



EMBRY OWEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**BURSTING THE BUBBLE** | The Parks Department is facing local opposition to its proposal to construct bubbles over the Central Park tennis courts, off of 96th Street, so that the facilities can stay open during winter seasons. The bubbles would be powered by generators that may increase pollution.

## Residents oppose city’s proposal for tennis court bubbles

BY GILA SCHWARZSCHILD  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

A project with giant bubbles powered by diesel fuel tanks is the newest unwelcome development on the Upper West Side.

The city’s Department of Parks and Recreation recently drafted a proposal to enclose Central Park’s outdoor tennis courts with bubble-like structures this winter, but local opponents say that the change could be aesthetically and environmentally damaging to the park.

Twenty-six courts, located at the north end of the park near 96th Street, are currently only open during the spring and summer months. The city, in conjunction with the Department of Parks and Recreation, has requested proposals to install 35-foot vinyl

bubbles over the courts to be heated by generators. With the new structures, there would also be an increase in cost to use the facilities, ranging from \$40-\$100 per hour.

The local impact of the bubbles has been the subject of debate for weeks, and advocates are now circulating a petition in an effort to persuade the parks department and city officials to kill the plan.

Community Board 8, which represents the Upper East Side, recently retracted its support for the bubbles, and Mel Wymore, chair of the Upper West Side’s Community Board 7, said she does not support the project.

“My hope is that they’ll take this one off the table too,” she said, adding that it was an “ill-conceived proposal.”

Wymore said that CB7 has told representatives of all the buildings

along Central Park West about the proposal, posted information on its website, informed parks organizations, and put the proposal on the agenda for the next Parks and Environment Committee meeting.

She also noted that the committee meeting, set for May 13, has been moved to an alternate location to accommodate the expected crowd.

Landmark West, an Upper West Side preservation organization, set up a petition online against the implementation of these bubbles.

“It needs to be brought to the attention of park officials,” Cristiana Peña, director of community outreach at Landmark West, said. Peña said that the petition, still online, has over 1,300 signatures so far.

Cristina DeLuca, a spokesperson for the Department of

Parks and Recreation, said the department has no comment on the proposal or neighborhood opposition to it, though the proposal notes that environmental concerns are a priority, and states, “As the protector and provider of green spaces, Parks is deeply committed to respecting the environment. ... All proposed operational plans should include a detailed description of environmentally friendly practices planned for the Premises.”

Peña said that it is important to raise awareness about this potential development. In addition to emailing and calling as many people as possible, Landmark West has been reaching out to other parks organizations with a similar

SEE TENNIS BUBBLE, page 7

## Emily Bell to lead J-school new media

### Guardian digital content director appointed to Tow Center

BY LEAH GREENBAUM  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

After reviewing 100 candidates from five different continents, Columbia Journalism School announced on Wednesday that Emily Bell will be leaving a longtime post at the Guardian to help lead Columbia’s efforts to advance digital media.

Bell, who will remain a consultant for the British daily newspaper, will serve as the director of the newly-created Tow Center for Digital Journalism, starting this summer.

As director of the Tow Center, she will help facilitate a new dual-degree program between the J-school and the School of Engineering and Applied Science that will allow students to study computer science and journalism together. In her new position, Bell will also teach graduate students, work on new business models for media, and collaborate with and lead studies on established news organizations.

Since Bell began at the Guardian, the site has won numerous awards for online journalism and has drawn 37 million unique users per month, though the newspaper only has a circulation of 300,000.

And in recent years, the J-school has upped its interest in new media as an important component in the newspaper industry’s uncertain future.

Nicholas Lemann, J-school dean and Henry R. Luce professor, said in an interview on Wednesday, “It’s a big step forward for the school, but it’s a big step in a direction we were moving in already.”

In a press release from the J-school, Bell—who couldn’t be reached on Wednesday—said that the Tow Center has an important



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**NEW AGE** | Emily Bell from the UK’s Guardian is coming to CU.

opportunity to contribute to the transformations in the field.

“Columbia’s unrivalled reputation for excellence in journalism training already attracts the cooperation and interest of the world’s leading news organizations, and the Center has the potential to play a transformative role in the future of journalism. I am eager to get started,” she said in the release.

Despite the instability of the industry, the number of applicants to the journalism school—regarded as a top graduate program for journalism in the country—rose 39 percent earlier this year.

The Tow Center was established in January with a focus on the digital reporting and presentation of news. Unlike professors in many graduate programs, J-School faculty, like Bell, often have longtime professional backgrounds.

“We didn’t want to hire someone who just has an idea about how such things should be done. We wanted someone who has been out there doing it,” Lemann said.

Tim Kiladze, Journalism ’10 and specializing in print, said that Bell’s hiring is a “continuation of what’s

SEE J-SCHOOL, page 7

## Students protest SIPA speaker choice

BY ELIZABETH SCOTT  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

For some students at the School of International and Public Affairs, the choice of Vikram Pandit, CEO of Citigroup, as graduation speaker is both inappropriate and uninspiring.

Pandit, who has received four degrees from the University and is a trustee, became Citigroup CEO in 2007. Some students said that in light of the recent economic crisis, a representative from the banking industry is an unsuitable pick, particularly for a school that teaches public policy.

“Part of the reason a lot of people come here is to understand some of the problems about poverty or development ... and one of the biggest things that’s happened during our time is ... the financial crisis,” Ahsan Kamal, SIPA ’10, said. “Banks and the whole bank industry ... have a very sort of direct relationship with the crisis.”

Dean of SIPA John Coatsworth said in an email to SIPA students who expressed concern that the choice reflects the school’s efforts to draw speakers from a broad variety of fields that graduates will enter. “Over the years, we have tried to select a range of speakers

who reflect the diversity of our students and the changing issues of the time,” Coatsworth said. “Over a third of SIPA graduates find work in the private sector. In recent years, approximately ten percent of all graduates have taken jobs in the financial services industry alone, and a much larger proportion take positions in the regulatory agencies and central banks that will play crucial roles not only in resolving the current financial crisis, but in establishing policies that will prevent similar disasters in the future.”

SEE SIPA, page 8

## No union strike, CU housing unaffected

BY SARAH DARVILLE  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

It was business as usual today for thousands of city building workers, after their union avoided a strike that could have left hundreds of local and Columbia buildings without basic services.

New York City’s 32BJ union, a division of the Service Employees International Union, represents 30,000 workers, including those who work in University Apartment Housing buildings. UAH generally houses graduate students and faculty, but also oversees the undergraduate buildings 47 Claremont and Harmony Hall.

