

TITLE ON THE LINE



JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

FOR THE WIN | The outcome of this weekend's competition will determine whether it is the Lions or the Quakers who advances to the playoffs.

Residents fear Section 8 federal funds only temporary

BY HIEN TRUONG
Spectator Staff Writer

Though the federal government has stepped in to help New York City's affordable housing budget woes, West Harlem resident Miguel Lopez says he is still living in fear that he will not be able to maintain his current home. Disabled and living in the neighborhood for 46 years, Lopez relies on Section 8 city vouchers for his apartment. And despite recent federal allocations to provide a temporary fix, he

said, "I'm still not convinced that I'm going to be safe."

Last week, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development announced that it would allocate a sum of \$23.5 million to the New York City Housing Authority to be used for the Section 8 Subsidized Housing Program, which gives low-income tenants access to private housing, typically costing 30 percent of annual income. City vouchers, common in Harlem, cover the remainder.

This news of federal support comes after NYCHA announced earlier this month that, due to a budget gap of close to \$45 million, it may revoke vouchers from as many as 10,000 residents already living in Section 8 housing.

According to NYCHA spokesperson Heidi Morales, HUD allocations were awarded to public housing authorities, such as NYCHA, who are in excess of their legal limit of vouchers.

In a release, HUD announced that the funding comes from a

larger sum of \$150 million set aside by Congress to help housing authorities support existing vouchers.

Morales said NYCHA could not comment on specific plans for allocating funds, or on whether the allocation ensures that current vouchers will not be revoked. "It's still in the works," she said.

"HUD's allocation of more than \$23 million to help fill that gap is an enormous help," NYCHA chairman John Rhea said in a press release. But, he

SEE NYCHA, page 2

GS seeks financial aid improvement

Despite new system, students still uncertain about process

BY POOJA REDDY AND MADINA TOURE
Columbia Daily Spectator

Despite a modified financial aid model, Columbia's School of General Studies continues to face challenges in obtaining financial aid for its students.

In 2008, GS—which enrolls nontraditional students, who may be supporting families or may have spent years working before coming to Columbia—launched a revised program intended to increase need-based aid opportunities for students with the highest levels of aggregate loans and the lowest estimated family contributions. For decades prior, GS had an exclusively merit-based program.

According to GS Dean Peter Awn, the average debt of GS students has increased over the last decade. But for the last three academic years, roughly 10 percent of the total institutional aid pool, or one million dollars yearly, has been used to support the new need-based enhancement program.

Despite this systematic shift and other, smaller efforts to make the aid process at GS easier, though, some students say they are still struggling to get the aid they need, and in some cases, even to understand the process.

"While the enhancement grant does not eliminate the need for GS students to take on loans to finance a Columbia education, the program has slowed the rate of growth in average debt loads for GS graduates," Awn said in an email.

Financial aid at GS comes from three sources—73 percent from general income, 7 percent from current use of gifts, and 20 percent from the

endowment. Roughly 75 percent of the student body receives some form of aid.

According to Katherine Edwards, General Studies Student Council president, the economic crisis has made it harder for students to receive private loans. Students, she said, have also expressed concern about private debt, paying tuition per class credit, and the difficulties of finding outside scholarships and loans due to age cutoffs. For some students though, the process is simply unclear.

"I don't know how they determine who gets the GS scholarship or how much money they give," Taiyoshi Saito, GS, said.

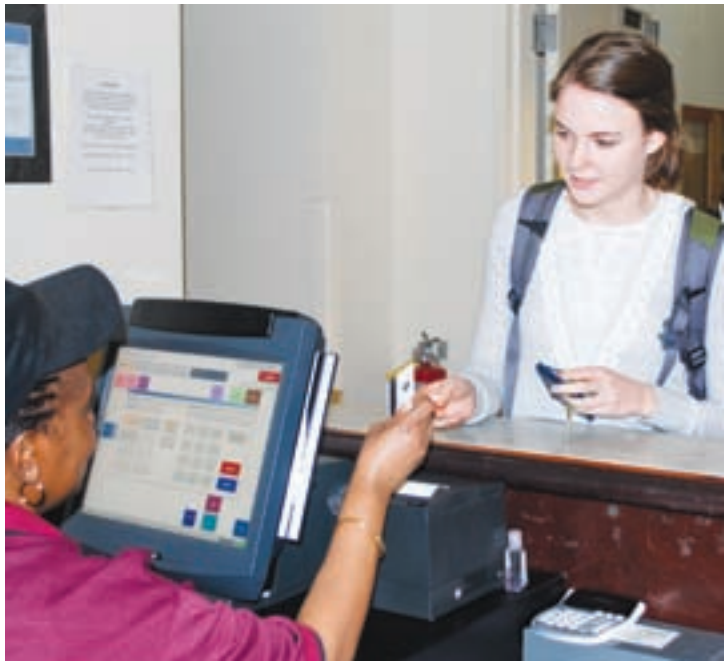
Rory Minnis, GS, added, "I didn't even apply for aid my first year here because I didn't think I would be eligible, since it was only merit-based."

In response to student complaints of confusion, Awn said that GS has made efforts to improve communications online and in print regarding policy and process, along with implementing a new website.

GS recently launched a new financial aid system called PowerFAIDS, which Awn said offers better ways to manage the financial aid process, including the possibility of having one-stop financial aid counseling for all GS students, an option he said GS is actively investigating.

Edwards said that, while there is some confusion over the new system, the dearth of available funds remains the primary concern for students. "Most dissatisfaction with current GS financial aid is not the system, but simply the lack of

SEE FINANCIAL AID, page 2



SHELBY LAYNE / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SWIPE | Barnard students prepare for the upcoming changes in the meal plan system, which will require all students to buy a plan.

Council, students prepare for new meal plan requirement

BY CLAIRE STERN
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Though administrators made efforts to tailor the new Barnard meal plan requirement to student needs, some now debating which plan to buy say they are still unhappy with the changes.

In February, the administration assembled a meal plan taskforce, a group comprised of students, council members, and administrators to deal with concerns about Barnard's decision to require all students to buy a plan. Previously, it was

SEE MEAL PLAN, page 2

Columbia, Barnard finish Mayor's service challenge

BY MADINA TOURE
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

As New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg's College Challenge wraps up today, student volunteers and University administrators say the initiative, despite flaws, has helped promote community service this semester.

The Challenge, launched by NYC Service—an office Bloomberg created in April 2009 to oversee community initiatives—tracks various universities' service efforts through a portfolio of goals and points logged online based on hours volunteered.

The initiative has helped encourage engagement, participants say, though some argue it does not fairly judge schools and has not gained enough campus-wide attention.

David Stone, Columbia's executive vice president for communications, said on Wednesday, "Ultimately, it is not the 'who wins, who loses,' but the effort to promote ... more participation in this extraordinary breadth of community service and civic engagement programs, not just at Columbia but across the city's universities."

For every hour students spend with nonprofit organizations, they earn their school one point. As of Thursday evening,

Columbia was ranked third with an average of 9,694.03 points, behind Fordham University's 13,319.55 points and St. John's' 22,470.52 points. Barnard fell in sixth place with 2,284.25 points. The deadline to log points is today, and next month, the city will choose the winning school based on a service portfolio that outlines goals and priorities along with the average number of points logged. Individuals with the highest number of hours will also gain recognition.

Vivian Taylor, chief of staff and vice president for community development at Barnard, said, "We already knew we had a community of folks who were volunteers, who believed in service, and not that they wanted their hours counted." She added of the Challenge, "We wanted to have an assessment."

Though administrators appreciate the initiative, some say it can be difficult for universities to secure points that accurately represent the different service activities across campus.

"Columbia is many different schools—graduate and professional schools, undergraduate colleges—and communicating with a very large and diverse and decentralized university is always a challenge," Stone said. With so many disconnected efforts, he



JACK ZIETMAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SERVICE POINTS | Vivian Taylor and Will Simpkins discuss Barnard's progress in community service with the Mayor's College Challenge.

added, "It's always a worthy opportunity to try and bring the larger university together around an endeavor like this."

Will Simpkins, Barnard's program director of community and diversity initiatives, said that Barnard, as a small liberal arts college, also faced difficulties in getting students to log hours. "We're talking about individual classes and individual faculty's work, department goals, initiatives that are happening in student services," he said.

Some students expressed concerns with the process of comparing different schools as well. "There are some flaws and I think they've been admitted,"

said Benjamin Young, a doctoral candidate and teaching fellow in French and romance philology and in comparative literature who served as a volunteer for the American Red Cross. "One of the major problems is, of course, there's no taking into account the size of the schools." This is how it would appear with the current online rankings, which show larger universities in the lead.

But Adrienne Jozwick, a writer and researcher for Columbia Public Affairs who has worked on the Challenge, said that the mayor's office does take into account the size of the school when

SEE COMMUNITY SERVICE, page 2

INSIDE

A&E, page 5

Columbia actress makes her Sundance debut

Step aside, James Franco—there's another Columbian hitting the big screen. Sarah Steele, CC '11, appears in the new film "Please Give," which recently finished up successful runs at the Sundance and Tribeca film festivals.



Sports, back page

Light Blue baseball team ready to fight Quakers

Columbia and Penn are set to face off in a pair of doubleheaders this weekend. The outcome will determine who wins the Gehrig Division and advances to the playoffs and who will return home to dream about what they can do better come next year.

Opinion, page 3

Emerging from Spectator's shadow

Miriam Krule reminisces on Spectator's role in her life.

Living the dream

Elizabeth Kipp-Giusti emphasizes the need to act, not just dream.

Today's Events

Speak the Rhythm

The Africa-Diaspora Literary Society hosts an open mic.
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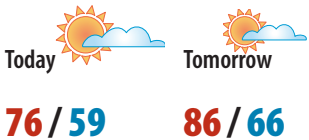
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WEATHER



Federal funds awarded for Section 8

NYCHA from front page

added, “Make no mistake, our problem is still a severe one.”

In Harlem, tenant advocates say they are still concerned about the long-term budget challenges ahead.

Sarah Martin, president of the Grant Houses Tenants Association, who questions Section 8’s original implementation, said, “We’re living at a big risk. ... It’s giving people false hope. Gradually, I see it [Section 8] teetering out.” She added that she is unsure of how NYCHA will find additional funding beyond the short-term federal fix.

City Council member Robert Jackson, who represents parts of West Harlem, said, “Time will tell. We have to be very optimistic.” He said NYCHA has an obligation to allow those currently in Section 8 housing to stay where they are.

“I’d prefer to give more vouchers rather than be conservative,” he added. To sustain the program, he said, the city should keep looking to the federal government for additional funding.

For tenants, the ambiguity around the actual allocation of the federal money is further cause for distress. “Where’s all the money going? I want to know,” Lopez said.

Alexandra Rodriguez, another West Harlem resident, said

her sister depends on Section 8. “She’s still skeptical, even with this news. I am too. It hasn’t taken the fear away,” she said.

“They [NYCHA] should really do some thorough investigation, because some people on Section 8 don’t really need it,” said Donte Moore, a West Harlem resident who believes such an investigation would leave funding to help those who need it most.

But Amancia Martinez, who also lives in the neighborhood, said she was not surprised by the recent solution. There are too many people who depend on Section 8 for the program to fail, she said.

For residents who have not been able to join the program, the situation seems hopeless.

Jorge Martinez, a West Harlem resident, applied for Section 8 but was put on the waiting list. Now, though, new vouchers are on hold, and with news of the budget gap, Martinez said he understands the importance of prioritizing current vouchers.

