents

REZONING from front page

aren't going into a black hole,” Patricia Ju, chair of the Sugar Hill Block Association and CB9 member, said.

Javier Carcamo, assistant chair of CB9's land use and zoning committee, addressed the negative feedback by emphasizing that the plan is not a blueprint, but a set of guidelines.

“People get scared when they hear of the 12-story buildings,” he said. “But they don't see that now, a much higher building could be built there.”

Cerezo echoed the point, and said that rezoning would be a positive for West Harlem.

“I think zoning is a framework for development,” she said. “Just because something is zoned for something as such, it doesn't mean that it's going

to occur. That's what we're working with, a maximum of what is possible.”

Local leaders like Ju say they have been working to make sure that the local voice is heard throughout the city's process, and following up with officials like Cerezo is one step toward that goal.

“Especially in light of the Columbia expansion, sometimes it's very easy to get

pushed aside,” Ju said.

The rezoning would be the first large-scale rezoning project in the area since 1961, and Cerezo acknowledged the residents' concerns.

“It's about clarifying the objectives of the proposal,” Cerezo said about the May meeting. “We want to make the information as clear as possible.”

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USenate's confidentiality rules may be codified at next meeting

USENATE from front page

request, and set out to review senate confidentiality policy.

But there has been some opposition to the current resolution, most notably from Springer. He has argued that the resolution will make the senate less transparent, since most of its work takes place at the committee level.

“This is closing the lid on senate activities,” Springer said. “This is the senate secrecy act. This makes it harder for senators to be held accountable.”

Asked about the need for transparency, Savin referred to a clause in the resolution which says that “decisions and work within Senate committees are advanced more fruitfully without publicity at every stage ... members of committees should be able to seek solutions without concern that everything said is subject to public scrutiny.”

Savin added that the senate's monthly plenary meetings, where all resolutions are ultimately debated and voted upon, are open to anyone with a Columbia ID, and that the University's Board of Trustees also keeps its minutes private for 50 years.

Springer said that while he

understands why some committees, such as the Budget Review committee, need to operate in private, he thinks most committees should operate publicly by default with the option of going into executive session when they need to discuss something confidentially.

“I want to know what Savin's doing in a Structure and Operations committee meeting that he wants to be kept private for 50 years,” he said.

Frouman noted that he does not think that anyone outside the senate has asked for its records since the 2007 request that sparked the policy review.

“It's pretty rare that someone is looking for something that the senate is keeping secret,” he said.

Mazor chaired the senate's Task Force on Military Engagement, which gathered campus opinions on a potential return of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps earlier this semester. He said that while the task force “had a public face,” making its internal conversations public would have hindered its efforts.

“What we actually said to each other is not something that we would print out and put on our website,” he said.

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Even after city says shelter's exits were open, residents worry

SHELTER from front page

evacuate everyone as effectively as possible under the circumstances.

“As far as I'm concerned, the staff here did a beautiful job,” she said. “They alerted everyone.”

But according to an ECB spokesperson, there are currently 13 outstanding building violations at the Regent Family Residence—something resident Elizabeth Reynolds finds concerning amid the other fire safety problems that came to light over the weekend.

Reynolds said she was trapped on the eighth floor of the building with her infant child, daughter, and husband after they noticed flames shooting out from the window of the floor above them. She and her husband tried to block the smoke streaming in under their door with wet blankets, but they were unsure of the location of the fire and how or where to exit the building.

“It took me 40 minutes to get out,” she said, noting that her family didn't know about the fire until they saw the flames. “Our fire detectors didn't even go off. The sprinkler system didn't go off.”

Reynolds said there was

confusion about how to exit because the building didn't have comprehensive fire safety procedures.

“There was no emergency strategy,” Reynolds said, adding that fire drills that she says are supposed to happen twice a week don't happen.

When the fire broke out, resident Jessica Mitchel was in the building with her children, ages eight and 11. They were all able to get out of the building quickly, and her apartment didn't suffer property damage.

Still, Mitchel said the fire has made them nervous about the building.

“I might leave because of the fire. My kids are still traumatized by it,” she said, noting that her daughter is bothered by the scent of smoke which still lingers in their rooms.

Reynolds said that even though the building's administration “threatened the facility [residents] beforehand not to talk to the media and press,” the concerns about safety policy must be discussed.

“Things need to be told about what's going on in here. Because if not, how's anyone going to help us?”

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Big Red provide blueprint for national success

What are we doing wrong? It's a question I ask myself after every Lions football season, after the baseball team loses 22-21, and after the basketball team, despite an outstanding season, fails yet again to make March Madness. So I've come to terms with the fact that the Ivy League will not be taking my suggestion of granting athletic scholarships. I've accepted, despairingly, that Columbia will not be bringing varsity ice hockey to campus any time soon. And I'm content with the fact that Snoop Dogg is headlining Bacchanal. OK, so I'll try to stick to sports...



