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Precedent uncertain for eminent domain lawsuit

BY MAGGIE ASTOR
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Columbia's Manhattanville expansion plan seemed to be approaching the finish line, but last December, the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division threw a wrench in the plans, deeming the use of eminent domain for the project illegal.

On June 1, the Court of Appeals—the highest court in New York—will re-examine whether the state can, on Columbia's behalf, seize private property for the “public good” in exchange for market-rate compensation. The fate of eminent domain could determine the fate of the expansion.

Many players hoping to predict the outcome have turned to the November 2009 Goldstein v. New York State Urban Development Corporation case, in which the Court of Appeals upheld the use of eminent domain for the Atlantic Yards commercial development in Brooklyn.

To some, the link seems clear: If the Court of Appeals forbade eminent domain in Manhattanville, they argue, it would violate its own precedent. But the plaintiffs here say the legal issues and the projects on the whole are very different.

THE ORIGINAL PLAN

In 2003, the University proposed a 17-acre campus in West Harlem. Today, it owns about 91 percent of the land, but there are five parcels whose owners have refused to sell: three Tuck-It-Away Self-Storage buildings owned by Nick Sprayregen, and two gas stations owned by Gurnam Singh and Parminder Kaur.

In December 2008, the Empire State Development Corporation approved the use of eminent domain on Columbia's behalf, but Sprayregen, Singh, and Kaur challenged the decision.

On Dec. 4, 2009, the Appellate Division struck down ESDC's

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As ruling nears, no plan B for M'ville, admins say

BY KIM KIRSCHENBAUM
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

With a final ruling on the legality of eminent domain in Manhattanville pending, University administrators say that at this time, they have no alternate plan to which they would turn if the verdict is not in their favor.

The New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division recently dealt a major blow to Columbia's planned campus expansion in the Manhattanville neighborhood of West Harlem with its ruling in December that eminent domain—state seizure of private property for the “public good” in exchange for market-rate compensation—is illegal in this case.

Administrators say there is no plan B if that ruling is upheld by the New York State Court of Appeals, which could mean the expansion would not happen at all without eminent domain. This excludes the preconstruction and demolition that has already begun for the planned Jerome L. Greene Science Center, which will be located on property the University owns.

Columbia controls most of the land in the 17-acre expansion zone, except for properties owned by two private landowners who have not struck deals with the University.

The Empire State Development Corporation, the state body that approved eminent domain for the project last December, formally appealed the decision in January and will present its oral arguments on June 1 alongside the respondents, who own the final properties in the expansion footprint: Tuck-It-Away Self-Storage owner Nick Sprayregen and gas station owners Gurnam Singh and Parminder Kaur.

“There is no plan B, and the reason for that is that in order to do something like this, you have to really just plunge ahead with the big plan and you have to make the best case you can for it,” University President Lee Bollinger said in a recent interview. In December, immediately after the Appellate

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ANGELA RADULESCU / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

LAND MASS | With the fate of Manhattanville uncertain, the University says it has no alternative plan.

Wage, benefit increase for CU guards

BY LEAH GREENBAUM
Spectator Staff Writer

Until last month Dennis Viera, a security guard stationed at McBain and Ruggles for the last five years, feared that a serious illness, on top of his already high out-of-pocket health expenses, might send him into bankruptcy.

However, with a new contract that will take effect this week, 160 security officers who are, like Viera, employed by Summit Security to work at Columbia, will see their hourly wages and health care coverage improve dramatically.

Under the new contract, which is retroactive to when it was signed on March 1, wages will rise by as much as 45 percent for many officers to \$14.75 an hour over the next four years.

Until a month ago, some officers were earning under \$10 hourly, about \$20,000 a year, full time, with virtually no benefits.

“I’m good at what I do, I know I am, so I know I deserve more,” Viera said, adding that he is thrilled with the new contract but still hopes for more.

Most of the University's security staff is employed by Public Safety, but the University

also contracts guards from outside companies such as Summit Security and Allied Barton to staff residence halls located outside of University gates, like McBain, Broadway, and Harmony Hall.

A spokesperson for the University said the school does not comment on negotiations with outside companies.

“I’m good at what I do, I know I am, so I know I deserve more.”

—McBain security guard Dennis Viera

“Our employees are getting everything they’re entitled to and we think it’s a very good thing,” said Linda Piacentini, a spokesperson for Summit Security, who added that negotiations between the University and the labor union 32BJ, which represents its guards, went well.

“Columbia’s administration and student body should be commended for their respective roles

in bringing about a win-win agreement for the entire Columbia community,” Mike Fishman, president of 32BJ, said in a statement. “Professionalizing the industry means better pay for officers, better protection for New York City businesses, campuses, and stadiums, and a safer, more secure New York.”

A similar contract for the 30 Allied Barton security guards represented by 32BJ, which will secure better wages and benefits, will likely be signed on Wednesday. The security guards mostly work at Barnard dorms.

32BJ had been working on increasing benefits for employees since mid-2009, and reached out to student groups like Students for Environmental and Economic Justice and Lucha.

“They receive no benefits, and most workers receive between \$11.20 and \$12.50 per hour. By New York City standards this is below the poverty level for a family of four. ... Lucha calls on Columbia’s administration and the Board of Trustees to negotiate with these workers so they can receive dignified wages and adequate family health care,” Lucha said in a statement in February.

SEE SECURITY GUARDS, page 6

Smith named head basketball coach

Three-week search ends, St. Mary’s assistant fills vacancy

BY ZACH GLUBIAK
Spectator Staff Writer

Let a new era of Columbia men’s basketball begin.

After three weeks and a national search effort, the Columbia athletic department has announced St. Mary’s associate head coach Kyle Smith as the new head men’s basketball coach, athletic department officials confirmed Sunday afternoon.

“Columbia University is very proud and excited to name Kyle Smith as our head men’s basketball coach,” Athletic Director M. Dianne Murphy said in an official statement on Sunday. “Kyle is an outstanding leader and successful recruiter with a terrific basketball mind. We are thrilled to welcome him to Columbia.”

A press conference introducing the new coach is scheduled for Wednesday.

In taking his first-ever head coaching job, Smith will replace former Columbia head man Joe Jones, who left Morningside Heights to join former Cornell coach Steve Donahue’s staff at Boston College.

“I am very excited to be the next head men’s basketball coach at Columbia, one of the nation’s premier universities,” Smith said in a statement. “I am very grateful to Dr. M. Dianne Murphy and President Lee C. Bollinger for this tremendous opportunity. I look forward to the challenge of building an Ivy League championship men’s basketball program at Columbia.”

Smith was the top assistant for the St. Mary’s squad that garnered national attention by beating both seventh-seeded Richmond and second-seeded Villanova in the NCAA tournament this spring to advance to the Sweet 16. The Gaels also surprised national powerhouse Gonzaga, a No. 5 seed this March, in the West Coast Conference tournament, taking the league title and paving the way for their upset run. The Gaels finished their 2009-2010 campaign with a 28-6 record and broke into the top 25.

Light Blue players look forward to picking up right where Smith left off at St. Mary’s last season.

“I mean, obviously St. Mary’s had a great run this year, they’ve been a great program in the past, and he’s been a big part of that,” sophomore Steve Egee said. “I think he’s going to have great success here, and I’m very excited about being a part of his team and his program.”

Egee was one of three players to actively participate in the coaching search. Egee, freshman Brian Barbour, and sophomore Noruwa Agho formed the players committee that met with each of the top candidates and gave feedback at the end of the search process.

SEE COACH, page 9

CUMB bands together to write the jokes, music of Orgo Night show



JENNY HSU / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

LINER NOTES | For Orgo Night on Thursday, the marching band plans to take down the house—or Butler Library and campus hot spots.

BY ANGELA RUGGIERO-CORLISS
Spectator Staff Writer

“Just because it’s suicide doesn’t mean it’s not funny!”

Welcome to East Campus 1418, where the Natty Light is cold, the Doritos are spicy, and absolutely nothing is held sacred. It’s a Sunday night, three weeks before the start of finals, and 20-or-so members of the Columbia University Marching Band are gathered in the common area of the “band suite” with their laptops. While the many students in Butler Library are regretting a weekend’s worth of procrastination, this motley crew of band members—“bandies,” as they call themselves—are running through a rough draft of the script for this year’s Orgo Night.

The 51st consecutive Orgo Night will take place at midnight this Thursday, the night before finals start. Every year, CUMB storms popular reading room

Butler 209 to play music and tell jokes that poke fun at campus life, current events, and pretty much everything in between.

CUMB then continues on a tour through the Columbia and Barnard campuses, always stopping in front of University President Lee Bollinger’s mansion on Riverside Drive to sing “Hava Nagila” in the hope that he will come out and dance with them. “We used to go and ring the doorbell, but they [Public Safety] don’t let us do that anymore,” Kevin Gould, CC ’12 and CUMB’s head manager, said.

For members of CUMB, Orgo Night is a time to showcase their musical talents and comedic passions, and comes at the end of a long planning process. “I’ve been thinking about it since immediately after the last Orgo Night,” Bree Doering, BC ’12 and CUMB’s scriptwriter, said.

“Official” scriptwriting meetings start a month before the performance, though these meetings

are informal and often get ram-bunctious. Doering, whose title in band-speak is “poet laureate,” heads the process, but anyone who shows up to scriptwriting meetings can contribute. “It’s really a big collaboration,” she said. “It’s so much fun for me because they [members] are all hilarious.”

Is anything off-limits for jokes? Not really. “We try and keep it tasteful. We don’t want riots,” Doering said. “But, like, bare minimum tastefulness. If I want to say Barnard girl X is a fucking slut, then I can say that—in those words.”

Jokes poking fun at Barnard, along with the School of Engineering and Applied Science, have long been an Orgo Night staple. Ironically, Doering is the first Barnard student ever to serve as head scriptwriter.

“I think they’re hilarious,” Doering said of Barnard jokes. “I think that talking about it

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INSIDE

A&E, page 3

V116 shows there’s no ‘Shame’ in Columbia pride

Although the 116th Annual Varsity Show—“College Walk of Shame”—was far from perfect, the production succeeded in its spot-on depiction of tiny details of Columbia life, making the show’s ultimate message more sentimental than cynical.



Sports, back page

Baseball takes Gehrig Division title

Columbia clinched the Gehrig Division title and Ivy League Championship berth with its sweep of Penn on Friday. The Lions ensured home-field advantage for the playoffs with a victory in their second game against the Quakers on Saturday.

Opinion, page 4

On the road

President Bollinger races through Amin Ghadimi’s mind as the latter considers metaphorical movement.

Forget-me-nots

Five graduating Species take one last trip down memory lane to the newspaper office.

Today’s Events

Mentor Program Info Session

CC Women’s Mentoring Program pairs students with alumna mentors.

113 Avery, 6:30 p.m.

CU Jazz Ensembles

Take a much-needed break from studying to get your jazz on.