The union reached a contract agreement with the city’s Realty Advisory Board on Labor Relations late Tuesday night, dodging a strike that would have taken doormen, maintenance workers, superintendents, and porters off the job.

On Wednesday, residents and workers alike were relieved that they didn’t have to deal with the inconveniences of a strike.

“Last night, when I saw the notice that there was probably going to be a strike, I was worried,” said Tammy Mutassa, Journalism ’10 and a resident of Carlton Arms on Riverside Drive. “This morning, when I walked out of the elevator and saw that my doorman was there, it was kind of a relief to see him.”

The resident manager at Carlton Arms, Ronald Pelissier, said that



PATRICK YUAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**STRIKE OUT!** | Carlton Arms, 362 Riverside Dr., would have lost its workers on Wednesday, but the union strike was called off late Tuesday night.

though he would have understood the need to strike, it can become a huge burden for residents.

“On top of all the stuff they deal with with school, they don’t need to deal with that,” he said of his 400 residents, adding, “It would have been bad for my building, so I’m glad we could come to a conclusion.”

Because the city’s Department of Sanitation has a history of not crossing picket lines, garbage would likely not have been picked up for the duration of the strike. When 32BJ last had its employees walk off the job in 1991, the strike—and the garbage—lasted for 12 days.

Loretta Zuk, the superintendent at 547 Riverside Drive, was around for that strike, but said that she wasn’t surprised that one

was avoided this time around.

“We have this contract renewed every three or four years, and pretty much they settle when it comes down to it, because the city would be at a standstill,” she said. “Just the trash alone—people don’t want to have to deal with that.”

The union and the Realty Advisory Board had been negotiating the contract since March, but had disagreed on wage increases, sick days, and workers’ insurance payments.

The RAB released a statement that said they had “tentatively reached an agreement with Local 32BJ” for a four-year contract that includes “average increases of wages and benefits of 2.99% over the 4 years.”

SEE NO STRIKE, page 8

### Honorary Degree Recipients Selection

On Wednesday, Columbia announced this year’s eight honorary degrees and two winners of the Medal for Excellence for noteworthy alumni. Artists, educators, scientists, and scholars were among the recipients. The University will confer the degrees on May 18.

Geoffrey Canada  
Doctor of Laws



Canada, the president and chief executive of Harlem Children’s Zone has gained national recognition for his trailblazing work to help New York families.

Tony Kushner  
Doctor of Letters



Kushner is a Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, screenwriter, and author, famous for Angels in America. He is a graduate of CC, and was once a theater critic for Spectator.

Ron Gonen  
Medal for Excellence



Co-founder and chief executive of RecycleBank, Gonen has encouraged environmental stewardship in homes and on campuses. His program issues rewards for switching to solar or wind energy.

Joel I. Klein  
Doctor of Laws



Klein is the current chancellor of the New York City Department of Education, known for his launch of the reform strategy coined Children First.

Xu Bing  
Doctor of Humane Letters



Bing, vice president of Beijing’s Central Academy of Fine Arts, has produced and showcased his work around the globe. Bing is a MacArthur fellow.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY. GRAPHIC BY KATHERINE TAKETOMO

### INSIDE

A&E, page 3

### GS students showcase talents this Saturday

At the first annual GS talent show, the school’s students and some administrators will compete in a GS-only forum, sharing their sometimes-overlooked artistic abilities with peers and members of other Columbia schools.



Sports, back page

### Columbia tennis dominates Ivies for decade

Men’s tennis has gone through many ups and downs over the course of its existence, but from 2000 until now, it has been the class of the Ivy League. In the time span, the Lions have earned five Ivy championships and have achieved success on the national stage.

Opinion, page 4

### Breaking out of Butler

Derek Turner suggests that students stop repressing the passions that don’t end up on résumés or transcripts.

### Breaking up isn’t hard to do

Jordan Fraade reflects on his not-so-difficult decision to leave Spectator.

Today’s Events

### Going Green Forum

Find out about the latest opportunities for entrepreneurs interested in energy. Davis Auditorium, CEPSR, 12:30-3:30 p.m.

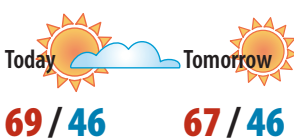
### Unveiling the Silence

Watch NO! The Rape Documentary, and attend the following dialogue. 552 IRC, 7:30 p.m.

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Students, admins to perform at first ever GS talent showcase

BY ALLISON MALECHA  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

It wouldn't be fair to say that any one undergraduate school has a larger pool of talented artists than the others, but artists in the School of General Studies often don't get much attention. But on Saturday, the first annual Spring Talent Showcase, sponsored by the General Studies Student Council, will introduce the rest of the community to the other, nonacademic lives of GS students for the first time on a Columbia stage.

The show is also unique in attempting bring GS faculty closer to the student body by featuring performances by GS administrators like Dean of Students Scott Halvorson to Associate Director of Communications Allison Scola. The GS website defines its students as having taken at least a one-year

break between high school and college. It just so happens that a good proportion of students spent that break in a professional artistic field. "I know a lot of schools do talent shows," Katherine Edwards, president of GSSC, said. "But I do think it's a little different just because most of our performers actually do have professional backgrounds in this." Edwards herself was a professional opera singer before coming to GS—she will perform an aria at the showcase. The event is meant to open up dialogue about the nontraditional paths that some GS students have taken. How did Edwards go from singing opera at the Manhattan School of Music to majoring in economics at GS? "I figured out I wanted to get more of an education than just conservatory," she said. "The first thing I took [through the School of Continuing Education] was

'Principles of Economics.' I loved the class so much, I decided to transfer." With such a strong composition of artsy types, it's surprising that this is the first such event put on by GSSC. Jessica Collins, co-coordinator for the showcase and GSSC senior class vice president, explained why this year is the year in which the event is being held: "It requires a concentration of effort in the area of student life, a priority of the 2009-2010 council." Quick not to discredit previous years' councils, Collins added that last year, the focus was more on primary policy, which "has actually enabled this year's council to have more available funds to dedicate to improving the overall quality of our student life events." By calling it the "first annual" talent show, the 2009-2010 GSSC hopes to make this showcase the first of many. "Our hope is that this event will become

as popular, or even more popular, than the gala," Candice Arakelian, sophomore class president for GSSC and the event's other co-coordinator, said. She was referring to Lunar Gala, the Chinese Students Club's 31-year-old culture show. Although this is the first campus arts event specifically dedicated to GS students, that doesn't mean that these students haven't been involved in Columbia's arts community up until this point. GS students constitute a majority of the Columbia Ballet Cooperative, and the CU Ballroom Dance Team and Raw Elementz also traditionally have GS participants. However, this is the first performance opportunity solely open to GS students. "We believe that both GS students and their CC, Barnard, and SEAS peers can learn much from each other not only academically,