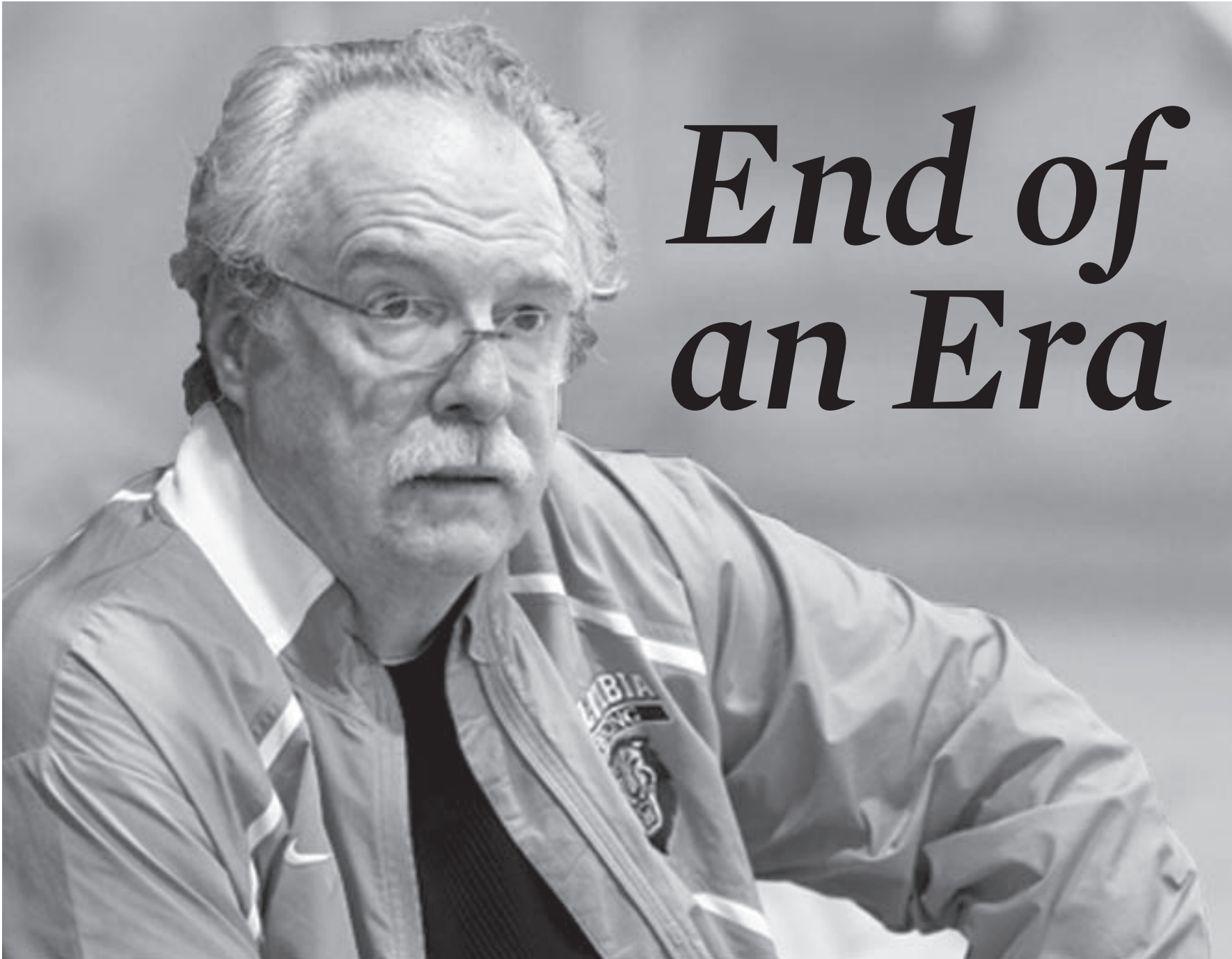
MICHAEL SHAPIRO
Turn up the Mike

All the reasons for Cornell's success apply to the entire Ivy League.

I read an article in the Wall Street Journal a couple weeks ago titled "What Makes Cornell So Good?" The piece focused on Cornell's wrestling team, which recently finished second in the nation behind Penn State at the NCAA Division I wrestling championships. The author asks a familiar question: "...how can Cornell, an Ivy League team that offers no athletic scholarships, even compete with such powerhouses?" He posits a rather simple argument—that "key generous alumni" provide the financial resources necessary to purchase top-notch athletic facilities. The article also suggests that Cornell's wrestling program attracts strong recruits due to its extensive alumni network, a recent influx of high school wrestlers, and the lack of wrestling teams at many colleges, which thus creates a funnel effect into schools with a team. Fair argument, but why not Columbia? Or Yale? Or Harvard? It seems to me that all the reasons offered for Cornell's success apply to the entire Ivy League. Does Cornell really have a leg up when it comes to recruiting and training facilities? Take a look at Columbia. It is the only Ivy located smack dab in Manhattan, just a quick ride on the subway provides students with access to nine major professional sports teams, our country's central financial hub, and a vibrant art and music scene.