112 Dodge Hall, 7 p.m.

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WEATHER

Today Tomorrow
79/60 78/56

Open housing under review

BY AMBER TUNNELL
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

According to the latest petition to be submitted to Columbia administration, student agitation to go gender-neutral hasn't died down. On Monday, Everyone Allied Against Homophobia will deliver its gender-neutral housing petition to the Columbia College Dean Michele Moody-Adams, School of Engineering and Applied Science Dean Feniosky Peña-Mora, and Student Affairs Dean Kevin Shollenberger. The petition has 969 signatures. According to Avi Edelman, CC '11 and president of Everyone Allied Against Homophobia, vice president of the Columbia University Democrats, and an author of the original proposal to the administration advocating gender-neutral housing, supporters are not submitting the petition to be antagonistic but instead to underline the importance of the issue to students. Statements of support from 20 different student organizations will accompany the petition. Q. Columbia Queer Alliance, Black Students Organization, and GendeRevolution all signed statements, as well as the incoming Columbia College Student Council executive board and 2011 class council.

Students last semester formally proposed that Columbia introduce a gender-neutral housing option that would allow undergraduates to pick into rooms with someone of the opposite gender. In February, administrators announced that the option would not be introduced for the 2010-2011 year, despite student confidence that the proposal would go through. Sarah Weiss, CC '10 and CCSC vice president of policy, was one of the original writers of the proposal, and expects the petition will lead to "a more nuanced policy that recognizes a lot of kinds of student groups and their needs."

The petition started circulating after Columbia nixed the gender-neutral housing proposal for the coming year—though Shollenberger at the time said the administration was considering a pilot program for the 2011-2012 school year.

"We're trying to channel the negative energy that initially came out of the administration's decision, and focus it on the more positive outcome," Sean Udell, president-elect of the Columbia College class of 2011 and treasurer of the Columbia Queer Alliance, said of the petition's creation. Udell was also one of the original writers of the proposal. The delivery of the petition will coincide with the first gathering of the Open Housing Task Force, which will be made up of both students—Udell and Edelman included—and administrators, this Wednesday. The task force was promised by administrators after they announced that the gender-neutral housing pilot program was not going to be implemented next year. The group will assess and revise the original proposal, and the group will submit a revised proposal to the administration for approval in September.

"I feel really good about the task force because it has a really clear mission," Weiss said. "Getting the administrators to the table and having them say that, 'this is something that we really think has potential,' was the biggest hurdle." Udell added that Shollenberger's involvement in the group will give their suggestions legitimacy. He noted that he understands that the petition alone is not enough for policy change, but believes it will demonstrate student support for gender-neutral housing when the task force convenes—a sentiment that Edelman echoed.

"All of the students that have been working on this appreciate ... that policy changes don't happen overnight," Edelman said. Still, he added, "This is an issue of treating students equally and making students feel comfortable and safe on campus ... which requires a sense of urgency."

Advocates for gender-neutral housing say that the change is necessary for making all students comfortable with their living situations. If it were approved, the option would not be opened to first-years. *amber.tunnell@columbiaspectator.com*

As eminent domain appeal nears, no plan B for M'ville, admins say

PLAN B from front page

Division ruling, Bollinger had said that the campus expansion might not happen at all without eminent domain. With no plan B in mind, administrators emphasize that the remaining land they do not own is crucial for the University's campus vision and the local environment. Administrators argue that owning all the land in the expansion zone gives the University full access to a sprawling underground facility that would allow for below-grade deliveries, basement space, and parking, among other purposes. Joe Ienuso, executive vice president of facilities, said in a recent interview that from an environmental standpoint, owning all the properties would allow the project to improve the urban experience and streetscape by "widening streets, setting back buildings, central energy plant below grade, utility distribution below grade, fewer truck deliveries at grade, which also translates to fewer mobile source emissions from an air-quality perspective."

Experts evaluate legal precedent for eminent domain in M'ville

EMINENT DOMAIN from front page

approval in a sharply worded opinion by Justice James Catterson, who wrote, "The process employed by ESDC predetermined the unconstitutional outcome, was bereft of facts which established that the neighborhood in question was blighted, and ... precluded the petitioners from presenting a full record before either the ESDC or, ultimately, this Court."

Columbia claims the project constitutes a public use because it will create jobs and scientific research facilities. And while eminent domain had traditionally been used for explicitly public purposes—to build a highway or a bridge, for instance—the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed in 2005 in the landmark *Kelo v. City of New London* case that it can also, under certain conditions, be used to transfer property from one private owner to another.

An ESDC-commissioned "blight study" concluded in July 2008 that Manhattanville was in a condition of economic disrepair beyond the potential for natural relief. But opponents argue that the blight is only on University-owned properties, and point to the fact that AKRF—the company ESDC hired to conduct the blight study—was also a consultant for the University. This, they argue, constitutes "collusion" between Columbia and ESDC and biased the results of the study.

The brief that Norman Siegel and David Smith—the attorneys for Sprayregen and Singh/Kaur, respectively—submitted to the Court of Appeals in April states, "ESDC hired Columbia's consultant AKRF to find a basis for blight, which two courts [the State Supreme Court for New York County and the Appellate Division] concluded was a conflict of interest and likely to be biased." The brief argues further that the bases for "participation as a 'civic' project are legally unprecedented and padded with other alleged 'civic purposes' that are clearly extraneous to the purpose for which the facilities are to be built."

In June 2007, Justice Shirley Werner Kornreich of the State Supreme Court ordered ESDC to release documents concerning the possible collusion to Sprayregen and Siegel, who had requested them through the Freedom of Information Law. ESDC eventually did so, but only after the deadline for submitting documents for inclusion in the Appellate Division case had passed. Siegel argues that this violated Sprayregen's due process rights, as it prevented him from submitting all the relevant information for the court's consideration.

The Appellate Division sided with eminent domain opponents on the public use and collusion points. In the Atlantic Yards case, the Court of Appeals ruled oppositely on public use, but collusion was not an issue there. Siegel cited this as a crucial difference between the cases.

SUBSTANTIVE DIFFERENCES?

Another difference between Manhattanville and Atlantic

The 2007 Environmental Impact Statement—part of the public review process for Manhattanville—reads, "The central below-grade service area is critical to meeting Columbia's need for program space, and it would enhance the above-grade urban environment." It adds, "This would avoid redundancy of equipment ... and service space ... that would occur if these facilities had to be provided above-grade in separate, unconnected buildings." When asked why the remaining properties—which represent about 9 percent of the planned expansion area—are essential, Ienuso said, "Have you seen the map? If you see the map, you don't need to ask that question."

He added, "Talking about anything on a percentage term is slightly misleading. If I said, I lost one finger, but I have 80 percent of my fingers on one hand, which one don't I need? I don't know—you pick, I'm not going to pick."

Bollinger cited the importance of having above-ground a "sense of contiguous operations. We want

to have the Mind, Brain, Behavior [building] interact with the School of the Arts," he said, adding that for buildings such as the Mind, Brain, and Behavior building, there are a number of "interconnections" written into the blue-

"If ... I lost one finger, but I have 80 percent of my fingers on one hand, which one don't I need?"

—Joe Ienuso, executive vice president of facilities

prints that would be "harder to do without those properties."

But according to legal experts, an alternative plan may be necessary, which is a task all the more daunting in a large, urban area already facing serious space constraints. Columbia Law School professor Lance Liebman referred



ANGELA RADULESCU / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
MANHATTANVILLE TRIALS | 125th Street is at the center of a neighborhood whose fate hinges on a June hearing.

Yards, Siegel said, is the "substantial affirmative record" he and Sprayregen compiled that went far beyond a simple response to ESDC's claims.

"We put in thousands of pieces of paper that were our documents, and the most outstanding one was the 'no-blight study,' which is a 500-page document that we spent two years developing, which counters their [ESDC's] study saying the neighborhood is blighted," Siegel said. "The Goldstein case didn't have anything like that."

But while Siegel emphasized the differences between the cases, others cite many similarities.

The discrepancy between the Atlantic Yards and Manhattanville rulings "just suggests the confusion in this area, and the disparity of treatment," said Paula Franzese, a property law expert who is a visiting political science professor at Barnard College and a professor at Seton Hall Law School in New Jersey. "Eminent domain cases always involve a balancing of competing equities, and courts are revealing a certain duality in attempting to accommodate ... the appropriate concerns."

Franzese added, "We see that the public use test is met for economic revitalization in Atlantic Yards, and yet we see a concededly analogous purpose stymied in the Manhattanville case."

Julia Vitullo-Martin, a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, a think tank that examines urban economic policy issues, said, "I would be surprised if Judge Catterson's decision stands up to the state level."

Columbia Law School professor Lance Liebman agreed: "If the Court of Appeals still has the same views they held when they decided Atlantic Yards," he said, "then the chances of a Columbia victory are good."

University administrators would not speak to comparisons between Manhattanville and Atlantic Yards, and ESDC spokesperson Warner Johnston declined to comment, citing ESDC's policy of not discussing pending litigation.

Though Robert Kasdin, senior executive vice president of the University, said in an interview in January that he could not make a comparison, he did say,

"President Bollinger has made the commitment ... that under no conditions would Columbia seek any residential properties."

In an interview two years earlier, when asked why the University drew the line at residential properties, he said, "I think commercial transactions are fundamentally different from making people feel insecure in their homes."

In contrast, in the Atlantic Yards case, the state approved eminent domain on residences.

BRIEFS FROM PARTIES—AND STUDENTS

Both sides have filed briefs with the Court of Appeals, laying out their arguments. The Student Coalition on Expansion and Gentrification—a group of Columbia students who have been active in opposing eminent domain in Manhattanville—also recently submitted an amicus curiae brief, or a brief written by a person who has a vested interest in the case but is not an official party in it.

The brief from Sprayregen and Siegel notes that in the Atlantic Yards ruling—which would seem to set a precedent in favor of eminent domain—the Court of Appeals acknowledged that there can be exceptions, as the opinion stated, "There remains a hypothetical case in which we might intervene to prevent an urban redevelopment condemnation on public use grounds—where 'the physical conditions of an area might be such that it would be irrational and baseless to call it substandard and insanitary.'"

"The present case [Manhattanville] is such a case," the brief says.

SCEG's amicus brief—which member Ben Totushek, GS, said is the result of a semester of research—echoes the plaintiffs' arguments, but what distinguishes it is its focus on "the University's behavior" in its pursuit of eminent domain. The brief says, "Ultimately, any request that Columbia makes of city and state agencies is effectively done in our [students'] name and on our behalf."

It adds, "The yawning chasm between the University's rhetoric regarding community engagement and the reality of its

action is not a matter that can be litigated. However, as the determination of what is or is not a 'public use, benefit, or purpose' is an inherently subjective determination, the University's behavior becomes relevant. ... The history of obfuscation of both the University and the Appellant-Respondent [ESDC], as well as the clearly stated opposition to eminent domain use at every stage of the Project's development should ... be considered in the evaluation of the Project."

Still, according to the attorneys representing the private landowners, no plan B has been discussed with them either. "I don't think anybody from Columbia or ESDC has had a conversation [with us] along those lines," attorney Norman Siegel, who represents Sprayregen, said.

But several administrators say that no such speculation about a plan B is necessary for the time being, affirming their faith in the Court of Appeals, which has ruled in favor of eminent domain in the past.

