



JACK ZEITMAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BACK TO VENDING | Well known poster vendor Michael Wells is back at his stand in front of the Columbia gates. Wells said an NYPD officer told him last Tuesday that he was violating vending regulations, and threatened possible arrest.

After brush with the law, poster vendor back at 116th

BY SARAH DARVILLE
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Matisse, Monet, and Audrey Hepburn are back on the poster racks in front of the 116th Street gates.

They were all in legal limbo last week after a New York City police officer told dreadlocked street vendor Michael Wells that he could not continue selling posters there. While the issue appears resolved for now, the incident sparked a week of uncertainty and lost revenue for Wells, who has become a well known figure after selling here for seven years.

On Tuesday, Aug. 31, Wells and his wife, Helenia, say they were approached by an NYPD officer. According to the vendor, the officer said he was responding to a complaint from a local resident, and told Wells that his stand was violating vending regulations.

“I was threatened with my merchandise being confiscated

and possibly arrest if I didn’t move,” Michael Wells said.

A Columbia security officer on duty at the gates on Tuesday morning, who requested anonymity when speaking about

security issues, corroborated Wells’ account the next day.

“He wasn’t upset. He just wanted to get his point across that he knew how he was allowed to set up, and there was

some discrepancy there,” the officer said.

The NYPD’s 26th Precinct deferred comment to a department spokesperson who had no official record of the incident, likely because Wells was not arrested.

Wells didn’t want to risk setting up again the next day, so he spent Wednesday with Columbia’s Office of Government and Community Affairs and Department of Public Safety to verify that there were no internal complaints. He was told there were none, which a Columbia spokesperson also confirmed to Spectator.

Wells then spent Thursday morning at the 26th Precinct’s community affairs office in an attempt to convince an officer to let him stay in his favorite spot.

“The community affairs officer said that what to do about a complaint of this nature is basically under the discretion of the individual officer,” Wells said after the meeting.

SEE POSTERS, page 2



JACK ZEITMAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

POSTER BOY | The NYPD has not followed up on supposed vending violations against poster salesman Michael Wells.

For Powell, road to congressional victory is all in the numbers

BY KIM KIRSCHENBAUM
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

In the sink-or-swim world of electoral politics, the waters have become ever rougher. A wave of anti-incumbent sentiment is sweeping across the country, drowning hard-earned pols while elevating a new crop of politicians to the surface. And here in Harlem, these newcomers are ambitiously attempting to ride the tide.

CHASING CHARLIE

Enter Adam Clayton Powell IV, Joyce Johnson, Jonathan Tasini, and Vince Morgan. All four Democrats are vying to unseat Congressman Charles Rangel in the Democratic primary on September 14th. Rangel has represented Harlem since 1971 and was all but invincible in his district—until recently. In the past several months, he’s become involved in a bitter ethics battle, one which is threatening to derail his 40-year congressional career.

Now these four candidates, mostly little-known names until a few months ago, are seeking to make their way into the 15th congressional district’s political fold. They’re vowing

to change the way politics is done in Harlem, a place which is increasingly being deemed as a bastion of political corruption in the wake of Rangel’s supposed violations and other city politicians’ misconduct.

Still, Rangel continues to have the greatest advantage of all: a career rooted in the bygone era of an extraordinary group of political leaders. And for the many people who saw Harlem at the apex of its political glory, Rangel is one of the last remaining links to a place where black politics originated and rose to national prominence; where these leaders rode the tumultuous waves, together with their constituents, through the growing pains of this rapidly-evolving neighborhood; and where, perhaps because of all of these reasons, incumbency has long reigned supreme.

But are the residents ready for a change to the Harlem political machine that’s been so enshrined in nostalgia?

These four new power brokers say yes. A far cry from the first generation of Harlem politicians who came from highly humble upbringings, they represent a new face to the Harlem arena, ranging from a state



SARAH DARVILLE FOR SPECTATOR

LEGACY | State Assembly member Adam Clayton Powell IV is hoping to trump Congressman Charles Rangel this season.

assemblyman whose father was once a part of the political elite here; to a lone female candidate who rose through the ranks of manufacturing operations; to a strategist and writer who was a onetime contender against Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in the New York 2006 Democratic Senate primary; to a New York banker who was one of Rangel’s

former campaign directors and will now challenge Rangel himself.

This series will highlight all of the Democratic contenders and shed light on what they plan to bring to the neighborhood should one of them be elected. Even if Rangel does win, Harlem politics

SEE POWELL, page 2

Mixed feelings after new meal plan debut

Students undecided after first taste of adjusted dining

BY MADINA TOURE
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Dining administrators are enthusiastic about this semester’s dining changes, but students say they’re still skeptical about the adjustments.

Starting this school year, all Barnard students are required to be on a meal plan—first-years are still required to be on the unlimited meal plan, upperclassmen living in Hewitt are required to be on a meal plan with fewer meals and at a lower cost, and all other upperclassmen having to take one of three dining programs costing at least \$300 a semester. At Columbia, students will be able to use meals and dining dollars for a meal at John Jay, Ferris Booth, and JJ’s instead of Flex points, a declining balance account accessed through University ID cards. Previously, students were able to use Flex at Ferris Booth and JJ’s.