Still, though, Martinez said he wishes he could receive vouchers. “I hope and pray they’ll bring it [Section 8] back,” he said. “I hope they’ll call me. It would be a big help.”

hien.truong
@columbiaspectator.com

Affordable Housing Funds

After the city announced possible revoking of Section 8 vouchers due to a large budget shortfall, the federal government stepped in to provide a temporary fix.

\$150 MILLION

TOTAL AMOUNT ALLOCATED BY CONGRESS TO HELP HOUSING AUTHORITIES SUPPORT EXISTING VOUCHERS

CITY BUDGET GAP OF

\$45 MILLION

THAT COULD HAVE LEAD TO 100,000 VOUCHERS REVOKED

HUD



\$23.5 MILLION

NYCHA FOR SECTION 8

Councils, students prepare for meal plan

MEAL PLAN from front page

only mandated for first-years and those living in Hewitt.

Last month, Dean of the College Dorothy Denburg announced the final program: both campus residents and full-time commuters will be required to take a meal plan. First-years are still required to purchase an unlimited meal plan, and other students living in the Quad must purchase a meal plan ranging from 60 to 150 meals per term. All other students must choose from one of three \$300 meal plans, including a points-only plan that can be used at any Barnard dining location to purchase à la carte meals and snacks.

“The changes were made for a combination of financial needs, to support the operation of the new facility, and the desire to strengthen campus community,” Denburg said.

Katie Palillo, BC ’10 and Student Government Association president, said that the work of the taskforce, in which she took part, was well incorporated into the decision to restructure the proposed meal plan changes.

In response to student feedback, SGA also created a Food Advisory Board last semester to address any concerns.

“I’m really hoping that students that have an issue with the meal plan go to the Food Advisory Board to seek out their help and use that as their means to get changes made,” said Verna Patti, BC ’11 and junior representative to the Board of Trustees, and a member of the taskforce.

Aramark, Barnard’s food provider, will be responsible for ensuring the implementation of changes but SGA representatives say the Food Advisory Board plans to work closely with them to ensure that students’ needs are being met.

Some students outside of SGA, though, say they are less than pleased.

“I think it is horrible,” said Natasha Babar, BC ’13 and a commuter. “They shouldn’t make us buy food when we’re never here.”

Sonya Bach, BC ’11, who will live in Plimpton next year, said she had been looking forward to not buying a plan. “I don’t think seniors should have to pay that much for the meal plan.”

“It is kind of annoying because I’m probably not going to even use those 150 meals,” Victoria Solomon, BC ’12, added.

Some graduating seniors, who are just avoiding the new requirement, also sympathized with their concerned classmates.

“I feel really bad for the people who are going to be stuck on it,” Elise Bergerson, BC ’10, said. “The meal plan is very awful. I don’t fully understand the intent because it’s not a community thing.”

But others were optimistic. Previously, the meal plan did not feature cheaper \$300 meal plans and points-only options.

“Now that you can have a points-only option it’s not that bad,” Zara Mogilevsky, BC ’11, said. “My main problem has always been with Hewitt.”

Denburg said that she is pleased with the meal plan program and seeks to provide students with attractive, healthy, and varied food options.

“I hope that it will bring more students on campus,” said SGA Junior Class President and newly-elected SGA President Lara Avsar, BC ’11. “But I will say that we will be looking to make any necessary changes to make sure everything is running smoothly and all of the students are happy.”

For now, Patti said, SGA will wait for the new meal plan program to go into effect before making changes. “I think we have to test it and see what happens in the fall.”

claire.stern
@columbiaspectator.com

BC, CU finish NYC challenge

COMMUNITY SERVICE from front page

making final decisions. “They are using a formula to account for the fact that all these schools are a different size,” Jozwick said, adding that the goal is for roughly 13 percent of each college’s population to participate.

Ultimately, participants said the competitive aspect is not the central focus. “I don’t think anyone here would disagree that competition was not the sort of primary objective for our participation, and we’ve made that very clear from the beginning,” Simpkins said.

Claire Wang, SEAS ’11 and a volunteer for Columbia Area Volunteer Ambulance, known as CAVA, said that she and her colleagues merely logged the hours they would’ve already been completing, regardless of the competition.

“I don’t know if people actually increased how much they volunteered, but they showed how much they already do,” Wang said.

Taylor, though, said that the service portfolio component did help Barnard—which she said is one of the top liberal arts colleges in the Challenge—organize information on community service efforts. “It turned out that we pulled together so much information about what we are doing as an institution that I felt very proud of that,” she said.

Despite concerns that the Challenge may encourage unhealthy competition, some students and administrators said that the competition has only been friendly.

“Even if you take it as a competition, the intrinsic value of volunteering is very high,” said Ana-Maria Poveda-Garces, SIPA ’11 and one of the top Columbia volunteers thus far.

“I don’t think anyone would try to be the top volunteer and not actually care about it,” Wang said. “That’s a possible negative aspect of it, but I think in general it encourages people to volunteer in their community more.”

Some volunteers stressed that lack of publicity and low numbers of participants were also problems.

“I think, perhaps, that it should be advertised more on campus and linked with other forms of volunteering,” Poveda-Garces said. Young added, “The number of Challenge participants doesn’t seem that high ... not bad, but not huge.”

Wang, though, said that ultimately, “When you volunteer, it’s not really about beating other schools.”

madina.toure
@columbiaspectator.com

Life After the Nobel: Eric Kandel researches memory, writes on art

BY SONAL NOTICEWALA
Spectator Staff Writer

This is the second part of a two-part science series on Columbia professors’ lives after winning the Nobel Prize.

Since winning the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 10 years ago, Eric Kandel has kept busy in and out of the laboratory—making breakthroughs on memory formation and schizophrenia, and also writing a book about art.

Kandel, university professor and Kavli Professor of brain science in neuroscience, won the 2000 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his research on the physiological basis of memory storage in neurons. In a recent interview, he recalled the early morning on Yom Kippur when he was notified that he had won the prize. At the time, he said, he was excited to begin a new chapter in his life as a Nobel Laureate. It was a magical experience in Sweden to share his prize with his family, friends, and fellow Columbia faculty, Kandel said.

Since winning the prize, Kandel has had two noteworthy developments in the laboratory.

He recently found a molecule that regulates local protein synthesis within the synapse which is related to maintaining memory related synaptic growth. A second recent development in the Kandel lab is the use of mice as an animal model to better understand memory disorders such as schizophrenia and age-related memory loss.

Kandel, with a strong interest in art, is also currently writing a book on the subject—in fact, as a splurge after winning the Nobel Prize, Kandel said that he bought an apartment in Paris close to the Louvre and several art galleries for him and his wife.

In addition to his work on art, completing his laureate task of writing an autobiography, Kandel published, “In Search of Memory: The Emergence of a New Science of Mind,” chronicling his life and research.

“I have gotten great satisfaction from that book,” Kandel

said. Although he focused on his research, Kandel also wrote about his experiences in Vienna for the first time. He was born in Austria in 1929 and was forced to move after the country was invaded.

Since winning the prize, Kandel said he has enjoyed the opportunity to share his work on different platforms. “Science is a wonderful part of culture that is not seen as accessible as ballet, opera, musicals, rock ’n roll, but that is silly because it is enormously interesting and can be explained in fairly simple terms,” he said.

The prize, he added, was just one part of his career. “One is not in the game for the prize,” he said. “There are a lot of disappointments in science. Things don’t work out the way that you want them. So what you get is the pleasure of discovering something new, the social interaction with people, and the continued opportunity of learning,” he added.

Despite his interest in science, Kandel said that it was not his focus in the beginning of his studies. As a Jewish immigrant from Vienna, Kandel



ANTHONY YIM / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

WINNER | Nobel Prize-winning scientist discusses life after the award, continuing his research and also writing a book on art.

said that he wondered how people who were so civilized one day could brutally turn on you the next. He said he tried to answer this question as a history major at Harvard University where he studied German-Austrian history. But, he said, he soon realized that in order to understand motivation, he needed to understand

psychology.

As a result, Kandel turned his attention to memory, the field in which he would ultimately win the Nobel Prize. “We are who we are because of what we learn and what we remember. It is the distinctive feature of our life.”

sonal.noticewala
@columbiaspectator.com

GS seeks financial aid improvements

FINANCIAL AID from front page

funding for more need-based aid to students,” she said.

Marie Mounier, GS, acknowledged administrative efforts, saying, “The administration makes it clear by being accessible to students and by making the website helpful.”

GS is integrated into the Columbia Campaign for Undergraduate Education, a fundraising initiative that could help raise GS’ endowment by \$15 million. “As gifts arrive, they are immediately incorporated into the endowment,” Awn said.

Though GS has a larger goal of aligning itself more closely with Columbia College with respect to financial aid, some say disparities in aid have detracted from that effort. Awn, though, said that the discrepancy in both the discount rate—which represents return of tuition funds to students in the form of aid—and the total available aid for GS and CC students is caused by the relative size of their endowments.

Despite the administration’s aggressive fundraising, some students said they felt more could be done.

Mounier said, “The bureaucratic nature of financial aid makes it painfully

time-consuming and stressful to figure out on your own.”

Saito said he would like to see more financial aid from the University for GS. “Show me the money,” he said.

Kevin Flora, GS, hasn’t received aid for several semesters, and has struggled to figure out why. Flora said he formulated a regression table and basic correlation matrix to try to understand the lack of aid after studying abroad in China for a year. He included factors such as GPA, estimated family contribution, activities outside of schoolwork, and whether students were part-time or full-time.

“I am basically trying to argue with a small, unofficial study that because I possess the same qualifications as the average student who was awarded aid, I should also be awarded the same aid for those periods,” he said.

Some students, though, have had good experiences. “Quite good, can’t complain,” Minnis said. “I’m getting supported by the GI Bill and GS.”

Minnis added that it is also important for students to take the initiative to learn the process. “You can’t expect everything to just fall on your lap.”

news
@columbiaspectator.com

ADDRESS & EMAIL

Columbia Spectator
2875 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10025
info@columbiaspectator.com

PHONE & FAX

Spectator (212) 854-9555
Editorial Fax (212) 854-9611
Business (212) 854-9550
Business Fax (212) 854-9553

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Four-time Olympic gold-medalist runner

5 Park way

9 Shame

14 Hacking knife

15 Rebel

16 Reluctant mood

17 Daring track official?

19 Zelig

20 Trouser measurement

21 "Twilight" heroine

23 Introduction to a former self?

24 "The Mikado" baritone

27 Give a hand to

30 Dabchick, for one

32 Cost an arm and ...

34 Do a garage job

35 Carnie's region

37 ... lace

38 They're usually in the 80s and 90s

41 Toon who played Scrooge

43 Maker of Definity skin care products

44 Works on, as a novel

46 Sport with riders

47 Maternal nickname

48 Core belief

52 Put the kibosh on

54 Suggestive look

56 Two-legged meat source

57 First name in puppetry

59 Battles with bombers

61 Stars travel in them

63 Online journalist's retreat?

66 Get used (to)

67 Grey tea

68 Dam buildup

69 X-ray targets

70 Whitehall whitewall

71 Tijuana tender

3 "Let me check"

4 Bonanza

5 A-one

6 End

7 Jerryanydots's creator, initially

8 Mirt, say

9 User of the prefix "i-"

10 Clinton enjoying some R and R?

11 Inspiring apparatus

12 Result of considering the pluses?

13 With it

18 Consume

22 Awards named for a writer

25 Kind of roll

26 Futbol game cheer

28 Intrigued with Ruler from L.I.V. to L.X.VIII

31 Immortal comedian's donkey imitation?

33 Fur that's a symbol of royalty

36 Church caretaker, in Chelsea

38 " ... I Did It Again": Britney Spears album and hit song

39 Blood ...

40 Juju or grigi

42 Like a tonne of bricks?

45 Kärner of "Top Gun"

49 Tyro, and a hint to this puzzle's theme

50 Computer letters

51 Ask for help from

53 Keeps going

55 Golfer's coup

58 Cynical response

60 Hoarse sound

61 Testing site

62 Phrase said before taking the stand

64 Not ordained

65 Two-time Conn Smythe Trophy winner

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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| G | R | O | W | L | I | G | H | T | A | L | E | R |
| B | O | O | A | R | L | I | G | H | T | A | L | E |
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ADDRESS & EMAIL

Columbia Spectator
2875 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10025

info@columbiaspectator.com

PHONE & FAX

Daily Spectator (212) 854-9555
Editorial Fax (212) 854-9611

Business (212) 854-9550
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What I think about when I think about Spec

BY MIRIAM KRULE

Recently, as we exited East Campus and passed a pile of unread Specs, a friend asked me what I think of when I see the Spectator “now.” “Now” meaning a year and a half after I wouldn’t read the print issue because I saw it each night before going to press, a year and a half after all I really cared about was the Spec.