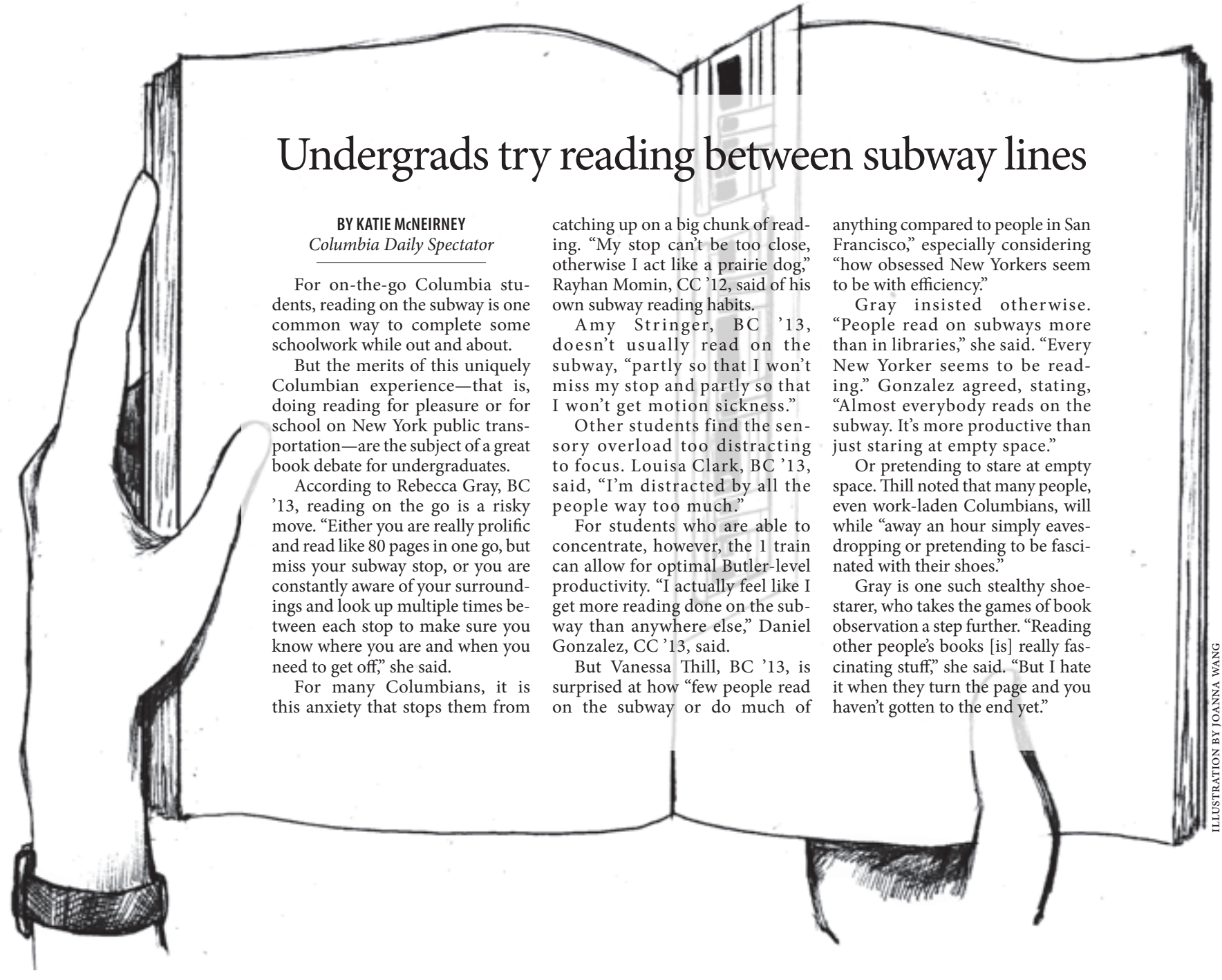
but socially and culturally," Collins said. Simultaneously highlighting the similarities and differences between GS students and those from the other undergraduate schools, the showcase displays GS students' expertise, but in a traditional college event format. It's also a chance for GS students to showcase their talents to their peers. With Columbia's demanding school schedule, some students, according to Edwards, have had to shelve their artistic pursuits. "This is their first time coming to see me in an actual performance," Edwards said of her GS friends. "It's really our chance to share who we are."

WHERE IT'S AT

Time: Saturday, April 24 at 1 p.m

Place: Roone Arledge Auditorium

Cost: Free



Undergrads try reading between subway lines

BY KATIE MCNEIRNEY  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

For on-the-go Columbia students, reading on the subway is one common way to complete some schoolwork while out and about. But the merits of this uniquely Columbian experience—that is, doing reading for pleasure or for school on New York public transportation—are the subject of a great book debate for undergraduates. According to Rebecca Gray, BC '13, reading on the go is a risky move. "Either you are really prolific and read like 80 pages in one go, but miss your subway stop, or you are constantly aware of your surroundings and look up multiple times between each stop to make sure you know where you are and when you need to get off," she said. For many Columbians, it is this anxiety that stops them from

catching up on a big chunk of reading. "My stop can't be too close, otherwise I act like a prairie dog," Rayhan Momin, CC '12, said of his own subway reading habits. Amy Stringer, BC '13, doesn't usually read on the subway, "partly so that I won't miss my stop and partly so that I won't get motion sickness." Other students find the sensory overload too distracting to focus. Louisa Clark, BC '13, said, "I'm distracted by all the people way too much." For students who are able to concentrate, however, the 1 train can allow for optimal Butler-level productivity. "I actually feel like I get more reading done on the subway than anywhere else," Daniel Gonzalez, CC '13, said. But Vanessa Thill, BC '13, is surprised at how "few people read on the subway or do much of

anything compared to people in San Francisco," especially considering "how obsessed New Yorkers seem to be with efficiency." Gray insisted otherwise. "People read on subways more than in libraries," she said. "Every New Yorker seems to be reading." Gonzalez agreed, stating, "Almost everybody reads on the subway. It's more productive than just staring at empty space." Or pretending to stare at empty space. Thill noted that many people, even work-laden Columbians, will while "away an hour simply eavesdropping or pretending to be fascinated with their shoes." Gray is one such stealthy shoe-starer, who takes the games of book observation a step further. "Reading other people's books [is] really fascinating stuff," she said. "But I hate it when they turn the page and you haven't gotten to the end yet."