In the first option for first-years, students will receive 19 meals per week with 75 Dining Dollars per term, plus an additional 15 “floating” meals for any time and six “faculty meals,” or dinner with a professor on the house. In the second option, a first-year could have 15 meals per week and 125 Dining Dollars per term, with 10 floating meals and six faculty meals.

Upperclassmen, General Studies students, and graduate students will have four plans to choose from, ranging from 14 meals per week to 175 meals per term. They also have the option of guest meals.

Victoria Dunn, Director of Dining Operations at Columbia, was optimistic about student reception.

“The first-years loved it,” Dunn said. “I was there at 11:30 [p.m. on Monday] and the first-years loved the fact that they could go to JJ’s. We open at 8, so we’re open from 8 a.m. to 1 a.m.”

She added that upperclassmen she encountered were in favor of the new hours.

“I actually saw some students this morning who were excited that they could get breakfast at 8:30 a.m,” she said.

According to Dunn, the number of students on a voluntary

meal plan have increased from about 1200 to around 1400 in the last four years.

Dunn spent the last 18 months working with the Dining Advisory Committee, a committee of representatives from all classes, with whom she meets once a month. She also convened with other students and the deans of the college, so she is confident the changes reflect student interests.

But students interviewed on the first day of classes said that overall, changes to the dining program did not make the meal plan any more appealing—particularly the loss of Flex at JJ’s and Ferris Booth.

“I mean, I live off-campus,” Tom Bettridge, CC ’12, said. “I have the option to get a meal plan but I decided not to because I’d rather go to a restaurant or make my own food. If I had a meal plan I probably would never go. Especially since there’s no Flex, I’d rather go to a

“It [JJ’s] used to be a place to just hang out even if you weren’t eating.”

—Fatimo Dicko, SEAS ’12

restaurant than a cafeteria.”

“Because of the changes, I am just going to get the lowest meal plan possible because the dining halls aren’t that appealing,” Fatima Dicko, SEAS ’12, said.

Dicko also said she was disappointed in the changes to JJ’s, especially considering that it requires either Dining Dollars or meals, and does not accept Flex.

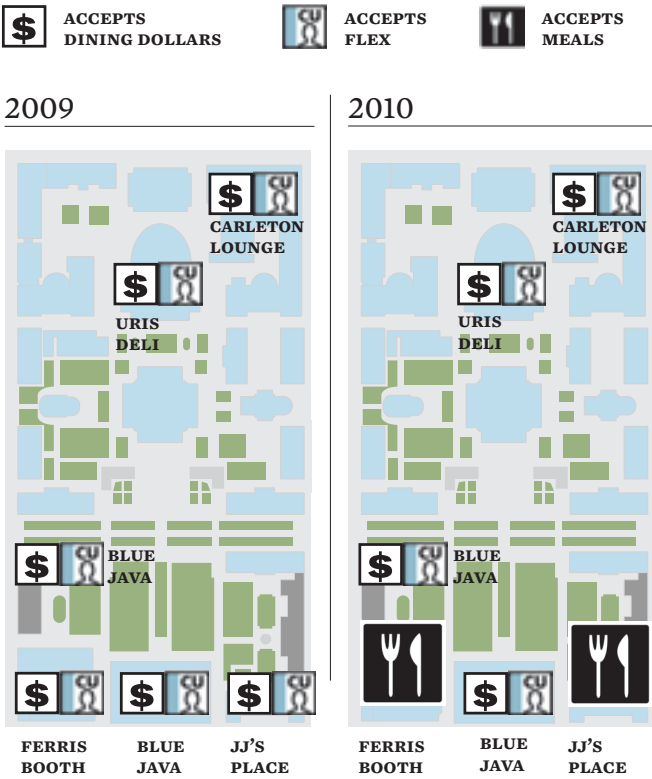
“It used to be a place to just hang out even if you weren’t eating, but now if you have to swipe in, that takes out the whole ‘hanging out’ factor of it,” she said.

Ali John, MBA ’11, said that graduate students rarely use the meal plan, and typically eat off-campus.

“I’m not on a plan,” John said. “I was unaware of a plan. I don’t

SEE DINING, page 2

CROSS-YEAR COMPARISON



The new meal plan options have made one significant change to where Dining Dollars and Flex Dollars can be used. Namely, both Ferris Booth and JJ’s Place—unlike last year—now require full meals to be purchased using a meal plan or Dining Dollars, rather than allowing for the purchase of individual items.

GRAPHIC BY HANNAH D’APICE

OPINION, PAGE 3

I feel pretty

Vaidehi Joshi slams the urge to give objectifying personal compliments in the workplace.



SPORTS, BACK PAGE

Former Lion goes pro as a soccer player

Sophie Reiser, CC ’10, has been working hard to overcome injury and earn her playing time as a developmental player for the Chicago Red Stars.