Spending every weeknight in the Spec office, the job of Editorial Page Editor became a part of my identity to the extent that I didn’t understand how anyone had held it before me or how anyone could possibly have it after me. Now when I go to the office, which I rarely do, I have to buzz up for access instead of casually swiping my ID. The office that used to feel like home, the one that had my decorations and my files, is strange to me. Now, not only does no one recognize me, but I don’t recognize the names on the masthead. I still feel a kind of pride, especially when I see people reading the Editorial Page on campus or on the subway, but it’s a nostalgic pride, a feeling for something I no longer do.

Even after moving on from the job of editor, I never quite lost the editorial mindset. I went abroad thinking I was done with the Spec. I was far from New York, but I also had Internet access and ended up reading the paper online—starting with the editorial page and often stopping there too. As a reader, I found myself being very critical—questioning columnists and editorials. I told myself I would never have made such a decision, or I would clearly have done better. I read the articles as if I were still the editor critiquing sentence construction and questioning why certain campus events were being discussed and others weren’t mentioned at all. I wasn’t disagreeing with opinions—as an editor I wouldn’t always affirm myself that luxury. It didn’t matter if I agreed with an opinion or not, what mattered was that it was clearly presented and factually accurate.

Maybe what made it so difficult to move beyond this editorial mindset was the fact that I haven’t written for the Spectator, excluding unsigned editorials, since before my tenure as editor. At first I blamed this on the fact that I was too busy editing or recruiting or just going to 800 meetings, but I now realize that I had become nervous about having an opinion. I saw my role as the guardian of the opinions—having one of my own would have compromised that position. Granted there was some legitimacy to this fear. I did receive random hate mail—this made my parents more nervous

than it made me—and was often criticized for my choice of Facebook groups. While I ran the Editorial Board, and thus ultimately had the authority to steer decisions one way or another, I thought of myself as more of a mediator. I rarely stated my opinion during the meetings. Instead I took notes and questioned board members in an attempt to clarify their points. Columbia students are always searching for bias and injustice, and I wanted to be as neutral as possible. Granted, this is not how past editors ran the section—many have had their own biweekly columns—nor is it how future editors will, but it was what I decided, somewhat subconsciously, was best for me.

It’s funny though, I joined the Opinion section because I had opinions, but stayed to take care of other people’s. This decision got more difficult as I learned more about how Columbia works and my friends got more involved in activities, ultimately running the



JOANNA WANG

groups that we were covering. While doing my job I forgot how to raise my own voice. My experience with Spec so defined my time at Columbia that ever since it’s been difficult to see myself as anything but “the editor,” even outside of a journalistic setting. Even in casual conversations, I find myself saying things like “some people say,” or “hypothetically” in an attempt to distance myself from the opinion stated. Spec was my identity and now it’s not. Maybe, now that I’m graduating, I’ll be able to move away from the shadow of the title and start to express myself again. Maybe all I need is a sense of closure. Anyway, that’s what I think “now,” when I pass a pile of Specs.

The author is a Columbia College senior majoring in philosophy and concentrating in French. She was an associate editorial page editor on the 131 associate board, the editorial page editor of the 132 managing board, and a training editor for the 133 deputy board.

To hell with good intentions



ELIZABETH KIPP-GIUSTI

A Tree Grows in Morningside

You could stock the corner grocery store with the boxes and cans of food surrounding my desk. Within arm’s distance from me are the remains of protein-packed Greek yogurt, scattered multi-grain cereal, shriveled baby carrots, and muddy coffee filter after muddy coffee filter. These are the brave soldiers who give themselves up in the epic battle against the end-of-semester frenzy, desperately consumed during the 10-minute breaks that punctuate these Tasmanian devil days of furious work. What logic drives us to push ourselves to achieve under-eye shades of purple and blue, blurry brains, and exhaustion in every limb? How can I justify desk-side dinners and veins flowing with caffeine? This extreme reality we find ourselves in says, “To hell with good intentions!”

This race against the clock exists because we push ourselves to jump the disparity between conceiving of an action and its actualization. After all, it is one thing to make the to-do list and another altogether to cross off the last item. So we continue to throw ourselves against the surf, struggling toward some personal goal that beckons through the fog of our sleep-deprived minds because there is some sustaining purpose, worthwhile enough to suffer under the heel of excessive work, which we tout as our rallying cry. I eat in rapid, hurried spurts while sitting at my desk because the future’s so bright. Motivation to nearly annihilate ourselves in the present for a future prospect is why we are still at Columbia. Unable to move beyond desires and into the nitty-gritty of hard work, I would have jumped ship months ago.

Moving beyond good intentions is a skill, and this is the true Core Curriculum. Every time we sit down to a Butler marathon paper-writing session, read hundreds of pages, or consistently show up for class, it becomes clear that dedicated, methodological work is the only way to get from concept to conclusion. So, to hell with good intentions, half-hearted attempts, and vague interest, and to hell with the mindsets that lull us into complacency. Good intentions, although not intrinsically bad, are dangerous. Wanting, wishing, and hoping construct the goals we strive for, and therefore they prescribe the level of hard work we accomplish. But if these fantasies exist as a focal point instead of the road to this El Dorado of achievement, it is perilously easy to forget that we turn the gears of progress with elbow grease and sweat. “If we’re going to do it”—I look around and see Butler residents saying with desk-camps rivaling my own—“we may as well give it all we’ve got.”

A friend of mine, a proud CUE-er, once handed me a copy of a speech called “To Hell With Good Intentions.” My mind was blown, which I think was the point. The speech, given in 1968 by philosopher and social critic Ivan Illich, was addressed to a group of American students holding a conference on international voluntary service and mission projects. “I am here to suggest that you voluntarily renounce exercising the power which being an American gives you,” Illich said to his unassuming audience. “I am here to challenge you to recognize your inability, your powerlessness, and your incapacity to do the ‘good’ which you intend to do.” A chill settled over the room after these words, I’m sure. Illich threw good intentions into the faces of his philanthropic audience, rejecting their illogical actions and impractical ideas and revealing that intentionality and reality are not one and the same. The speech smashed the rose-colored glasses with its bombshell message.

Moving beyond good intentions is a skill, and this is the true Core Curriculum.

Here are two different arguments for banishing good intentions. Illich pleads for pragmatism, for understanding the ramifications of our actions. I make a case for progressing from the realm of the potential into actualizing goals. There is a lot that differentiates the two, so much so that it may seem incongruous to have the two in conjunction. But I would point out the overlap in our Venn diagram of comparison, namely “action.” The message in both situations is that talk can be cheap, and what matters is what comes of the talking. We are what we make of ourselves and what we make with ourselves. This process starts with intentionality, but without action, our goals wither like Langston Hughes’ dreams deferred.

Don’t do anything, our weary bodies plead. Rest yourself, the tension headache cries. Vegetate, our minds demand, exhausted from working. Yet we continue, sure that the long-term successes are worth the immediate discomfort. This is the tactic that we must apply to all large goals, environmentalism included (you knew it was coming). Involvement is the wooper of good intentions, coaxing them into life. You know as well as I do that the work has to be done, and has to be done well. It is time to act.

Elizabeth Kipp-Giusti is a Columbia College sophomore majoring in religion with a concentration in human rights. She is a Columbia EcoRep. A Tree Grows in Morningside runs alternate Fridays. opinion@columbiaspectator.com

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

Your story “Columbia shuts down Floridita for repairs” (April 27) correctly reported that Floridita owner Ramon Diaz agreed in early February that permanent repairs to the damaged kitchen floor would begin by April 26. This was in order to ensure the safety of both employees and patrons in a University-owned commercial property.

Spectator also correctly identified the fact that, at his request, temporary repairs were made in October of 2009 to allow Mr. Diaz to operate through the busy holiday season. What the article does not entirely make clear is that once the University received the professional opinion of the consulting engineer and architect, who said that the temporary repairs would last for six months, it became our obligation to address the repairs within that time frame. Our goal has always been to make the repairs as quickly as possible (it is anticipated that it will take six weeks), so that Mr. Diaz can resume his operations as quickly as possible.

What the article implies but does not explain is that, while Mr. Diaz knew of the issue as far back as October 2009, it seems he chose not to inform his employees about

it. Nor did he do so in February 2010 when he acknowledged the need to address the situation by April 26, even though this was a period during which he was in regular communication with the University regarding the matter. You can imagine that a business owner would find it inappropriate for the University to independently inform his employees of a work-related issue such as this. The need to address this situation should not have been a surprise to them.

Finally, with respect to the lease, Mr. Diaz claims to have signed for the attractive relocation space on 125th Street; however, your article does not make clear the incontrovertible fact that Mr. Diaz only delivered a marked-up and inadequately executed lease on Tuesday afternoon, after he apparently spoke to Spectator.

Our focus has always been to find a solution to challenges that Mr. Diaz himself brought to our attention last fall. The story here seems to be more of an internal one to the Floridita management. Columbia, as a landlord, is doing exactly as tenants expect, and quite frankly demand—making necessary repairs in a timely fashion to ensure health and safety. We look forward to fulfilling this responsibility in a

way that makes it possible for Mr. Diaz to reopen and remain open for business in Manhattanville for many years to come.

La-Verna Fountain
Associate Vice President, Construction
Business Services and Communications
Columbia University Facilities

To the Editor:

It has come to my attention through an anonymous source that Morris Rossabi, an adjunct professor of Mongolian studies in the East Asian languages and cultures department, is, in effect, being pushed out of his teaching position that he has held for some years. It is not a widely known fact, but over the past semester, Professor Rossabi has made repeated written requests for a teaching assistant in his Mongolian history courses that average 50-60 students. Professor Rossabi has chosen the academic quality of his course over convenience and thus has been forced to grade all his own exams by hand. His work at Columbia should be praised and applauded instead of ignored. It is my understanding that his requests for a TA have been completely disregarded by the department and are unknown to

outside professors or administrators, including the president of our University. He is the foremost Mongolian scholar in the Western world. His teaching in and out of the classroom has demonstrated his dedication to the promotion of Mongolian studies internationally. As a former student of his, there was never a time he could not meet to talk over a paper or exam. He makes frequent trips to Mongolia, and the academic community recognizes his published materials as the premier authority in Mongolian studies. Professor Rossabi literally wrote the book on Kublai Khan. Columbia University would lose a huge asset in Professor Rossabi’s departure, one that cannot be replaced. I am concerned for the future of Mongolian studies at Columbia and the precedent this example will set for the treatment of adjunct professors. No professor should be ignored, especially one who has given so much to students and the University. Please talk to your parents, professors, deans, and fellow classmates to encourage them to call or write letters to EALAC or President Bollinger in support of Professor Rossabi.