According to a public report released by the U.S. Department of Education Office of Postsecondary Education, Columbia spends more money on recruiting than all other Ivies with the exception of Princeton. Columbia also flaunts an endowment of approximately \$6.5 billion, well over \$1 billion more than Cornell. In terms of financial resources, Columbia has the leg up. Columbia has the prestige, money, and location that one would think make it at least as attractive for athletes choosing between it and another Ivy like Cornell. While Columbia has the world to offer high school athletes, another type of recruiting may be luring these students to Cornell. According to a Wall Street Journal survey published this past September, only one Ivy ranked within the 25 top colleges tapped by corporate recruiters. You guessed it—Cornell. Our neighbor to the north ranked 14th on the list behind state schools such as Penn State, University of Illinois, and Carnegie Mellon. But is it feasible to suggest that high school seniors would chose Cornell over another Ivy for the sake of future job opportunities? Well, maybe. Most top Ivy athletes I've encountered say that they chose Columbia because they wanted a world-class education as well as a spot on a varsity sports team. This generally holds true for the Ivy League as a whole, as most collegiate athletes will never play professional sports after college. As Ivy athletes matriculate without the incentive of athletic scholarships, it is likely that job recruiting is a deciding factor for student-athletes weighing the pros and cons of each school. By now we've all seen the Daily Beast's list that ranks Columbia the most stressful college in the country.

SEE SHAPIRO, page 6



COURTESY OF COLUMBIA ATHLETICS

FENCING ICON | Head coach and director of fencing George Kolombatovich retired earlier this month after leading Columbia fencing to great success for 32 years.

Retired fencing coach leaves as Columbia legend

BY SPENCER GYORY
Spectator Staff Writer

One of the longest and most successful coaching eras in Columbia athletics history came to an end earlier this month with the retirement of head coach and director of fencing George Kolombatovich. The Lions will be hard-pressed to fill the shoes left by the international fencing legend. The success that the fencing program has maintained during Kolombatovich's tenure as coach will be difficult to match. Perhaps more importantly, though, with his retirement the Columbia community is losing one of its most fascinating, caring, and influential members. The first thing that strikes you upon meeting with George Kolombatovich is his sense of humor. "Coach is one of the biggest jokesters ever," junior co-captain Sammy Roberts said. "He loves to meet people and he's really easy to get along with. He loves to goof around and be funny." "He had an eccentric sense of humor. He was willing to have a laugh with his students even if it came at his own expense," Gerard Ramm, CC '13 and a student in Kolobatovich's fencing physical

education class, said. Kolombatovich is also very thoughtful and has a great ability to remember details about the people he meets. For example, whenever Kolombatovich travels and has access to the business lounges at airports, he stops and brings back a very specific type of cheese which he knows one of his secretaries, Danette Diaz, really enjoys. In addition to his personality, Kolombatovich is a very well-spoken, knowledgeable, and intelligent individual. "He is an incredibly erudite man, well-versed in many different areas," Steve Mormando, the head coach of fencing at NYU said. Mormando has known, competed against, and worked with Kolombatovich for over three decades. Besides his love of fencing, Kolombatovich's eclectic interests include opera, bridge, and history. For example, Kolombatovich worked as a combat choreographer, staging fights and training performers in weapon use, in both opera and film. Most of this work was done with the Metropolitan Opera between 1969 and 1982. "It was a phenomenal experience,"

Kolombatovich said. "I got to work with so many tremendous musicians." One of the stories that Kolombatovich fondly remembers from his days with the Met was a performance of an off-stage aria in Verdi's "Il Trovatore." "I was talking with Luciano Pavarotti [back stage] and he said, 'Excuse me', and he sang his off-stage aria and then we continued our conversation," Kolombatovich said. "George leaves a legacy of success. It's as simple as that." — Dr. M. Dianne Murphy, Director of Intercollegiate Athletics and Physical Education To help preserve the historical accuracy of the productions, Kolombatovich sought to learn the history of how weapons were used and the reasons for their designs. Kolombatovich also taught as an adjunct professor at SUNY-Purchase's

theater department. Kolombatovich began fencing at the age of four with the help of his father, Oscar Kolombatovich, who was a fencing master. George then went on to attend NYU on a full athletic scholarship. Unfortunately, Kolombatovich was a passenger in a vicious car accident in which the car wrapped around a tree. "I was told by a number of doctors that I'd never be able to fence again," Kolombatovich said, following the accident. Determined not to abandon the sport he loved, Kolombatovich turned to coaching. After coaching at NYU for one season, Kolombatovich joined Columbia in 1978 and was named head coach in 1979. Columbia fencing has a rich and prestigious history dating back to the coaching of James Murray, the "Dean of American Fencers," and Irv DeKoff, who had the highest winning percentage (.843) in the school's history. Kolombatovich certainly continued that legacy. During his 32-year reign Kolombatovich has guided the women's team to a record of 311-83 and the men to a 286-114 mark. SEE KOLOMBATOVICH, page 6

Lions look to keep bats going in doubleheader against Manhattan

BY MOLLY TOW
Spectator Staff Writer

Another Wednesday, another face-off for Big Apple baseball. The Lions hope this déjà vu will yield the same outcome. The Columbia baseball team (16-16, 6-6 Ivy) will take on Manhattan College (18-12) in a doubleheader at home today—the second time the Lions will play the Jaspers in two weeks. A St. John's Tuesday cancellation allowed Columbia and Manhattan to match up for a midweek game last Wednesday as well. The Lions took that contest 6-5, snapping what had been a 10-game winning streak for the Jaspers. The Lions may have only won by one run, but it was their four-run bottom of the first that put them in good position for the game's victory. Sophomore Dario Pizzano and senior Jason Banos both had home runs in the inning. The Jaspers managed to pull within one in the eighth, but sophomore Tim Giel showed his usual solid stuff by shutting down the opposition and earning the save. Head coach Brett Boretti said hitting early will once again be key. "[We need to] get off to a good start with the bats," Boretti said. The Light Blue carried the trend of scoring early and often into its four-game series against Cornell the following weekend. Along with solid pitching from all four of Columbia's starters, runs were copious for the Lions, as they outscored the Big Red 21-10 on the weekend. The Lions went 3-for-4 in their