EVENTS

First Senior Night

Celebrate the return to school with your favorite 2011ers—and free champagne at midnight.

Havana Central, 10:00 p.m.

Power Half-Hour

Find out what you should and shouldn’t include on your resume and cover letter.

Center for Career Education, 12:30 p.m.

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85° / 60°

Tomorrow



77° / 59°



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Columbia aces academics, drops Sustainability 101

BY BRENDEN CLINE

Not that anyone’s keeping track, but the influential U.S. News and World Report now ranks Columbia as the fourth-best American university, just behind Harvard, Princeton, and Yale. But U.S. News isn’t the only important college ranking, and Columbia’s academic prestige far surpasses its reputation for environmental sustainability.

The Princeton Review found that two-thirds of college applicants and their parents valued having “information about a college’s commitment to the environment,” with a quarter of that group saying that a school’s commitment to

Columbia seems unwilling to lead in sustainability efforts, let alone follow its peers.

the environment is an area that “very much” influences their application decisions. Yet Columbia has nosedived in the Sustainable Endowments Institute’s College Sustainability Report Card ratings, dropping from first to last place within the Ivy League in a single year, and has earned an unexceptional 29th place in Sierra magazine’s 2009 “Coolest Schools” rankings. It has since severed all ties with the unfavorable raters, becoming the only Ivy League school to do so.

Columbia’s decline relative to its peers is not solely due to the imperfect “survey methodologies” decried in its “Open Letter to Sustainability Evaluating Organizations,” but also to a slew of tragic, yet reparable ironies. Columbia’s Office of Environmental Stewardship is rich in talent but perilously understaffed and underfunded. The Earth Institute “is working to help the world pave a path toward sustainability,” yet the University lacks the will to pursue innovative sustainability measures. And though Columbia is affiliated with 70 members of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, it is only belatedly implementing its own greenhouse gas emissions reduction plan.

The most fundamental problem is one of resources. The primary responsibility for the University’s environmental actions rests with the four full-time employees and occasional research fellow who make up OES.

In their comparable offices of sustainability, not counting employees and students who would be members of other departments or clubs at Columbia, Stanford has 22 employees, Harvard has 15, and Yale and New York University each have five. To support those staff members, Yale has 20 student assistants, while Princeton and NYU each have five. Additionally, NYU has a 60-member sustainability task force of faculty, staff, and students. Stanford’s similar working group has 45 members, and the University of Pennsylvania’s committee has 38. Columbia has no equivalent group. The OES team is not alone in its efforts to reduce the University’s environmental impact, but it does not enjoy the institutional support needed to hire a team of student assistants or to

share the labor with a standing committee.

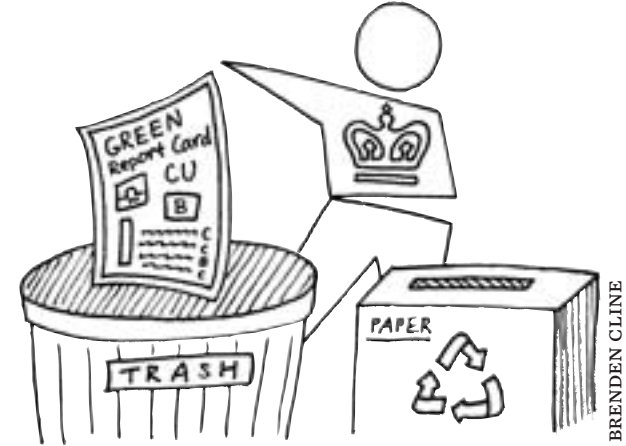
Furthermore, Columbia seems unwilling to lead in sustainability efforts, let alone follow its peers. The University reveals its true priorities by systematically rejecting projects that narrowly fall short of paying for themselves. From cutting-edge LED tree lights for College Walk to large-scale composting for John Jay’s food waste, numerous sustainability initiatives have been shelved for introducing minor new expenses, apparently unconscionable sums to an administration that seems to be bound by an ethic of parsimony above sustainability.

For the last four years, Columbia has been in the Benchmark Division of the 600-college Recyclemania competition, unable to join its Ivy League peers (minus Cornell) for want of a simple waste audit. Meanwhile, Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania have pioneered a revolving loan fund to invest in capital-intensive but ultimately profitable efficiency upgrades. Princeton applies a voluntary carbon tax internally when conducting financial cost-benefit analyses. NYU purchases renewable energy credits to offset 100 percent of its electricity use with wind power.

Finally, climate change is the most significant sustainability issue of our time, but the University of Wally Broecker, James Hansen, and Jeffrey Sachs lags in practicing what it preaches. As we approach the second anniversary of a greenhouse gas reduction plan without a single report on its progress or implementation, Harvard, Yale, the University of Pennsylvania, and NYU enter their fourth through seventh years of documenting emissions reductions. More than half of the 332 colleges rated in the 2010 Report Card have signed the American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment, pledging to become carbon neutral eventually. Columbia has not.