ILLUSTRATION BY JOANNA WANG



COURTESY OF STEPHEN DOBAY

WHEREFORE | At Riverside Theatre, SoA's "Romeo and Juliet" offers a partially, but not wholly modern take on the play.

SoA 'Romeo' mediates gap of past and present

BY MELISSA ITZKOWITZ  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

"Romeo and Juliet" is certainly a tragedy as the SoA Theatre Arts Program presents it. But it is refreshing to share some laughs during what could be an utterly depressing theatrical cliché. The production, directed by Adriana Baer, MFA '10, for a directing thesis production, has a modern twist that's not fully fleshed out. The dialogue, though still spoken in Shakespearean English, is delivered with ease and humor rather than with acting. That being said, it is easy to understand, even for the group of French middle schoolers in the audience—the funny jokes are funnier, and the characters are more relatable.

In fact, some of the lines were delivered as they would be in the 21st century. This relativity knocks down barriers that could otherwise be built between those less fond of Shakespeare while still entertaining Shakespeare's biggest fans, and it encourages the actors to interact with the audience—quite literally, because the front of the stage is covered with tons of what look like wood chippings, which tend to fly into the front row during intense fight scenes. While the modern interpretation of the original dialogue is helpful and entertaining, some of the costume choices were a bit confusing. Like the rest of the play, they were modern, but not completely so. The women's ruffled chokers coupled with modern pencil skirts and the men's Shakespearean vests paired with the latest kicks caused some confusion. On the one hand, it added to the play's humor, but on the other hand, it was odd that the Nurse was still wearing a skimpy dress when announcing Tybalt's death.

All of the characters had tremendous chemistry and were able to make the audience roar with laughter in Act I and shudder in Act II. Eileen DeSandre's interpretation of the Nurse as that saucy grandmother everyone loves, Max Woertendyke's hilarious portrayal of Mercutio, and Laurie Schroeder's loving, though slightly bitchy Lady Capulet, were particularly impressive. Additionally, the shadowy effect upstage during scene changes and the haunting music added to the quasi-contemporary interpretation. Baer skillfully walked the emotional and chronological lines of the production—but audiences should beware the front row of the house because that's one line that's messy to cross.

WHERE IT'S AT

Time: Wednesday through Saturday, showtimes vary

Place: The Riverside Theatre at Riverside Church, 91 Claremont Ave. (between 120th and 122nd streets)

Cost: Free with CUID

Student dramedy 'Sophomoric' hits close to home for drug curious

BY ROSIE DUPONT  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Do you remember your sophomore slump? If not, "Sophomoric," the new half-hour TV dramedy by Clea Litewka, Columbia University Film Productions president and CC '10, will bring the memories flooding back. In three eight-minute episodes created for CUFPP, "Sophomoric" explores the lives of seven college students coping with the apathy and depression of their sophomore years. How do they cope with the college blues? Self-medication. If "Sophomoric" had to be described in three words, those words would be: undergraduate drug experimentation. Let's

face it—for most Columbia students, these three words resonate. As much as parents would like to believe their children are sitting behind ivy-trimmed gates drinking ginger ale and reading Kant, the ginger ale they dream of is usually spiked with whiskey, vermouth, and gin. In making the pilot, Litewka felt the urge to reveal the truth about college drug abuse. As she put it, "I was interested in exploring college students' relationships with drugs and representing college students in their naked states." Naked? Not quite. Revealed? Definitely. In network television, Litewka said, "all bad behaviors have to happen offstage." In "Sophomoric," Litewka had the creative control to show kids experimenting with drugs on-screen. The opening credits of the

series feature students firing up a bong, pulling weed out of private stashes, and lighting incense. In search of creative inspiration for the series, Litewka commented that she "watched a lot of movies with drug trips in them," as well as shows set in college, such as "Felicity" and Judd Apatow's "Undeclared." In terms of film quality, "Sophomoric" is fairly rough around the edges, but it has a raw reality to it that is very appealing. The acting is hit-or-miss, but the lead actress, Brigitte Thieme-Burdette gives a truly convincing, unaffected portrayal of a slumping sophomore girl. Her determined pursuit of weed and her defeated line, "I just want to get baked," are compellingly real. The episodes are available online at www.sophomorictheshow.com, a multimedia

blog that includes a place to watch the show and four scripts for those episodes in the series that have yet to be produced. It acts as a platform for Litewka's work as well as for collaborators on the project. Litewka said she learned a lot while producing the series. "The process has been stressful, but it is rewarding to build something from the ground up," she said. As president of CUFPP, she wanted to be a model for undergraduates interested in film and to create crew jobs for kids looking for experience. "The best way to learn film and television production is to do them," she said. So for all of those slumping sophomores out there looking for a show to watch while you "get baked," tune into to "Sophomoric" and chill out.



COURTESY OF CLEA LITEWKA

TAKE A HIT | The cast of the new student-produced TV show "Sophomoric" explores authentic themes that will resonate with slumping sophomores past and present.





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## The repressed Columbian masses



DEREK  
TURNER

### Opening Remarks

thing and get the release they need. Instead, our fellow students ignore the voices inside their heads and bury their noses even more firmly in their textbooks. They stand on the precipice of indulgence, but they are restrained by their studies in empty Hamilton classrooms and musty Butler stacks. Occasionally, though, despite efforts to the contrary, the young men and women we pass on Low Plaza simply cannot hold it in any longer. Sometimes, their pent-up frustration breaks out and finds satiation in some grand display or timid deed.

I refer, of course, to the repression of all the interests, talents, and passions that take a backseat to our academic duties. It is a brutal practice that needs to be addressed. As long as this self-induced repression continues, our students will continue to suffer under the weight of all that they do not express in their academic pursuits.

Granted, we come to Columbia in order to advance our knowledge of ancient texts, integrals, and cultural relativism. However, these represent only the first of many priorities that we as students and people need to consider. Focusing only on our academic development not only creates an imbalanced sense of living in our community, but also stifles the many other ways in which Columbians can benefit our city, community, and selves.

Luckily, there are some Columbians who do a great job of pursuing growth in all of their abilities, which benefits everyone who witnesses their development. Take Postscript as an example. The recently threatened cultural showcase in the basement of St. Paul's is the proper outlet for the musical and poetic talents that members of our student body would otherwise leave inside themselves. Just a few weeks ago, I had the pleasure of hearing Kayte Grace perform there, and as I

## We have created a culture in which it is more laudable to take six classes than to take four.

looked at the Columbians sitting in awed silence listening to her and the other students accompanying her, I knew that everyone benefited from the performance in different ways. Kayte, a hard-working Columbia student, and her fellow bandmates were relishing the opportunity to express their artistic and musical passions in their full glory.