COLUMBIA VS. MANHATTAN
Robertson Field, 2 p.m.



weekend series against Cornell, and got themselves back into playoff contention in the Ancient Eight, evening both their overall and Ivy League records to .500. Standouts on offense were senior outfielder Jason Banos, who earned last week's Ivy League Baseball Player of the Week Award, junior designated hitter Alexander Aurrichio, and the always-productive senior outfielder Nick Cox. Boretti hopes to see this same well-rounded play today. "Play good defense, throw strikes, and be aggressive at the plate and on the bases," Boretti said, detailing what the Lions need to bring from the Cornell series to today's contest for them to see victory. Junior Jon Eisen was not suited up for the Cornell series, as he has been battling a hamstring injury since Columbia's weekend at Brown and Yale. Senior Alex Ferrera has also been out of action, as he left Saturday's game two after getting hit by a pitch and falling to the ground. Boretti says the current status for both infielders is "questionable". Manhattan is coming off of a successful weekend as well. The Jaspers clearly did not let last Wednesday's disappointment from its loss against Columbia linger long, as it bounced back and defeated Marist in a three-game series this past weekend, giving

SEE BASEBALL, page 6



KATE SCARBROUGH / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BANOS BLAST | Senior outfielder Jason Banos was named Ivy League Player of the Week after hitting .462 with two homeruns and six runs batted in.



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Et tu, Columbiae?

Latin is a marvelous thing. As no doubt most people know, competency in Latin, along with ancient Greek, used to be a requisite component of many college admissions, even up through the early twentieth century—thus disqualifying me from going to school. Columbia managed to hold on to it until 1916, over four decades after the men of Harvard did—who, about at this time under Charles Eliot, were slowly losing their minds anyway. Princeton dropped the Latin requirement about the same time we did, though both they and Harvard have managed to keep alive the great tradition of the Latin salutatory at Commencement, which we regrettably lack.

Now, nobody really speaks or understands Latin outside of Classics concentrators, which is probably some sort of loss for humanity. In Cambridge and Princeton, though, some plucky senior each year is picked out and talks, for five minutes or so, solely in the language of Virgil and Cicero, describing collegiate life in the ancient tongue.

This is probably bizarre to many people. Why, after all, would parents and families, not to mention Latin-deaf students, have any desire to sit through an oration that is equivalent in their minds to gibberish?

The reason is simple and plain. Commencement is a sacred rite of passage in academia, and one not to be handled lightly. We dress up in otherwise comical academic costume, proud of the light blue robes and marvelous caps that are dusted off once or twice a year for these august ceremonies. We drop the daily faded jeans and sandals and transform into serious scholars, for a few hours anyway. There is a deep sense of tradition here, for this moment has been shared by centuries of academics more or less in similar fashion. The absence, then, of the established Latin address is especially glaring. There are probably silly logistical excuses why the salutatory isn't there, but at heart it represents a sad concession that modern scholarship is somehow fundamentally different from that of the classical tradition, which forms the basis of our society.

Columbia should always be the repository of hopes and of thought about the things timeless and eternal.

Columbia prizes the Core Curriculum and its roots back to the ancients with good cause. We study Ovid and Pericles, and can (hopefully) recognize Critias and Anchises—no small feat, incidentally, in modern academia. That is the great gift of this education, and it would be fitting, in my mind, to wrap up one's academic career with a rousing Latin speech. The degrees of Columbia College are conferred in this elegant language, after all, and there are few, if any, detractors of the Latin diploma.

Columbia, of course, is itself a romanticized Latinization of the idea of America, named after her ostensible discoverer Christopher Columbus. Supposedly first employed by the English belletrist Samuel Johnson, the word “Columbia” appeared in the “Debates in the Senate of Magna Lilliputia” as a moniker for America. The “Debates” was a thinly-veiled political commentary that reproduced many of the positions of then-contemporary British statesmen, as explicit facsimile of Parliamentary procedures and speeches was strictly banned. “Columbia,” then, was a foil—a projection of the ideas of what the country could be, subsequently taken by authors, poets, and writers to personify the greatness and goodness of America herself.

Now, as then, Columbia should always be the repository of hopes and of thought about the things timeless and eternal. The philosophical quest for wisdom, which constitutes the bedrock of the University's mission, is always in some tension with things political, and the two keep an uneasy balance. Yet the exercise of reason, as you no doubt remember Aristotle saying, is one of the highest goods of man, and the Latin salutatorian can help us leave the busy din of the present and give us at least a moment back in the academy, where we seek truth and knowledge irrespective of the daily vicissitudes at hand.