While Columbia’s current solution to its embarrassing sustainability grade is to join a new rating system, no methodological change will alter the basic facts of this resource, leadership, and implementation crisis. We can either accept this mediocrity and disrepute or reform our ways and aspire to sustainability at the level expected of a top university.

The author is a Columbia College senior majoring in economics and political science with a concentration in sustainable development. He has had leadership roles in the Columbia EcoReps, GreenBorough House, and Green Umbrella.



Brother, can you spare a granola bar?

BY KATHRYN BRILL

I have a tendency to theorize, and nowhere does this manifest itself more than in the area of “what’s wrong with the world.” Not only have I thought long and hard about what’s wrong with the world, I’ve thought long and hard about what we can do to make it better. I’ve had plenty of conversations with friends who also have a penchant for this type of theorizing, and their ideas encourage me. I have confidence that in the future, some of my classmates will be helping to end world hunger and other atrocities.

But in the meantime, there’s a situation we service-minded people encounter every day, and one where our theories can get confounded: That situation is homelessness. And not homelessness as in “a problem afflicting cities, which could probably be solved using X.” Homelessness as in “a guy outside Morton Williams begging for some

All my theories of ‘what’s wrong with the world’ include unfeeling, unseeing masses, completely numb to injustice right in front of them.

change.” What do we do then? What’s our response?

For a long time I thought there were only two responses to this situation: give the guy some change or walk by and pretend he didn’t exist. I’ve never really felt comfortable giving change, for a variety of reasons. Conventional wisdom states that you shouldn’t give homeless people any money because they’ll just spend it on drugs, alcohol, or cigarettes. While I’ve never really bought into this wisdom, I can’t help but think of all the times I’ve gone to the store to buy shampoo and ended up buying candy, and wondering if a similar thing might happen when the homeless man spends the change I’ve just given him. Then there’s the fact that I don’t usually carry a lot of cash on me, and giving a homeless man fifty cents just seems insulting. And I’ve read too many Barnard Public Safety emails to be comfortable with pulling out my wallet in plain view of everyone on Broadway.

But conversely, I can’t walk on by, either. All my theories about saving the world seem hypocritical the moment I choose to ignore the man. Because all my theories of “what’s wrong with the world” include unfeeling, unseeing masses, completely numb to injustice right in front of them. People who would dismiss a homeless man like they do a garbage can. People like I’ve just become. I’m stuck—we’re all stuck, as I suspect many of you have the same ambivalences about this situation as I do. Where’s the way out?

Lately, I’ve started to realize that there are other options. We could make a habit of carrying food, like granola bars or crackers, around with us, and giving it to someone begging for change. We could offer to buy them a sandwich or some water. And if we don’t have anything to give the man outside Morton Williams, we could look him in the eye and say “Sorry, I don’t have anything for you today.”

I’ve been testing this out for a couple months, and the results aren’t what you might expect. First of all, I have never had anyone refuse the food. They’re almost always incredibly grateful—more grateful than one would expect for a granola bar. The same kind of gratitude shows up when you ask, “Can I buy you something to eat?” The most unusual thing I’ve ever bought a homeless person was a pomegranate, but he described the joys of eating a pomegranate so thoroughly that I ended up buying one for myself too. And saying “Sorry, I don’t have anything for you” doesn’t usually elicit a reaction. But that’s not really the point.

The point is that when anyone else in life, from friends to telemarketers, asks you for money, you acknowledge their requests even if you’re about to refuse them. Why should a homeless person be any different? Until we can stop homelessness for good, we should treat homeless people like the human beings that they are. They have a whole wealth of stories and insights that get overlooked as people pass them by every day. Here’s my challenge, to start the year. One of these evenings you will probably see a man with a beard and white baseball cap sitting on the steps of that church by Starbucks.

His name is Kevin. Feed him, sure, but also ask him what he thinks about Shakespeare. He’s got some definite opinions on the subject.

Make him feel like less of a garbage can and more of a human being. And watch as your practices and your theories become a little more aligned.

Kathryn Brill is a sophomore at Barnard College.

On the power of the compliment

When a group of bold, bright, highly driven Barnard women come together, one can be sure there will be some sort of disagreement.

The 10 of us—all rising seniors at Barnard—were some of the blessed few this summer who received free housing, an internship, and a stipend through the Athena Summer Fellowship Program. In exchange, we gave up an hour of our Wednesday nights to meet with the other fellows and the Athena Center’s director to reflect on our work experiences.

As we wrapped up the program at our last meeting one late August evening, we were each faced with the following question: What did you take away from the Athena Program? Some answers I expected: the importance of networking, the value of taking initiative, the need to communicate. But one fellow’s answer in particular surprised me: the power of a compliment. While I



VAIDEHI JOSHI

Two Steps Forward, One Step Back

The biggest asset for male bosses? That male supervisors don’t have a ‘time of the month.’

assumed she meant this in a professional capacity, I was shocked to hear she meant it in a personal sense.