On the other side of the stage, the audience enjoyed another freeing experience. I would like to think that, in listening to a classmate exercise her non-academic passions, the crowd unlocked its own creative aspirations. Perhaps the break from academic performance is something that spreads through contact. If so, I believe there is immense potential for movement at Columbia toward balancing out each of our lives by taking more time to express those interests and talents that don't show up on our transcripts.

Admittedly, our campus does boast significant infrastructure for nonacademic pursuits through student organizations. For some reason, however, an atmosphere of concealed talent dominates. It seems that all too frequently, we are stunned to find that an old friend of ours has a captivating voice, an awe-inspiring talent at painting, or an unrecognized prowess at a sport. Why is that? Does that have to be the case? I wonder if it is possible to foster a culture at Columbia that encourages people to want to express all of their passions in many different environments.

There are a variety of ways in which students could create a community that encourages exercising all of the talents that contribute to an individual's identity. Though it would be easy to suggest administrative changes to class requirements to encourage more time to pursue these alternate interests, I think the solution lies with us in the student body.

We are the ones who create our culture, and as such, we have created a culture in which it is more laudable to take six classes than to take four and spend the extra time developing in ways that our future employers may never see. The culture we have built for ourselves takes more pride in double-majoring than it does in building friendships and connections to people who can reinforce passions outside of the classroom. As a result, we find our time utterly capitalized by the communal prioritizing of academics above all other parts of life. Though we may have a longer transcript to show for it by graduation, I cannot help but wonder what other faculties could have been honed and shared for the community's benefit had we all worked toward fostering a culture of holistic development instead of settling for academic perfection.

Derek Turner is a Columbia College sophomore majoring in anthropology and political science. Opening Remarks runs alternate Thursdays.

## It's not you, Spec. It's both of us.

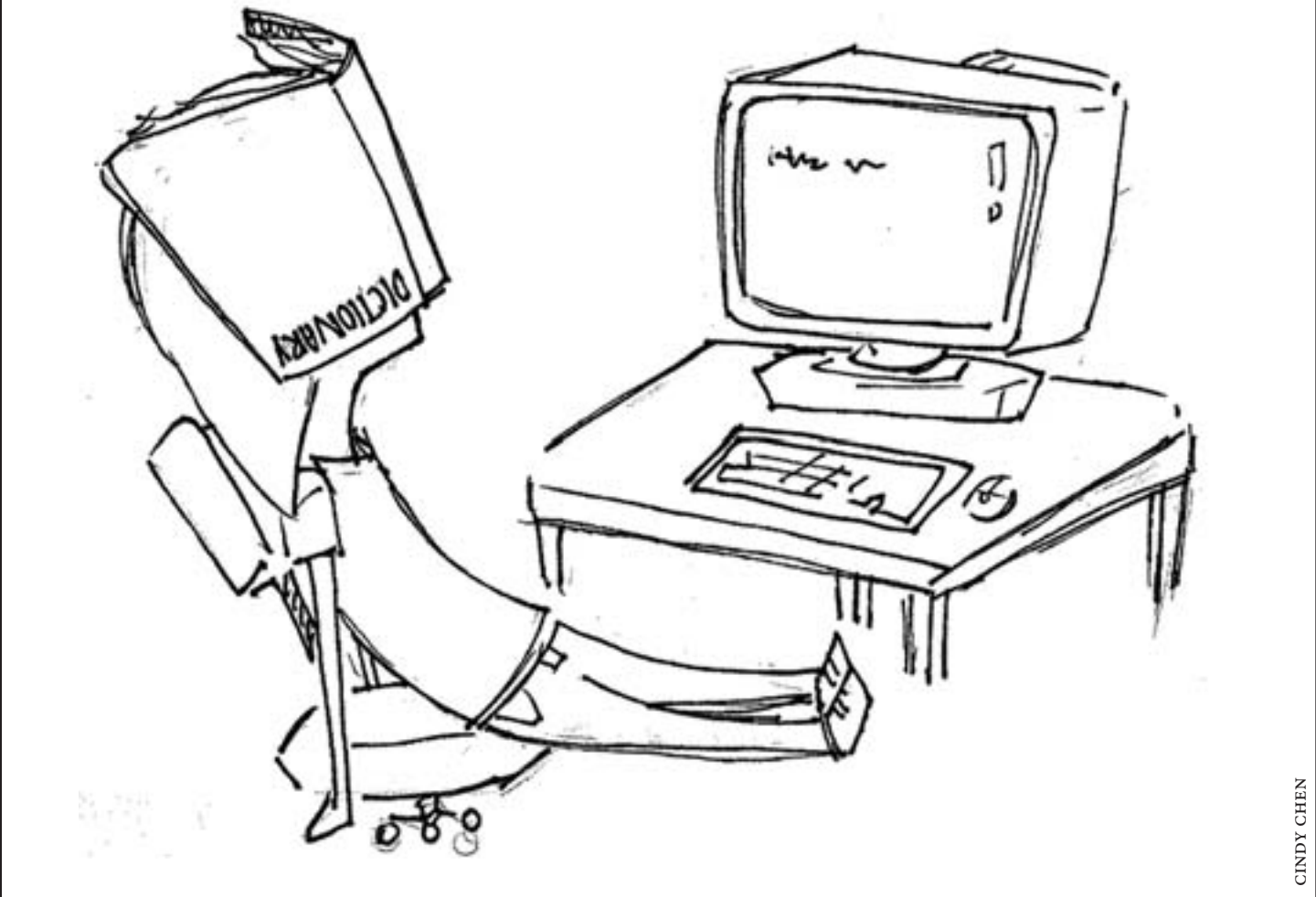
BY JORDAN FRAADE

I don't know the single worst decision I've made at Columbia, but I do know the single best. It was quitting Spectator.

Two-thirds of the way into my yearlong tenure as head copy editor, I suddenly remembered that I was a volunteer. I agonized for a week about my decision not to finish the job I started, but on a September night, I finally called the copy staff into the office and told them I was resigning. My reasons for going, I explained, were not a reflection on the section or its members. I felt increasingly isolated and impotent in the office, I wanted to spend more time with friends before my upcoming semester abroad, I was fighting off a debilitating bout of depression, my grades were slipping, and I was getting nothing out of the job. The reasons all blurred together and probably didn't make sense to anyone but me. But a week later, I was gone. I took two steps out of the office on my last night, and—I shit you not—kicked up my heels and punched my fist in the air on the way to the elevator. It was my first spontaneous gesture of joy since I began the job that January.