Sincerely,
Concerned Student

Casual Friday: The End

This is the way the semester ends—not with a bang, not with a whimper, but with a messy, breathless, and desperate sprint to the finish. One might think that Columbia would work to accommodate its students as they drag themselves through the final lap, but one would be very, very wrong (and generally ignorant about all things Columbia). From the Steps to move-out day, from free food lines to the lawns (wait, not the lawns... don’t go to the lawns!), students are forced to jump over hurdle after hurdle in a feeble attempt to get to sweet, sweet summer.

Some of this jumping is physical. After months of taking the same route to our classes, we now must alter our course, navigating once more within these stormy collegiate waters, to get to that early-morning course we stupidly thought we could handle back when we registered late

last fall. We did not spend week after week perfecting how to get to class in five minutes flat only to be thwarted at the very end of the semester by a stack of chairs and some poles. Except we did, apparently. But this is our fault. We should have known that Columbia would set up Commencement seating weeks in advance. Why set everything up efficiently and conveniently when you could use the blue chairs as a way to force seniors to face their impending future doom, or to torment underclassmen just trying to get by?

Or underclassmen trying to stay in their dorms, for that matter. First-years, sophomores, and juniors have 24 hours after their last final to move out. What’s that? You haven’t packed yet? It’s a hard knock life, kids. Or maybe not. The actual stipulations are that students have 24 hours after that last final and no later

than noon on Saturday, May 15—which could be contradictory, or just hard to understand. Kind of like how all of us simultaneously got two Italian cousin friends, Val and Sal. Everyone references them. Seriously—who are these people?

We wish you luck, fellow Columbians. We wish you luck as you stand for 45 minutes in line for free food (clearly the maxim “time is money” is not meant to apply here). We wish you luck as you wonder why Barnard has a Spirit Day and Columbia does not. We wish you all the best as you spend half an hour looking for a seat in Butler. And we wish you happiness as you decide whether to brave the damp, soon-to-be-closed-off lawns or the somewhat uncomfortable, now-very-hard-to-navigate Steps. Have a wonderful summer, but before you do—let’s just all try to (somehow) cross that finish line.

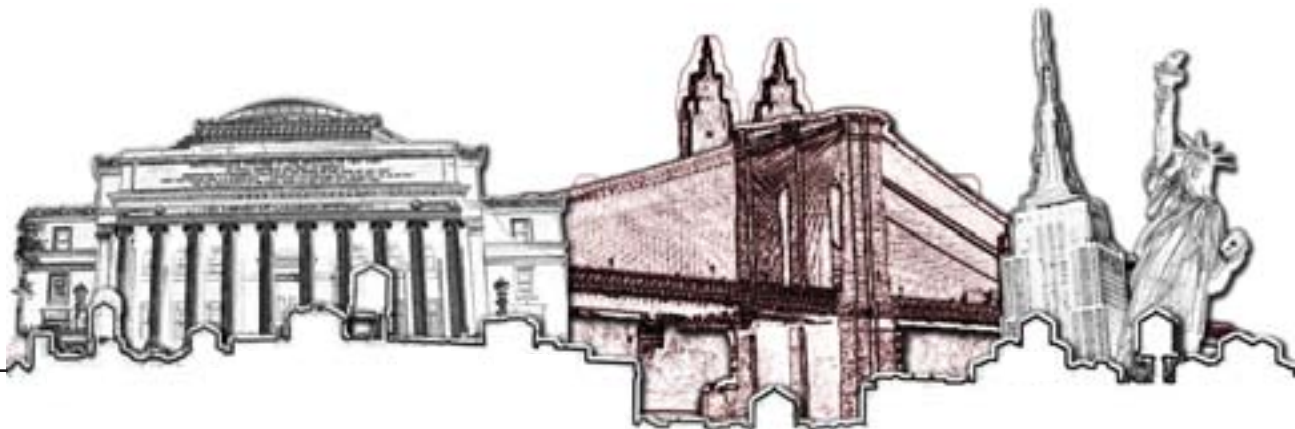
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HOW I ALWAYS WIN THE LOTTERY.

JODY ZELLMAN



ZARA CASTANY FOR SPECTATOR



Exhibit explores views on global transformation

BY ZARA CASTANY
Columbia Daily Spectator

Some people believe that globalization is rapidly transforming societies through economic, environmental, and political forces that they cannot control. In the eyes of certain artists, this process ultimately results in chaos. “Global/National—The Order of Chaos” is an exhibition that seeks to demonstrate this idea through art, showing the effects of the new civilization that is created through globalization and exploring the modern citizen who views his or her world from a global and national perspective. On display now at Exit Art (475 10th Ave.), the exhibit uses artwork in a medley of mediums and from multiple artists to provide a vision of today’s changing world.

Student actress gets into a New York state of mind

BY RACHEL ALLEN
Spectator Staff Writer

Columbia is currently home to a successful screen actor—and this time it isn’t James Franco.

Sarah Steele, CC ’11, has been quietly working on set and stage while balancing her Columbia career. Steele’s new movie “Please Give”—also starring Catherine Keener, Oliver Platt, Amanda Peet, and Rebecca Hall—opens this weekend after successful runs at both the Sundance and Tribeca Film Festivals.

Steele plays the angsty, pimply-ridden daughter of Keener’s and Platt’s characters, both of whom are going through their own mid-life crises. Keener obsesses over giving to charity while Platt furtively chases a younger woman, and both anxiously await the death of their elderly neighbor (whose grandchildren are played by Peet and Hall) so they can expand their living room into the adjoining apartment.

The film is touching in unexpected ways, and successfully captures the emotional complexity that comes with being a New Yorker—the shallow tendencies of city dwellers combined with a sense of responsibility and community. “This was a movie we all did for very little money. We didn’t have trailers or anything. It was something that everyone on that project did because they loved the script,” Steele said.

Steele’s character Abby is the stereotypical acne-obsessed, insecure girl, but she also defines the upscale New York state of mind—her ultimate goal in the film is convincing Keener that a pair of \$200 jeans are a necessity.

Steele captures the anxiety and superficiality of adolescence flawlessly, and she admits to relating to her character in some ways. “I think that every girl can relate to a time in their life when they just felt like ugly and unwanted, and not being pretty enough is the biggest deal in the world, you know? I think that’s relatable to almost every girl,” she said.

The film’s sensitivity, according to Steele, has to do with the work of director Nicole Holofcener (also known for “Friends with Money”), who is a Columbia School of the Arts alumna.

“I think women have an eye into emotion sometimes that men don’t, and especially women’s emotions, and I think that’s another reason why you don’t see that many movies with the types of real women. ... It’s because they’re written by men, and it’s really hard for men to understand all of that stuff,” Steele said. “I think

my character could not have been written by a man. It could not have been written by anyone but a woman who went through that as a kid—that pain is articulated in such a great way in this movie.”

Holofcener certainly doesn’t shy away from female pain. From a pimple-popping session to a montage of mammograms, she never lets the viewer forget from whose side the film speaks.

While Platt is an important force in the film, the relationships between the women—mother to daughter, sister to sister, granddaughters to grandmother—form the emotional center. “What was more interesting to me was the women. Catherine is older than Amanda, and Amanda is older than Rebecca, and then I am at Columbia, a totally normal kid for most of the year, just happened to get this movie and did it over the summer—maybe I’ll do this when I graduate. It was just funny because it was women in these different stages of doing this as a career,” Steele said. It is this sense of understanding between the women, and acceptance of their differences, that truly makes the film shine.

“Please Give,” however, is far from Steele’s first introduction to the world of acting. She is a veteran of both film and stage, having started her career as Tea Leoni and Adam Sandler’s daughter in 2004’s “Spanglish.” Since then, she has appeared in two off-Broadway shows, including Roundabout Theatre’s successful three-person show “Speech and Debate.” “I did ‘Speech and Debate’ my freshman year, so I was doing eight shows a week while being a full-time student here, and after that I was just like, ‘Whoa, OK, I can’t do that again,’” she said.

Steele admitted that maintaining the balance between getting her Ivy League education and her career has been complicated. “It was just way too much energy and time, and so after that I really decided, let me do school and then be an actress later, because it’s just too hard to do them both at once. But having said that, I still did ‘Please Give’ during that time over the summer,” she said.

If Steele’s acting in “Please Give” is any indication, she’s handling the pressures of both worlds extremely well. “I’m more proud of the finished product than I ever have been—making the movie was one of my favorite experiences on film,” she said. And it shows—both Steele’s performance and the brilliant ensemble acting of the cast as a whole create a tender and insightful look into the neuroses of New Yorkers.

Musical puts an irreverent emo spin on American history



NNEKA
MCGUIRE

The Fun, the Fantastical, and the Freakish

is the opening number in “Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson,” a rock musical retelling of the seventh president’s life, currently playing at the Public Theater. Seriously, the song is so surprisingly appealing that I attempted to illegally download it after watching the musical—and I haven’t stolen music since middle school.

The production began with a handsome, skinny-jean-clad Andrew Jackson (Benjamin Walker) on stage surrounded by a band of other actors (who are alternately groupies, musical

accompaniment, friends, family members, Native Americans, Martin Van Buren, etc.), asking audience members if we were ready. I responded with an animated “Yeah!” (Besides the surging, contagious energy of the performers, Benjamin Walker makes a surprisingly sexy Andrew Jackson.) At that point, I wasn’t exactly aware of what I was agreeing to. What followed was a 90-minute, abbreviated chronological account of Andrew Jackson’s life and ascendancy to presidential power—infused with and surrounded by a hodgepodge of fun, fantastical, and freakish elements, including a wheelchair-bound lesbian storyteller who was shot in the neck (by Andrew Jackson, no less), ballet-dancing Native Americans, and a little bit romantic, mostly disturbing moment where Jackson and his wife Rachel profess their love by joint bloodletting followed by each splashing the other with their blood. I left the theater with an urge to learn more about Andrew

Jackson, an assortment of emo show tunes stuck in my head, and a smile on my face.

A potpourri of anachronisms, sophomoric humor, and smart, sarcastic wit, “Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson” manages to pose some serious questions about politics and power that are relevant today, especially at a time when America is involved in two wars overseas and states are passing bills like the recent Arizona immigration law. Although the musical does not include any overtly political gesturing or espouse any particular viewpoint, it does paint Andrew Jackson as a simultaneously petulant and personable man-child with a strong sense of entitlement. Since Jackson was so influential in shaping American democracy, he represents a sort of incarnation of the beliefs and behaviors that serve as the basis of the American nation. What does Jackson’s signing of the Indian Removal Act of 1830 say about him directly, and America by extension? The musical

addressed the ambiguity with which Jackson’s presidency is viewed today: Was “Old Hickory” a gritty maverick or a charismatic monster? Nevertheless, while addressing these very serious questions, the musical remains, for the most part, amusing and lighthearted.

In a note to the audience included in the playbill, artistic director Oskar Eustis said the musical “tackles the core of American populism—that ebullient, sentimental, no-nonsense, self-pitying, anti-intellectual, rowdy energy that is at the core of our national identity. ... This is who we are, and if it’s horrifying, it can also be a lot of fun.” I wouldn’t quite say the musical “tackles” the heart of American populism, but it sure does take a few stabs at it—all the while being delightfully irreverent and extremely entertaining.

Nneka McGuire is a Columbia College junior majoring in creative writing. The Fun, the Fantastical, and the Freakish runs alternate Fridays.