She continued to explain that throughout her internship, she had learned how useful it could be to compliment someone on her shoes, her dress, or her hair to start a conversation—and some of the other fellows agreed with her. Even the Center’s director noted that she had never gotten compliments about her clothes until she came to Barnard. For the first time, I did not feel inspired around a group of fellow Barnard women—I felt helpless. As a student at one of the Seven Sisters (the seven historic liberal arts colleges for women founded in the 1800s), which encourage the advancement of women in fields of all kinds, I was amazed to see strong, beautiful Barnard women perpetuating the exact type of gender stereotyping that those before us have worked so hard to destroy.

I brought up this topic of gendered compliments to my male friends who were also interning in the city. They unanimously agreed that the few times they gave or received compliments, they were likely to say something along the lines of, “Your proposal was great!” or “Nice job in the meeting.” Why, then, would a young woman in this day and age want to introduce herself to a superior in the break room by complimenting his haircut (to which the response would be, “Thanks, my wife loves it!”)?

There is no denying that a compliment is a powerful tool. It lets both a supervisor and an employee give constructive, positive feedback and can serve as an encouraging way to provide someone with validation for what she does and how she does it. But a personal compliment about one’s external appearance, whether or not it is given with innocent intent, encourages a kind of objectifying dialogue in the workplace. A woman’s or a man’s appearance and grooming ought not to equal her or his value or worth. If a compliment is a form of validation, why validate someone’s looks? Why not applaud her intellect, her skill, or her creativity?

This lack of recognition for individual talents is just one reason why the gender gap is still very present in our society. An article recently published in the United Kingdom’s Daily Mail reported that men and women both preferred male supervisors to female supervisors. Some indicated their preference was because men were “able to leave their private life at home” and would be “less likely to bitch about others.” The biggest asset for male bosses? That they don’t have a “time of the month.” Women and men are still associated with and evaluated for their gender stereotypes. For the women who are striving to be successful in their workplaces—and for the women at Barnard and Columbia who hope to be successful in the future—this may be the most difficult challenge we will ever face.

We will never be able to escape the fact that we are women, and perhaps we shouldn’t try to. But if we want to be treated as the equals of men, we must act like their equals. If we want to be held to the same standards by society, we must first hold ourselves to the same standards. By using a compliment to objectify a woman—or a man—we not only perpetuate gender roles, but also conform to the very same female stereotypes that generations of feminists have fought against. Our grandmothers, mothers, and aunts have put tons of cracks in the glass ceiling. But just because we can see through the glass to our goal does not mean we are anywhere near it yet. If we as a society want to achieve gender equality, we must work to eliminate the preconceived notions of men and women before they have a chance to manifest themselves in the workplace.

Personally, nothing can beat an email from my boss congratulating me on finishing a huge project. Not even a pair of J.Crew pumps—on sale.

Vaidehi Joshi is a Barnard College senior majoring in English. She is the president of CU Chai Chat and a research assistant at the Barnard Center for Research on Women. Two Steps Forward, One Step Back runs alternate Wednesdays.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Enjoy the view

Welcome to Columbia, or welcome back. Whether you’re a first-year, a transfer, or a senior, you’re now settling in to your first week of classes after what we hope was a productive, or at least rejuvenating, summer.

This first week is always a bit chaotic, with students rushing about campus, adjusting their schedules, and trying to remember how to study. Professors are trying (or not really trying) to learn who you are, you’re trying to find classrooms in maze-like buildings, and purveyors of textbooks are trying to take your money, hand over fist.

Amid all this mayhem, it’s easy to forget how fortunate you are to be at Columbia. Attending this University is no one’s birthright. It’s a privilege and a blessing. It

doesn’t make you better than anyone else, but it does make you luckier than most.

Columbia is not a perfect institution. It’s big and bureaucratic, it doesn’t offer the archetypal “college experience,” and people here like to complain a lot. This page, admittedly, often focuses on the University’s shortcomings.

But while we are constantly looking for areas in which Columbia can improve—and we believe that you should, too—we also recognize the tremendous opportunities this school, this neighborhood, and this city have to offer.

Whether you’re just getting here or are leaving soon, remember the rarity of the experience you have at your fingertips. Join a club or try a new one. Look for a class that excites and challenges you intellectually—even if it’s outside your major and you’re not guaranteed to get an A. Have lunch with that kid you’ve always liked but never sat down and talked to. Or, if you know no one, have lunch with someone who also knows no one.

Wander through the Cathedral of St. John the Divine and Riverside Church, pay a visit to Grant’s Tomb, and explore the nearby parks. Get Indian food in Jackson Heights, do karaoke in Koreatown, or visit City Island. Go to see a speaker, organize an event, or try out a performance group. And take some time out to sit on Low Steps and enjoy the balmy weather and the grandeur of the Beaux Arts edifices surrounding you.

Former University President Nicholas Murray Butler, the academic empire builder who forged much of the Columbia we know, fancied this University the acropolis of America. Considering what a pompous wind-bag Butler was, perhaps he overstated himself. But Columbia is a remarkable institution.