Robert Kasdin, senior executive vice president of the University, added, "I have a lot of confidence in the New York State Court of Appeals—it's a terrific court. The court is known across the country as an outstanding group of jurists."

Kim Kirschenbaum contributed to this article.

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"When Bollinger's making those statements [that no plan B exists], I'm surprised at that kind of rhetoric, but we're still focused on the issue we've been focused on from the beginning, which is the use of eminent domain."

But several administrators say that no such speculation about a plan B is necessary for the time being, affirming their faith in the Court of Appeals, which has ruled in favor of eminent domain in the past.

Robert Kasdin, senior executive vice president of the University, added, "I have a lot of confidence in the New York State Court of Appeals—it's a terrific court. The court is known across the country as an outstanding group of jurists."

"That's not to say a plan B couldn't exist," Bollinger said. "I just haven't done that yet, and I'm not going to do it until it's necessary."

Maggie Astor contributed to this article.

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Siegel said shortly after the ruling in December in his and Sprayregen's favor, "It creates some hope that you can win these fights." He also cited the concurring opinion in *Kelo* from Justice Anthony Kennedy, who argued that there are cases in which applying the Public Use Clause to justify eminent domain, as *Kelo* permitted, would be unconstitutional. Kennedy's opinion stated that a taking is not justified if it "is intended to favor a particular private party, with only incidental or pretextual public benefits."

Vitullo-Martin said she remains confident that the Court of Appeals will rule in ESDC's favor, but she added, "The whole cultural shift, legally and politically, is toward a more severe look at eminent domain."

LONG-TERM IMPLICATIONS

Whichever way the court rules in June, the decision is sure to have broad implications.

"If the Court of Appeals rules against eminent domain, that will be a change in New York law that will have national significance," Liebman said.

On the other hand, if the court rules in favor of ESDC and Columbia, opponents of eminent domain could pursue a new national precedent. Since three Supreme Court justices have been replaced since *Kelo* was decided, Liebman said, "Someone might decide to see if the Supreme Court would reconsider *Kelo*." In the short-term, Columbia's vision for Manhattanville may stand or fall on the outcome. If the Court of Appeals rules for eminent domain, the Supreme Court would be the private landowners' only remaining recourse. If the court rules against eminent domain, though, the picture would become much murkier.

University officials insist they need every property in the project area: They want an integrated campus, they say, not a "checkerboard" development with non-University buildings scattered throughout. And shortly after the Appellate Division ruling, University President Lee Bollinger said the Court of Appeals ruling would "determine whether or not we have a new campus."

Despite all the precedents, the outcome remains uncertain. "Only on the most general of levels, where one looks at the two cases [Manhattanville and Atlantic Yards] as both being about eminent domain, can one refer to them as largely being the same," Sprayregen said. "The fact remains that anyone who reads the briefs ... will clearly see that there are major differences between the facts."

"I can understand why some people are somewhat surprised," Siegel said. "The Court of Appeals ruled the way it did in Goldstein, and therefore they're confident they'll have the Court of Appeals reverse the Tuck-It-Away case. But they're different—the record is different, the issues are different."

Kim Kirschenbaum contributed to this article.

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116th Varsity Show succeeds in small details, but misses the big picture

BY MARICELA GONZALEZ
Columbia Daily Spectator

After months of previews, rumors, and hype, I was anticipating an extravagant show with elaborate sets, show-stopping musical numbers, and witty dialogue. I guess my expectations can only be blamed on the naïvete of freshman year. “College Walk of Shame” is not a show to be ashamed of, but it’s also not one to be excessively proud of either. The sets may not have been Broadway-level, but they were concise and adequately framed the story, exhibiting a smart use of space and versatility. But throughout the entire performance, I puzzled over what the weird dark brown arch brooding over nearly half of the stage was besides a cover for Dean Dorothy Denburg’s office. If anyone knows, please enlighten me. Speaking of Dean Denburg, although I appreciated GS student Spencer Oberman’s efforts to wring out every teapot-full of laughs from her proper, “perfect” character, I still could not become fully engaged with her storyline. I felt that the “Build a Bear” conflict for Emma (effortlessly played by Jenny Vallancourt, BC ’11) and Travis (Yonatan Gebeyehu, CC ’11, once again giving an excellent Varsity Show run) was not strong enough to carry the weight of the major plotline.

The plot may have lacked a certain depth, but the talent of the writers and actors showed through the dialogue and delivery. Although I missed Dean Kevin Shollenberger portrayed by Alex Hare, CC ’13, in the West End Preview, Hare’s medieval studies major brought the house down as he combated the gossip-mon-gering Bwog editors with bizarre Gregorian chants. Tessa Slovis, BC ’13, as Denise—the overeager lonely Barnard first-year—carried many of the laughs from the show, playing a caricature with heart. Patrick Blute, CC ’12, and Ben Russell, CC ’12, gave memorable performances as the tribal, cult-ish COOP leader (Blute) and the tough but lovable Milano Market guys (Blute and Russell). Now, the choreography lacked everything: creativity, relevance, and feeling. Besides the prim dalliance of “Mama Knows Best” and the bizarre yet engaging Latin number “Cart Wars,” the choreography did not relate much to the song or plot and was rendered merely awkward by the actors, who seemed just to want to go through the motions and get to the next scene. One especially awkward choreographic moment was when the Milano Market workers merrily sang and danced behind the counter (which consisted of a plain wooden counter displaying not delicious meats and cheeses, but a wrinkly white sheet of paper),



COURTESY OF THE VARSITY SHOW

SHOWSTOPPER | Spencer Oberman and other cast members perform “Mama Knows Best” in the Varsity Show.

thus blocking any potentially amusing dance moves. Still, it was the little things that elevated the show from run-of-the-mill student theater to a can’t-miss Columbia event. From the bombardment of ads for Asian cultural events in Travis’ mailbox to the portrayal

of overzealous Writing Fellows, these details showed off the writers’ attention to the intricacies of Columbia life. Regardless of the weak plot and choreography and the distracting sound glitches, just hearing students’ own thoughts and observations about Columbia

life verified on stage in joke form made seeing the performance worthwhile. As the show ended, the audience was brought together not by a mutual hostility toward the administration’s bureaucracy or other common student gripes, but by a shared love of the crazy times of college.

Graduation mealtime on parents’ dime

HENRY’S OFFERS CLASSY AMBIANCE TO PLEASE PICKY PARENTS

Among the upscale dining options in Morningside Heights, Henry’s, located on the corner of 105th and Broadway, features the chef with perhaps the most illustrious pedigree. Mark Barrett, who once worked at Mario Batali’s critically acclaimed Babbo, now serves a nice, although pricey, meal for people in the neighborhood. Henry’s rustic dining room features bare wood floors and checkered tablecloths, creating an unpretentious and friendly atmosphere. Not quite charming but perfectly inviting, this space will play host to swarms of graduating students and their families over the coming days, and for a good reason. Everything about Henry’s, from

the food to the décor, seems predictable and solid, qualities rarely found in similar establishments this far uptown. At Henry’s, Barrett has constructed a menu that feels uncomfortably eclectic. Soft corn tacos appear alongside baked ricotta meatballs and duck confit spring rolls with hoisin dipping sauce. Mexican meets Italian meets French-Asian all over the sprawling carte—or carta, depending on which global cuisine one picks at random. Sticking with Italian options is a logical choice considering Barrett’s background. Look for Greenmarket produce, too, since Henry’s makes a distinct effort to include these seasonal ingredients. For example, a

Greenmarket apple-fennel salad combines shaved fennel bulb, licorice-like and grassy, with surprisingly sweet apple slices. Hazelnuts add crunch, feta hunks add richness, and a bright lemon dressing adds a touch of acidity. For a main course, fresh pasta beats Henry’s price point of about \$20 for a dinner entree and possesses an admirable bite. Although a dish of fettuccine with Hudson Valley rabbit feels watery and improperly sauced, the noodles themselves succeed and work well with sweet peas and bitter kalamata olives. Or give in and lay out the cash for soft-shell crab, just in season and a current special.

—Jason Bell

FOOD & DRINK

It may be tempting for graduates to take advantage of a dinner paid for by mom and dad by suggesting a fancy downtown restaurant, but a few neighborhood eateries may give them reason to stick close to campus.



EMBRY OWEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

EAT UP | Community Food & Juice is a good choice for dinner.

COZY UPTOWN ITALIAN

With friends and relatives in town for graduation, dare to dine off the beaten Broadway path with a meal at Max Soha. Located on an unostentatious stretch of Amsterdam at 123rd Street, the restaurant has a charmingly cramped interior, creating the initial impression that it’s a neighborhood secret—that is, until peak dining hours arrive and tables fill up almost instantly. Despite the likelihood of needing to wait for a table, for smaller groups of diners seeking a satisfying, intimate meal, the squeeze around a tiny corner table is worth it. Although patrons run the risk of unintentionally elbowing their neighbors while picking up their forks, Max Soha’s food is all-around delicious. Pastas are prepared relatively simply, with only three or four added ingredients. Gnocchi alla sorrentina is a standout, served only with tomato sauce, basil, and a deliciously creamy homemade mozzarella. The gnocchi are chewy yet pillowy, and the portion size is perfect—large enough to be filling, but moderate enough to prevent overeating. The rigatoni alla siciliana is also excellent, roasted eggplant playing a hearty counterpoint to chewy mozzarella. With all pasta dishes and entrees costing \$10 to \$17 each, an evening at Max Soha makes for a reasonably priced family meal. Be warned, however, that the restaurant only accepts cash. Still, regardless of this and any other potential inconveniences due to the confining space, students can impress their graduation guests with this relatively hidden gem north of campus if they’re willing to get cozy.

—Maddy Loss

CQA knows what you did last Friday

BY NOEL DUAN
Columbia Daily Spectator

The leggy speaker standing in front of a runway in five-inch leopard-print heels and a mini-dress on Friday night could have signified a campus fashion event hosted by CU Couture. Yet, on second glance, the sassy diva turned out to be Bryan Wesley Reid, CC ’10, the President of Columbia Queer Alliance—or Vivian Hardwood, his stage name for the night. The event was not a typical campus fashion show featuring Milly and Tory Burch designs, but the first-ever drag pageant “Last Friday: A Queen Culture Show,” hosted by drag sensation Sahara Davenport in Lerner Party Space.

Davenport strutted down the stage in a bedazzled and form-fitting blue ball gown, posed coquettishly for the cameras, and promised an unforgettable show starring Columbia students. After a few RuPaul-related jokes, the drag contestants—both male-as-female and female-as-male—Alejandro, Gina Pastrami, Oishii the Successor, Fancy Peachtree, and Lulu Montes emerged from the back screen. Each contestant walked the runway twice and was given the chance to express his or her personality. Alejandro glanced not-so-subtly at the legs of each contestant and Fancy Peachtree

frolicked giddily across the stage. Following the introductions, the contestants were sent backstage again to prepare for the Q&A portion of the contest. Davenport came back on stage in a futuristic gold bodysuit, lip-synching a Beyoncé song medley, hip thrusting with the audience members, and jumping into the splits twice. After much bubble-blowing and flirtation with the audience by Davenport, the contestants appeared on stage one-at-a-time for minute-long Q&As. “These are real pageant questions, everyone,” Reid said. The audience burst out in laughter at the sexually-loaded question, “Are you a giver or a taker?” As the pageant drew to an end, the contestants were given the chance to leave a lasting impression on the judges with one last strut down the runway. In the end, the judges chose Gina Pastrami and Alejandro as winners. The two proudly hooked arms and walked down the runway in victory. While the audience in Lerner Party Space was not as large as it could have been, students who came to the event shared plenty of laughs, cheering for their peers who had the courage to bend their gender identities. After the pageant, the space was quickly converted for the traditional Last Friday dance, and students celebrated the contestants’ achievements in body-grinding glory.