COURTESY OF SONY PICTURES CLASSIC

WORK AND PLAY | Student Sarah Steele appears in the film “Please Give.”

Weekend Picks

The Editors' Best Bets For The Weekend Ahead

THEATER
“**Creditors.**” *BAM Harvey Theater, 651 Fulton St. (between Rockwell and Ashland places), Brooklyn. Various days and times through May 16, \$10 student rush.*

August Strindberg is a cruel, cruel man. Famous for helping to kickstart the modern drama movement, the Swedish playwright is known for ruthlessly depicting miserable people enacting miserable plans on one another. This London import, directed by Alan Rickman, is a near pitch-perfect production of a play that mercilessly exploits the insecurities of marriage through a love triangle gone awry.

FOOD
Rosé tasting. *Le Du’s Wines, 600 Washington St. (between Morton and Leroy streets). Saturday, May 1, 4-7 p.m., free.*
Celebrate spring with blush-toned wines at this event, which seeks to prove that rosé is more than just cheap wine people can buy in a box.

FILM
Tribeca Film Festival ‘10 Festival Competition Winners. *Village East Cinemas, 181-189 Second Avenue (between 11th and 12th streets). Sunday, May 2, screenings all day, \$14 with CUID.*
As the festival comes to an end this Sunday, see the best of the best films. The festival shows screenings of all of the award winners all day—from the Heineken Audience Award winners to winners in World Documentary, World Narrative, New York Narrative, New York Documentary, New Filmmaker, and more. Spend one day downtown and absorb the best of over a week’s worth of exciting new filmmaking.

STYLE
Extreme PM Peoplewatching: An Urban Jungle Safari. *Winnie’s Bar, 104 Bayard St. (between Baxter and Mulberry streets). Friday, April 30, 8 p.m. \$20.*
Wind up for finals week with a good old scavenger hunt—of the drunk and crazy variety. Scavengers are sent out from the bar in search of five different stereotypes: the psychotic, the movie star, the felon, the zealot, and the junkie. Hit the town with eyes wide and camera ready, then celebrate any interesting finds (or lack thereof) back at Winnie’s Bar.

DANCE
Vortex. *5-49 49th Ave. (at Vernon Blvd.), Long Island City. Friday-Sunday, April 30-May 2, 8 p.m. \$15.*
In this Chocolate Factory Theater production, audience members sit inside a cube. Students can consider the connection between sound and movement as they experience an ambisonic audio system while watching dance within a confining geometric shape.

ART
Open Studio Weekend 2010. *125 Maiden Lane (between Pearl and Water streets), Friday, April 30, 7-9 p.m., and Saturday-Sunday, May 1-2, 12-5 p.m., free with RSVP.*
This annual event put on by the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council gives unprecedented access to the studios of 20 visual artists and eight writers. See what they’ve been working on all year and get an inside look at the artistic process.

MUSIC
Young@Heart. *St. Ann’s Warehouse, 38 Water St. (between Dock and Main streets), Brooklyn. Friday, April 30, 8 p.m. and Saturday, May 1, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., \$20 online rush tickets.*
Ever wonder what your grandparents would look like rocking out on stage? Well, now students can see such a beautifully bizarre fantasy with their very own eyes as the famous musical group composed of hard-rocking geezers, Young@Heart, brings their concert to Brooklyn.

BOOKS
May Day Zine and Small Press Fair. *929 Columbus Ave. (between 105th and 106th streets). Saturday, May 1, 1-7 p.m., free.*
Come out and support NYC’s independent press to hear rising literary stars read, see musicians perform, and catch a puppet-show or two.

FOOD
Gourmet Food Truck Bazaar. *West 39th Street at Ninth Avenue Sunday, May 2, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., free.*
Sample offerings from ten food trucks all in one block, as vehicles travel to Manhattan from all over the city, the outer boroughs, and New Jersey. Featured trucks include the Big Gay Ice Cream Truck, taco vendor Calexico, burger joint Frites ‘n’ Meats, and vegan caterer Cinnamon Snail.

SEARCH FOR THE BEST EGGS



JACK ZIETMAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SCRAMBLED UP | Mill Korean’s steaming dolsoet bibimbap lets diners mix a raw egg into their own small pots of meat and vegetables.

Manhattan eateries cook up incredible edible eggs

BY JASON BELL
Spectator Staff Writer

Searching for comfort food during finals week often turns up heavy, tired iterations of home kitchen classics—mac and cheese, roast chicken, and ice cream sundaes binges top the list. The perfect ingredient to melt study stress away, though, seems almost too obvious—nesting right under students’ noses. Available at supermarkets and restaurants alike, the humble egg may save students from guilty test-anxiety binges.

Minutes away from Butler’s doors, **Mill Korean Restaurant** possesses a less-than-savory-reputation, known for grungy renditions of Korean barbecue favorites. Students often skip over

rice dishes, preferring grilled meats of all sorts slathered in spicy sauce. This is a mistake, especially since Mill’s dolsoet bibimbap transforms humble ingredients into an eggy masterpiece. Cabbage and bean sprouts mingle with rice in an imposing stone pot brought to the table. Floating serenely atop beef and vegetables, a raw egg wiggles seductively. The superheated bowl immediately begins cooking the egg and caramelizing the rice. Mixing all the components vigorously together, with a few liberal squirts of that spicy red sauce dashed in for good measure, results in a scrambled egg wonder. Each custardy bite evokes pickle, rampant heat, savory beef, and lush greens. To finish the dish, a crackling layer of browned rice papers

the bottom of the pot, waiting for an already-satiated diner to scrape off each sticky golden morsel.

Downtown, **Seasonal Restaurant and Weinbar** prepares one of the city’s best poached eggs. Pochiertes Ei comes preposterously soft, nearly fluid but appropriately cooked. Unleashing a satiny stream of yolk at the slightest prod, the egg gives the maitake and porcini mushrooms underneath a plush, sumptuous bath. Sweet and briny lobster enhances this dish’s embryonic quality, highlighting the egg’s primordial earthy and oceanic flavors.

For a post-finals brunch, check out les oeufs at **Balthazar**, a New York landmark serving upscale French bistro creations. Although Balthazar’s traditional eggs

perform admirably with a texturally unimpeachable eggs Benedict and a well-constructed ratatouille omelette, try a Balthazar invention with Italian influences. Eggs Bella Donna features poached eggs perched on top of polenta rounds with pancetta and tomato. Here, honeyed corn sops up still-runny yolk, and crunchy pancetta pieces add salt to tangy tomato. Light yet filling, an egg-filled meal at Balthazar makes for a celebratory morning.

When finals hit, take a break to eat a delicious egg dish—a comforting, full-flavored distraction from barren hours of writers block. Maybe staying tied to the books will boost a grade, but finding time for eggs can make things seem sunny side up.



COURTESY OF MATT DILLON AND RALPH GIBSON

POWER OF THE PEN | Authors Barry Gifford (left) and Richard Price (right) participated in last night’s PEN International Voices Festival panel.

Writers discuss interplay between film and literature

BY JESSICA JEONG
Columbia Daily Spectator

During the PEN International Voices Festival last night, author and former PEN American Center president Francine Prose met with four writers to discuss the relationship between novels and films in a panel titled Adaptation: From Page to Screen. Each panelist has had one of their novels turned into a movie: French writer Philippe Dijian with “Betty Blue,” Belgian writer and filmmaker Jean-Philippe Toussaint with “La Salle de bain,” American novelist Barry Gifford with “Wild at Heart,” and American writer Richard Price with “Clockers.”

Of the four panelists, only Toussaint considered himself to be both a writer and filmmaker.

The rest identified themselves solely as novelists.

Dijan spoke first. He expressed a pessimistic view about the future of novels, saying “maybe books won’t be necessary in the future.” He reflected on his struggle with trying to write screenplays—in the end, he realized that he could not be a screenwriter. He stated that as a writer he is more interested in the world of reflection, not of images. “All the stories have already been told,” he said, implying that the only way to move forward in the literary world is through individual language and style. He lamented that his story in “Betty Blue” was lost when it became a movie. “It had nothing to do with my work! And the terrible thing is that the film was a huge success. ... Writers should struggle against the cinema,” he said.

Toussaint, who is as much a filmmaker as a writer, understandably had a different point of view. He sees value in both art forms, appreciating both the abstraction of novels and the concreteness of movies. He stated that movies have a real dimension to them—“You can touch the actresses,” he said. Toussaint’s first experience with moviemaking was with “La salle de bain,” his novel that gained the interest of many filmmakers. When he agreed to an adaptation, he demanded that he be able to participate in the moviemaking process, and he’s been involved in the film industry ever since.

Gilford, the first American to speak, said simply that he had “nothing against movies.” He alluded to his childhood spent growing up in hotels and watching movies late into

the night. He said that watching movies is what taught him how to put stories together. However, he is still skeptical about the “integrity” of most directors. Despite this reservation, he said that he “loves” the movies, considering them to be just another discrete form of expression. “A novel’s a novel and a film’s a film,” he said.

Price started off saying, “At this point in my life I’ve written a shitload of movies.” His reason for getting into the film industry? “Right now I just want the money,” he said. Price said that screenplays pay the bills, and that he doesn’t have the “hope” about his own writings that he had 20 years ago. Based on his own experience, he offered one word of advice for aspiring writers: “Don’t settle for being a screenwriter... If you’re going to be a writer, be a writer.”

Alum hits unexpected sportscasting career out of the park

BY LOGAN HOFSTEIN
Spectator Staff Writer

“The Daily Line,” which premiered in early April on The Versus Network, stars alumnus Reese Waters, CC ’02, as part of a four-member sports commentary team. “I’ve always been a huge sports fan,” Waters said. “I’ve spent a lot of my free time watching sports.” This initially seemed like wasted time to Waters, but when The Versus Network called after seeing a video of him on YouTube, an unproductive hobby became a career. However, no one would have known that Waters was a sports fan in college. He “refused to take a train or bus up to Baker Field to see the games. That’s just not happening ... And it’s a long way to see a horrible, horrible team.”

Waters spent his time, instead, fostering his comedic chops on CTV. It was on campus that he discovered his talent for making people laugh. Waters wanted to create funny commercials for CTV, but when he went into to audition, “there was one audition before mine for a sketch comedy show and the people were so

horrible.” Watching their performances, he thought, “There’s no way that I can’t audition for this show.” Waters auditioned and got the part.

From there, he met Chelsea Peretti—who has since gone on to become a television writer in Los Angeles. He joined an improv troupe named Six Milks, today known as Fruit Paunch. It fostered a number of thriving comedians, including Jenny Slate, CC ’04, who recently joined the cast of Saturday Night Live.

Waters remembers his years at Columbia fondly. “All the factors just combined to create this wonderful experience for me. I can honestly say that,” he said.

Waters remembers a hawk—perhaps our beloved Hawkmadinejad or a relative—that would troll the campus for squirrels. “They would be giving tours of the campus and people would be seeing squirrel carcasses all over the place—that was always fun to watch,” he said.

Ferris Booth Hall was demolished the year before Waters began attending Columbia, and he was present for Lerner’s opening and the infamous translucent ramps. “You could literally look

and see up ladies’ dresses,” Waters said, “so that was a big activity for us when Lerner first opened up. It was awesome. It was like we deserved that for having two years or three years of no student center—they owed us that. They owed us a couple months of skirt watching.”

He credits Columbia’s academic environment with helping strengthen his writing, but the factor that most helped become

a comedian was being in New York City. “I decided to stand-up because I could do it and it was something to do with the free time I had as a college student,” he said. If Waters had been at any other school in any other city, “I’d probably just be drinking and I’d be satisfied with that.”