As you approach the semester ahead, try to keep that thought in the back of your mind. Don’t let your time left here—whether that’s four years or nine months—pass by without looking around you.



JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

TO THE GOAL | Reiser, now a player in a professional women’s soccer league, competed for four years as a Lion.

Reiser proves herself resilient, determined player

REISER from back page

“Any time that you work that hard in a season, you always want to get a chance to get in and see some game time,” Reiser said. “I was just really glad to be able to contribute a little bit.”

While Reiser finished the season with the Red Stars, she is still battling injuries. She currently has a stress reaction in her pubic bone, which means that any abdominal movement causes her pain. As a result, rehabilitation will be a longer-than-usual process.

“Most things I do for exercise, I can’t do, like swimming and biking, and obviously running or playing soccer,” Reiser said. “I just need to take off a lot of time.”

In addition to injuries, Reiser had to adapt to head coaching changes. Emma Hayes, who helped to draft Reiser and coached Chicago’s first six games of the year, was replaced

with an interim coach and then with Namazi.

“It’s been, definitely, a big learning experience,” Reiser said. “From every coach, you learn how to play differently, so it’s been an interesting transition.”

Reiser has also had to adjust to the professional game.

“It’s just faster,” she said. “You have to be thinking ahead of the game all the time. You don’t get freedom to take extra touches, and when you make a mistake, the other team is going to capitalize ... Even in practice, when you make mistakes, they really stand out.”

Despite the challenges of being a professional athlete, Reiser hopes to continue on the path that she has forged. She has not ruled out playing overseas but will likely remain in WPS if offered a contract for next year.

Women’s Professional Soccer is a young league—this

is only its second season of existence—and, like Reiser, it has seen its share of struggles. Its most notable challenges have been financial ones, as two of the league’s original seven teams folded this year.

Though the league also expanded to two new cities for the 2010 season, its survival is not guaranteed.

McCarthy is confident that, if WPS continues to exist, Reiser will continue to be a part of it.

“I would never doubt her ability to not only perform at that level, but to stand out and to make her mark,” he said. “With the talent she has, plus the intangible qualities that she possesses and the range of her personality, I would always bet on her succeeding.”

Reiser would be content with that.

“If there’s a place for me in this league, I’d like to stick around for a little while longer,” she said.

Financial solutions for athletic department

SHAW from back page

of that money—especially given the numerous flaws to be corrected—but I see no downside.

Losing by large margins is nothing new, and wouldn’t we rather watch the Lions lose by 40 to Alabama on national television than see them struggle with a school we’ve never heard of? Towson, anyone?

I suppose the travel could be an issue, but then the school can just ignore the West Coast. The Big East and ACC are the weakest of the major conferences anyway, so trips to Pittsburgh or Clemson might actually inspire confidence.

Of course, we need to schedule the game, but who can doubt the collective persuasion of University President Lee Bollinger, his “friend” Michael Bloomberg, and the one and only athletic director, M. Dianne Murphy?

For those on the football team, I apologize. I have begun a new season with yet more pessimism. This is not meant to disparage our program or to speak poorly of the players. It is merely a

statement of pragmatism. Ivy League play is all that matters, and whether the Light Blue goes 6-4 or 5-5, the athletic department needs more money to compete. It needs it for facilities, staff, equipment,

Our teams are getting better—much better. Yet there is a limit to what can be done with the current financial situation.

and so on. Most of all, it needs the cash so the student body stops wondering where all the money goes and why a school with such a large endowment, an institution gentrifying neighborhood after neighborhood, cannot afford to spend money on something its student body and alumni actually care about.

Well, this is the best way to get it.

I am ready to leave Columbia without having witnessed a championship—or even a winning conference record—in either football or basketball. In choosing to attend Columbia, I ignored the immense pleasure I derived from watching my high school excel in athletics and signed up for four years of major-sports mediocrity.

However, I am not ready to leave Columbia without some improvements. Our teams are getting better—much better. Yet there is a limit to what can be done with the current financial situation. Better recruits, experienced coaches, and legitimate media attention come not just with talent, but with exposure. Our best hope starts with losing—something we are accustomed to. However, by losing, we effectively gain. We get national publicity and financial stability. By losing now, we win in the future. That is all I can hope for now, anyway.

Lucas Shaw is a Columbia College senior majoring in political science.
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FIELD HOCKEY

Field Hockey to take on Hofstra in second season matchup

After a 3-1 victory against Vermont at home this past Sunday, the Columbia field hockey team (1-0-0) is hoping for its second win today. The Light Blue will be playing Hofstra (2-2-0), which recently defeated Sacred Heart 7-2.

New head coach Marybeth Freeman was impressed with her team’s strong showing against a “real quality Vermont squad.”

“More important than finishing with a win was the ability of the athletes, and taking what we were asked to do at halftime

and applying it to half the game,” Freeman said. “Technically and tactically, we are continuing to move on in a really good direction.”