Columbia the school, then, is a hope, as is Columbia the emblem. As with most dreams, it is not Edenic, nor fully realizable, but it pushes us to strive for things we would not otherwise pursue. Perfection is not of this world, but that does not foreclose gratitude for shining Alma Mater on the Hudson shore. This school has its flaws but all in all, we leave the gates knowing some things that ought to be known and with people now ever bonded in amity. Commencement is a time when students join legions of Columbians past, present, and yet to come, and so, leaving these roaring streets, I say (briefly and shabbily), with no translation necessary, to the happy graduates: “Condiscipuli, vivite in lumine, et mementote vostra officia, et Columbian.”

Stephen Wu is a Columbia College sophomore. The Remnant runs alternate Wednesdays.



STEPHEN WU
The Remnant

A hope for self-policing

BY PEYTON BELL

For better or for worse, Columbia is chock-full of opportunities to break the law. Our walls might offer us some protection against New York's vice, but that protection does not preclude us from swiping vice onto campus. Moreover, recent arrests on campus have affirmed that when Columbia students break the law, our gates do not hesitate in opening their widest for New York Police Department surveillance and intervention. Letting local police act freely is one way to stop crime on campus, but it's certainly not the best way to protect the futures of Columbia students. Instead of letting legal sentences fall where they may, Columbia should make Public Safety a stronger presence in combating crime, establish a working relationship with the NYPD, and work to convince cops and students alike that Columbia is capable of protecting its own students.

It comes as no real surprise that students are prosecuted and arrested for their crimes, since we don't—nor should we—have any amnesty from the iron fist of justice. Still, resentment about the drug busts and fake ID arrest points itself much more forcefully toward the administration's non-intervention leading up to the arrests than the actual intervention of the NYPD. Even though we've seen mailroom surveillance and the use of undercover cops, people are not angry at the NYPD because they have a responsibility to impartially enforce the law.

Columbia's essential commitment, though, is to protect its students' futures, even when they make mistakes. This begs the question: Should Columbia be responsible for protecting its students not only from New York's criminals, but also from the dangers posed by its police department, overcrowded courts, and prisons? Should Columbia let the iron fist fall as it may, or create the infrastructure so that its own fist might carry the weight of a just authority?

The objection isn't that the NYPD should ignore Columbia criminals when it finds them; this would be irresponsible and ill-befitting of any police force. The issue is whether Columbia's relationship with the NYPD should be developed to communicate the unique criminal circumstances of



AMALIA RINEHART

Finding the right fit

BY J. AUSTIN LOWE

The prospective students who attended Days on Campus during the past two weekends are all facing a common dilemma in picking which college to attend. Some applicants knew without a doubt that Columbia was the school for them. But others are deciding between many top-tier schools.

The recent news about Columbia's undergraduate admissions rate for the class of 2015—6.9 percent, in case you hadn't already heard—has given rise to a variety of predominantly positive and proud reactions on the part of Columbia's student body. It's safe to say that the reactions on the part of those hopeful applicants who were not accepted to the class of 2015, and for the applicants of subsequent and most likely even more agonizing years to come, were not so ecstatic. But rather than focusing on the competitive aspects of schools, I feel that prospective students should evaluate the prestige of different schools' specific programs or strengths instead of immediately considering the most competitive schools the best.

Whether or not you consider acceptance rates to be a calculable or viable method of evaluating a school's prestige, there is no denying that prospective students, parents, and college rankings alike attribute a certain degree of respect to colleges based on how absurdly low their rates fall every year. Although U.S. News and World Report changes its methodology for its college rankings every year, admissions rates are always a factor in deciding any undergraduate or graduate school ranking. Yet you may find yourself wondering how an allegedly unbiased and need-blind process can successfully evaluate the lives and accomplishments of some 35,000 mostly qualified applicants.

Last December, in my senior year in high school, on the eve of the early decision admission results' release by Ivy

an American college campus. Columbia must demonstrate that it understands that certain crimes will inevitably pop up around campus year after year, and that Public Safety has the manpower and the willpower to find, contain, and appropriately punish those crimes without the possibility of jail time and felony charges. With this pragmatism, a relationship that works in favor of the administration and its students may yet be reached. The current absence of such a relationship is equivalent to broadcasting, “We, Columbia, cannot police ourselves, do not fully understand how crimes play out on campus, and need consistent police intervention in order to keep the peace.” At worst, police officers may see Columbia's students as a means to meet monthly arrest quotas. At a school where the most frequently cited problem among its undergraduates is lack of community, what kind of community feeling does this sentiment build? What symbolic meaning do our walls really carry here?

Columbia students are college students. We have only just been exposed to the semi-real world, and our inexperience shows itself in many real ways, some of which are unfortunately criminal. A good college environment makes its students feel safe while having fun, allows for second chances where one chance might not cut it for every bright, budding young student. Yet at Columbia, having seen too many friends fall under the bus this year, I feel forced, albeit more emotionally than rationally, to make a polarizing choice—to pursue fun means sacrificing Columbia's protection. Columbia should make the simple acknowledgement that its undergraduates, too, go to college to have fun, and the undergraduate administration should protect our interests as adolescent humans, not just as working, studying animals. This means ensuring that even those students who make mistakes during their time at Columbia have the opportunity to clean themselves up before the police need to get involved. Thus, Columbia needs a stronger relationship with the NYPD and stronger policy at home.