CUMB bands together

CUMB from front page

[stereotypes] and making jokes about it is a fun way of showing how ridiculous some things that people get all wrapped up in are. ... To make fun of that sort of illuminates people’s ignorance.”

Still, the band’s commitment to edginess has alienated some. In the fall, a joke about murdered Yale student Annie Le elicited shouts of “Too soon!” and religious jokes on some flyers drew direct complaints from offended students. “There’s always going to be people who are upset about what you say. It’s kind of inevitable,” Gould said. Still, he added, “We try to use our best judgment.”

When it comes to the actual performance, “Orgo Night is really the shining moment of the year,” Tyler Benedict, CC ’13 and CUMB “minister of propaganda,” said. “You walk in, there’s hundreds and hundreds of people packed in that room, waiting for you. ... It showed me that people do, for one day a year, care about what the band does.”

“It’s the closest I’ll probably ever come to feeling like a rock star,” Jonathan Jager, GS/JTS and CUMB’s drum major, said.

The original Orgo Night was a spontaneous prank pulled by CUMB members hoping to upset the curve on the following day’s organic chemistry exam—hence the catchy and easily punned name. But its recorded history is otherwise shaky at best, as no one is quite sure when the first Orgo Night actually took place.

Even outside of Orgo Night, bandies love to share stories about their predecessors. “One kid came with a didgeridoo... and he played that on the field for a season,” Benedict said. They also look back wistfully on debauchery past—“We were a lot drunker my freshman year,” one band elder reminisced at a scriptwriting meeting.

The band has high—and characteristically irreverent—hopes for the future of Orgo Night. “We’re going to do it until they [the Columbia administration] tell us to stop,” Benedict said. “And probably even if they do.”



JENNY HSU / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

WITH THE BAND | CUMB storms Butler 209 on Orgo Night.



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The Ten Ways of Knowing

BY JOY RESMOVITS

“The unexamined life is not worth living.”

* * *

It’s the first day of classes in 2006. I want
to be a dentist, I’m sure. And a chemistry
major. Shortly after a terrify-
ing first General Chemistry
lecture, I return to Altschul
for Political Theory.
Professor Dennis Dalton
reads this quote aloud. It’s a
Socrates maxim. It gets me thinking. Not too
much, but still.

* * *

One evening the next week, I pass out su-
pine, my chemistry textbook left open over
my face. My roommate wakes me up at 8:30
p.m. and tells me it’s time for Spectator news
training, an unofficial journalism course.
Apparently I’d expressed interest in the news-
paper during orientation week. Bleary-eyed,
I dash into Barnard Hall just as the news
training editor begins to gesticulate wildly
while he describes finding Kareem Abdul-
Jabbar’s shoe in the trash on a stakeout.

I don’t know what I’m doing. In fact, I don’t
do much. But the training editor says I need
to take an assignment. Ever the obedient first-
year, I agree to write an article. It’s not good.
But thanks to a few supportive editors who
make sure I don’t quit, I become addicted. I
love asking questions, all kinds of questions. I
relish telling others’ stories.

* * *

I’m a sophomore. I know about carbon
and epoxides and chair-chair configura-
tions. But by now, I know more about hate
crimes and gifted-and-talented education
and Low Library and Pakistan and tenure. I
mumble less.

* * *

It’s February. I tell my parents my own
breaking news: I don’t want to be a dentist.
I’m a reporter now. I can no longer envision
a future in which my closest human contact
involves my hands in someone’s mouth.

This news doesn’t go over well. It takes
the prodding of a Wall Street Journal special
projects reporter for my parents to let me go
to St. Louis for a reporting internship. I get
off the plane in the Midwest. My notebook
becomes an appendage. I’ve gone through
many. They fill my top drawer.

* * *

Week after week, still an undeclared
chem major, I spend five-hour periods shat-
tering test tubes before I realize I’d rather be
learning something else, something less tech-
nical. After some self-reflection, I become
an English major. I fall in love with Chaucer,
then Shakespeare. I fall in love with Barnard’s
English department. Writing becomes bliss-
ful, though I’m told my paragraphs are too
short.

* * *

As a reporter, I interview Bill Nye, Jeffrey

Sachs, and Alan Brinkley. I interview Lee
Bollinger and Fatima Bhutto and Joe Biden.
I scoop some New York outlets, and the rush
is thrilling. I have a front-row seat to the
show that is life at Columbia University, and
find myself at the eye of various storms—
hate crimes, McBama, and an array of ad-
ministrative fracas. I ask more questions. I
learn sleep is overrated.

* * *

I’m a junior, and Spec seems like it could
grow and improve its community relations.
As one professor who will never be quoted in
these pages wrote me, the newspaper could
use some “serious soul-searching.” So I run
for editor in chief, a process that involves writ-
ing a 20-page document on the future of this
institution and a grilling by editors. My non-
Spec friends keep me sane.

Instead of editor in chief, I become cam-
pus news editor. I work with Betsy to make
the paper come out. Miraculously, it does.
Every day. I got lucky, actually. I made an
incredible friend. Besides, I’m a reporter, not
a CEO. Always make lemonade.

* * *

Before writing this, I look back at the
senior columns of those who came before
me. They had memories of Ben & Jerry’s and
late-night chats about newspapers by the
Sundial. I have memories of bubbles in the
office and corrections and Sporcle and peo-
ple and Starbucks. I remember dealing with
people who aren’t rational. You compromise
and talk and grow.

* * *

My last semester, I train new writers.
The Diana opens. I work on one last project,
“Finding Bollinger,” a massive profile of
Columbia’s president. Jake and I poll every-
one we find who’s known the man. I make
my last interview rounds with the adminis-
trators I’ve come to know. PrezBo even lets
us embed with him a bit.

Finally, we hunker down in Spec’s con-
ference room for 15 hours. We write and
write and write. After four years, we could
write a book. We settle for 7,023 words. We
think we find Bollinger. And maybe some-
thing more.

* * *

Today, I pass the sinister silver bleachers
on the steps. They’ll shoo us out soon. My
thumb brushes my newest ring. I get a bit
choked up.

Now it’s Saturday night. The neon pink
sun vanishes beyond the Hudson, behind the
rooftops and house-shaped chimneys that
punctuate the evening sky. I only have 17 of
these sunsets left. Since I can’t capture this
one with a camera, I frame it with tears. The
hydrogen bonds in water are strong—that
much I remember from chemistry. Maybe
they’ll keep the image intact.

The author is a Barnard College senior
with a majoring in English and concentrat-
ing in political science. She was an associate
editor on the 131st board, a deputy editor on
the 132nd news board, campus news editor on
the 133rd managing board, and staff training
editor, copy staffer, senior staff writer, and staff
photographer on the 134th board.

What I won’t forget to remember

BY JACOB SCHNEIDER

Given how popular Spectator is as an
activity—some people say that it is the
largest student group on campus—it is un-

fortunate how quickly feel-
ings about Spec sour once
staff members leave. That’s

SENIOR COLUMN

why seniors, who have
already long been put out
to pasture, often remember
their Spectator days with ambivalence and
not the passion that they felt so strongly
while they worked on the staff.

Any student who has poured the kind
of time and energy into a project that Spec
demands of its several dozen committed
writers and editors naturally departs with
mixed emotions about nearly everything
in life. But despite the staff politics, the
burnout, and the sleep deprivation, I al-
ways found working on the paper to be an
incredibly powerful experience.

I don’t necessarily have new ground
to break here. I would hardly be the first
person, for example, to extol the virtues
of hard work with a common cause. Nor
would I be the first ex-Speccie to wax po-
etic about the hidden romance of sleepless
nights, over-caffeination, and terminal tar-
diness to academic classes. But as gradu-
ation approaches, and I have, for once, a
bit of a bully pulpit, I do feel the need to
revisit all of these clich s because I feel like
the value of working on Spectator is most
often misconstrued from the outside.

Here’s what’s not apparent from the
outside (and is, I fear, quickly forgot-
ten even on the inside): It’s not about the
product, and it never was. I don’t believe
for a second the campus truism that no
one reads Spec—my inbox is full of old
hate mail from our “non-readers”—but I
do think that the outside response to the
paper hardly begins to speak to the value
that each of us staffers derives from it.

As campus news editor—a job that my
predecessor told me was the most power-
ful one on the paper, but I soon realized
was really just the most stressful—I felt
this more acutely than most. For the en-
tire year, I found it impossible to escape
the stories that I covered—the characters
seemed to pursue me around campus,
appearing at the most awkward moments
outside of my dorm and in my classes,
leaving aside the Orwellian experience of
daily communications with Low Library.
The complaints about the daily news
pages are nearly endless, and the posi-
tive feedback scant both on and off staff.
I remember that year as a sleepless one
in which I was trapped in a mix of panic,
trepidation, and stress for nearly every
waking moment. So why do I remember

that year so fondly?

In some ways, I think it is precisely
because we know that we are working on
an impossible project that we enjoy it so
much. The reality is that a group of type-
A full-time college students should not
be able to put out a daily paper (which
perhaps explains why, so often, readers
wish we hadn’t even tried). In a closed
reporting environment such as ours—in
which one institution, Low Library, has
an absolute monopoly on official infor-
mation—it should be nearly inconceiv-
able to break news (and when we do, too
often it’s the news that no one notices).
With a student body of disaffected millen-
nials, who can more easily read the Daily
Beast on their smartphones than pick up
a physical paper, it should be difficult to
find an audience. And it is the fact that all
of these things are at least partially true
that makes the ceaseless, if cynical, pur-
suit of them all the more tantalizing to a
certain kind of person.

I have been thinking a lot about what
I have gotten out of Spec ever since I de-
cided to take a job outside of journalism
(as if I were ever really “in journalism”).
My mother asked me recently whether
I regret all of the sleepless nights at Spec
when I could have been working toward
something more “fruitful.” The answer is,
of course, no. And part of that has to do
with the things that everyone else says it



SHELLY XU

has to do with—the teamwork and ca-
maraderie of the office, the daily pleasure
of holding the paper in your hand, and
the stupid, nerdy traditions that mark us
all as Speccies. But it also has to do with
the thrill of having tried (to, yes, always
mixed results) to do something truly
incredible that appeals to me most as I
stand at the precipice of a “real world”
marked by cubicles, realistic expectations,
and highly telegraphed nonchalance. I
might as well just come out and say what
seems so difficult for most ex-Speccies to
remember: I’ll miss it dearly.

The author is a Columbia College senior
majoring in history and Hispanic studies. He
was a deputy news editor on the 131st news
board, campus news editor on the 132nd
managing board, and a staff training editor
on the 133rd and 134th boards.