In today’s game against Hofstra, the biggest challenge will be the opponent’s dominant and skilled athletes, including junior midfielder-forward Genna Kovar, who scored four of the Pride’s seven goals against Sacred Heart.

“They have some very fast athletes and ... are a well-coached team, and they always have a real quality demeanor

COLUMBIA VS. HOFSTRA

Baker Field, 3 p.m.



about them,” Freeman said.

Freeman explained that for the Lions to win, they will have to “make the game their own pace, to control the game, and to make quality decisions with the ball.”

The match is at 3 p.m. at Baker Field. It is the team’s last home game before four away matches, including the Ivy League opener at Brown on Saturday, Sept. 18.

—Rebeka Cohan

Crimson atop Ivies after first week of play

BY JIM PAGELS

Columbia Daily Spectator

HARVARD

After only two games, Harvard remains the only undefeated women’s soccer team in the Ivy League. The other seven schools in the Ancient Eight split their first two games this past week. The Crimson scored two quick goals in its home opener against Long Island before allowing two goals late in the second half to settle for a 2-2 tie. In its second game, Harvard once again scored two goals very early in the game, notching two long-distance strikes in the first four minutes. This time, the Crimson buckled down on defense and held on for the 2-0 victory.

BROWN

The Brown women opened up the season with a 1-0 loss against Northeastern at home before bouncing back with a 3-0 domination of Colgate. Senior midfielder Erika Lum led the attack with two goals while junior forward Marybeth Lesbirel added two assists to give the Bears their first win of the season.

CORNELL

Cornell also opened up

its season with a 2-1 loss to Delaware, but came roaring back with a 7-0 thrashing of Delaware State. Freshman midfielder Mary Keroack’s two goals in the first half earned her Ivy League Rookie of the Week honors. She was matched by sophomore Megan Crowell, who also put two balls in the back of the net. The Big Red was so dominant on defense that junior goalkeeper Kelly Murphy and freshman netminder Tori Christ only had to face one shot on goal between the two of them.

DARTMOUTH

Dartmouth lost a heartbreaker in its first game at the 2010 Dartmouth Nike Classic, dropping its opener 1-0 to Hanover. In the final seconds of the game, freshman Marina Moschitto was in perfect position to tap in an easy equalizer, but was fouled hard before she had a chance to score. No penalty was called, however. The Big Green bounced back with a 1-0 win over Northeastern led by an early second-half goal by senior Peyton Tata.

PENN

The Penn women allowed just one shot in their opener against Towson, but it happened to go in the net, pushing the Tigers to a 1-0 victory. The Quakers appeared on their way

to opening the season 0-2 as they faced Villanova, a squad they hadn’t beaten in their 12 previous tries. Penn opened with three strikes in the first half, however, and blew the Wildcats off the field.

PRINCETON

Princeton opened up its season with a 2-0 loss to No. 24 Rutgers. The Scarlet Knights put two balls past senior Tigers goalkeeper Alyssa Pont and never looked back. Sophomore goalkeeper Kristin Watson relieved Pont in the 77th minute, marking the first time since the first round of the 2008 NCAA Tournament that Pont was not between the Princeton posts. Princeton returned home to beat Seton Hall 3-1, led by sophomore Caitlin Blosser, who assisted on all three goals.

YALE

The Yale women opened the season on a high note, stunning No. 16 Penn State with a 1-0 victory in New Haven for the program’s first ever win over a Big Ten opponent. Senior forward Becky Brown, last season’s Ivy Player of the Year, scored the only goal against the Nittany Lions, earning her Ivy League Player of the Week honors. The Bulldogs couldn’t keep up the momentum, however, and lost 1-0 to Illinois in their second home game.

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AJIT PILLAI / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BREAKAWAY | Reiser dominated the field in her four years of play as a Columbia Lion. In her junior year, Reiser started all 17 games and scored 12 goals, on top of 11 assists, securing the honor of Ivy League Player of the Year, and earning first-team All-Ivy League honors for the second season in a row.

Light Blue soccer alum Sophie Reiser plays in the big leagues

BY SARAH SOMMER
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Underneath the glamorous façade of professional sports, away from the pompous superstars and exorbitant contracts, lie hardworking athletes simply trying to turn their passions into viable careers. Sophie Reiser, CC '10, is one of those athletes.

Reiser, a three-time all-Ivy League first-team selection as a Columbia women's soccer player, is a developmental player with the Chicago Red Stars of Women's Professional Soccer (WPS). And her path to this point has not been an easy one.

Reiser was Chicago's fifth-round selection and the 42nd overall pick in the 2010 WPS Draft. The draft, held in January,

consisted of seven rounds and 65 selections.

But getting drafted was only the first step. Reiser still had to prove herself on the field in order to receive a contract offer from the Red Stars.

Proving her worth as a player became difficult when Reiser injured both shins.

"They had flared up and originally [there were] stress reactions in both, probably just because I

had been training so hard following Columbia's season and then particularly once I got drafted," Reiser said. "I was running a lot, but I like to run, I enjoy it, so didn't really think much of it."