A year and a half later, I mostly remember the extremes. The long, mundane nights in the office were excruciating—waiting for the next set of printouts and preparing to squint to see the tiny typos it was my job to catch and resting bleary-eyed on the couch, finally immune to the stimuli of coffee, cigarettes, and alcohol. There were other nights when journalism's beating heart came alive—when

### SENIOR COLUMN



CINDY CHEN

## The truth about comments



TONY  
GONG

### Tony Gong Explains the Universe

Hateful anonymous Internet comments are destroying Columbia.

First there were Columbia vs. Barnard feuds. Then a dumb Bwog comment last November claimed that Postscript Coffeehouse sold "tons of alcohol to minors," which prompted an administrative attack on the innocent music venue. And, just when I thought it couldn't possibly get any worse, an anonymous comment on my last Spec column told me to "suck it."

So, in addition to crying, I've spent a lot of time this past week trying to understand the hateful comments written on Columbia's pages. And it's not that I wanted to do a particularly good job for this column. Most of them just had really bad spelling and grammar, so they were hard to read.

But all my research has paid off. A thorough investigation has validated an ingenious theory that finally elucidates all the offensive, cynical, ignorant comments that have ever appeared on Columbia sites. They're written by the same person. Let's turn to the evidence.

Uppercase letters are great—especially at the start of sentences. But people who leave hateful Internet comments seem systematically unaware of proper uppercase letter usage. Uppercase letters instead are consistently employed to express anger, or simply to highlight imperatives. Consider a comment directed at a naïve transfer student from Wesleyan University on Columbia's CollegeACB page written on Aug. 12, 2009: "TRANSFER BACK! COLUMBIA SUCKS!"

we scrapped half a day's news at 10 p.m. to cover the Minutemen stage-storming of fall 2006, or when, against all better judgment, I was put in charge of copy-editing the paper the day that Mahmoud Ahmadinejad came to Columbia.

Either way, I never imagined I'd end up head copy editor. The section just seemed like a natural place to start. It was somewhere I could submit others' writing to my scalpel instead of mine to theirs, learn how newspapers work, and then move on to something more glamorous. But inertia took hold, as it often does. Even as I grew tremendously fond of the people in the section, the work became less interesting and the hours, more demanding. I assumed these were necessary sacrifices for the sake of stability and advancement. Around the copy desk, many of us even reveled in our status as the so-called bastard children of Spectator. When I decided to run for head copy editor, I was motivated mainly by the fact that it just seemed like the natural thing to do.

If an unpaid 40-hour work week fixing commas and syntax on top of a full load of classes at Columbia does not strike most people as "the natural thing to do," well, most people also don't have a particular emotional attachment to the Oxford comma and the em dash. But, on a deeper level, Spectator also operates on a different and fundamentally perverse set of rules—rules that make it easy and even normal to submit to the dictum that your health and happiness will have to wait for one more year.

Part of the problem, as many of my friends from Spectator have noted in their own defense, is the culture of Columbia itself. The school's cutthroat academics, intensely bright and ambitious people, and serene administrative indifference all contribute to a culture in which stress, misery, and sleeplessness turn into badges of honor. But Spectator's culture,

I believe the same student attacked again on April 11, 2010 ("EVERYONE AT REFERENCE LOOKS THE FUCKING SAME. unless you describe salient physical characteristics, there is no way to know anyone from anyone") and yet again just yesterday on April 21, 2010 ("EAT SOME FUCKING FOOD OR I'LL STUFF A CHEESEBURGER DOWN YOUR THROAT!!!"). The likenesses here are just too striking to discount.

Another linguistic issue that our culprit struggles with is how to use ellipses. Before I continue, I should admit... I believe I also may have problems with ellipses. Fortunately, no one except my mom, two or three lonely Spec editors, and maybe (... just maybe) my CC professor has ever actu-

## Hateful anonymous Internet comments are destroying Columbia.

ally read through ... any of my writing. This makes my grammatical impact minimal... but an anonymous comment on a Bwog article about attention-hungry people dressed weirdly on College Walk will be seen by millions. Thus, I believe our offensive commentator has a moral obligation to appropriately use a period or commas instead of... you know, ellipses.

But this moral duty has been neglected. On April 8, 2010, under my Spec column on the Columbia College Student Council, the anonymous offender wrote, "suck it tony...obviously if you're running for CCSC I'd definitely not vote for you...Isaac is an amazing, ambitious, friendly, generous, and intelligent person - he was a finalist for the Truman Scholarship and is a PPIA Fellow... both of which are extremely prestigious and note-worthy accomplishments...I am eager to see him as CCSC President and know how much he can do for us."

The villain lashed out again on April 18, 2010, in another ellipsis-driven comment that could benefit from some periods and commas: "god if everyone working for Bwog

by unapologetically forcing staffers to sacrifice their mental and physical health to a newspaper, sharpens and glorifies these feelings of martyrdom and self-denial. They became unbearable for me, and they remain so for many others. Some choose to grin and bear it. I chose not to, and it was one of the best decisions I ever made.

I promised myself I wouldn't be too prescriptive, since the preachy senior column has become something of a Spectator joke. So I'll be brief: Whether you're at Spectator or Columbia or anywhere else doesn't really matter. Take care of yourself. Use Dostoevsky, Joni Mitchell, and the Smiths as companions, but don't try to be them. Stress and ennui are not signs of merit—they're signs that you should, at the very least, think deeply and seriously about what you're doing and why you're doing it. Walk away if you have to. And at the risk of spouting out one more cliché (which won't be nearly clichéd enough until more people listen), get help wherever and however you need it.

Space constraints keep me from writing more, but respect is due to the entire copy section, because it doesn't get nearly as much as it deserves and because it was the only thing at Spectator that kept me somewhat sane for eight months. BA, PB, VDB, BG, MG, TT—the pleasure has been all mine. EW, ICB, and DD, for bringing me in, making me stay, and letting me leave. LC, JR, and HV for kvetching and sympathy. I've likely forgotten several people and made several points rather poorly. But we at copy always held a special hatred for those writers who missed deadlines, and I don't plan to suddenly become one of them.

The author is a Columbia College senior majoring in history and concentrating in Hispanic studies. He was head copy editor on the 132nd managing board and associate copy editor on the 131st associate board.

Tony Gong is a junior in the School of Engineering and Applied Science majoring in applied math with a minor in philosophy. Bears frighten him. Tony Gong Explains the Universe runs alternate Thursdays.