AMIN
GHADIMI

The Way That Can Be Told

Columbia. In its sheer scope, the lead story was
a brilliant culmination to our academic year.
It showed us where Bollinger came from and
where he is going, where Columbia came from
and where it is going, and perhaps, as a result,
even where each of us came from and where
we’re going.

It was because of this context of comings
and goings that what was seemingly a minor,
tangential point in the story stuck with me well
after I put the magazine down. Joy Resmovits
and Jacob Schneider, the story’s authors, quote
Bollinger from an interview he gave to Runner’s
World: “I think one of the least understood
things about thinking is the relationship be-
tween movement and ideas,” Bollinger mused.

Bollinger was speaking in a specific context.
Exploring the physical act of moving and its
effects on cognition, he goes on to cite an an-
ecdote about how Adam Smith “would walk

17 miles a day . . . and that was how he would
come up with these incredible ideas.” But
Bollinger’s words suggest broader significances
beyond the narrow world of the runner. And
they are significances about which I cannot
help but think on this final day of classes.

It blew my jejune mind to learn about
kinetic theory in my 10th-grade chemistry
class. Thinking of apparently stationary things
as fundamentally and essentially in constant
motion incited in my little 14-year-old frame
a revolution, a minor existential crisis. And
while perhaps my ostentatious present-day
self likes to describe its history a bit more hy-
perbolically than it ought to (even referring to
itself in third-person), the fact that everything
is in constant random motion continues to
boggle my mind. Somehow, despite the osten-
sible haphazardness of our microscopic world,
things work themselves out and create order,
or at least the semblance of it.

I feel a visceral need, especially today, look-
ing back on the academic year, to enlarge this
model of the world several orders of magni-
tude and modify it a bit. So often, everything
that happens here in our Columbian lives
seems so random, so disordered. It’s so easy to
get lost, to get disoriented, in the hyperactive
torpor of quotidian college life. But then again,
so often, everything just works itself out, or I
succeed in deluding myself into thinking this
is the case. Everything that happens is moving
me somewhere. I just don’t know where.

STAFF EDITORIAL

I can see clearly now

of moving tests to before Dec. 23 essentially
maintains a wildly unsatisfactory status quo. The
Senate had a chance to prove itself as an effec-
tive body and vehicle toward actual change this
semester, and it failed to seize this chance. We
hope that the Senate—and particularly its stu-
dent members—will not do so again come fall.

We were similarly disappointed to see the
option of gender-neutral housing fail to materi-
alize. There was either an inexcusable failure
to communicate on the administration’s part or
a promise made and broken. The most students
can hope for now is a pilot program for next
year. We expect the administration, to whom a
student petition will be presented today, to ac-
tively work with students to make this a reality
as soon as possible.

On the other hand, the changes to dining on
both sides of the street serve as examples of the

administration working with and being open
to students to make the best plan possible for
everyone. Barnard originally made the decision
to mandate meal plans without any student in-
put and only then presented the students with
the change, but the administration eventually
came to work with and listen to its students.
Columbia’s change in meal plan policy seems
to take into account student cries for more op-
tions, though it will destroy the tradition of com-
munal John Jay first-year dining in the process.

In sum, this semester exemplified the im-
portance of transparency and accountability.
This is true not only for the administration
(which should, for example, let students know
the result of the June 1 eminent domain case
as soon as it knows these results), but also for
students. The SEAS executive board should be
elected openly, and student senators should be

accountable to their constituents, not to their
political careers (opening up minutes prior to
the 50-year anniversary of a meeting would
be a good start). We hope that the Columbia
Undergraduate Scholars Program will actually
respond openly to the questions we raised. We
hope that department heads will let students
know clearly what is offered when as early as
possible. We hope that Columbia University
Information Technology will work with stu-
dents to implement campus-wide wireless. But
mostly, and most overwhelmingly, we hope
that every town hall, every forum, and every
conversation between students and the admin-
istration will be held in order to achieve an
actual end. It’s the only way anyone can see
what’s truly happening and the only way that
all of us can hope to have a clear vision of where
we’re going.

On the failure of Columbia’s sexual assault policy

BY ANONYMOUS

Editor’s note: Due to the deeply sensitive and personal nature of this piece, we have allowed the following to be published anonymously. We recognize that this is one account of the following events and hope it will be read and discussed as one person’s experience and opinion of Columbia’s policy.

Until recently, I was unaware of the egregious flaws in the Disciplinary Procedure for Sexual Assault. However, after my assault took place earlier this semester, I was encouraged by friends to take action against the student who had violated the sexual assault policy in many different ways, the worst of which was raping me twice.

The most difficult part of the whole incident was the fact that I could not tell my parents, as their conservatism and my current relationship with them would only cause more hurt and pain, something I did not and do not think I can handle at this point. Given that I could not go to my family for support, I ensured that I was well-versed in the policy, and that I followed each of the rules and regulations set forth by the office and University in order to seek justice.

I provided multiple forms of first-hand evidence to the case, including but not limited to phone records, an eyewitness (my roommate in EC), and descriptions of calls to the rape crisis center, which initially remained unanswered. I refrained from providing character witnesses because the sexual assault policy as defined by Columbia University is concerned with the event in the actual moment the assault took place, and not the testimonies of friends of the complainant or respondent that simply claim that he or she is a valuable asset to the community. Another blow to my case was the rejection of my request for a specific supporter. During the process, Columbia allows the complainant and respondent to have a supporter present at all times, but because my initial supporter was an administrator and employee of the University, I was told that it could be perceived as a conflict of interest.

During the hearing itself, there were multiple errors committed by the panel that were actually more hurtful to my own case, including but not limited to the respondent’s submission of a statement that I had not seen before and illegitimate contact with the panel, probing and hurtful inquiries geared toward my witness and best friend, and the approval of all three of the respondent’s witnesses, none of whom I had ever met before beyond simple introductions. The most personally difficult part of the hearing was the respondent’s refusal to speak or answer any questions.

The panel ruled in my favor with a 30-page report detailing the many ways in which the respondent had violated the policy, as well as seven different recommended sanctions, the harshest of which

It felt as though no one really cared what I had been through.

included suspension for the remainder of the semester. The report and panel decision was then forwarded to Kevin Shollenberger, dean of student affairs and judicial affairs, for approval. The way I had mistakenly interpreted the “After the Hearing” section of the policy was that the dean would simply have to approve the sanctions and decision set forth by the panel, and the respondent would then get an opportunity to appeal. I never imagined that the sanctions would be struck down, pared down to the mere removal of the respondent from housing and a mark on his record.

I was distraught with this decision—it felt as though no one really cared about what I had been through, and I felt it strange that the dean of student affairs, who had no true authority over the DPSA office and had not been part of the panel, could impact my life and my case in such a way.

While I focused on recovery, figuring out how to pay for the many anti-anxiety drugs, STD tests, and doctor’s appointments for which Columbia continuously charges me, the respondent had appealed. No one let me know. And this past week, my final week of classes at Columbia, I was called into Dean Shollenberger’s office and notified that there had been a procedural error during the hearing, and the results of the hearing were discounted—the person who made this decision was Dean Michele Moody-Adams. I believe that had the respondent been a member of the community without money and power, this entire case would have turned out completely differently.

There is not much for me to do besides share my story and hope that Columbia actually starts thinking about one of our most flawed policies, and whether we can change it so that the next girl (or boy) who decides to speak up and utilize the tools they have at their disposal can be treated with some degree of fairness and at least understand the decisions of what is, at least in my opinion, a failure of a university.

Taking care of business

BY JULIA FELDBERG

One day last July, I rushed uptown from my internship to the Spec office for an interview. For the first time in my life, I wasn’t the one being interviewed. Instead, I was interviewing a candidate for the open accountant position at the newspaper.

On the subway, I imagined the look of surprise on the accountant’s face when she realized that she, a CPA with years of experience, was being interviewed by a 21-year-old girl. I had done my research (phone calls with my dad and a Google search of “what to ask when you’re interviewing an accountant”), and the interview was going smoothly. That is, until a cockroach crawled across the floor in front of my chair. While the accountant remained calm, I spent the rest of the interview with my feet on the edge of the chair and my knees tucked under my chin, worrying more about roaches coming out of the walls than the interview questions.

My last punny headline

BY ELIZABETH SIMINS

My opening anecdote begins the way a lot of Spec senior column anecdotes begin: It was nearly 4 a.m. on a Thursday night and I was sitting in the Spec office.

It was one of my first nights on as a weekend associate, back when 4 a.m. was an early night for Weekend. And it was before I swore off Koronet, so there was probably some nausea involved. And yes, maybe a Blue Moon or two.

The next part is a little different from the usual senior column anecdote: It was at the beginning of my short tenure as video games editor.

“Don’t take this the wrong way,” the other weekend associate said, after asking me if I really did like video games, “but you’re so—normal.”

“Don’t worry, I get that a lot,” I said, and got back to trying to think of punny headlines.

My co-associate meant that I seemed surprisingly normal in contrast to the stereotypical mouth-breathing, doesn’t-shower-enough, even-more-socially-inept-than-a-Speciee teenage boy who supposedly represents the average gamer. But whatever she intended, in a way she was right: When I was at Spec, I was normal.

Growing up, this was not the case. I was too nerdy for my girlfriends, who liked to pretend I didn’t spend most of my time playing video games and teaching myself Web design. I wasn’t nerdy enough for the really serious nerds (see above), because I spent the rest of my time shopping and watching chick flicks with my girlfriends.

When I first started at Columbia, I had the same problem I’d always had, except things were way, way worse all of a sudden. I was miserable enough to fill out some transfer applications, even though I never ended up sending any of them. I had no friends to speak of and mostly just spent every day playing “Guitar Hero II” until my eyes were bloodshot, sleeping through dinner, and then calling my mom in tears because I’d slept through dinner. I considered dropping out of college altogether.

And then—guess what part of the senior column comes now?—I joined Spec. It was kind of a last resort for me. I had never been a “newspaper person” and I was terrified that Spec would be full of “newspaper people,” who would scoff at my lack of journalistic

knowledge and/or talent.

But after enough goading from my parents, I decided it couldn’t hurt, so I signed on to review an art exhibit. I even clumsily turkeyshot for an A&E associate position that I didn’t get.

And, before I knew it, I was spending over 40 hours in the Spec office every week. I wrote my school papers about journalism, drank only Blue Moon, embarrassed myself at Spectails, then nursed my hangovers in the office the next day. I cursed K4, coaxed Boobear, called Public Safety on cold nights, and cheered when the vending machine was refilled. I got locked out on the Spec roof, marveled at the beauty of pristine snow on Broadway at 5 a.m., and went to Tom’s after all-nighters, delirious from the caffeine that I really shouldn’t have been drinking because I get heart palpitations.

Forget editing, forget reviewing, forget reporting. Forget journalism—I’m no longer interested, as it turns out.

What I found at Spec, and the reason I stuck with it, was acceptance. I didn’t have to be just nerdy or just not nerdy. Instead, juvenile and cliché as it might sound, I could be myself and be accepted for who I was, for the first time in my life.