“The Daily Line” airs on the Versus Network, Monday-Friday at 6 p.m.



COURTESY OF THE VERSUS NETWORK
HOME RUN | Alum Reese Waters is a sportscaster on “The Daily Line.”

Annisa dishes out romantic Asian cuisine

BY JASON BELL
Spectator Staff Writer

Rebuilt after a devastating fire nine months ago, Annisa is still struggling to rise from the ashes.

Practicing an internationally informed Asian cuisine that nods to American palates, chef Anita Lo maintained Annisa’s essential character during the renovation: self-assertive, subtly feminine, and unabashedly fun. A West Village fixture for nearly 10 years, this Michelin-starred restaurant sits on an unassuming stretch of Barrow Street filled with students and camera-slinging tourists on weekends. Casually expensive and deliciously romantic, the new Annisa features a luminescent dining room flickering with candles. Columbians will enjoy loitering in this welcoming space on dusky summer nights, even if the food remains inconsistent.

For example, a trio of steamer clams with garlic chives leaps toward brilliance but falls flat in the third act. Starchy sunchoke mingles with raw clam to start off, a textbook ring-molded tartare paired with an understated chive purée. Clam belly in a syrupy soy glaze follows, creamy and funky with a bitter finish. But the finale, a whole fried clam, tastes fast-foodish and incongruous, too greasy and heavy to do its partners justice.

lacks any crispiness, a revoltingly flabby topping to an otherwise refreshing composition.

A soulful grilled halibut makes amends for the sable’s flaws, though, swimming in a decadent bacon miso sauce. This seductively porky fantasy marries tangy, fermented white miso with a healthy dose of bacon grease. Wide-stemmed Chinese mustard makes a pungent bed for an exquisitely prepared piece of mild, ivory fish, soaking up fragrant sauce. Like a sexy afternoon in pajamas, this dish feels stripped down to its rumpled quintessence, rustic and beautiful in its simplicity.

Indeed, Lo’s true culinary achievements reject finicky manipulations and engineered flavor profiles. Veal tenderloin embodies straightforward technique, and the endearing addition of tender artichoke bottoms enhances the meat’s vegetal undertones. A cluster of velvety sweetbreads, shimmering with salt, provide a critical textural contrast to the multiplicity of “soft” on the plate.

Sadly, chocolate proves Annisa’s absolute weakness, a disastrous end to a pleasant, if mixed, dining experience. A dessert sampler evokes Johnny Iuzzini’s four-part creations at Jean Georges, featuring four distinctly bad chocolate inventions. While a squat, boring Valrhona cake at least tastes like an agreeably humid and warm brown-

Columbians will enjoy loitering in this welcoming space on dusky summer nights, even if the food remains inconsistent.

During Annisa’s interminable period of inactivity, Lo continued to oversee Rickshaw Dumpling Bar, a casual joint serving globally inspired dumplings. One of Lo’s signature dishes at Annisa, seared foie gras with soup dumplings and jicama, thus seems all the more disappointing. Meager foie gras chunks add needed richness and luxury to this dim sum reinterpretation, but thick and doughy skin surrounds too little broth—these dumplings should burst open in a gush of savory soup, but instead let loose a bare trickle.

Serving miso-marinated sable appears either fearless or foolhardy in 2010. After all, this trite combination easily steers into inedible, oily, cloying waters. Lo’s version partly succeeds—the black cod’s flesh tastes delectably fatty and succulently moist. And the accompanying dashi incorporates infinite layers of complex sweet and sour notes, offsetting a sparkling shower of flying fish roe. Unfortunately, the fish’s skin

ie, the other components are cataclysmic. Polvorón, a chocolate-wheat shortbread from the Philippines, collapses into a sandy heap of crumbs, offensively gritty and dry. Meanwhile, a Snack Pack-esque, flan-shaped blob of mousse seems disturbingly dense, resisting the spoon to the last bite. Worst of all, malted milk bubble tea includes crispy chocolate balls floating in a tooth-rotting, sugary brew. This whimsical gesture at a Taiwanese drink feels like sucking down Cocoa Puffs through an engorged straw. Needless to say, this dessert is an objectionable, though perhaps atypical, conclusion to an Annisa meal.

As time passes and Anita Lo once again accustoms herself to the Annisa kitchen, an average evening might dazzle more than dishearten. Currently, though, the restaurant strikes closer to decent, trying hard to start a culinary fire where last month only cinders remained.

Annisa is located at 13 Barrow St. (between Bleecker and West Fourth streets).

Poetry pops out of the pocket

BY NICOLLETTE BARSAMIAN
Spectator Staff Writer

While many Columbians sat with pocketfuls of sunshine on Low Steps, their literary-minded peers had poems in their pockets.

In celebration of the National Poetry Month, Columbia’s Office of Government and Community Affairs hosted Poem in Your Pocket Day. Taking place at the sundial from 4-6 p.m., Columbia students and members of the community were invited to share their favorite poems and hear poetry recited. Anyone who read received a 15 percent discount at the Columbia Bookstore.

Although this is the 8th annual Poem in Your Pocket Day for New York City, this year is the first time that Columbia has officially participated. Other poetry-inspired events also took place throughout the city for the National Poetry Month. In previous years, Mayor Bloomberg has joined in by reading a poem on the radio.

Marcia Lynn Sells, Lamar Lovelace, and Orit Yakuel—staff members of the Office of Government and Community Affairs—coordinated the event. The office received a grant from the National Endowment of the Arts, which has funded events such as the Big Read, which brought 10,000 people to Columbia. “The President saw the arts as an opportunity to reach out to the community at large,” assistant vice president Sells said.

“We help promote a lot of cool stuff going on in the community,” Yakuel, the senior project coordinator, said. “We don’t see our office as just Columbia-focused, but the entire neighborhood.”

Dan Aprahamian, CC ’12, kicked off the event by reading the first poem. He read the lines of the character Lucio in the play “Measure for Measure” which is taking place on campus this weekend. Yakuel read a Shel Silverstein poem and Sells read poetry by Columbia alumnus Langston Hughes. Adrian Calderon, CC ’12, also joined in as one of the (roughly) 15 people who read by reciting an Italian poem.

Around half the readers were members of Columbia University, while the rest were passing members of the community. Highlights included a poem was sung in German and a 15 minute Walt Whitman poem. Some students also showcased their original poetry, fostering a moment of heightened literary awareness as an ode to the end of the National Poetry Month on April 30.



COURTESY OF BONEAU/BRYAN-BROWN
QUICK STEP | Above, the four cast members of “The 39 Steps” assume just a few of their numerous roles.

Show is a ‘Step’ up from typical comedy fare

MELISSA ITZKOWITZ
Columbia Daily Spectator

Suspense, intrigue, and hilarity disguised in British, German, and Scottish accents—what better recipe for theatre?

THEATER Alfred Hitchcock’s “The 39 Steps,” a Broadway export currently running at New World Stages, delivers all this and more in one over-the-top, outrageously funny, and brilliantly cast production.

“The 39 Steps,” adapted from the film of the same name, tells the story of Richard Hannay (John Behlmann), a young man bored with life who happens to stumble upon Annabella Schmidt (Kate MacCluggage), a German spy. After taking her home, Hannay learns that Schmidt has connections to a mysterious group called

“the 39 steps.” Schmidt is murdered that night in Hannay’s apartment, which sends him on a ridiculous quest to discover what “the 39 steps” is and to escape the murder charges of which he is now falsely accused.

The play excels in just about every theatrical field, from acting to lights to sound. What is most incredible is the way the cast of only four—who play a total of over 150 different characters—uses every theatrical trick available to them to create a seamless production with impressive chemistry and fluidity. The actors switch back and forth between characters and set changes, sometimes in only a matter of seconds. Man #1 (Jamie Jackson) and Man #2 (Cameron Folmar), the real character chameleons of the piece, were downright hysterical.

The ensemble is universally strong, which is precisely why the

humor comes across so well. The high-speed interplay between the talented cast members allows for scenes to convey both steamy affairs and awkward relationships, blossoming friendships and newfound enemies.

The play’s technical crew have their work cut out for them too. The music and lights make an invaluable contribution to defining the multiple locales that Hannay visits over the course of the play, extending the already rampant humor to a technical level as well. Though the set is minimal, the way the characters use the few set pieces within the intimate off-Broadway theater is immensely effective.

“The 39 Steps” is a play that many Columbians will enjoy—a show this funny promises to make students crumple with laughter and maybe even forget their impending exams for a night.

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and
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present

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Aspiring chefs perfect craft with L'Ecole's five-course menu

BY MATT POWELL
Columbia Daily Spectator

Entering the restaurant adjoining the French Culinary Institute, customers would never guess it is a school.

L'Ecole (which is French for "the school") is the final stage of a student's education at the FCI. The kitchen in the back of the house is probably four times larger than the typical restaurant kitchen—however, in the front, all appears perfectly normal with the only a slight hum of activity in the air.

At L'Ecole, there are five courses on the dinner menu and each course has four options (with the exception of the digestive salad). Students visiting the restaurant in a group have the opportunity to order the entire menu if each person orders a different item for each course.

The first course arrived: appetizers. The tuna tartare with pickled daikon was by far the highlight of the course. The braised pork belly and clams in puff pastry was another favorite, but it was much

too heavy for an appetizer. The salmon was dry and the chicken consommé with chicken herb dumplings was simply unimpressive—reminiscent of the chicken broth served when people are sick.

On to the second course: fish. Unfortunately, students may find that

Students visiting the restaurant in a group have the opportunity to order the entire menu.

fish is not the forte of the FCI. The lentils on the poached trout and the spring pea risotto from the sautéed salmon were the saviors of this course. However, the overly-greasy scallion and potato pancake became the element that condemned the striped bass.

The anticipated meat course arrived shortly after the unfinished fish was

cleared from the table. Although none of the meat dishes were outstanding, the seared breast and braised thigh of duck and the seared rack of lamb are delicious. The hangar steak was too tough for an enjoyable experience. Still, it was better than the honey rum glazed pork belly, which drew instant reactions of disgust from everyone at the table: someone had over-salted the dish to the point that it almost tasted bitter. The steak and the pork belly remained virtually untouched for the rest of the course.

Next, the digestive salad was brought to the table. Composed of frisee, ricotta ice cream, balsamic reduction, and candied crushed pistachios, this dish—although seemingly simple—is perfectly refreshing and delicious. The components may not mix well, but students will enjoy the candied pistachios and ricotta ice cream.

Finally, diners reach the last course: dessert. The standout sweets are the strawberry tart and the sweet potato fritters. The strawberry tart coupled with an excellent basil emulsion and crème fraiche ice cream may have been

early in terms of seasonality, but it was the ideal ending to the meal. And the sage ice cream that comes with the fritters is unforgettable. The panna cotta and the parfait were unimpressive, best abandoned in favor of other treats. The Nutella banana dessert pizza appeared to be a failed attempt at a good idea. With an undercooked crust and extremely chewy texture, it was sadly repulsive.

Although many dishes are delightful, it must not be forgotten that L'Ecole is part of a school, and therefore, the chefs in the back of the house are not yet professionals. There will be mistakes. Fortunately, the high points of the meal easily make up for the blunders that show just how much these culinary students have left to learn.

The French Culinary Institute is located at 462 Broadway (between Broome and Crosby streets). The five-course prix-fixe menu costs \$42.



Neighborhood Watch

Wave of SoHo swimsuit shops prepares students for summer



ELAINE BURCHMAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SWIMSUIT EDITION | Billabong is one downtown store selling a wide array of swimsuits.