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

**su | do | ku**

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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## Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

**ACROSS**

1 Tsp. and tbsp.  
5 Old orchard spritz  
9 Abu \_\_\_\_  
14 Separate by color, say  
15 Angle function  
16 Barely flowed  
17 Hairy "pet"  
18 Father of Sam and Charlie  
20 South Pacific site of large stone statues  
22 Casual evenings  
23 Dull  
27 One might be snappy  
30 Anti-vote  
31 \_\_\_\_ Kan: Alpo rival  
32 Some game enders  
34 They come and go  
35 Continuously  
39 Enter  
41 Search stealthily  
42 Abate  
43 Rosemary's portrayer  
46 Hides  
50 Mind  
53 Clinton Labor secretary Robert  
54 Asian draft animal  
57 "All of Me" actress whose first name is a hint to this puzzle's theme  
60 \_\_\_\_ on the shoulder  
61 Author \_\_\_\_ Rogers St. Johns  
62 \_\_\_\_ sci  
63 Pointed end  
64 Feature of Oregon sales  
65 Singles  
66 Latin I word

**DOWN**

1 Go up  
2 Angora fabric  
3 Sadt, to Sarkozzy  
4 Churchill or Roosevelt, e.g.

37 Malarky  
38 Happy, for one category  
39 Hair stiffener  
40 Geisha's sash  
43 Sparesnis separator  
44 Keen on  
45 Musical direction after rhapsody, perhaps  
47 Gap  
48 Mercedes sedan category  
49 Quaint retail word  
51 Tony winner  
52 Sweater  
55 Sneevishness  
56 Les Etas \_\_\_\_  
57 Data-sharing syst.  
58 Chapel vow  
59 Ease, with "up"

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**

P	I	A	N	O		J	A	M	B		N	O	R	A		
A	L	L	I	N		E	R	I	E		E	R	I	C		
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[xwordeditor@aol.com](mailto:xwordeditor@aol.com) 04/22/10

By Jack McInerff  
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# Music Performance Program

## COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

**April 22, 8 pm** **Student Chamber Music Recital** 301 Philosophy Hall

**April 23, 7:30pm** **CU Voice Ensemble** Italian Academy, 1161 Amsterdam Ave

**April 25, 3 pm** **Columbia Viola Hour** 301 Philosophy Hall

**April 25, 6 pm** **Klezmer & Bluegrass Bands Spring Concert** 301 Philosophy Hall

**April 25, 8 pm** **Student Chamber Music Concert #1** Italian Academy

**April 26, 8 pm** **Columbia Chamber Players at Weill Hall** at Carnegie Hall  
\*Tickets \$20/ Seniors and Students \$10 [www.carnegiehall.com](http://www.carnegiehall.com)

**April 28, 7 pm** **MPP Early Music Series Presents: Trio Eos** St Paul's Chapel

**April 30, 7 pm** **CU Jazz Vocal Ensemble Dir. Christine Correa** 112 Dodge Hall

**April 30, 8 pm** **American Composers Showcase: Adán, Galante, and Iglesia, with Stravinsky's Les Noces** Miller Theatre

**May 1, 5 pm** **MPP Spring Party Jam** 301 Philosophy Hall

**May 2, 2 pm** **CU Jazz Ensembles Dir. O. Mathisen, D. Sickler & B. Waltzer**  
Italian Academy, 1161 Amsterdam Ave betw. 116th & 118th

**May 2, 6 pm** **CU Afro Cuban and Free Jazz Ensembles** Italian Academy

**May 3, 7 pm** **Special Classical/Jazz Concert Featuring Rapaport Fellowship Winners** Faculty House Garden Room 2

**May 3, 7 pm** **CU Jazz Ensembles Dir. Ben Waltzer & Victor Lin**  
112 Dodge Hall

**May 3, 8 pm** **counter)induction plays works by CU composition students**  
301 Philosophy Hall

**May 6, 7 pm** **Early Music Series Presents: Japanese Gagaku**  
St. Paul's Chapel

**May 9, 2 pm** **MPP Student Chamber Music Concert #2** Miller Theatre

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**APR 27-MAY 2 SING INTO SPRING FESTIVAL**  
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## City proposes bubbles for tennis courts, faces opposition

**TENNIS BUBBLE** from front page

mission, she said, to form a coalition that now, among others, includes the Sierra Club and the Coalition for a Livable West Side.

Neighborhood residents have taken issue with the diesel generators that would power the heated bubbles. According

to Landmark West, the bubbles would be heated by generators fueled by four diesel fuel tanks using a volume of 2,300 gallons of fuel each.

"The park is used by walkers, runners, joggers, and park lovers, and they will be breathing this," Joan Bondell, who lives on Central Park West, said.

Neighborhood resident Francine Wilvers said that she opposed the bubble structures because they are unnatural in a park setting. "You hope to breathe in beautiful oxygen that the trees are producing," she said, adding that this project would be "so unhealthy and offensive and contrary to what the park is supposed to be."

Wilvers' image of a Central Park with large bubbles is a grim one. "The park is a beautiful little jewel. It's an oasis ... for people stressed out by the city and its demands," she said, adding that "there is enough encroachment on the park already."

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## Guardian's Emily Bell to lead digital media center

J-SCHOOL from front page

already started to happen,” adding that all students had to undergo a mandatory digital media training for the first time this year.

Shehrbano Saiyid, Journalism '10 and specializing in broadcast, said that the J-school's

focus is in flux. "Old forms of journalism are going out," she said. "The journalism school is trying to make the students realize that it's a part of our success to better know the internet and digital media."

leah.greenbaum  
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**Music Performance Program**  
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

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## The Literature Humanities Course-Wide Lecture

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1 P.M. - 2 P.M.  
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which first proposed a university senate;  
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**WM. THEODORE DE BARY**  
CC '41; first Chairman of the Senate Executive Committee, 1969-1971;  
John Mitchell Mason Professor of the University Emeritus;  
University Provost, 1971-1978

**HAROLD S. WECHSLER**  
CC '67; staff member, Project on Columbia Structure;  
member of the Senate Rules Committee; Senate staff, 1968-1973;  
co-director of NYU's Ph.D. program in Education and Jewish Studies

**NEAL H. HURWITZ**  
CC '66, M.Phil. '77; member of the Ad Hoc Faculty Committee, which tried to mediate  
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# Light Blue track readies for historic Penn Relays

**TRACK from back page**

setting personal bests at 800m and 1500m equaling 1:48.21 and 3:45.76, respectively. The former currently ranks No. 5 in the NCAA, making Moriarty as much a threat as any on the anchor leg. Merber is more of a 1500m specialist and hasn't raced at the half mile outdoors this season. But his personal best from last spring stands at 1:53.75 and, more impressive, he was able to cut the mile in 3:58.52 this winter indoors. Mark possesses the most experience wearing light blue and is the only returner from the 2007 championship squad, in which, as a freshman, he ran the opening leg and handed off the baton in third. He's run 1:50.32 this spring, and has been an emblem of consistency over his career, clocking under 1:51 every season outdoors. Stewart had a breakout season last spring, posting 1:51.52, and has run 1:52.57 this season.