The author is a Columbia College sophomore. He is majoring in economics and philosophy.

League schools, our assignment in my Contemporary Social and Political Issues class was to take a group of 12 applicants to the imagined “American National University” and choose six among them to admit, and one to waitlist. During the intense cacophony that was caused by six extremely opinionated students' arguments for whether to accept the impressively qualified student from Harlem or the equally impressive Midwestern farmer into the imaginary university, I recognized that we were all potentially correct in our evaluations. We all disagreed on whom to accept among these highly qualified and impressive imaginary applicants, with the exception of one who had won an Intel Science Award and had near perfect SATs. But I am certain that similar disagreements still occur in some form or another during the real admissions process. It's a process that is entirely contingent on a specific school's agenda and limited resources. It was a reminder of the fact that, in the application pool for highly competitive schools like Columbia, there are too many overly qualified applicants.

I am not trying to insinuate that the ambivalence inherent to such a process makes it illegitimate. But it would be better if people focused more on the specific characteristics of a school, like Columbia's Core Curriculum and faculty or Georgetown's strength in international relations, rather than the U.S. News ranking or the admissions rate. College admissions officers have to constantly tailor their admissions agenda to make the process more effective for their respective schools, and I think that prospective students would be more satisfied with their admissions results if they sought out schools that were particularly good fits for them rather than immediately filling out applications for the top ten. I know from the experience of many former classmates that making so-called “prestige” a priority is not the right strategy in picking where to apply, whether it's a “reach” school or a “safety.” It may seem obvious, but it's always something to keep in mind.

The author is a Columbia College first-year.

STAFF EDITORIAL

For full disclosure

The documentary “Inside Job” has triggered a debate over ethical conflicts at Columbia University and the business world at large, leading to a reevaluation of the University's disclosure requirements. The film emphasized alleged conflicts of interest of two prominent individuals in the University—Dean R. Glenn Hubbard and professor Frederic Mishkin, both from the Business School—and the fact that such transgressions can and do occur point to serious holes in University policies regarding disclosure protocol.

The film highlighted that in addition to serving as the Dean of the Business School, Hubbard sits on the board of Metropolitan Life, a global insurance provider. This position rewards handsomely—Hubbard is compensated \$250,000 annually, which is only one of his many external ties. Mishkin was paid almost \$135,000 in 2006 by the Icelandic Chamber of Commerce to write a report detailing the stability of Iceland's financial situation.

While their consulting activities are ethically questionable in their own right—Mishkin's report predicted the economic stability of a country that would default just two years later—and indicate an extensive lack of responsibility

in the financial world, it is unclear whether Hubbard and Mishkin violated the University's conflict of interest policy as it currently stands. Rather than pardon Hubbard and Mishkin due to insufficient evidence of a transgression, we demand a higher standard of ethics from members of our University who are influential both at Columbia and in the global community.

At the moment, Columbia's weak disclosure policy requires all faculty members to reveal sources of funding for research that is related to Columbia, in addition to funding they may receive from organizations that stand to profit from their research. They are not required to disclose outside compensation from consulting as long as it does not directly relate to University research. Instead of being open to the public, these disclosures are held confidentially, which explains how such widespread ethical conflicts could arise in the first place.

Though it would be ideal to have full, public disclosure that includes consulting work, it seems that neither the University nor the financial world is ready to implement such a drastic change. At the very least, the University should start by requiring consulting work to be disclosed to the administration.

Concerns have been raised that stricter policy stipulations and implementations would make Columbia less appealing

to high profile faculty—but what sort of professor would reject an offer from Columbia due to high ethical standards? Any professor or researcher who finds strong disclosure policies a shortcoming is not an individual we want at our University. Senior Vice Dean Christopher Mayer, appointed by Hubbard to lead the Business School's review of the conflict of interest policy, echoed this hesitation in implementing a stricter policy. Mayer's expressed disapproval of stronger policy implementation, not to mention the outrageous fact that he was appointed by the man who is at the center of this scandal, invalidates the entire policy review.

Though we understand that when professors act as consultants they have to be mindful of client confidentiality, fears that revealing consulting work will result in disapproval are perturbing—a faculty member who represents the University should not receive compensation from an organization that he is uncomfortable disclosing information about.

When a member of our University consults for a company or endorses an organization, he or she implicitly benefits from Columbia's name and prestige. Columbia's reputation is a shared resource, and anything that tarnishes its name affects all its constituents.

The only way to ensure that Columbia's name and her ethical standards remain untarnished is to implement better, stronger, and clearer disclosure policies.

Cornell’s powerhouse wrestling program worth examining

SHAPIRO FROM PAGE 3

For what it’s worth, Cornell ranked 16th on the list, behind every other school in the Ancient Eight except Brown, which ranked 17th. To add insult to injury, college review-site StudentsReview.com ranks Columbia behind Cornell in 13 of 14 categories of comparison including education, social life, extracurricular activities, and even funding use. Columbia only edged out Cornell in the category of “Surrounding City,” earning a letter grade of ‘B’ to Cornell’s ‘B-’. Booyakasha.

Don’t get me wrong, there are plenty of reasons why prospective student-athletes would chose Columbia over Cornell. Columbia may be stressful—we can all attest to that—but our school also ranked fourth on U.S. News and World Report’s most recent list of top national universities, eleven spots ahead of Cornell (go us!). But while we shouldn’t let survey and rankings get to our heads too much, they may help explain why Cornell arguably has the most successful athletics program of any Ivy.