It was only once she began preseason training with the Red Stars and started practicing twice a day that she realized the severity of her left shin injury.

"I knew for sure that I wasn't going to be able to last too long," Reiser said. "It just got to the point on my left side that I couldn't bear weight on it at all."

But Reiser, who has struggled with shin pain throughout her soccer career, continued to pursue her goal of playing professionally.

"That, honestly, is a testament to Sophie's character and perseverance," Columbia head coach Kevin McCarthy said. "It would've been very easy, with

the injury she had, to just sort of give up ... But Sophie was adamant that she had not yet checked this off her list and not yet finished this part of her journey."

On July 27, Reiser was rewarded with a spot on Chicago's developmental roster.

"Sophie's strengths are her feistiness—her ability to, in the final third, score some goals," Red Stars head coach and director of soccer operations Omid Namazi said. "But the biggest thing that caught my eye was her willingness to fight, and that's something that we've been missing on our team."

Reiser saw action in two of Chicago's games this season, playing in midfield for 22 minutes in her first appearance and six in her second.



JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

FOOT RACE | In her years at Columbia, Reiser was known for her toughness on the field.

SEE REISER, page 5

Marquee matchups needed for CU sports

Who wants a new football stadium? We're all tired of the trek up to the tip of Manhattan. How about a better gym? That one-tenth-of-a-mile oval just doesn't cut it. I know, I know—let's get a golf course on campus. Okay, maybe that one is a bit excessive. Still, any way you look at it, there are a lot of necessary improvements for our athletic program, and Robert Kraft's donations won't even begin to cover the costs.

In these dire economic times, it is increasingly difficult to pressure the administration to spend more money on something we aren't all that good at. Instead, let's raise the money by pitting the Light Blue football team against a national powerhouse. If the Lions lose big to Florida and Virginia Tech every year, the money earned means students can attend basketball games without ever again entering

the nuclear war bunker also known as Levien Gymnasium.

San Jose State just traveled to Alabama, courtesy of the Crimson Tide. Sure, the Spartans lost 48-3, but they still walked out winners, raking in \$1 million just for showing up. According to the San Francisco Chronicle, that would have financed 6 percent of San Jose State's entire athletic department budget last year.

The Spartans are not alone in traveling great distances just for the sake of being annihilated. This past Saturday, Coast Carolina lost at West Virginia 31-0 while registering only nine first downs. Louisiana Lafayette managed a touchdown against Georgia, but the Bulldogs tallied 55 points of their own.

Our athletic department does not believe in opening its doors, talking to reporters, or doing anything that could potentially bring it significant attention, but we can all assume that an extra \$1 million every year would be a substantial help.

I am in no position to speculate about the best use

SEE SHAW, page 5

Light Blue soccer gears up for afternoon play at Iona

BY SARAH SOMMER
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The Columbia women's soccer team resumes nonconference play at Iona today. The Lions (1-1-0) will try to build on their first win of the season, a 3-0 victory over Hartford, when they take on the Gaels.

In just two games, Columbia has displayed its offensive depth. Junior forward Ashlin Yahr, senior forward Keri Nobil, and junior midfielder Liz Wicks all scored against Hartford on Sunday, while senior defender Kelly Hostetler converted a penalty kick in Friday's 2-1 loss to Central Connecticut State.

"We expect that we're going to have a wide range of players score goals for us," head coach Kevin McCarthy said.

While four players have scored for the Lions so far this season, a total of nine have taken shots. Columbia has 22 shots this year, 15 of which were on goal.

Freshman midfielder Beverly Leon took three shots against Hartford and started in both of the Lions' matchups. If she continues to play aggressively and create scoring opportunities, she could find the back of the net on Wednesday.

McCarthy was impressed with Leon's performance against Hartford. He also noted



JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

DRIVING FORWARD | Junior Ashlin Yahr hopes to keep the momentum going heading into today's game after scoring a goal against Hartford in this past Sunday's game.

COLUMBIA AT IONA
New Rochelle, 3 p.m.



that the freshmen had improved from Friday to Sunday.

"They're a bit calmer, a bit clearer about what's expected and what to expect," McCarthy said. "Like the returning players, they're really quality people, and their focus and commitment to improving just over a 48-hour

span was great to see."

Columbia has won its past three matchups with Iona, including a 3-1 victory last season. Yahr scored two second-half goals in that game, the first of which broke a 1-1 tie.

Iona (1-6-0) has struggled this season and, unlike Columbia, has not displayed a powerful offense. The Gaels were shut out in all six of their losses. Senior midfielder Abby

Dixon scored Iona's only goal of the year in a 1-0 win against Stony Brook. The Gaels have also faltered defensively, allowing 17 goals this season.

The Lions will look to score early and attack constantly on Wednesday. They have already taken 14 corner kicks this season while holding their opponents to five.

Kick-off against Iona is set for 3 p.m. in New Rochelle, N.Y.