"Kyle looks great and is ready to go," Wood stated. "Jeff has never been this fit in his life. We feel if we can get him the baton close

in the 4x800m that we have a legitimate shot to win."

A second notable event will be the men's distance medley relay, which will include three members of the 4x800: Moriarty, Merber, and Mark. They'll be joined by sophomore Justin Holloman on the 400m leg, who boasts a best of 49.31. Moriarty will run the 1200m open-

**"Penn is an extremely important meet in terms of relays. ...Huge bragging rights are at stake."**

*-Willy Wood, head coach*

ing leg, Mark the penultimate 800m, and Merber the anchor 1600m. The group will surely threaten Columbia's school record 9:50.15, and their chances beyond that are promising. Moriarty can run with the best over three laps, and if Merber is

anywhere near the lead when he gets the baton, there's no counting him out.

The women's 4x400m is a youthful group, entirely made up of underclassmen—sophomores Sharay Hale and Kyra Caldwell, and freshmen Yamira Bell and Uju Ofoche. But they are prodigious talents. With a current best and school record 3:42.69 to their name, and No. 65 ranking in the NCAA, they're not quite at the level of the men's 4x800m or DMR, but no doubt they eventually will be. Their race will be an exciting run, as it will showcase the group on the biggest venue they've competed on up to this point—one for which they're sure to return as considerable threats in coming years. Hale is the consummate star, having run the fastest 400m for a freshman—52.64—last spring. She is clearly in good form, as she set a personal best and school record 52.61 at Auburn last week. The competition she'll face over the anchor leg will provide her with invaluable experience and will be a great dry run for this year's NCAAAs.

"Sharay is currently the fifth fastest 400m runner in the

NCAA," said Wood. "She will dramatically impact our placing in both the 4x400m and the DMR."

The women's middle and long distance talent will come together for the 4x1500m. Juniors Jackie Drouin and Erin Hays will lead the group, which also includes senior Serita Lachesis and freshman Caroline McDonough. Drouin currently tops the Ivy League with her 4:23.46 best set at UNC on April 10, and Hays, Lachesis, and McDonough are situated at fifth, eighth, and ninth, in 4:27.12, 4:28.37, and 4:28.94, respectively.

Apart from the relay events, a slew of men and women will compete in the open 5k, with senior Bobby Hartnett returning to the race at which he set his personal best 14:09.34 last year. Hartnett posted a personal best 3:48.50 1500m this season and is primed to bring his 5000m mark to under 14 minutes.

Competition gets underway with the college women's 400m hurdles Thursday at 10:00 a.m. and will conclude Saturday night with the college men's 4x400m Championship of America at 6:00 p.m.

# CU baseball falls in midweek doubleheader

**BASEBALL from back page**

up by two runs. Manhattan relievers Mike Gonzalez and Tom Moran sealed the deal by hurling a combined three innings of shutout work without allowing one baserunner to reach first. The Jaspers tacked on two runs in the bottom of the sixth en route to a 6-2 win for the two-game sweep.

Giordano was awarded his fourth win of the season (4-1) for his four innings of work, in which he allowed three hits and

two earned runs. Kleban earned his first decision of the year as he dropped to 0-1 for giving up two runs on just one hit over an inning and a third of work.

Despite the disappointing outcome of the day, the Lions possess a comfortable lead in the Gehrig Division. Columbia continues conference this week-end with a four-game road series against upstate rival Cornell.

The first pitch of both doubleheaders will be tossed at noon on Saturday and Sunday.

# Columbia's Triathlon Club goes the distance

**LOPEZ from back page**

together on Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. at the Sundial for bike rides, and on Sundays at 9 a.m. at Uris Pool. While I will definitely be here over the summer, I unfortunately will not be training along with them. I

might change my mind if they added jet skis, motorcycles, and sports cars into the mix, but that's for another column.

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

# Light Blue to host nonconference rival Rider in last home matchup of April

**BY CHRISTOPHER BROWN**  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

The Columbia softball team (10-25, 2-10 Ivy) will face off against Eastern College Athletic Conference opponent Rider University(10-23-1). The Light Blue hope to avenge two earlier losses to the Rider Broncos earlier this season at the Rebel Games in Florida.

On March 14, Columbia was edged by Rider in a 2-1 loss. Second baseman Alison Lam used a leadoff walk, a steal, a wild pitch, and a sacrifice fly from junior infielder Karen Tulig to score the Lions' only run of the game. Tulig sustained a fractured jaw after sliding into third base in the top of the fourth inning and has been sidelined ever since.

In the bottom of the inning, Rider tied the game by cashing in

**COLUMBIA VS. RIDER**  
Baker Field, Thursday, 3 p.m.

Amanda Centeno's leadoff single, and took the win on a walk-off home run from catcher Sam Pugh with two outs in the bottom of the seventh inning. Centeno has a .372 batting average with one home run and 15 RBI this season. Rachael Matreale pitched seven complete innings in the win, and leads her team with a 2.72 ERA and 82 strikeouts in 108 innings pitched this season.

Columbia suffered a shutout the next day, losing 7-0. Sam Bennett allowed just five hits in seven complete innings for her only win of the season. She has struggled since, allowing 42 earned runs in the 34 1/3 innings outside in her other nine appearances.

**COLUMBIA VS. RIDER**  
Baker Field, Thursday, 5 p.m.

The Broncos' offense has been impressive this season, with three players hitting over .300. Heather Muscara leads the team with a .397 batting average along with two home runs and 20 RBI. Brittany Eckett has been the most productive hitter for Rider, with a team-high eight home runs, 32 RBI, and .695 slugging percentage in 34 games this season.

Outside of Matreale, Rider's pitching has not been nearly as impressive as their hitting. Bennett, Rachel Coleman, and Kelsey Krisch have ERAs over 6.00, pushing the team ERA to 4.80 overall.

The doubleheader will begin at 3 p.m. at the Baker Athletics Complex.



SHIVINA HARJANI / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**TWINBILL |** The Columbia softball team will try to avenge its two losses to Rider earlier this season when the Light Blue hosts the Broncos this afternoon in a doubleheader up at Baker Field.

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