BY JULIAN MANCIAS
Columbia Daily Spectator

Whether students are lying on Columbia's manicured lawns, bathing in the Mediterranean, or taking a dip in a swimming pool back home, swimsuits are the most important apparel when summer finally rolls around. Squeezed between larger retailers down in the SoHo labyrinth are some of the greatest swimsuit stores for both men and women.

The 50 percent off sign featured on the store's window is incentive enough to step into **Sol de Ibiza**. The best find at this Mediterranean-inspired retailer is a Melissa Odabash bikini in coral that is sure to compliment sun-kissed skin. A tortoise shell buckle accentuates the top and adjustable ties sit at the sides of the bikini bottom for a perfect fit. Customers can choose from a variety of caftans, tunics, and gorgeous espadrilles to match their new swimsuits.

When the **Zimmermann** brand launched nine years ago, it immediately became the must-have label for every chic Australian girl. The dynamic sisters behind the label set up shop on Greene Street so that American girls could finally purchase the stunning pieces from this collection. The sophisticated clothing looks like one-of-a-kind art pieces transformed into tops, dresses, skirts, and swimwear. From floral designs to minimal stripes and solids, any girl can find the perfect one-piece with a plunging or lace up back or a barely-there bikini to flaunt her Dodge-sculpted body. However, the selection of sizes is limited so girls may find it difficult to find the perfect fit.

It is no wonder that Brazilians seek Alexandre Herchcovitch's designs when looking for striking and dramatic swimwear. Known for his ability to send equally elegant and grungy looks down the runway, Herchcovitch displays his craft and imagination in his store, **Rosa Chá**. Women will want to max out their credit cards on the ornate, bright, and luxurious swimsuits. Be warned though—these designs are smaller and tighter than the average American swimsuit. The limited selection for men is disappointing. Dull compared to the designs for women, these simple swimsuits are either too long or too short. The best bet is the box cut short in dark blue with a contrasting light blue stripe.

Men looking for more vibrant swimsuits can head over to **Vilebrequin**. Beloved by Saint-Tropez patrons, the French brand continues to produce colorful and practical designs for men. Tucked between shelves, racks, and tables are hundreds of trunks with the quirky designs that made the brand an instant sensation. The massive selection guarantees trunks in the right size. However, it also makes it impossible to choose between the piña colada, paisley, and turtle-inspired designs.

For decades Americans have trusted Australian brand **Billabong** when searching for swimwear. The SoHo location proves to be a safe bet for students on a budget. With everything from flip-flops, watches, and sunglasses to modest or flaunting swimwear and the season's trendy tribal-inspired bags, this locale is a one-stop shop.

As students plan their summer getaways, they should keep in mind that whether or not their bodies are beach-ready, a stylish swimsuit is a useful investment.

Gallery will shutter after years of showcasing cutting-edge art

BY FRANCES CORRY
Spectator Staff Writer

While Chelsea is now home to the majority of New York's galleries, SoHo once ruled the art scene. June 1 will mark another major loss to the neighborhood and the art community at large, when Deitch Projects closes its doors and ends its fourteen-year run as one of the city's most innovative and stylish galleries. Deitch—which has two spaces in SoHo and one in Long Island City—will be forced to close as its founder, Jeffrey Deitch, takes the helm at the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art.

Since its inception in 1996, Deitch has cultivated young artists and novel projects alike. The gallery has invested big money in art that operates both inside spaces and often outside them, commissioning pieces like street murals and art parades. The work in the gallery is more fun and more powerful than most in the contemporary scene, evoking a sense of wonder even when other contemporary art tends towards dark and onerous.

For example, as America wallowed in economic depression, Deitch artist SWOON created "Swimming Cities of Switchback Sea," in which she and a crew made seven boat-sculptures that sailed down the Hudson River. The group landed several times, performing plays and displaying the mobile sculptures, with their final stop at the gallery.

The gallery is known for fostering new artists, like contemporary urban portrait painter Kehinde Wiley, and for being the place where both performance and party occur. The electropop group Fischerspooner has played at Deitch, an exercise in "entertainment and spectacle" according to Deitch's website. In January a rumor even circulated that Columbia favorite son James Franco was going to be filmed for a video project at Deitch, a spinoff of his appearance on soap opera "General Hospital."

Several other more overtly artistic Columbia affiliates have been featured at Deitch. Brad Kahlhamer, a Deitch artist dealing with new appropriations of Native American images, participated in the invited artist program at LeRoy Neiman Center for Print Studies at Columbia. Elizabeth Neel, MFA '07—a painter who straddles the divide between obvious physicality and seeming abstraction—is also represented by Deitch.

For the last hurrah of a gallery like no other—and to mourn the loss of an art world great—visit Deitch for its last SoHo exhibit. Titled "May Day," the exhibit features the work of renowned street artist Shepard Fairey, most known for being the

creator of OBEY GIANT and the now-iconic Obama HOPE poster.

Fairey, while always associated with political messages, is currently embroiled in legal affairs regarding the Obama poster. The Associated Press is currently suing him for non-legal use of a photograph used for the piece. "May Day" might then be the perfect last show for Deitch—controversial, relevant, aesthetically pleasing, and influential, Fairey squarely occupies the niche Deitch helped to create.

Deitch's last project opens Saturday, May 1, and runs until May 26. The gallery is located at 18 Wooster St. (between Grand and Canal streets).



COURTESY OF WWW.DEITCH.COM

INNOVATIVE OUT | Above, pieces by street artist Shepard Fairey are part of the most recent Deitch Projects exhibit "May Day."

Women, heavyweights travel for regattas

BY NINA LUKINA
Spectator Staff Writer

The women's and heavyweight crews will be out on the water again this weekend after finishing second in their respective matchups last week.

The women's rowing team is traveling to Boston, Mass. to race Northeastern in the Beanpot Regatta for the Woodbury Cup. Last year there were six teams in the Beanpot Regatta. The varsity eight boat came in fourth with a time of 7:30.4, while host Northeastern came in second with a final time of 7:12.1. Perhaps this year they will see a better finish, as last year the novice eight boat took first place of six, finishing with a time of 7:40.5—far ahead of fifth-place

HEAVYWEIGHTS VS. NAVY
Princeton, N.J., Sunday, 10 a.m.

WOMEN AT WOODBURY CUP
Boston, Mass., Saturday, 6:36 a.m.

Northeastern, which finished with a time of 8:11.4.

This weekend will be challenging for the women's team. The team last saw Northeastern in the fall at the Head of the Charles Regatta, where Northeastern had the upper hand, finishing 14th with a time of 17.27.603. The Lions finished pretty low, in 29th place, with a time of 18.37.640.

The racing will start in the early morning at 6:36 a.m on Saturday.

The heavyweight men's team will head to Princeton, N.J. to face Navy for the Maxwell Stevenson Cup after winning the Doc Lusins Cup against Boston University last weekend. They will look to win the title for the second year in a row, after defeating Navy last year by almost eight seconds. In that race, the Lions finished first with a time of 5:55.1, while Navy trailed with a 6:02.8 finish.

The last time the heavyweights raced Navy this season was also at the Head of the Charles Regatta, where, even without the added one-minute penalty for bumping into a bride, the Lions finished behind them with a time of 15.33.047, while Navy came in ahead with a 15.23.041 finish.

The Maxwell Stevenson race will begin at 10 a.m on Sunday.



ELAINE BURCHMAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

STROKE RACE | Two of Columbia's crew teams look to capture cup titles in this weekend's competition.

Columnist shares Spectator memories

MACDONALD from back page

lede. Spec taught me how to tell a friend when they're doing something wrong, how to stand up to an authority figure, how to compromise, and, most importantly, how to deliver truly excellent "that's what she said" jokes.

But really, Spec goes beyond the journalistic training, beyond the papers that appear around campus, and beyond the K4 meltdowns in the office. The sports section has given me some of the best friends and best memories of my college career.

Taylor Harwin, thanks for showing Matt and me the ropes and for teaching us the noun game. More than that, thank you for starting the tradition of dank pancakes on road trips. Max Puro, you kept the "what you did this weekend" tradition alive. Thank you also for willingly watching the Rose Bowl with me.

From winning the award for sportsmanship at the first—and

only—Spec Sports basketball game to bringing two staffers home to Texas with me just last weekend, sharing these past four years with this section easily qualifies as the best decision I made while at Columbia.

Lisa "the kid" Lewis: that nickname never really stuck, but I'm dragging it out for the world to see. Four years of college cannot be reduced to a couple sentences, but never have I been so glad that you decided to stick with the sports section. You're the voice of reason when I stray off the path of sanity.

Matt "Mama Duck" Velazquez, there's too much to say in one column. Lisa and I decided in the Bahamas that you're the instigator during road trips, as we got along fine just the two of us! But I'll keep you around for the "Party in the USA" dance parties, your cookie-baking abilities, and lending me your scarf during the Brown game a year and a half ago.

The long nights in the office and the marathon weekends,

the hours in front of the computer and the hours spent in Dodge, cannot fit in under 1,000 words. Nor am I certain that I'd have the words to describe them.

So, whether or not anyone has actually read my columns, I can't say that I'd do anything differently. And when we have our last Spec Dinner, I'll raise my glass to Joe Bova one more time.

I will spend one week in my room in Dallas before coming back to the city. One last week where I have no responsibilities other than watching "Saved by the Bell" reruns and eating my mom's home cooking.

And when I look at the first article I ever wrote for Spec, the one my dad framed for me Christmas my freshman year, I'll always think, "Anand wrote that entire thing."

Holly MacDonald is a Barnard College senior majoring in history and English. sports@columbiaspectator.com

Track to run at Princeton Elite Meet

TRACK from back page

a school-record relay at Penn last week, the men's DMR—will run the 400m with senior Cory Benton, and the 200m as well. The men and women will each field two relay squads in the 4x400m.

On the field, freshmen women will stock the long and triple jumps, with Uju Ofoche and Uzunma Udeh ranked No. 2 in their respective events with marks of 6.03m (19'9.5") and 12.30m (40'4.25"). Freshman Nnenna Okwara will throw both hammer and shot put. Sophomore Monique Roberts—currently holding the No. 2 spot in the league with her 1.73 (5'8")—will compete in the high jump. Sophomores Sarah Engle and Jason Marks, ranked No. 6 and 10 in the league, respectively, will contend in the pole vault.

Next up, the Lions return to Princeton for the fiercely contested Outdoor Heptagonal Championships. Cornell is the defending champion on the men's side, and Princeton for the women's.



JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

HAND OFF | Columbia is sending athletes to compete in a plethora of events this weekend at the Princeton Elite Meet.

Playoff spot up for grabs for CU, Penn

BASEBALL from back page

before the Lions were officially eliminated from the race for the division title. This year, they can only hope that their improved play will be enough to result in a different outcome at the end of the weekend.

The Quakers won't make it easy on the Light Blue, though—Penn has the skill to be a very difficult opponent.

Quaker pitcher Chris McNulty can be expected to provide some trouble from atop the mound, as the sophomore was recently named co-Ivy Pitcher of the Week.

The southpaw started twice in the last week for the Quakers and finished with a 1.12 ERA and a 1-0 record. In last Saturday's game against Princeton, McNulty allowed only five hits over seven innings.

On the season as a whole, McNulty leads the Quakers with a 4.50 ERA and a record of 4-1.

Penn is still putting forth tough competition from the batter's box. Also on the awards circuit last week was senior Tom Grandieri, who was named co-Player of the Week in the Ancient Eight as well as the Big 5 Player of the Week.

Including a successful week that featured a .652 batting average, the right fielder currently leads the team with 66 hits and 42 RBI. His overall batting average of .410 is second among the Quakers' lineup.