Perhaps we need to come to terms with the fact that Cornell may offer the attraction of Ivy academics without the stress of the other Ancient Eight schools. It seems that somewhere along the line Columbia lost its recruiting mojo, while in the meantime Cornell built a reputation of being the hottest Ivy in terms of both athletics and academics. While the lure of Cornell is unclear, the stigmas that Columbia carries must be eradicated, as they are scaring off top athletes. Who knows, it could have been Columbia in the Sweet 16 last year or the Lions placing second nationally in wrestling.

As we wind down from the excitement of Days on Campus and start making Butler our home for the remainder of the semester, we should remember why we are here in the first place—to learn, explore New York City, and, of course, to constantly make fun of Princeton. Though following the Lions remains an emotional roller coaster with astronomical highs and depression-level lows, it sure makes for one hell of a ride.

Michael Shapiro is a List College junior majoring in history and modern Jewish studies. sports@columbiaspectator.com



COURTESY OF COLUMBIA ATHLETICS

SPREADING THE WORD | Fencing head coach George Kolombatovich has been an ambassador for the game during his three-decade tenure in Morninside Heights.

Kolombatovich’s legacy includes five national titles, 24 Ivy championships

KOLOMBATOVICH FROM PAGE 3

From 1983-2005, Kolombatovich served as co-head coach with Dr. Aladar Kogler, who continues to serve as an associate coach. In an amazing six-year run the Lions won the men’s national championship three straight years from 1987-1989. After the men’s and women’s championships were combined, the Light Blue finished second in 1990 and 1991 while winning in 1992 and 1993.

“Aladar and George really were a team” said Dr. M. Dianne Murphy, director of Intercollegiate Athletics and Physical Education. “You can’t mention George without mentioning Aladar.”

Clearly, the partnership between Kolomatovich and Kogler yielded tremendous results for Columbia fencing. “It was a very good solution because both of us could use our strengths for the benefit of the entire fencing team,” Kogler said in an email.

Daria Schneider CC ’10, who is currently the interim head coach, has worked with both coaches for years as an assistant coach and as the 2007 Individual NCAA National Champion in sabre.

“Aladar is more hands on,” she said. “George oversees the team as a whole and deals with recruits and the bigger picture issues of the team. They balance

each other very well.”

Seventeen Columbians have become individual national champions and the men’s and women’s teams have won seventeen and seven Ivy League titles, respectively, with Kolombatovich at the helm. Two Columbians, Erinn Smart, BC ’01, and James Williams, CC ’08, even went on to win silver medals at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

In summary, Dr. Murphy said, “George leaves a legacy of success. It’s as simple as that.”

Thanks to Kolombatovich’s support, Columbia fencers have made the most out of the renowned fencing clubs here in New York City. Instead of exclusively fencing against the other fencers on the team, Columbia fencers are able to fence dozens of world-class fencers who compete in World Cup events and the Olympics as well as work with their personal coaches.

Kolombatovich always supported the schedules and individual choices of his fencers. The freedom he provided helped bring talented fencers to Columbia.

“His philosophy really drew me into the program,” Roberts said.

Yet, Kolombatovich continued to care for his athletes and support them whenever they were in need.

“George over the years would fight for his kids on many different levels,” Mormando said. “If one of his students at Columbia had a problem, George was first in line to try and help him. If his kids had a problem out on the strip or in tournaments he would be the first to step out there and protect and help them out.”

Kolombatovich will most remember the amazing student-athletes he worked with over the years. “The main thing that I was able to accomplish was to have so many phenomenal student-athletes who were able to take part in the great academic atmosphere of Columbia as well as improve as fencers,” he said.

Kolombatovich’s success at Columbia is only part of his fencing legacy.

Kolombatovich coached the United States in six Junior World Championships and was coach and chief of mission in seven Junior Pan American Championships.

His greatest legacy may be the work he has done for refereeing. Kolombatovich is a Fédération Internationale d’Escrime (FIE) A-rated referee and a member of the United States Fencing Association’s (USFA) Fencing Officials Committee. Both the

FIE and USFA have published his handbook for referees.

Kolombatovich has also refereed at numerous World Cup events, World Championships, Pan American Games, and three Olympic Games. In addition, Kolombatovich is a noted referee in wheelchair fencing and has been involved with three Paralympic Games.

“George cared deeply about the sport,” Murphy said. “George worked tirelessly to really promote fencing across the world.”

“I have nothing but the greatest respect for George,” Mormando said. “I think he was an absolute class act and he’s certainly going to be a hard act to follow.”

The Athletics Department will most likely hire a replacement in about a month.

With his supreme knowledge of the sport internationally known, Kolombatovich has already received multiple offers for jobs now that he has left Columbia.

“I’m not going to sit home and watch Oprah,” he said. “But what exactly I’ll do, I don’t know.”

Undoubtedly, George Kolombatovich’s presence and knowledge of fencing will be sorely missed by all those who know him at Columbia.



KATE SCARBROUGH / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

FULL SPEED AHEAD | The Lions hope to get off to a good start and to stay aggressive when they take on the Jaspers today at Robertson Field.