All of a sudden, I went from having no friends to knowing and liking what seemed like hundreds of people. I could talk about video games and go dress shopping for Blue Pencil Dinner with the same girls. Having lots of fonts on my computer wasn’t something to hide—it was something to boast about, preferably loudly, and in competition with someone else. When my friends and I made a real-life “Katamari” level in the office one night, people only rolled their eyes because we weren’t doing our work—not because we were being so ridiculously lame.

Sitting in the Spec office that Thursday night years ago, I didn’t know that it would be the first of hundreds of such nights. If I had, I probably would have taken it easy on the Koronet. Also I would have—

Actually, how about this: If not for Spec, I would have been embarrassed to end my senior column by telling you all what I’m going to do as soon as I send it in. Namely, finish an episode of “Buffy” and play a couple rounds of “Super Smash Bros. Brawl.” So thanks, Spec, for everything.

And much love.

The author is a Columbia College senior majoring in history. She was the video games editor on the 131st associate board, the arts & entertainment editor on the 132nd managing board, and the managing editor on the 133rd corporate board. For the record, she has 458 fonts on her computer.

staying in the office until five or six in the morning to put out the paper. They, in turn, probably had no idea what I did with my time, since my hours were less nocturnal.

Let me say this: becoming publisher during my junior year was the single most challenging and rewarding experience of my life. Dealing with lawyers, bankers, bills, insurance policies, and newspaper-bin placement violations in the midst of an economic recession was enough to make me scream (and sometimes it did). Managing the relationship between editorial and business, as anyone who has worked on a newspaper will tell you, is never easy, and at Spec it is compounded by the fact that your coworkers are also your peers. I felt personally responsible every time I had to say no to a badly needed purchase, which was most of the time. But the pleasure I got out of owning something, of gaining confidence in my decisions, of feeling invested in a product, and coming up with ways to make it better and grow, was immeasurable.

Looking back, I learned above all that the only thing that matters is your relationships, on both a professional and a personal level. Wow, you’re probably thinking. What a revelation. It sounds trite. But I met students, alumni, lifelong mentors, and friends through Spec. I

realized, probably a bit too late, that making plenty of time for my friends outside of Spec is equally important. I got so wrapped up in balancing school and Spec, and trying to enjoy my time as a real-life college student in between, that I lost perspective. Now, as I’m about to graduate, I realize that without these connections, everything else I gained at Columbia would be meaningless.

A big thank you to John M. and Manal for being my inspiration, for encouraging me to stick with Spec, for showing me the ropes, and for your wise words—because of you, I was able to have this fantastic experience. To the editors I worked with, I am so proud of what we accomplished together in the past year and I will always admire your passion. Thank you to the B-staff for your tremendous work in an often thankless role. Ellen, Dan, Tom, and April: You guys are the best. There are no words for your unbelievable, unconditional contribution to the organization.

The author is a Columbia College senior majoring in history. She was an alumni affairs associate on the 131st associate board, the alumni affairs director on the 132nd managing board, and the publisher on the 133rd corporate board.



Late have I loved you

BY MELISSA REPKO

Joining Spectator was one of the best decisions I’ve made. About four years after I arrived on campus, it is one of the few aspects of my college experience that I don’t second-guess.

That’s not to say that my time on Spec was perfect—far from it. But it does mean that I have learned so, so much about this university, about the neighborhood, about challenges, and about resilience from a little office on the corner of 112th and Broadway. Spectator made me believe in myself and doubt myself hundreds of times. I am so very grateful for that.

It’s fair to say that I’ve spent some of my best and worst days in the Spectator office. I was definitely one of those crazed and caffeine-fueled Speciees that thought, “I am on Spectator, therefore I am.” I spent countless nights in the office. I knew the 110th Starbucks baristas. I ate way too many Westside cookies at 2 a.m. in an attempt to avoid V&T’s pizza. I put off class assignments to make newspaper deadlines. In retrospect, although I laugh about it, I don’t regret letting Spec define me. After all, Spectator is one of the main reasons why I ended up here.

Shortly after sending out a half-dozen applications to undergraduate journalism programs, I decided I didn’t want to spend four years studying one thing. I had collected dozens of issues of college dailies on campus tours. Two liberal arts schools were in the mix—NYU and Barnard. I visited campus, met with a Spec editor on the Steps, and that was that.

I entered Spectator as an overeager high school reporter with dreams of becoming a professional one. But once I got here, Spectator became much more than a career move. I fell in love with the organization, the buzz of the office, the hectic nights when we were fortunate or silly enough to believe that we were doing something that mattered. I met some of my closest friends (and my current roommate). On Spec, I found a home and a sense of meaning.

With a notebook in hand, I grew to better understand the neighborhood, the nitty-gritty of the Manhattanville project, the ins and outs of the Uniform

Land Use Review Procedure, the role of community boards, the tediousness of the University Senate, and dozens of other obscure campus facts. Each time I reported a story, I appreciated my surroundings a bit more. I became even more grateful to be here.

My favorite memories are not the stories we broke, but the quirky things that made Spec more than a newspaper. I remember huddling around a white board strategizing Ahmadinejad coverage shortly after the story broke, as if we were a football team mapping out a game plan. I remember going to Tom’s for breakfast after a late night of laying out a supplement because by the time we got out, it was around 6 a.m. The intense snacks at e-board meetings. Bowling at Harlem Lanes with the 133rd Managing Board. Random Speciees dropping by on Thursday nights for no reason at all.

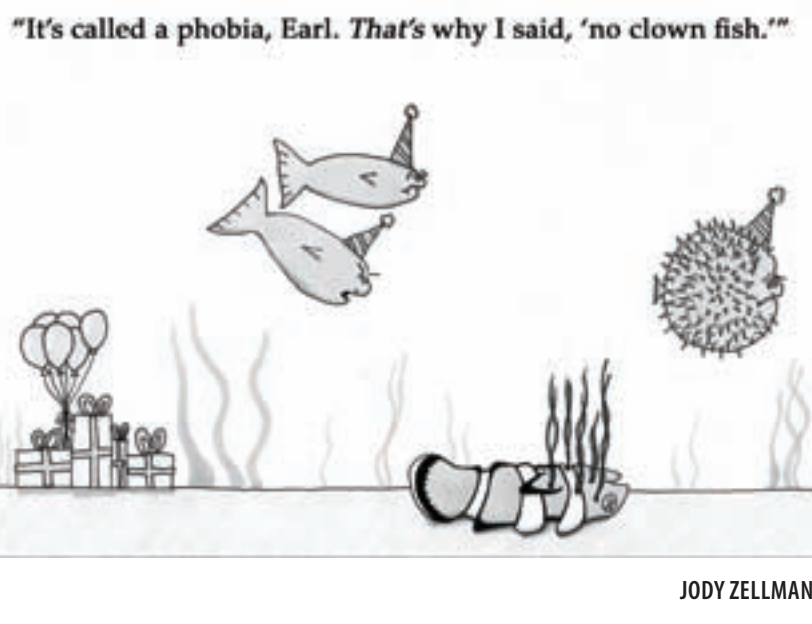
I went to the 110th Starbucks recently. The baristas were different. In the light of the afternoon, the place looked different, too. I no longer order a grande Americano right before closing time. I don’t run meetings or consider Sunday meeting day. This semester, I weaned myself off of a Spec addiction, turning my focus to an internship and a senior thesis, preparing to leave this place and begin my journalism career.

Still, I can’t help but be nostalgic. I have loved college. I have loved Spectator. The two have always been intertwined. The other night, when I was walking past Low Library on the way home with two bound volumes of Spectator issues in my arms, it began to sink in. After spending four years in Morningside Heights, after getting to know the quirks and dysfunctions of this campus I call home, I will walk away from it all, heading south to pursue my journalistic dreams. It is perhaps fitting that of all the events I’ve covered on campus, from the World Leaders Forums to Community Board 9 meetings, I will conclude my time on Columbia’s campus with Commencement—an event I have never covered before.

A year from now, I have no idea where I’ll be. Four years from now is anyone’s guess. But I do know that regardless of where I am, I will frequently return to memories of Spectator and be grateful for all the lessons that it taught me.

The author is a Barnard College senior majoring in political science. She was an associate news editor on the 131st associate board, city news editor on the 132nd managing board, and editor in chief on the 133rd corporate board.

JODY’S DRAWINGS!



New five-year public health program available to undergraduates

By Anne Brink
Columbia Daily Spectator

While politicians continue to debate increasing access to public health services, administrators at the Mailman School of Public Health are planning to make an education in public health more accessible to interested undergraduates.

The school is in the process of developing a program in which current undergraduates, if on track with their current undergraduate major, may begin taking graduate-level courses in public health and continue those into a fifth year at Columbia.

The result would be both an undergraduate degree in the major of their choice as well as

a masters of public health from the Mailman School.

The development is primarily the result of student interest in public health careers, but also for those who feel that being introduced to public health-related coursework could provide context for their majors.

“We wanted to provide an opportunity for students who during their time at Columbia begin to feel strongly that this is an area of potential professional study for them,” said Alastair Ager, a professor at the Mailman School who is currently teaching the course “Fundamentals of Global Health” to undergraduates.

He added that it is a way for students “not to just do some study in their major, but maybe

to pursue other majors, and have an opportunity to study for an MPH as well.”

Traditionally seen as a graduate area of focus, Ager was quick to add that the field of public health is a discipline that has a place in the undergraduate system.

“I think the responsibility is really for a university to create a variety of routes for people. It has been my experience that students who are appropriately skilled and oriented can have great benefits from mixing with students who have had more experience,” Ager said.

Dr. Linda Fried, dean and a professor at the Mailman School, also said she believes that public health does have a place in the

undergraduate experience.

“It’s very important for students at Columbia to understand what public health is and why we need it,” Fried said.

By offering the opportunity to take public health courses as an undergraduate, and potentially receive an MPH in the process, Mailman administrators hope that more undergraduate students will be exposed to and consider entering the field.

Fried also noted that there will be a huge workforce shortage in the field in upcoming years, another important reason to appeal to a younger audience.

There are currently two courses being offered for undergraduates, “Fundamentals of Global Health,” which Ager teaches, and

“History of Public Health in the U.S.,” which will be offered in the fall. A third on the topic of sexuality and public health is being added for next year.

For students like Elise Mordos, BC ’13, who is considering a career in public health, the major would be ready just in time for her to plan her schedule accordingly for a joint degree.

“It’s a jump start for your career. Employers will be more likely to consider you for jobs and internships,” Mordos said.

Mailman is hoping to bring the program into being formally next year, and is in the process of fundraising to make sure it will be sustainable over the long term.

news@columbiaspectator.com

Wage hikes for security guards

SECURITY GUARDS from front page

“When Columbia got wind that there’d been a meeting with students, they said, ‘Okay let’s talk,’” Viera said. He added that they had met with Avi Edelman, CC ’11 and vice president of Columbia University College Democrats, said he expects the Democrats will be taking a much more active role in labor issues on campus in the coming year.

“I do think we have this unique role in that we’re the students of the University, we’re the ones being served, and we have that much more of an impact when we put our voices together and stand with Columbia’s workers,” he said.