The Lions have their own contenders to put up against Penn this weekend, but the series is sure to be a challenge.

Jon Eisen leads the Light Blue from the plate with a .367 batting

| If Columbia... | Then... |
|-------------------------|---|
| Wins at least two games | The Lions win the Gehrig Division and go to Ivy playoffs. |
| Wins only one game | Columbia and Penn enter a one-game playoff for the division title |
| Gets swept | Penn wins the division and Columbia's hopes of a championship are crushed |

average and 51 hits on the season. The most RBI have come from designated hitter Alexander Aurricchio (31), but Nick Ferraresi is close behind with 30 of his own.

The Lions' pitchers have also turned around this month after a tough start to the season, and have since posted impressive performances. Pat Lowery leads the Lions with a 3.86 ERA. After 49 innings pitched, the sophomore has allowed 21 earned runs and 45 hits.

The top record on the team comes from junior Dan Bracey, who is 4-3 in 2010 with an ERA of 4.09. In the 50.2 innings Bracey has pitched, he has allowed 23 earned runs and just 45 hits, to match Lowery.

While both teams have a lot of talent taking the field this weekend, both have an unmatched desire to win. The outcome of this series will determine which team gets to play for the Ivy League title, and you can be sure that neither team is going to lose the opportunity without a fight.

"They are a good club—we want to compete smart and

hard," head coach Brett Boretti said of the weekend's matchup with Penn.

Though the Quakers pose a threat, Boretti noted that the Lions "are not changing our approach at all" when it comes to preparing for the series and trying to get the necessary two wins.

The teams are fighting for a spot in the championship against an unknown opponent, however, as the competition in the Rolfe Division is even more heated than in the Gehrig Division. Heading into this final weekend of the regular season, Dartmouth and Brown are tied for first with 9-5 records in the Ancient Eight. The Big Green has a four-game series against Harvard this weekend, while the Bears will face off against Rolfe Division cellar-dweller Yale in their quest for the title.

After Friday's doubleheader between Columbia and Penn in Philadelphia, the game will return to the Big Apple as the Lions take on the Quakers at Robertson Field this Saturday. Both twin bills are scheduled to start at noon.

THE LOUIS ARMSTRONG JAZZ PERFORMANCE PROGRAM
AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PRESENTS

Jazz

Spring Concerts

CU Jazz Vocal Ensemble directed by Christine Correa
Friday, April 30 at 7:00 pm
112 Dodge Hall (Enter from College Walk)

CU Jazz Concerts in Italian Academy on Sunday, May 2:
CU Jazz Ensembles directed by Ole Mathisen, Don Sickler, and Ben Waltzer, 2 pm
Afro-Cuban Ensemble directed by Adriano Santos and Free Jazz directed by Ole Mathisen, 7 pm
Italian Academy Teatro, 1161 Amsterdam Ave between 116th & 118th Streets

CU Jazz Ensembles directed by Victor Lin and Ben Waltzer
Monday, May 3 at 7:00pm
112 Dodge Hall (Enter from College Walk)

All jazz concerts are Free and Open to the Public; no reservation is needed. These concerts are made possible with a generous grant from The Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation.

Music Performance Program

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

American Composers Showcase

Adán • Galante • Iglesia
with Stravinsky's *Les Noces*

FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 2010, AT 8PM
MILLER THEATRE
BROADWAY AT 116TH STREET
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC; NO RESERVATIONS NEEDED

Conducted by Michel Galante, the Argento Chamber Ensemble, with the Princeton Chamber Choir, the Ekmeles Ensemble, the Percussion Ensemble of Queens College, & Columbia Classical Performers, presents a concert of three world premiere intermedia concert works alongside Stravinsky's *Les Noces*.

This concert is made possible with the support of the FRITZ REINER FUND, the COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY MUSIC PERFORMANCE PROGRAM, THE HARRIMAN INSTITUTE FOR RUSSIAN, EURASIAN, AND EASTERN EUROPEAN STUDIES AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY AND YAMAHA PIANOS. PLEASE VISIT MUSIC.COLUMBIA.EDU/MPF

Gehrig Division title at stake for Columbia baseball team

Lions, Quakers to face off in four-game series to determine who will go to Ivy League playoffs

BY VICTORIA JONES
Spectator Staff Writer

Competition will be fierce on the diamond this weekend, as Columbia's baseball team has a lot riding on this weekend's pair of twin bills.

Currently, the Lions sit atop the Gehrig Division rankings. The Light Blue is two games ahead of Penn, but the teams have yet to face off, and this weekend they will duel in a four-game series for first place.

First, the Quakers (20-17, 9-7 Ivy) will welcome the Lions to Philadelphia on Friday for a doubleheader, and then both teams will travel back to New York City for the final twin bill of the regular season, which will take place on Saturday.

With a record of 11-5 in the Ancient Eight, the Light Blue needs to win two games this weekend to clinch the division title and earn a spot in the Ivy League Championship May 8-9.

In the 2009 series, the Quakers slipped in the first game, allowing Columbia to win 13-5, but after that it was lights out as Columbia fell in the final three games, one after the other.

Last year, it only took one loss

SEE BASEBALL, page 9

COLUMBIA AT PENN

Philadelphia, Pa., Friday, 12 p.m.

COLUMBIA VS. PENN

Robertson Field, Saturday, 12 p.m.



JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

FINAL FRAME | This weekend marks the end of the regular season for the Light Blue baseball team. If the Lions can win at least two of the four games, the division title is theirs alone.

BASEBALL PREVIEW

Dartmouth vs. Harvard



With the Rolfe Division title up for grabs, the Big Green is sure to bring the heat this weekend against the Crimson. While Harvard is currently third in the Rolfe Division with an 8-8 record in the Ancient Eight, Dartmouth is tied for first with Brown at 11-5. Though it will depend on how the Bears' series ends up, the Big Green needs to win as many games as possible this weekend, if not all of them, if it hopes to advance to the playoffs to try and reclaim last year's title of Ivy League champions.



BASEBALL PREVIEW

Brown vs. Yale



This weekend, the Bears will face off against the Bulldogs, who have been banished to the cellar of the division standings with their 5-11 record in the Ancient Eight. Brown will certainly bring its A-game to this weekend's competition, as the Bears only have these four games left with which to overtake the Big Green for the Rolfe Division title and the opportunity to advance to the Ivy League playoffs. From the batter's box, Brown is currently led by Josh Feit and his .429 batting average against Ancient Eight opponents.



BASEBALL PREVIEW

Cornell vs. Princeton



The face-off between the Big Red and the Tigers will be a little different than the other Ancient Eight games this weekend. While each of the other three matchups has at least one team battling for a division title, the Cornell-



Princeton game will be a competition to see who ends up at the bottom of the Gehrig Division standings. Cornell currently sits in third at 6-10 Ivy, but Princeton sits just one game back at 5-11. If the Big Red can pull off a sweep, the team will finish .500 on the season, but otherwise this weekend is about dignity for both teams.

Journey from the first to last Spectator byline



HOLLY
MACDONALD

The Eyes of Texas

In the four years since that byline ran, too much has happened

for it ever to be recounted satisfactorily in my last column. Too many road trips, too many fights, too many interviews, and too many articles to ever convey what being a part of Spec has meant to me.

I came on as a timid freshman determined to make my mark. Yes, the self-proclaimed diva of the sports section was at one point a small, intimidated first-year that brought in clippings from her high school newspaper just in case the editors wanted them.

I've had a draft of this column in my head for two years. Scattered in my mind are millions of different thoughts I wanted to put down: advice, thanks, praise, criticisms. But none could encompass the ridiculous ride that has been the past four years.

Freshman year at one of the first Spectails—our monthly cocktail party—a staffer had just returned from a basketball game where a benchwarmer played a hell of a game. The sports section tends to be insular when involved in Spec activities, and so we all stood in one corner and someone in the group raised his

beer and shouted: Joe Bova!

And so it began, the "Joe Bova" toast. Get enough of us in a room together with drinks and you can bet there will be a Joe Bova toast, despite the fact that Joe Bova graduated and there are only three staffers left on the section who were actually there that night. Those are the type of experiences that have characterized my time in the section.

In the past four years I've done it all: reported the wrong facts accidentally, fought for a columnist's right to print his or her opinion, stayed up until 3 a.m. finishing the sports page, ripped into editors for, dare I say it, editing my articles. (Though I do still hold a grudge for the idiot who replaced T.O. with Terrell Owens and misspelled his name.) I set the record PDF time for the sports section at 11:04 p.m. and I've even gotten a quote put on the famous quote wall.

There is one senior—yes, I always think of him as a senior—who took my first few attempts at stories and turned them into actual articles. Thank you, Anand, for teaching me how to write.

The two sports editors when I was an associate deserve much thanks and praise for dealing with me. JTay, thank you for writing the articles that I refused to write at midnight, even though you were technically my boss.

I owe Jonathan August about a gallon of fries from my days as an associate sports editor. I also owe him for always listening to my rants, because God knows that's a full-time job.

The lessons that Spec taught me aren't as simple as what a nut graph is or how to write a

SEE MACDONALD, page 9

Softball to face Penn in final four games

BY CHRISTOPHER BROWN
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

After a rough series against Cornell on Tuesday, the Columbia softball team defeated St. Peter's in a doubleheader before heading into the final weekend of games.

The Lions scored the first run of the game off St. Peter's starter Shelby Beaver in the third inning after junior Karen Tulig reached base on a fielding error at shortstop. Senior Dani Pineda singled before Maggie Johnson bounced into a double play, leaving Pineda at second with two outs. Next, sophomore Christie Taylor reached on a

COLUMBIA AT PENN

Philadelphia, Pa., Friday, 2 p.m.

COLUMBIA VS. PENN

Baker Athletics Complex, Saturday, 12:30 p.m.

walk and advanced on a passed ball. Then junior Stephanie Yagi also walked, setting up Jennifer Bergeron's RBI single to give her team a 1-0 lead.

The Light Blue offense scored another five runs in the fourth inning on Taylor's bases-load walk, which was followed by Yagi's first homer of the season, a grand slam to give Columbia



SHIVINA HARJANI / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

HOME STRETCH | Columbia will face Ivy rival Penn to close out the season.

Track to run at Princeton Elite Meet

BY GREGORY KREMLER
Spectator Staff Writer

One week ahead of the Heptagonal Conference Championships, Columbia track and field will visit the venue at which that meet is to be held—William Weaver Stadium—for the Princeton Elite Meet. The Lions will face league competition in the form of Princeton, Penn, and Yale in a last tune-up before the Ivy Heps.

Middle and long distance will be represented in the 800m, 1500m, and 3k. On the men's side, senior Chris Hays—who has run 1:52.95 this season—should lead the way over the half-mile. Senior William Ballenthin—currently ranked 11th in the conference with his 3:49.11 time—is the Lions' top entry in the 1500m. The 3000m will feature six men vying for the Heps squad, each looking to have a big run. Juniors Dustin Martin and Paul Corcoran are names to watch.

For the women, the 3k is likewise a stacked event, with seven competitors—junior Hannah Kligman is expected to lead the way. Freshmen Camille Murphy and Erin Gillingham are Columbia's top entries in the 1500m. Junior Samantha Lee will run the 800m solo.

Sprinters will mostly run off-events, with superstar Sharay Hale entered in the 200m along with freshman Yamira Bell, a fellow member of last week's school record-breaking 4x400m. Bell will compete in the open 400m as well, and will be joined by junior Laura Vogel. Sophomore Justin Holloman—also a member of

SEE TRACK, page 9