Baseball looks to beat Manhattan for second straight week

BASEBALL FROM PAGE 3

them their fourth-straight Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference series sweep. The Jaspers won 5-1 in the Friday afternoon game, and closed out the series with a doubleheader sweep on Sunday, winning the first game 11-8 and the second 3-1. Like Columbia, the Jaspers are also familiar with getting runners on early and often to aid in their success, as they scored their first eight runs in the 11-8 victory in the first three innings.

Manhattan has a threat in third baseman Chad Salem. The senior went 5-for-7 in Sunday’s doubleheader, driving in four runs and scoring three of his own, as he led the Jaspers to dominate offensively. He is hitting a whopping .403 for the season with a .664 slugging percentage. Salem can also be credited with half his team’s home runs this season, as he has six of Manhattan’s 12. “Yeah, he can hit,” Boretti said. “You have got to get ahead and make him hit a pitch he doesn’t want to.”

As Columbia prepares to play a four-game series this weekend at Princeton—the team with the best record in the Ivy League—a win today will put the Light Blue in a good mental position entering the weekend. “Wednesday’s games are a chance to compete against a tough Manhattan team,” Boretti said.

First pitch is scheduled for 2 p.m. Wednesday at Robertson Field at Satow Stadium.

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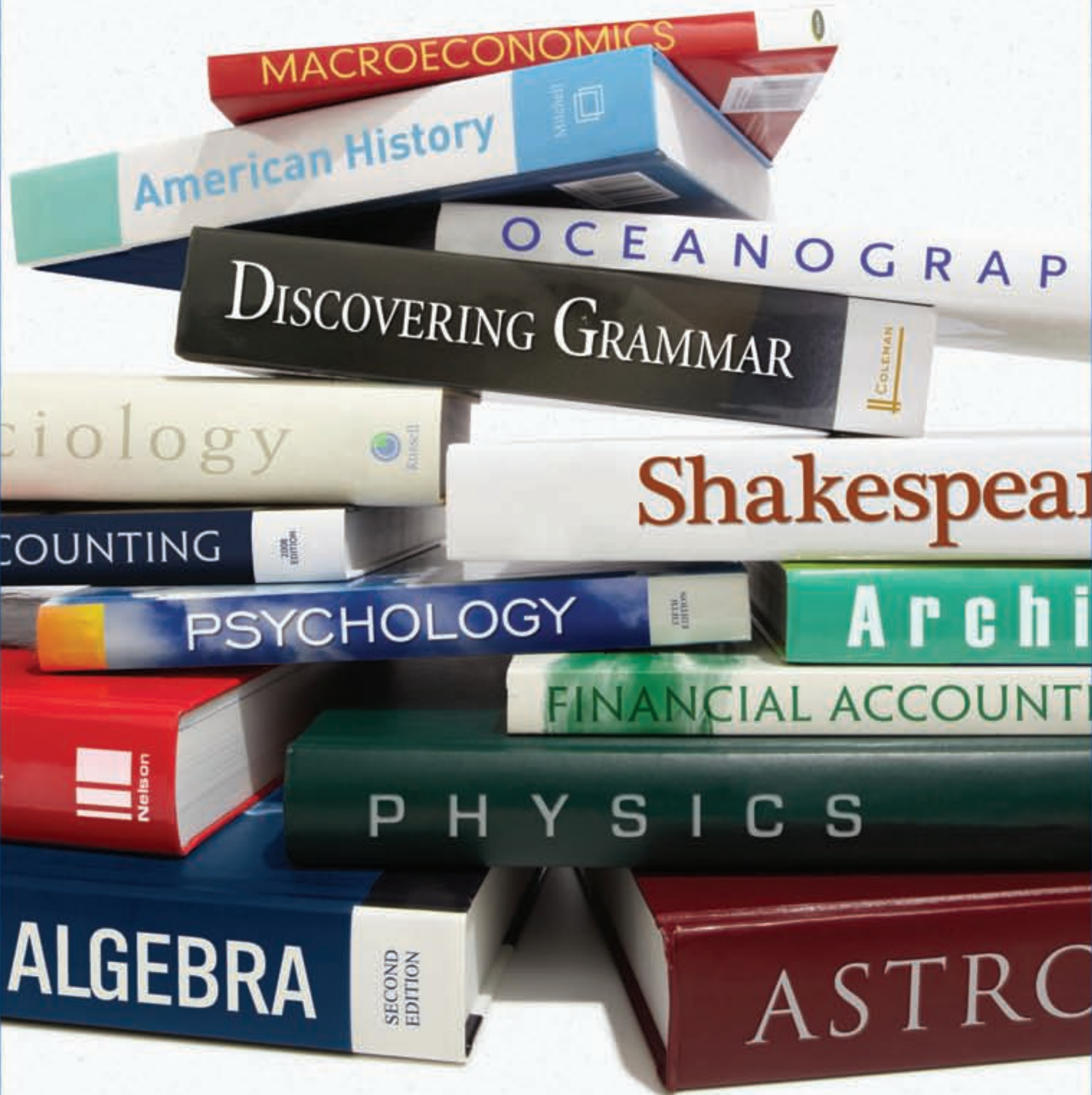
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