Michelle Rivera, who has been working at the Broadway residence hall for five years, said that with the pay raise, she and her family will be able to take a vacation to the Bahamas this July.

Even though the new benefits are an improvement, she said she is applying to become an officer with Public Safety, where guards earn over \$18 an hour and have a much more extensive health care package.

“They get paid much more to do the exact same thing,” she said.

Jean Carter, who started working for Summit 10 years ago at \$7 per hour, said she will now be able to visit the doctor and dentist more regularly.

“I really needed the dental, but I was waiting because paying on my own to go to the dentist was really a hardship for me,” she said from her station in Harmony Hall.

Viera said that the old health care plan imposed an annual \$800 cap on prescription medications, a cap he overran in the first five months of every year due to a health history of hypertension and allergies.

“But under this new plan, I don’t have to worry about it—I’m finally covered,” he said.

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle
 Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Flum cakes

6 Greek god of love

10 Quite a long time

14 Got up

15 Light fog

16 Knight's lady

17 With 59-Across, warm welcome for an old friend

19 Big bore

20 Calligraphers' supplies

21 Mr. T's TV gang

22 Othello's false friend

23 Wheels connector

25 Kentucky Fried piece

27 Warm welcome for an old friend

32 Levels in the ring

33 Make, as money

34 Urgent call at sea

36 "... a man with seven wives"

37 Tubular pasta

39 Sail support

40 Exerciser's unit

41 Saintry glow

42 Flower associated with Holland

43 Warm welcome for an old friend

47 Welcome word on a bill

48 Fontaine's stage partner

49 Make a backup of

51 Loathing

54 Took a bus, say

58 Hertz competitor

59 See 17-Across

61 One of Columbus's ships

62 Moniker

63 Puppeteer Bill

64 Uplight

65 Iditarod racer

66 "Golden Boy" dramatist Clifford

DOWN

1 "... Ha!": "South Pacific" song

2 Elvis's middle name

3 Library volume

ACROSS

4 Makes daunting demands (of)

5 Do some quilting

6 Harris it up

7 ... of passage

8 Fed. workplace regulator

9 Goblets and such

10 Tacking on

11 Event for unloading junk

12 Online periodical, briefly

13 Lily with bell-shaped flowers

18 Angel's topper

24 Big tee sizes

26 Quaint lodging

27 Veronica of "Hill Street Blues"

28 Amazing to behold

29 Common coffee break hr.

30 Made tracks

31 "... Radio" (O'Donnell talk show)

32 White wine aperitif

35 Gas additive brand

37 Building remarks

38 Verdi aria "... tu"

DOWN

39 3-Down not to be missed

41 Form 1040 calc.

42 Whole bunch

44 Reject

45 Sidestepped

46 Feeling no pain

49 Vaudeville dancer's prop

50 Roman poet banished by Augustus

52 Retro phone feature

53 "By the power vested ..."

55 Boo-boo, in totopost

56 Dust and grime

57 Comes to a close

60 Debt-heavy corp. takeover

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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Baseball earns second division title in three years

BASEBALL from back page

Epstein—the fourth Columbia pitcher of the game—induced a line-out to end the game and earn his first save of the year.

The Lions went to sleep on Saturday night with the Gehrig Division title in their hands, but home-field advantage was still up in the air when they returned to Robertson Field on Sunday.

Columbia came out swinging in the first inning, posting two runs. But Penn quickly retaliated with three runs in the third inning, courtesy of two Columbia errors. The teams went scoreless until Mike Mariano homered on an 0-2 count to lead off the sixth inning for Penn.

The Lions were only down by two heading into the seventh and final inning, but Whitaker and Derek Squires were unable to hold the game in place. Penn again took advantage of two Columbia errors and threw a giant six onto the board to the put game out of reach. Columbia went on to lose 10-2.

Determined to secure home-field advantage, Columbia scored three runs in the first and third innings of game two to take a 6-1 lead into the middle innings. The big bats came out again as Aurrichio and Pizzano both homered, accounting for five of the runs.

Ferraresi joined the party, leading off the sixth with another bomb before Aurrichio lit up

the scoreboard with his second homer of the game, and third of the series, in the seventh inning. Aurrichio's two homers brought his season total to 13, the most by a Lion in a single season since 1996 and the third most of all time. Pizzano is second on the team in home runs with 11.

The Lions took the field in the ninth inning with a seven-run lead, feeling pretty good about their chances for home-field advantage. Clay Bartlett, who came in to relieve starting pitcher Stefan Olson after seven quality innings, got one out before the trouble started.

The next four Penn hitters all reached base, knocking Bartlett out in the ninth. Alex Black took his place and promptly threw a juicy pitch to Penn's Gordon, who jacked his third homer of the series, bringing two men with him around the bases. The Lions now held just a two-run lead, and the next batter doubled off of Black to bring the tying run to the plate. But the Lions finally recorded the final two outs on fly-outs to clinch home-field advantage and win their third Ivy League game out of four for the fourth time this season.

With the three wins over Penn, Columbia earned a date with Dartmouth—coincidentally, the team the Lions beat to win the 2008 championship—at home next weekend to play for the Ivy League Championship.



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Smith tapped for head coaching position

COACH from front page

“He’s really excited to step into the position, and he wants to win,” Barbour said. “I feel like he’s a hard-working guy who will get it done for us.”

“I’m looking forward to moving forward with the program with coach Smith,” Egee added.

Smith inherits a Columbia squad that went 11-17 (5-9 Ivy) in the 2009-2010 season. The Lions lost a talented senior class in Patrick Foley, Niko Scott, and Kevin Bulger, but they return Agho, their leading scorer. The rising junior contributed 16.3 points per game and earned second-team all-Ivy honors.

Barbour pointed to the returning talent and Smith’s work ethic as indicators of a promising 2010-2011 season.

“An Ivy League championship—I mean, that’s always our goal. And especially next year with the guys we have returning, I really think that that’s our main goal we always strive for,” he said, adding that Smith “works very hard, spends extra time after practice and everything. It’s going to be his hard work that’s going to get us to the next level, I think.”

Before joining Randy Bennett’s staff at St. Mary’s, Smith spent eight seasons at San Diego and one at the Air Force Academy. Smith served as the chief of recruiting and the offensive coordinator on both staffs.

While working under Bennett, the program saw the type of turnaround that attracted the attention of Columbia’s search team.

The year before Smith arrived, the Gaels recorded only two wins. In the final three seasons of his nine-year stay, Smith helped guide St. Mary’s to 81 wins.

“He will be very successful,” Bennett said in the official release. “He has been a huge part of what we’ve done [at St. Mary’s]. It’s been he and I together—it’s been like having a co-coach.”

Smith will have a tall order in replacing the departed Jones, who accumulated an 86-108 record (39-59 Ivy) in turning around a floundering program that went just 2-25 before his arrival.

“We are committed to excellence in men’s basketball at Columbia,” Murphy said in the release. “We have the utmost confidence that Kyle Smith will build and sustain a high-achieving men’s basketball program in Morningside Heights.”

Smith was in charge of offensive schemes and the recruiting program at St. Mary’s. As he adjusts to the Ivy League, that experience will be crucial in turning the Lions’ program from one that has hovered around .500 in conference play into a contender for hardware on a yearly basis. While the league’s rigorous admissions make the recruiting trail even more difficult, Cornell drew up a blueprint for success on a

national scale with its shrewd recruiting and high-powered offense.

At the same time, Egee explained that Smith will bring more than just a knack for reeling in talent and drawing up offensive schemes. “I think coach Smith possesses a lot of qualities that are very valuable in a head coach, like his leadership, hard work, and accountability for his players,” Egee said.

Smith’s hiring finishes off a series of coaching changes in what has already been a busy offseason for the Ivy League. Donahue and Jones, close friends during their time as Ancient Eight rivals, move off to Boston College, and they were responsible for half of the four open coaching positions.

Penn and Dartmouth, which both experienced mid-season coaching changes after disappointing starts, recently named their permanent coaches. The Quakers retained former interim coach Jerome Allen, and the Big Green brought Paul Cormier back to Hanover, N.H. after stints at Fairfield and in the National Basketball Association as an advance scout for various organizations. Cormier spent seven seasons as the Dartmouth head coach from 1984-1991. Cornell hired former UVA and Virginia Tech assistant Bill Courtney as Donahue’s successor, leaving Columbia to conclude the coaching carousel with Smith’s introduction this week.

KYLE SMITH

LAST COACHING JOB: St. Mary’s associate head coach
PREVIOUS POSITIONS: Air Force assistant coach, San Diego assistant
COLLEGE: Hamilton College
POSITION: Point guard
CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:
Part of a major turnaround at St. Mary’s, helping take a squad from two wins in the 2000-2001 season—the year before he arrived—to a Sweet 16 team this past year.
As a junior at Hamilton, Smith led his team to a No.1 Division III ranking.



COURTESY OF SMC ATHLETICS

Defending my second major: What I’ve learned in my four years of Spec Sports

VELAZQUEZ from back page

as a writer and an editor is arguably more important than my history major.

So if I’m going to count Spec as a major, I guess this must be my thesis, or at least some other kind of important final paper. Much like many of the other Spec Sports seniors, I’ve been mulling over the topic of my senior column for the better part of the past three years, and recently, I decided that if I’m going to call Spec a major, I should at least outline some of the things that I’ve learned in my four years of writing and editing.

First of all, I learned how to write. I thought I had the writing thing all figured out after breezing through high school and being the sports editor of my high school paper. I couldn’t have been more wrong. Just read this quote from my first Spec article, a recap of Columbia’s 2005 football season—thank God this never made it into print:

“The porous defense allowed an average of 41.9 points per game during conference play, and that amount coupled with the 10 points per game that the offense pitched in is a more calamitous combination than Red Sox fans at a Yankee game.”

Oh, you think that’s bad? I remember initially trying to make the comparison somehow involve Wile E. Coyote and Acme, but I just couldn’t make it work. Looking back, I really should have been laughed out of the sports office and been made the poster child for how not to write. Luckily for my dignity, then-sports editor Joshua Robinson only chuckled a little, told me that I had some good ideas, and said

we just needed to polish it up. He explained to me what needed to be changed, actively involved me in the editing process, and made it very clear that he wanted to keep my voice as a writer intact.

From there—at least as far as I can tell—my confidence grew and my writing became better. I learned the infamous inverted pyramid style, where you start with the most important information at the top of the story and add in the details as you get further down. I learned AP style and strictly adhered to its regulations as much as I could, including the God-awful words “Web site,” which were mercifully changed to “website” only recently by the good folks at AP. With time, my writing took on a more nuanced form, which would never have been possible without the help of all the people at Spectator—the editors, associate editors, copy staff—who diligently worked with me to improve my writing, for which I could not be more grateful.

Another important lesson I learned at Spectator was that journalism is not a business of words on pages—it’s a business of people, and any time you’re working with people, great communication is of the utmost importance. There’s no way that this paper—which I affectionately call the Daily Miracle—could ever work if it were not for teamwork, as well as great internal and external communication.

When I took on the mantle of sports editor, I realized something that had previously not really affected me—the sports section did not have the best relationship with the athletic department. I had a meeting with Athletic Director M. Dianne Murphy and essentially

left with the dual message that my predecessors had not done much to build the trust of the athletic department, and that if I were going to change that, lines of communication needed to be created and maintained.

I took that information and applied it not only to the sports section’s interactions with the AD, but with the paper on the whole, where Sports kind of stands on its own and is either ignored or despised by the rest of the office. It’s not hard to understand why others might have felt that way: The corner office was always filled with loud-mouthed, hard-drinking, fairly crude people who cared about Columbia sports way more than anyone should, and they really didn’t understand us. I can’t say that that gap will ever be closed, or that I even want it to be, but there’s no reason we all can’t work together and be civil. And during my year as sports editor, I think teamwork and civility were achieved.

Though communication brought the sports section and the paper as a whole together, it was my time as one of the football beat writers that really taught me about communication. At the end of my sophomore year, one of my fellow beat writers, Taylor Harwin, wrote what many of us at Spec still consider to be the greatest senior column of all time. However, head coach Norries Wilson took offense to some of the things that Taylor said, and decided that during the next season, he wasn’t going to grant the football writers from Spectator the privilege of having an interview outside of postgame press conferences.

Throughout the season, my co-writer Holly MacDonald and I



JENNY HSU / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SHUTOUT | In Columbia’s final doubleheader of the 2010 season, the Lions outscored the Quakers 20-0.

Softball splits series in final weekend

BY CHRISTOPHER BROWN
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The Columbia softball team (15-32, 4-16 Ivy) finished the 2010 season by winning two out of four games against Penn (19-23, 12-8 Ivy) last weekend, including a pair of shutout victories at home in the final two games of the season.

Columbia lost the first two games against Penn in Philadelphia, losing a close game 4-3 to start the series. The Lions rallied from a three-run deficit in the third inning by scoring two runs on junior Maggie Johnson’s base hit to center and tied the game 3-3 in the fourth inning on Alison Lam’s two-out double to score junior Anne Marie Skylis.

In the second game, Columbia took an early 4-0 lead going into the bottom of the third inning, but Penn came back to tie the game and outscored the Lions 4-3 over the final four frames to win 8-7.

The Light Blue would respond by scoring 20 unanswered runs in Saturday’s doubleheader.

	COLUMBIA	3	
PENN	4		

	COLUMBIA	7	
PENN	8		

	PENN	0	
COLUMBIA	11		

	PENN	0	
COLUMBIA	9		

Senior Dani Pineda hit a lead-off single and stole a base to begin the bottom of the first inning. Sophomore Kayla Lechler’s one-out single put runners on the corners, and Christie Taylor’s two-out base hit scored Pineda for the first run of the game.

Columbia scored three more runs in each of the next two innings with bases-loaded walks from Lechler and Johnson along with an RBI single from Taylor in the second inning. Lechler and junior Karen Tulig both had an RBI in the third inning.

Specie could have dreamt of even just a year or two ago. I’m proud to say that I played a role, albeit small, in all of that, and I only expect things to get better. While there are people willing to adapt and innovate, there will always be print journalism, and there will always be Spectator.

Now that my final column has been written, it’s time for me to thank some of the people who have made my time here at Spectator both enjoyable and memorable.

First and foremost, I’d like to thank anyone who has ever read any of my work. The fact that you’ve read this far probably indicates that you’ve kept up with my writing, and I truly appreciate that. It can be easy to forget that people read the paper, but whenever I received a comment on campus or online, it always meant a lot to me.

Kamran and Josh: You guys pulled me into Spectator and helped me become the writer and editor I am today. Like I said earlier, I’m glad you guys didn’t laugh me out of the office.

Braff and Taylor: The four football games you guys brought me to freshman year made me feel so cool and welcomed. Thanks for imparting your knowledge and being available for guidance as the years went on.

D Max, August, and JTay: I wanted to write separate things for each of you, but they all would have sounded generally the same. You three set a great example for our class and gave more to Spectator than any of you were asked. Whenever we go to Atlantic City, I owe you guys a drink.

Shapiro: You sir, are a gentleman and a scholar. Your wit and spunk have always been

great additions to your intellectual prowess, and I’m going to miss all the laughs. We leave the Joe Bova toast as our legacy. My only regret is that we never went to a non-Columbia sporting event together.

Lisa and Holly: First of all, I’m not the instigator—we’ll debate this later. In all seriousness, you two made my experience at Spec as great as it was. The road trips, quests for dank pancakes, late nights, dinners, and that’s what she said are what I’m going to remember most fondly about my life at Spec, and you two were there every step of the way. I know these words aren’t enough, but thanks for being the best friends a guy could ask for.

My suite: I can’t thank you guys (and girl!) enough for giving me a safe haven away from Spec. These past four years have been a wild ride, and I’m blessed to have shared them with you. Here’s to tonight and our last few weeks together.

Andrea: You know more about the behind-the-scenes of Spec than any non-Specie ever should. Thanks for putting up with me for all these years, thanks in advance for all the years ahead where you’ll continue putting up with me, and congrats on finishing your second marathon!

I’ve probably forgotten about 350 people, and I can’t mention everyone, but there are a few more I have to thank specifically. Tami, Chuckles, Joe Bova, Tom, Sebba, Ben, Yipeng, Haley, Maddy, DD and the copy gang, Bart, Levenfeld, Sarah, Michele, Jelani, and the rest of the sports section, thanks for everything.

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



ELAINE BURCHMAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

FINAL RACE | In their final races of the regular season, both the heavyweights and the women emerged victorious.

BY NINA LUKINA
Spectator Staff Writer

In a successful weekend, Columbia crew brought home two cups. The women took the Woodbury Cup in the Beanpot Regatta on the Charles River on Saturday, and the men’s heavyweight team won the Maxwell Stevenson Cup against Navy the following day.

This year the race between Columbia and Northeastern for the Woodbury Cup, named in memory of Melanie Woodbury, BC ’96, was incorporated into the Beanpot Regatta, which also

features teams from Boston College, Boston University, MIT, and Radcliffe College. Although Columbia came out on top in the varsity eight race, it was not eligible for the Beanpot trophy.

The Lions defeated Northeastern narrowly, by just over two seconds. They finished with a time of 6:43.18, edging out the Huskies, who had a final time of 6:45.55. The second varsity eight boat came in first as well with a time of 6:54.49, ahead of second-place Radcliffe, who finished with a time of 7:02.33.

This was the last race of the women’s crew team’s regular

season. The Light Blue’s next competition will be the Eastern Sprints on May 16.

The heavyweight men were also victorious, beating out Navy in a tough race at Princeton Sunday morning. The varsity eight boat came in with a time of 5:36.50 to defeat Navy’s 5:39.90 finish to take Columbia’s third straight Maxwell Stevenson Cup.

The second varsity boat came in ahead with a larger margin, finishing in 5:44.2 to rival Navy’s 5:54.1 showing.

The Lions will see the Midshipmen again at their next race, the Eastern Sprints, on May 16.

Defending my second major



MATT VELAZQUEZ
The X-Factor

In fact, on the first day of the Columbia Outdoor Orientation Program—affectionately known

SENIOR COLUMN

as COÖP to those of us who know and love it—I unwittingly sealed my fate. While biking with the illustrious Carolyn Braff, she told me all about her experience writing football for *Spectator* and how amazing it was. I told her right then and there that I was going to take her job as football beat writer when she graduated, and I would do her one better—I was going to be sports editor.

And that's exactly what happened. Call me crazy, but for better or for worse, I'm a man of my word. Ever since that day, even before I declared myself a history major, I've always told anyone who asked that I was a double major, with Spec being one of those majors.

It probably sounds strange for me to list an extracurricular activity as a major, but it makes total sense to me. I've written about as many, if not more, words for Spec as I have for all my classes combined. I've spent 100 times as many hours in the Spec office than in Butler. I'm planning on going into journalism, so my experience

SEE VELAZQUEZ, page 9

CU takes Gehrig Division with three wins over Penn

Lions earn Ivy championship berth

BY JACOB SHAPIRO
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

With Friday's sweep of Penn, the Columbia baseball team did away with the suspense early and earned a spot in the Ivy League Baseball Championship series. After securing the Gehrig Division, the Lions then went on to split Sunday's contests to snag home-field advantage for next week's title games.

The Lions needed just two wins, and the Columbia bats opened game one on Saturday by posting three runs in the first two innings. Veteran outfielder Jason Banos doubled to bring in the first run, and Nick Cru-cet and Jon Eisen added two-out RBI knocks in the second to plate two more runs. The Lions then loaded the bases for Nick Ferraresi, but the right fielder flied out to his counterpart to end the inning.

Pat Lowery manned the mound for the Lions, and after a scoreless inning the ace threw a home run to Penn first baseman Will Gordon on the first pitch to start the second inning raising some hairs.

But Lowery settled in and retired the next eight hitters until Gordon again stepped to the plate. After getting ahead with two quick strikes, Gordon took Lowery deep to the same spot, but the home run would be Penn's last run of the game.

In fact, Penn managed to scratch out just one more hit against Lowery, who threw the complete seven innings and improved his record to 4-3. Lowery allowed just two earned runs on three hits (two of which were the homers) and faced just three batters over the minimum in a



JOSE GIRALT / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

DIVISION CHAMPS | After sweeping Penn in a doubleheader on Friday, Columbia clinched the Gehrig Division title for the second time in three years.

	COLUMBIA	5	
	PENN	2	

dominating performance.

Although Lowery was humming along, Columbia was only up by one run until the seventh inning, in which the team added two more for insurance. Dario Pizzano smacked another homer to put the cap on the first game before Lowery retired the final three hitters in order.

Both offenses came alive in game two. Penn drew blood first with a run in its half of the first before putting up crooked numbers in the second and third innings. With nine hits over the two

	COLUMBIA	10	
	PENN	9	

innings, Penn added five, and then three runs, taking a seven-run lead into the fourth inning.

Columbia starter Tim Giel was rocked for five earned runs and six hits and didn't make it out of the second. Reliever Geoff Whitaker was similarly ineffective, allowing three more runs to cross the plate in just one-and-a-third innings of work.

After a walk and a chopper brought home two Columbia runs in the second, the Lions went to work on a seven-run deficit in the fifth inning. After the Light Blue

	PENN	10	
	COLUMBIA	2	

put the first two men on base, Alex Aurricchio hit into a costly double play. But Ferraresi then reached on an error, scoring Eisen, and came around to score on a wild pitch later in the inning.

Columbia's power finally broke through in the sixth inning. Two hits, a walk, and a throwing error chased Penn starter Todd Roth from the game. Trey Jennings came in to face Aurricchio and on a favorable 3-1 count, Aurricchio blasted a pitch to deep center for a monster three-run homer. Jennings was replaced a batter later

	PENN	8	
	COLUMBIA	10	

without recording a single out.

The homer put the Lions within one, and four strong innings of two-hit shutout relief pitching by Eric Williams gave the team a chance to swallow the remaining deficit.

In the eighth inning, Banos hit a huge double to bring in the tying run and with the bases loaded, and Pizzano drove in the go-ahead run on a fielder's choice. But the drama wasn't quite over.

With two outs in the ninth, Penn loaded the bases before Zach

SEE BASEBALL, page 8

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